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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Sixth session

Geneva, 12–14 June 2006

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. The sixth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment was held in Geneva on 12–14 June 2006.
2. The meeting was attended by delegations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uzbekistan.
3. Representatives of the European Environment Agency (EEA) attended the meeting.
4. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Health Organization (WHO) European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH), the EMEP Chemical Coordinating Centre, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Volgograd-Ecopress Information Centre and the Russian Cleaner Production and Sustainable Development Centre (non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the Russian Federation) attended, as did business and industry representatives from JSC “Caustic” (Russian Federation), DHV CR (Czech Republic), KazTransOil (Kazakhstan), LUKOIL-Nizhnevolzhskneft (Russian Federation) and the Minsk Automobile Plant (Belarus).

5. Mr. Kaj Bärlund, Director of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE, made an opening statement. He welcomed the participation of various stakeholders in the meeting, including central and subnational environmental authorities from Eastern, South-Eastern and Western Europe and Central Asia, statistical agencies, business and industry, international organizations and NGOs. He indicated that the recent UNECE reform process supported environmental monitoring activities and had led to an increase in the staff resources allocated for the purpose. He referred to the Working Group's role in the preparation of the fourth pan-European environmental assessment, the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and the Guidelines for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises and stressed that these important contributions had the potential to receive prominence at the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Belgrade in October 2007.

6. Mr. Yuri Tsaturov (Russian Federation) chaired the meeting. The Working Group took note of the resignation by Mr. Pertti Heinonen (Finland) from the position of Vice-Chair due to his retirement.

7. The Working Group adopted the agenda as contained in document CEP/AC.10/2005/1 with an amendment. It decided to consider budget implementation issues together with the adoption of the report of the fifth session and to move this item after the agenda item on enterprise monitoring and reporting. The delegation of Ukraine referred to the proposal circulated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the country in writing prior to the meeting to elect its representative in the Working Group as Chair at the sixth session. As there was a disagreement within the Working Group on whether it should elect a new Bureau at the present session or not, the Working Group decided to postpone the discussion of the item on the election of officers to a later stage of the meeting and established a small drafting group to come up with a proposal on the issue.

8. The drafting group presented the Working Group with two options. The first one was to develop, by the Working Group's next session, a procedure for the election of officers and to elect officers at the same session following the agreed procedure. The second option was to elect officers at the present session specifying both the functions of officers and the election procedure. Several delegations supported the first option, while one delegation voiced its preference for the second one. In the light of the discussion, the Working Group:

- (a) Invited the Chair and all delegations wishing to do so to submit to the secretariat by 28 August 2006 at the latest their views on the composition of the Working Group's Bureau, the functions of elected officers, their tenure in office and the election procedure;
- (b) Invited the secretariat to prepare, taking into account these views and available relevant examples of election procedures in the UNECE as well as paragraphs 27 and 28 of the report of the seventh session (ECE/CEP/74) and paragraph 30 of the report of the tenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/116), a proposal for circulation among country delegations to the Working Group for comments;

- (c) Agreed to take a decision at its next session, on the basis of this proposal and possible comments by country delegations, on the composition of the Working Group's Bureau, the functions of elected officers, their tenure in office and the election procedure, and to elect the Bureau accordingly.

I. GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

9. The secretariat and its consultant presented draft guidelines for the application of environmental indicators (ECE/CEP/10/2006/6; ECE/CEP/10/2006/7; ECE/CEP/10/2006/8; ECE/CEP/10/2006/9; ECE/CEP/10/2006/10; and CEP/AC.10/2005/4, annex II). These draft guidelines had been prepared on the basis of the outcome of the Workshop on the Application of Environmental Indicators held on 5–6 July 2004 in Chisinau (CEP/AC.10/2005/4) and the decision taken by the Working Group on the matter at its fifth session (CEP/AC.10/2005/2, para. 23) with the ultimate goal of transmitting the document to the Belgrade Conference for possible endorsement.

