



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Geneva, 1 and 2 December 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on
Thursday, 1 December 2011***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Introductory statements.
5. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges.
6. A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
7. The institutional framework for sustainable development.
8. Co-Chairs' summary and closure of the meeting.

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/env/SustainableDevelopment/RPM2011/RPM2011.htm>), and to transmit it to the ECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (sd@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio+20) is scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 4 to 6 June 2012. The objectives of the Rio+20 Conference are to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and to address new and emerging challenges.
2. Substantive discussions will focus on two themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The Rio+20 Conference is expected to result in a focused political document.
3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 64/236 mandating the Rio+20 Conference, decided that “regional implementation meetings will become regional preparatory meetings for the Rio+20 Conference in 2011” (para. 25 (d)). In accordance with this decision, the preparatory meeting for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region would follow a similar format as the ECE Regional Implementation Meetings for Sustainable Development, with interactive discussions and the active participation of relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in the area of sustainable development.
4. ECE, at its sixty-fourth session in March 2011, decided to hold the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Rio+20 Conference on 1 and 2 December 2011 in Geneva. The Preparatory Meeting will be prepared in close cooperation with other organizations and bodies working in the areas of green economy and sustainable development governance, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UNCSD secretariat and the vice-chairs of the UNCSD Bureau responsible for the regional preparations will also be closely involved.
5. The outcomes of ECE meetings in 2011 with relevance to the themes of the Rio+20 Conference will serve as additional inputs into the Regional Preparatory Meeting. This applies in particular to the Seventh “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011), which will address the issue of greening the economy in the ECE region. The first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 20–23 June 2011) recognized that strategic environmental assessment is a unique and important instrument for planning and policymaking related to greening the economy, and requested ECE to report within the preparatory process for the Rio+20 Conference on the contribution of the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol to the implementation of the principles proclaimed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I)).
6. The outcome of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (Chisinau, 29 June –1 July 2011) is also of relevance to the preparations for the Rio+20 Conference. The high-level segment of the Meeting of the Parties evaluated how the implementation of the Convention has helped to enhance good governance and sustainable development across the region and beyond. Furthermore, the ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development, at its sixth meeting in April 2011, discussed the role of education for sustainable development

in greening the economy and proposed to organize a round-table discussion on this topic in the framework of the Regional Preparatory Meeting. Given the time, meeting room facilities and interpretation constraints, the round table will be organized as a side event to the regional meeting during lunchtime on the first day of the meeting.

7. The Regional Preparatory Meeting will aim at identifying the specific challenges and priorities of the ECE region with regard to the Rio+20 Conference, including policy recommendations and good practices. The results of the meeting, in the form of a non-negotiated outcome (co-Chairs' Summary) will be transmitted to and presented at the Second Intersessional Meeting for UNCSD (New York, 15–16 December 2011).

8. The Regional Preparatory Meeting will be co-chaired by two ministers from different parts of the ECE region. The consolidated results of discussions from the round table and the two panels will serve as input into the co-Chairs' Summary of the meeting.

9. Information and materials for this meeting are being made available on the ECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/SustainableDevelopment/RPM2011/RPM2011.htm>).

1. Opening of the meeting

10. The ECE Executive Secretary will open the Regional Preparatory Meeting. High-level representatives of UNEP and UNDP will give keynote addresses.

2. Adoption of the agenda

11. The Meeting will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (E/ECE/RPM/2011/1). The provisional timetable and the organization of work for the meeting will be presented in information paper 1.

3. Election of officers

12. The Meeting will be invited to elect two co-Chairs.

4. Introductory statements

13. The Meeting will be addressed by the Vice-Chairs of the Preparatory Bureau for the Rio+20 Conference, as well as by a representative of the UNCSD secretariat.

5. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges

14. This thematic segment of the Regional Preparatory Meeting will focus on assessing the progress in the region in the implementation of outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development. The Meeting will also discuss the best ways to address new and emerging challenges in the region.

15. The segment will be organized in the form of a multi-stakeholder panel discussion. It will open with introductory remarks by one of the co-Chairs, followed by presentations by the panellists. Subsequently, the floor will be opened for questions and an interactive discussion.

16. The co-Chair will highlight key messages emerging from the discussion to be incorporated into the co-Chairs' Summary of the meeting.

Documentation

Regional Inter-agency Report for the Rio+20 Conference (a draft will be ready for the Regional Preparatory Meeting; the document will then be finalized by incorporating the Meeting results and submitted to the Rio+20 Conference); Declaration by first session of Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2, part two); and the Chişinău Declaration, "Rio plus Aarhus — 20 years on: Bearing fruit and looking forward", of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1)

6. A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

17. The Meeting may wish to discuss and agree upon steps to be taken within the ECE region to transition towards a green economy, as well as consider lessons learned and good practices that could be shared at the global level. The discussion will build upon green economy-related results from the Astana Ministerial Conference and will attempt to identify the best short-, medium- and long-term approaches for the region to advance in greening its economies. The key messages from the round table on the role of education for sustainable development in greening the economy will also be brought into the discussion under this agenda item.

18. This thematic segment will be divided into a one-hour plenary session and a two-hour multi-stakeholder round table. The plenary session will open with introductory remarks by one of the co-Chairs. A few keynote addresses will follow to kick-off the discussion in the round table. The meeting will then continue with a round table.

19. Following the discussion, the co-Chair will highlight key points to be included into the co-Chairs' Summary of the meeting.

Documentation

Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/4); Greening the economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (E/ECE/RPM/2011/4); Transitioning to a green economy: the role of education for sustainable development (E/ECE/RPM/2011/5); Regional Inter-agency Report for the Rio+20 Conference; Declaration by first session of Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2, part two); and the Chişinău Declaration of the fourth session of Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1)

7. The institutional framework for sustainable development

20. The Regional Preparatory Meeting may wish to discuss and identify the specific challenges facing the ECE region with regard to the institutional framework for sustainable development, as well as possibilities for reforms at the global level.

21. This thematic segment of the Meeting will be organized in the form of a multi-stakeholder panel discussion. It will open with introductory remarks by one of the

co-Chairs, followed by presentations by the panellists. Subsequently, the floor will be opened for questions and an interactive discussion.

22. The co-Chair will highlight key messages emerging from the discussion to be incorporated into the co-Chairs' Summary of the meeting.

Documentation

Regional Inter-agency Report for the Rio+20 Conference (a draft of this document will be ready for the Regional Preparatory Meeting; the document will then be finalized by incorporating the results of the Meeting and submitted to the Rio+20 Conference); and the Chişinău Declaration of the fourth session of Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1)

8. Co-Chairs' summary and closure of the meeting

23. The co-Chairs will present their summary of the meeting, which will be submitted as a regional contribution to the Second Intersessional Meeting for UNCSD, and close the meeting.

24. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the co-Chairs after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the dedicated ECE Meeting website.
