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**Programme of work: review of programme
performance in the biennium 2010–2011**

Review of performance of the Environment subprogramme in the biennium 2010–2011

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Committee on Environmental Policy approved the plan for the review of the Environment subprogramme performance in 2010–2011 at its Extended Bureau meeting in March 2010, and mandated that a report on progress achieved during the period 2010–2011 be presented to the Committee at its eighteenth session. (ECE/CEP/2010/1, paras. 47–48).

The present document provides the review of performance of the Environment subprogramme in the biennium 2010–2011. The document is structured in accordance with the 11 clusters grouping most of the Environment subprogramme's activities. The activities related to the Environment and Health Process and the Environment and Security Initiative are not included in these 11 clusters, but are presented in an annex.

The document was prepared by the secretariat taking into account the requirements for the review of programme performance established within ECE.

The Committee on Environmental Policy will be invited to consider the document at its eighteenth session for approval.

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Cluster 1

Environmental monitoring and assessment

Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

1. Capacity for environmental observations in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe has been strengthened. Five new countries published environmental indicators in statistical yearbooks and environmental statistical compendiums, bringing the total number of countries publishing environmental indicators to 11. Significant achievements were demonstrated in this area by nine countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. In particular: Azerbaijan started radiological monitoring at its borders; Belarus and Uzbekistan approved programmes to improve monitoring over 2011–2015; Georgia started biological monitoring of surface waters and monitoring of soil pollution with heavy metals; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia adopted a decree on establishing a State environmental monitoring network; Montenegro installed three automated air quality monitoring stations; the Russian Federation implemented an integrated environmental monitoring system in the Sochi region; Serbia enlarged and improved its air quality monitoring network; and Ukraine implemented an automated air quality monitoring network in the Donetsk oblast.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

2. In many countries the main bottleneck remains the lack of adequate primary data to support the production of indicators, mostly because of difficulties in data collection or sharing. Despite certain progress, there is still a need for substantial improvement of capacity for publishing indicator-based environmental assessments across the region. Further efforts should also be made in countries to ensure better coordination between ministries of environment, statistical offices and other line ministries. Country efforts should be supported by the United Nations and international organizations through the provision of external expert advice, training and extensive exchange of good practices. Adequate donor support is also crucial.

Indicator of achievement

3. Increased number of countries applying environmental indicators as defined in the ECE guidelines for the application of environmental indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Baseline 2009: 6 Countries
 Target 2010–2011: 11 Countries
 Actual 2010–2011: 11 Countries.

Cluster 2 “Environment for Europe” process: preparation of the Seventh Ministerial Conference

Successful organization of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

4. The Seventh “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) gathered more than 1,500 participants from Governments, the international community, civil society, business and the media throughout the ECE region to discuss two main themes: sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. Participants discussed at length the findings of the two main reports produced for the Conference: *Europe’s Environment — An Assessment of Assessments* and the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*. The Conference was organized in an interactive format, including nine high-level multi-stakeholder round tables. To support multi-stakeholder discussions during the Conference and to facilitate decision-making, background papers on each of the two main themes were prepared by ECE jointly with EfE partners. For the first time, the EfE Ministerial Conference was a paperless event. The EfE partners organized 43 side events on issues related to the two main themes of the Conference. The Conference gathered many business and industry representatives, who also participated in a Green Innovations, Technologies and Ecoservices Fair, organized on the margins of the Conference.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

5. A major outcome of the Astana Conference was the Astana Ministerial Declaration (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1), in which ministers confirmed their commitment to improving environmental protection and promoting sustainable development in the ECE region through the EfE process; recognized the crucial role of water in development and called for additional financial resources in that regard, including a more systematic use of economic instruments, the provision of incentives for water efficiency and the generation of revenues to finance water services; endorsed the Astana Water Action; invited the ECE to conduct its third cycle of Environmental Performance Reviews; decided to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the region; and agreed to take the lead in the transition to a green economy and to make a substantive contribution to the discussions on green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD; Rio+20 Conference) in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. Ministers also invited ECE to contribute to the development, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, of the Rio+20 Green Economy outcomes. The Committee on Environmental Policy will convene in 2013 a mid-term review to assess progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the Astana Conference.

Indicator of achievement

6. Consensus reached by member States on the Conference agenda and outcomes.

Baseline 2009: Consensus not yet reached

Target 2010–2011: Consensus to be reached

Actual 2010–2011: Consensus was reached resulting in a successful ministerial conference.