10. Delegations held a general discussion on the draft guidelines, commenting on individual indicators contained therein and making proposals for amendments. Many delegations stressed the importance of the guidelines, once adopted, for the adaptation of national systems of monitoring and data collection to reflect international reporting requirements, for harmonization of these systems with those of EEA and its members, and for inter-country comparisons. It was emphasized that indicators in the guidelines should serve as a policy tool to help countries establishing environmental targets and monitoring their implementation as well as measuring overall progress in environmental conditions and performance. It was also highlighted that, while the bulk of indicators coincided with those used by EEA, the guidelines also covered indicators specific to Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

11. Some EECCA delegations informed the Working Group about the work started or planned in their countries to develop national indicator lists on the basis of the draft UNECE guidelines. Several delegations from EECCA countries referred to significant data gaps at the national level to support publishing the indicators. They proposed to implement the guidelines step –by –step, focusing on those indicators (especially on air quality and emissions) that should be introduced as a matter of urgency. Some delegations proposed not to reflect too many details in some indicator descriptions (e.g. on climate change), as technical guidance for data collection and reporting was continuously being reviewed and updated by the international bodies concerned. They voiced the need to keep the guidelines flexible so as to allow for their periodic updating to respond to developments in relevant international forums.

12. Some delegations indicated that the Russian version of the guidelines needed editing and harmonization of terminology. Some other delegations referred to errors or ambiguities in the descriptions and calculations of some indicators, and in references to specific international databases. A few delegations insisted on the adaptation of some indicator descriptions to take into account statistical classifications and definitions used in their countries. Many other delegations disagreed and stressed the need to use internationally standardized methodologies and classifications. Some delegations proposed to add indicators such as carbon oxide emissions,

mountain glaciers, protected territorial sea areas, environmental governance and human exposure to natural disasters. One delegation proposed to delete the indicator of greenhouse gas emissions versus targets as the indicator was not applicable to all EECCA countries. A few delegations indicated that they would send written comments to the secretariat after the meeting. It was also proposed to acknowledge, when publishing the guidelines, all those who had contributed to their preparation.

13. The Working Group expressed its general agreement with the guidelines. Several EECCA delegations voiced the need to organize training sessions for national experts on the practical use of internationally standardized methodologies and classifications referred to in the guidelines. It was also proposed to hold workshops to test and populate the guidelines' indicators as well as to share experiences with the publication of indicator-based environmental assessments.

14. The delegation of Ukraine offered to host a workshop in Donetsk on the use of the guidelines' indicators in territorial state-of-the-environment reporting. The Donetsk Oblast authorities indicated their preparedness to cover a substantive part of local meeting costs. The Working Group accepted this offer with appreciation. It decided that the workshop should be held at the earliest possible date and that it should allow to revise and complete the guidelines, where necessary, and to prepare recommendations on indicator-based national and subnational state-of-the-environment reporting.

15. The Working Group discussed draft recommendations, prepared by a rapporteur to the secretariat and circulated at the meeting as informal paper 16, on the adaptation of national systems of environmental monitoring and data collection pursuant to the guidelines on the application of environmental indicators. The text of these recommendations, as revised by the Working Group, is annexed to the present report.

16. Representatives of statistical agencies in Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, rapporteurs on environmental statistics, circulated papers reviewing the current situation and trends in the application of indicators in environmental statistics (informal papers 10 and 14).

II. SUPPORT TO THE FOURTH PAN-EUROPEAN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

17. A representative of EEA introduced a document on progress in the preparation of the assessment report for the Belgrade Conference and an extended outline of the report (circulated as informal papers 12 and 13). She informed the Working Group that the outline had been revised after the Working Group's last meeting in the light of comments made by the Committee on Environmental Policy and the European Commission. She informed the Working Group about a report writers' meeting held in March 2006 at EEA with the participation of invited EECCA experts and representatives of international organizations, including UNECE. She invited members of the Working Group to assist EEA in involving national experts and institutions in commenting on the draft report. The English and Russian versions of the report will be circulated in September 2006 for discussion by the Working Group at its meeting on 27–29 November 2006. This discussion will be preceded by a consultation meeting with NGOs to be held at the Regional Environmental Centre at Szentendre (Hungary) on 16–17

November 2006. The Working Group, at its eighth session in mid-2007, will discuss promotional activities for the Belgrade report and lessons learned from its preparation.

18. The EEA representatives announced the launching in May 2006 of the Tacis project, which would support the Belgrade report preparations in EECCA. The project will be implemented in partnerships between EEA and UNECE, UNEP and the Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC). Project goals include capacity-building and giving EECCA visibility in the Belgrade report (activities on air and climate change, water, EECCA indicators and case studies). EEA has opened an Internet portal to provide information on the Belgrade report preparations and developments under the Tacis project (<http://ewindows.eu.org/belgrade07>).

19. In the ensuing discussion, some delegations questioned the (in their view) excessive coverage of the issue of global climate change in the regional assessment report, while the coverage of issues such as nature reserves, economic aspects of environmental management and use of natural resources was, in their opinion, insufficient. Many EECCA delegations voiced their concern regarding their Governments' lack of involvement in the design and approval of the Tacis project and the lack of clarity with regard to the role of EECCA members of the Working Group in the project's implementation. The EEA representatives explained the approval procedure for the Tacis multilateral project in question and promised to inform the EECCA members of the Working Group about planned activities under the project to the greatest extent possible.

20. A representative of UNEP made a presentation on the preparation of the fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4). He informed the meeting about UNEP's part of the Tacis project, which would consist in the organization of three workshops in EECCA in October 2006 to train EECCA experts in using the UNECE indicator guidelines and to collect data for a data compendium complementing the Belgrade report.

21. A representative of WHO/ECEH made a presentation on the development of a pan-European environment and health information system (EHIS), an Internet-based system that provides access to indicators, trends in time and space, and fact sheets. She informed participants about the preparation of a report on Children's Health and the Environment: First Assessment by end June 2007 with a first draft available in mid-November 2006. She also reported on the preparation for the Belgrade Conference of a report on health-relevant air-quality monitoring.

22. A representative of UNSD reported on the data collection on the basis of the 2006 UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics. The waste and water questionnaires had been circulated among EECCA countries in February 2006 to support data collection for the Belgrade report as well. So far the results from EECCA countries were mixed, ranging from no replies from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to partial replies from other countries. She informed the Working Group about a UNSD capacity-building project under which a handbook on *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water Resources* had been prepared for adoption by the United Nations Statistics Commission. She offered to organize training in use of the handbook for interested EECCA countries.

23. A representative of OECD reported on the preparation of a second edition of *OECD Environment Outlook* in 2007 that would also cover non-OECD countries. A report to assess

progress in the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy was being prepared for the Belgrade Conference. He invited the Working Group to make inputs to this report on (a) main trends in information management since 2003; (b) useful case studies; and (c) main barriers to improving environmental information.

24. The Working Group:

- (a) Took note of the presentations made and the information provided under this item;
- (b) Invited EECCA delegations to support EEA in its data and information gathering for the report.

III. ADAPTATION OF AIR-QUALITY MONITORING IN EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

25. The secretariat introduced its report on the adaptation of air-quality monitoring networks in EECCA (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/3). The assessment covered air-quality monitoring networks, including monitoring densities, the parameters measured, the reliability of measurements and analysis, air-quality standards, data management and reporting, and programmes and plans for network modernization. The EECCA situation was compared with the requirements of relevant multilateral environmental agreements; guidelines, standards and manuals developed by international organizations; and approaches to and experiences in developing air-quality monitoring in the European Union and the United States.