Cluster 3

Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development

Successful review of progress in the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development outcomes and Agenda 21 within the biennial Commission on Sustainable Development implementation cycle

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

7. The Fourth ECE Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 1–2 December 2009) prepared the contribution from the ECE region to the eighteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, May 2010), which opened the fourth two-year cycle of its multi-year work programme. The Meeting assessed the region's progress in implementing sustainable development in the areas of transport, chemicals management, waste management, mining and sustainable consumption and production patterns. It attracted more than 220 delegates from across the ECE region representing Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies and major groups. Participants commended the very active involvement of civil society representatives in the meeting, both in terms of numbers as well as their role and engagement in the discussions.

8. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Rio+20 Conference, convened by ECE in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), took place on 1 and 2 December 2011 in Geneva. The meeting attracted over 400 participants, including 160 from Major Groups. Participants engaged in discussions on: (a) an assessment of the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development as well as new and emerging challenges; (b) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (c) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

9. Overall, the Fourth ECE Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development found that progress differed significantly from one subregion to another, and was affected by economic, infrastructural and historical aspects that had to be taken into account in the regional and global review. Mining, transport, sustainable consumption and production and waste management were major stages in the life cycle of materials as well as had many potential impacts on human health, employment, and the environment. In that respect, participants noted that sustainable transport played an important role in ensuring effective communications, trade and migration, while having the lowest possible impact on the environment. Also, the safe production and use of chemicals was vital to protecting human health and worker safety. Poverty eradication, protecting and managing natural resources and changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption were considered the three main cross-cutting sustainable development concerns that required urgent action if the planet's human and environmental capital were to be protected.

10. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20 recognized the region's progress in implementing multilateral environmental agreements, and the importance of ECE processes and regional conventions, as well as initiatives such as the creation of Regional Environmental Centres. The need for improvements in the monitoring and evaluation of progress in sustainable development, better integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, and stronger regional coherence and cooperation were, however, highlighted. Regarding the green economy, the need for a road map that included political and action-oriented components and set a vision for the next two decades, was strongly backed, at the same time making sure that the policy mix avoided a one-size-fits-all approach, but rather

accommodated the unique challenges faced by different countries. The importance of data and indicators for assessing progress towards a green economy was also stressed. Discussions pointed at the need for fundamental changes in consumption and production patterns to reduce absolute levels of resource consumption. There was also agreement on the importance of strengthening governance at the regional, national and local levels. The meeting noted that ECE was the only region so far with a legally binding instrument on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, namely, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

Indicator of achievement

11. Consensus reached by member States on key challenges to be addressed as they relate to the themes of the Commission on Sustainable Development cycle.

Baseline 2009: Consensus not yet reached

Target 2010–2011: Consensus to be reached

Actual 2010–2011: Consensus was reached at the Fourth ECE Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development.

Cluster 4

Education for sustainable development

Enhanced implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development at national level

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

12. In 2011, the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development entered its third phase of implementation, which means that countries are now shifting their attention from the political to the practical, i.e., putting the Strategy into action. In that connection, the first mandatory reporting exercise, completed at the beginning of 2011, showed that significant successes were achieved in the first two implementation phases: the majority of countries have accomplished or are close to finalizing and putting in place policy, regulatory and operational frameworks that support education for sustainable development (ESD). Many countries have started to integrate ESD in formal education, resulting in a considerable coverage of ESD-related key themes, learning outcomes methods and strategies. The adoption of a whole-institution approach has advanced remarkably in the region. Moreover, the Strategy for ESD promotes ESD as a cross-cutting issue within the green economy process, since ESD lays the necessary educational foundations in society. To foster a deeper understanding of the role ESD can and has to play in the transition to a green economy, the ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development launched a series of panel and round-table discussions, including events at the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference in Astana and at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

13. One of the main challenges for advancing ESD that was identified is the lack of ESD educator competences. In 2011, the Expert Group on Competences finalized a set of core competences for educators, as well as recommendations for policymakers on how to promote them. At the core of all the recommendations is the notion of educator empowerment, recognizing that educators are key to ESD. The Group drafted recommendations and competences so as to allow for flexibility and adaptability to national

and regional needs. In order to adapt the educator competences to national contexts, subregional workshops are being organized under the umbrella of the ECE Strategy for ESD. The practical promotion of educator competences through trainings and subregional workshops will be one of the priorities in phase III. Furthermore, the Steering Committee is closely linking its work in phase III to the regional and global green economy process. Particular focus is being put on positioning technical and vocational education and training, so as to meet the existing and future green skills needs, which pose a significant challenge to greening economies.

Indicator of achievement

14. Successful measures to implement the Strategy for ESD at national level, assessed through the first mandatory submission of national implementation reports of the member States.

Baseline 2009: N/A

Target 2010–2011: 40

Actual 2010–2011: 36.

Cluster 5

Transport, health and environment

Exchange of experience, good practice and capacity-building for the integration of transport, health and environment policies with a special focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

15. In 2009, the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment adopted the Amsterdam Declaration, which provides new priority goals, implementation mechanisms and a work plan from 2009–2014 for the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), administered jointly by ECE and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe). THE PEP Steering Committee, which oversees implementation of THE PEP, held two sessions in 2010 and 2011. In 2010, two capacity-building workshops were organized — in Skopje and in Batumi, Georgia — and in 2011 another workshop was held in Kyiv with a focus on the institutional integration of transport, health and the environment and on sustainable and healthy urban transport. A manual on the implementation of National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans, terms of reference for a THE PEP Partnership programme and a communication advocacy kit have also been developed. In addition, a series of THE PEP Symposiums, as well as background materials, were organized focusing on Amsterdam Goals 1 (green and healthy jobs in transport) and 2 (inclusive and innovative urban mobility). Due to a lack of resources, a manager for THE PEP Clearing House could not be recruited. Thus, the Clearing House had to operate in an automatic mode and very few new documents could be uploaded.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

16. Operation and management of the cross-sectoral and inter-institutional activities of THE PEP require considerable secretariat resources for coordination of work among many stakeholders, including cooperation among the three sections of the tripartite secretariat (the Transport and Environment Divisions of ECE and WHO/Europe). The same holds true for the organization of capacity-building activities requiring cooperation among (at a

minimum) the ministries of transport, health and environment of the countries (mainly) in Eastern and Central Europe, as well as in the Caucasus. Sufficient extrabudgetary funds are not available to maximize the capabilities of the THE PEP Clearing House and to allow it to play a pivotal role in the operation and visibility of THE PEP. In fact, no resources could be made available for a Clearing House content manager and, following transfer to a new server system and urgent information technology maintenance by ECE, the Clearing House continued in an automatic mode which was apparently not adequate to encourage regular uploading of documents by its clients. Particular efforts are required so that more countries and organizations shoulder the extrabudgetary assistance for THE PEP activities, and thus ensure its sustained and efficient management and operation.

Indicator of achievement

17. Number of member States, international and non-governmental organizations engaged in the meetings of THE PEP Steering Committee and relevant workshops undertaken in this framework.

Baseline 2009: 89 countries

Target: 2010–2011: 50 countries

Actual 2010–2011: 69 countries and 28 international and non-governmental organizations.

Cluster 6

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution

Strengthened implementation of the Convention and its protocols, with a focus on Eastern European, Caucasian, Central Asian and South-Eastern European countries, with a view to increasing implementation and ratification of the three most recent protocols

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

18. The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Pollution Convention) made further progress in 2011 on revising two of its most recent protocols: the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). The Convention's Executive Body decided on the inclusion in a revised Gothenburg Protocol of particulate matter (PM) and black carbon (BC) — an important component of PM. PM and BC are proved to cause significant health problems and environmental damage. In addition, measures to allow needed flexibility for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe are going to be introduced in the revised protocols to help these countries with implementation and ratification.

19. The revised Gothenburg Protocol will contribute to the green economy by setting obligations for Parties to take cost-effective measures to reduce harmful emissions, promoting the introduction of new and clean technologies, bringing economic and health benefits and preventing the loss of biodiversity. Emissions and deposition of nitrogen compounds causes damage and loss of biodiversity. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen under the Convention has been exploring cost-effective measures to reduce nitrogen pollution, particularly from the agriculture sector by improving the nitrogen-use efficiency in animal and crop production, which will save farmers money while reducing nitrogen pollution and helping Parties achieve environmental improvements. The Task Force published a summary for policymakers of the *European Nitrogen Assessment*.