26. The delegation of Poland and a representative of EEA made presentations on the experience of Poland and the Czech Republic, respectively, with the adaptation of their air-quality monitoring systems to relevant requirements of the European Union. A representative of the EMEP Chemical Coordinating Centre made a presentation on the EMEP Monitoring Strategy and its implications for EECCA countries. A representative of WHO/ECEH made a presentation on the results of studies by this organization of the impacts and monitoring of air pollution in EECCA countries. The delegation of the Russian Federation made two presentations on experiences with the development and modernization of national air-quality networks in the country and particularly in Moscow.

27. During the ensuing discussion, delegations from several EECCA countries addressed the issues of the insufficiency of network densities in urban areas; difficulties with the introduction of automated measurements and the creation of background and transboundary stations; progress in extending the range of measured parameters and harmonizing national maximum allowable concentrations with international air-quality standards and guidelines (or plans developed for doing so); and the development of programmes to modernize and upgrade existing networks financed from both domestic and external sources. General concern was expressed regarding the lack of links between the current measurement programmes and policy- and decision-making on air-pollution abatement. The need was stressed to prepare a strategic document to help EECCA countries revise their air-monitoring programmes by integrating monitoring regulations with policy target setting and making measurement programmes an instrument for monitoring progress in achieving policy targets.

28. The Working Group:

- (a) Thanked the authors of documents presented and presentations made;
- (b) Decided to organize a workshop in the first half of 2007 to prepare recommendations to help EECCA countries revise their air-monitoring strategies and programmes, and invited interested EECCA delegations to consider hosting the workshop and cover a substantial part of local meeting costs.

IV. ENTERPRISE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING

29. A panel discussion was organized under this agenda item. Its purpose was to present and discuss case studies demonstrating effective approaches, including legal requirements, institutional arrangements, guidelines and reporting indicators, to facilitating environmental data reporting by enterprises as well as enterprises' good practices in the development of effective self-monitoring systems in EECCA. A consultant to the secretariat, an expert from business and an NGO representative served as panellists to assess the approach presented in each case study from the point of view of its effectiveness for data collection, integration capacity, transparency and possibilities offered for decision-making.

30. The panel discussion started with presentations by representatives of three big EECCA enterprises, LUKOIL-Nizhnevolzhskneft (Russian Federation) (informal paper 4), KazTransOil (Kazakhstan) (informal paper 3) and Minsk Automobile Plant (informal paper 6). The presentations covered issues related to legal and regulatory requirements, the practical organization of environmental monitoring and data management at the enterprise, human and other resources allocated, environmental reporting to various central and local authorities, and training and other needs of monitoring personnel.

31. The panel discussion was followed by presentations from the following EECCA subnational environmental authorities: heads of the State Department of Ecology and Natural Resources in Donetsk Oblast (Ukraine) (informal paper 1), the Minsk City Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (informal paper 8) and the State Department of Ecology and Natural Resources in Zaporozhye Oblast (Ukraine) (informal paper 7). They presented their departments' experiences with collecting and assessing information on the environmental impact of major polluting enterprises, and with using the information collected in their regions to develop environmental plans and programmes, make decisions and inform the public.

32. The panel discussion was rounded out by presentations on the experiences of national authorities in EECCA and elsewhere with creating legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks to facilitate environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises. Representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Belarus (informal paper 9), the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan (informal paper 15) and the Environment Agency of England and Wales (United Kingdom) made presentations that covered issues such as the evolution of the legal and regulatory basis to support better environmental monitoring and reporting, data quality control systems, the application of innovative information technologies to collect and handle enterprise environmental data, and the use of enterprise data on emissions and

discharges to improve monitoring of air, water and soil quality, and to compile emission and waste inventories.

33. During the assessment of each presentation, panellists highlighted the following aspects: the importance of an adequate legal and regulatory basis setting requirements for enterprises to monitor technological processes, emissions, environmental quality and impacts; the need for enterprises to have in place monitoring programmes approved by public authorities; the importance of shifting more monitoring responsibilities from public authorities to enterprises by reflecting monitoring requirements in permits; the significance of adequate certification and quality assurance procedures as well as of periodic intercalibration exercises for enterprise analytical laboratories; the need to use enterprise data not only for compliance monitoring but also for policy planning and decision-making; and the importance of closer interactions between relevant public authorities dealing with enterprise environmental data collection and reporting.

34. The delegation of Poland reported on the preparations for a Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises (to be followed by training on air monitoring) to be held by the Working Group near Warsaw from 4 to 6 September 2006 at the invitation of, and with financial support by, the Chief Environmental Inspectorate of Poland (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/5). The secretariat circulated a preliminary agenda for the workshop (informal paper 17). A consultant to the secretariat presented draft guidelines to be discussed in depth at the workshop (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/4).

35. The Working Group:

- (a) Thanked the participants of the panel discussion for the presentations and comments made;
- (b) Thanked the Chief Environmental Inspectorate of Poland for hosting the Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises and for support committed for this purpose;
- (c) Agreed to discuss the draft guidelines for environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises and other possible outcomes of the workshop at its next session;
- (d) Stressed the importance of continuing to encouraging companies' own initiatives to promote environmental self-monitoring and reporting in EECCA.¹

¹ Representatives of JSC "Caustic", KazTransOil and LUKOIL-Nizhnevolzhskneft met at the Palais des Nations on 15 June 2006 and agreed to establish an enterprise consultative board at the Working Group to help promote enterprise initiatives on environmental monitoring and reporting. The consultative board is open for participation by other interested companies. It will initiate activities supporting the workplan of the Working Group, and interested companies will cover related costs. A first step, following up on the general guidelines on environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises, may be the development, in cooperation with public authorities, of a manual on environmental monitoring of the exploration, drilling, transportation and refining of oil and gas in the Caspian Sea area, as well as of a manual on environmental monitoring in the chemical industry. The latter would include issues related to measuring parameters, toxicity assessments, life-cycle analysis, the role of enterprises' monitoring centres and the use of monitoring results for environmental decision-making.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

36. The Working Group adopted the report of its fifth session as contained in document CEP/AC.10/2005/2.

37. At the request of the Working Group, the secretariat made a PowerPoint presentation on the situation with regard to donor support to help the Working Group implement its workplan, the amount spent and the breakdown of the resource allocation by individual activities. The secretariat informed the Working Group that an equivalent of some EUR 210,000 had been contributed or pledged for the Working Group's activities, compared to the total extrabudgetary requirements of EUR 363,000 for 2006–2007. By the time of the meeting, the contributions had been received: EUR 7,000 by Austria, EUR 30,000 by the Netherlands, some EUR 20,000 (in kind) by Poland and GBP 30,000 by the United Kingdom. UNECE had signed an agreement with EEA on "Preparation of EECCA indicator guide and support to UNECE/WGEMA activity within the framework of the preparation of the fourth assessment Belgrade report" as part of the European Commission TACIS project "Support to the European Environment Agency data collection in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries". EEA would contribute EUR 110,000 to the UNECE Local Trust Fund on Environmental Monitoring. Some EUR 40,000 were spent or obligated by the end of the sixth session of the Working Group.

38. The Working Group took note of the information provided and agreed to give priority in the allocation of extrabudgetary resources to its next two sessions and the workshops on environmental indicators and on monitoring and reporting by enterprises. It invited interested EECCA delegations to consider opportunities for hosting and providing support to a workshop on air monitoring in 2007. Other activities should be supported to the extent of available resources.

39. The meeting documentation, including informal papers and presentations, is available on the Working Group's website <http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring>.