20. The Long-term Strategy for the Convention, adopted in 2010, calls for strengthened interregional cooperation and outreach activities with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), other United Nations regional commissions and other institutions outside the ECE region dealing with air pollution issues. In 2011, the secretariat helped to initialize a project that reviews existing and required capacities for addressing adverse environmental impact of transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia. The project, led by the Russian Federation in collaboration with the ESCAP subregional office in Incheon, Republic of Korea, builds upon the experience and knowledge of the Convention.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

21. The remaining challenges and strategic priorities for further work are identified in the Long-term Strategy adopted by the Executive Body for the Convention in 2010. These include, inter alia, the following areas for improvement:

(a) The Parties to the Convention will critically assess the current structure of its subsidiary bodies, groups and task forces, and the number and frequency of meetings, with a view to realigning the use of time and resources in the Parties and the secretariat consistent with the overall priorities of the Convention, ensuring its needs are met in the most efficient way. The Parties to the Convention will seek possible ways and means to streamline and rationalize operations and to make them more transparent. The aim will be to prioritize the work by the bodies; to find ways for more effective use of resources by the Executive Body and the subsidiary bodies and technical bodies/expert groups; to reduce the bulk of official documents; and to increase the operational efficiency of main subsidiary body meetings;

(b) Increased ratification and related implementation of the three most recent protocols is particularly important for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, and this priority will be emphasized in the revision of, or amendments to, these protocols. This priority will also be taken into account in the annual work programmes of the subsidiary bodies. Measures and action to facilitate wider ratification and implementation in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, including financial support, will be pursued vigorously;

(c) The Parties to the Convention recognize that the priorities for work and action will need to be regularly reviewed in the light of new priorities and progress already achieved, as well as wider policy developments on the regional and global scale. This will require a change in the balance of the activities of the Convention; it may be necessary to scale down or even stop work where it can no longer add value, while opening up opportunities for other newly relevant issues.

Indicator of achievement

22. Indicators of progress in implementing the Convention in four main areas:

(a) Number of reviews of strategies and policies by Parties to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution;

(b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Air Pollution Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);

(c) Increased number of ratifications of protocols to the Convention;

(d) Number of training sessions targeting implementation of the Convention and its protocols in Eastern European, Caucasian, Central Asian and South-Eastern European countries.

Baseline 2009:	(a) 34	(b) 159	(c) 233	(d) 3
Target 2010–2011:	(a) 38	(b) 220	(c) 243	(d) 6
Actual 2010–2011:	(a) 38	(b) 220	(c) 242	(d) 6.

Cluster 7

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Strengthened implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

23. For the Aarhus Convention, the highlight of 2011 was the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. In view of the forthcoming Rio+20 Conference, through the Chisinau Declaration adopted at its fourth session, the Meeting of the Parties placed great emphasis on sustainable development and a green economy. In Chisinau the Parties also sought to extend the Convention's benefits beyond the region by adopting a simple procedure for the accession of non-ECE countries to the Convention.

24. Also at its fourth session, the Meeting of the Parties decided that the Task Forces on Public Participation in Decision-making (led by Ireland) and on Access to Justice (led by Sweden) would continue with renewed mandates. A third task force — the Task Force on Access to Information (to be led by the Republic of Moldova) — has been given a new mandate to, inter alia, promote exchange of information and identify barriers and solutions concerning public access to environmental information. Furthermore, the Parties called for the Convention to continue the work (led by France) in promoting the Convention in international forums and building synergies with other conventions and international organizations involved in environmental matters. As an example of the ongoing work in this area, in February 2011 the secretariat organized a workshop on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums.

25. Emphasis on the review of compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Convention has remained a top priority of the Meeting of the Parties, in particular through the Convention's Compliance Committee. At its fourth session, the Meeting welcomed the way in which the Committee had been working and noted the compliance mechanism's contribution to putting Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration into practice. All findings of non-compliance by the Committee have to date been endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties and all Parties concerned have demonstrated their consent with the resulting decisions on compliance adopted by the Meeting. In this context, in 2011, the Compliance Committee undertook a mission to Turkmenistan in order to assist the Turkmen authorities in the implementation of the Convention. This was achieved through meetings with the public authorities and through the organization of a multi-stakeholder training seminar.

26. As of 2011, the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) became fully operational through the organization of the first meetings of the Bureau, the Compliance Committee and the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol. A number of promotion and capacity-building activities have been implemented, including side events on the margins of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Astana EUE Ministerial Conference. Furthermore, a workshop for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, to promote the implementation and ratification of the Protocol in the countries of that subregion, was held in Minsk on

3 and 4 November 2011. Finally, a simplified guide to the Protocol was published. The promotion of the Convention and of its Protocol on PRTRs is further evidenced by the secretariat's participation at various international events. The secretariat also has serviced an International Coordinating Group on PRTRs, which promotes cooperation on the subject at the global level.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

27. In terms of implementation of the Convention's provisions two observations are relevant here. First, in view of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, the third cycle of national implementation reports was completed with only 3 out of 44 Parties failing to produce reports. Second, as noted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session, the workload of both the secretariat and the Committee related to the functioning of the compliance mechanism has significantly increased during the intersessional period 2008–2011 and is expected to increase further. The Meeting requested the Parties, the Bureau and the secretariat, in their respective roles, to ensure that sufficient resources were made available for this purpose.

Indicator of achievement

28. Increased adherence to and implementation by countries in meeting their obligations under the Convention and Protocol through:

- (a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Aarhus Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);
- (b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (average participant-days per non-Party);
- (c) Increased number of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention;
- (d) Increased number of ratifications of the Protocol on PRTRs;
- (e) Increased number of countries submitting National Implementation Reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, indicating progress in implementing key obligations.

Baseline 2009:	(a) 6	(b) 3	(c) 43	(d) 23	(e) 41
Target 2010–2011:	(a) 8	(b) 4	(c) 45	(d) 25	(e) 43
Actual 2010–2011:	(a) 8	(b) 4	(c) 45	(d) 27	(e) 41.

Cluster 8

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Strengthened implementation of the Convention

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

29. For the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), 2011 was marked by the fifth session of the Meeting of its Parties, and by the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment; the two events were held jointly in June. The membership of the Convention reached 45, while that of the Protocol grew from 9 to 23, and the Protocol entered into force on 11 July 2010.

30. At a practical level, the application of the Espoo Convention has been particularly prominent in the nuclear energy sector, though its most frequent application continues to be for wind energy developments. There has been a continuing strong emphasis on the review of compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Convention, led by the Convention's Implementation Committee. Three submissions were made to the Committee in 2011 by Parties having concerns about other Parties' compliance with their obligations under the Convention. The Committee also continued to consider information from other sources, including non-governmental organizations. At the request of the Meeting of the Parties, a review of the implementation of the Convention for the period from 2006 to 2009 and a collection of the Committee's opinions were published electronically.

31. In addition, numerous workshops were held under the Convention and the Protocol, at both the national and subregional levels, to strengthen capacities and cooperation. These included a first workshop for the Mediterranean Sea area, held in Tunis, subregional cooperation workshops for the Caucasus and for the Baltic Sea area, a subregional capacity-development workshop for Central Asian countries, and national events in Belarus, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. A pilot project on transboundary environmental impact assessment involving Belarus and Lithuania was carried out and completed in the 2010–2011 biennium. A new introductory booklet on the Espoo Convention and a comprehensive *Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol* were published.

32. At the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, Parties to the Protocol recognized that strategic environmental assessment is a unique and important instrument for planning and policymaking related to greening the economy. They also 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 1992 Rio Conference. As a result, the Convention and Protocol featured prominently in the co-Chairs' summary of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Rio+20 Conference.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

33. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of the previous workplan and with the use of the Convention's trust fund. Only one State Party in the period under review failed to submit a completed questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention for the period from 2006 to 2009; the Implementation Committee subsequently began a Committee initiative on possible non-compliance by Albania. An analysis of the information provided in the completed questionnaires revealed a substantial increase in the application of the Convention, and the continuing development of national legislation and of bilateral and multilateral agreements to support its implementation. However, the analysis also revealed several possible weaknesses or shortcomings in the Convention's implementation with regard to particular provisions. Endorsing a finding of the Implementation Committee, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention declared that the caution to the Government of Ukraine issued in its fourth session with respect to the project for the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta was effective.