Annex

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE ADAPTATION OF NATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION PURSUANT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR
THE APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS IN EASTERN EUROPE,
CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

To adapt national monitoring and data collection systems to the requirements of the *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators*, it is recommended that Governments in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia implement the following measures for environmental monitoring and information:

Policy context

1. Use the Guidelines to:
 - (a) Improve national environmental reporting for the purpose of environmental decision-making and public information;
 - (b) Compare national environmental assessments with those of other UN member countries and European Environment Agency members; and
 - (c) Facilitate data gathering for future pan-European environmental assessment reports.
2. Use environmental indicators contained in the Guidelines to:
 - (a) Identify driving forces of environmental changes;
 - (b) Measure pressure on the environment;
 - (c) Assess the state of the environment and its individual components;
 - (d) Assess the impact of environmental pollution on human health and biota;
 - (e) Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental response measures and improve environmental policymaking.

Institutional framework

3. Develop the legal and regulatory basis relating to the collection and handling of data for the Guidelines' environmental indicators as well as to their use for environmental protection activities.
4. Define and designate institutions responsible for the collection of primary data on each indicator in the Guidelines and for the publication of indicators in national and subnational

(Oblast, city, etc.) state-of-the-environment reports and statistical compendiums; and adapt the existing relevant coordination mechanisms or set up new ones as needed.

5. In countries where this has not yet been done, ensure that state statistical services develop and introduce into practice classifications corresponding to those of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) of All Economic Activities of the United Nations and its derivatives. International standard classifications should be recognized and used by all institutions dealing with the collection and treatment of data and the publication of environmental and statistical reports.

6. Ensure that public authorities responsible for environmental monitoring and protection; public health; sustainable use of water, land, forest and other biological resources; and energy, transport and housing policies ensure, in full coordination, the adaptation or development of monitoring programmes providing for measuring and calculating as well as regularly collecting data for each of the environmental indicators included in the Guidelines.

7. Ensure the continuous functioning of national environmental monitoring systems to produce data on environmental indicators and the regular use of indicators in environmental policy.

8. Spread the use of the Guidelines' environmental indicators to the subnational level by adapting indicators, where necessary. Central governmental authorities should provide consultative assistance and support to subnational bodies.

9. Conduct regular training of experts on the application of environmental indicators for environmental assessments, improvement of environmental policy and the production of environmental publications for the general public.

10. Ensure that institutions responsible for data collection and the treatment and management of databases with the application of environmental indicators regularly transmit the information collected to institutions designated for the publication and dissemination of national and subnational reports on the environment and the use of natural resources. Improve national and subnational reports on the basis of environmental indicators for better use by environmental policymakers, academic community and the general public.

11. Ensure that ministries responsible for environmental policy initiate the regular publication of data collections based on the Guidelines' indicators or adapt current publications accordingly.

12. Set up national electronic data banks (databases) on environmental indicators and ensure free access to these via modern information technologies, including the Internet.

Follow-up

13. Regularly review the lists of indicators that are applied at the national level to incorporate indicators beyond those covered by the Guidelines. In revising the existing indicators and selecting additional ones, apply the following criteria:

- (a) Relevance to national environmental priorities: indicators should be assessed in terms of their relevance to the goals and objectives of national strategy documents on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources (national strategies for environmental protection, sustainable development and biodiversity, and national environmental action plans);
- (b) Relation to international environmental policy: indicators should be assessed in terms of their relation to the implementation of international agreements and obligations and to their comparability at the international level;
- (c) Measurability: indicators should be assessed in terms of the availability of (preferably internationally agreed) cost-effective methods and methodologies for obtaining the necessary data (measurements and/or calculations);
- (d) Forecasting ability: indicators should be assessed in terms of their capacity to accurately forecast the effectiveness and efficiency of planned environmental policy decisions and protection measures;
- (e) Role as a means of communication for public awareness: indicators should be assessed in terms of their clarity for the general public and their ability to raise awareness about the state of the environment;
- (f) Reliability.

14. When selecting additional indicators, aim to ensure, first of all, that they provide for the objective assessment of developments in a form that is easy to understand, and that they produce time-series data to demonstrate trends and evaluate progress.

15. Participate actively in international cooperation in the field of indicator-based environmental monitoring and reporting that assist in cross-country comparisons.