Indicator of achievement

34. Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention in five main areas:

(a) Increased number of countries contributing to subregional cooperation under the Convention;

(b) Increased number of countries reporting on their implementation of the Convention;

(c) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Espoo Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);

(d) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (average participant-days per non-Party);

(e) Increased number of Parties to the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Baseline 2009: (a) 23 (b) 38 (c) 8 (d) 9 (e) 12

Target 2010–2011: (a) 24 (b) 40 (c) 15 (d) 10 (e) 18

Actual 2010–2011: (a) 28 (b) 42 (c) 31 (d) 10 (e) 23.

Cluster 9

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Strengthened implementation of the Convention

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

35. One of the main achievements under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was the finalization of the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* for the Astana EfE Ministerial Conference. Resulting from the most collaborative effort ever under the Water Convention, the Assessment provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date overview of the status of transboundary waters in the ECE region, presenting a broad analysis of pressure factors, quantity and quality status, and transboundary impacts, as well as responses and future trends. The Assessment also documents legal and institutional frameworks for water management and cooperation and devotes special attention to ecological and biodiversity issues.

36. The National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative were extended to additional countries and are now ongoing in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. The Dialogues have proven to be powerful tools to strengthen water governance and have resulted in legislative acts, ministerial orders, strategy documents and implementation plans.

37. Water and adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context have continued to be one of the priority areas of work under the Convention. A programme of pilot projects aiming to support cooperation in adapting to climate change in transboundary basins was launched in May 2010. There are at present eight pilot projects in transboundary basins throughout the ECE region. In this area, the Convention is a global pioneer, and events such as the two workshops organized on this theme had a very high participation, including from outside the ECE region.

38. In general, the importance of the Water Convention is increasingly recognized beyond the ECE region. In the 2010–2011 biennium, several other workshops have seen the participation of representatives from other regions, most importantly the international conference on “Europe-Asia transboundary water cooperation” (December 2011). At the same time, increased efforts are being made to enable the entry into force of the

amendments opening the Convention to accession at the global level by 2012. Outreach outside the ECE region to promote the implementation of and eventually the accession to the Convention by countries outside ECE is expected to become an important priority for the future.

39. The promotion of cooperation has remained at the heart of the work under the Convention during the biennium, as illustrated by the work in the Drin Basin, where the Drin Dialogue — a structured consultation process aimed at the development of a shared vision among the riparian countries and stakeholders for the sustainable management of the basin — was initiated.

40. In April 2010, negotiations started on the establishment of an institutional and procedural mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance; negotiations should be completed by the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in November 2012. The mechanism will provide the Convention with a concrete tool to assist Parties in solving implementation problems and preventing or settling differences regarding the interpretation and application of the Convention, taking into account countries' needs and the Convention's distinctive cooperative spirit.

41. Water and health in the ECE region took a significant step forward at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (23–25 November 2010, Bucharest). Five years after the entry into force of the Protocol, the session marked an important milestone in the evolution of this instrument. It provided an opportunity to review progress achieved so far and to reflect on and plan for the challenges that lie ahead. Since the Meeting of the Parties, work under the Protocol has increasingly focused on promoting implementation on the ground. Subregional workshops on target setting and reporting were held — in April 2011 in Belarus for Eastern European countries, and in October 2011 in Kazakhstan for Central Asian countries — and several countries received individual assistance in setting and implementing their targets as required by the Protocol.

42. In July 2010 the United Nations General Assembly, shortly followed by the Human Rights Council in September, declared that access to clean water and sanitation was a human right. The Protocol guides its Parties on how to translate that right into practice, and how safe, acceptable, affordable, accessible and sufficient water can be provided, in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination and of transparency of information. A good practice document on equitable access to water and sanitation was elaborated in 2011 under the Protocol, under the leadership of France. It will be launched at the sixth World Water Forum in Marseille, France, in 2012.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

43. The *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* demonstrated that the status of transboundary waters is improving in many parts of ECE thanks to the efforts to protect waters and the environment. However, transboundary water resources are still under great stress from a variety of causes, including poor management practices, pollution (agriculture, wastewater discharges, etc.), overexploitation, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, hydromorphological pressures, inadequate investment in infrastructure and low-efficiency in water use. Competition — and in some cases even conflicts — between different water uses, often in different riparian countries, is a challenge. Climate change impacts are expected to further aggravate the problems. In many basins, potential impacts of climate change on water resources have not been specifically assessed: more comprehensive and collaborative research into the impacts of climate change at the subregional and basin level is needed. In many countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe there is a need to balance the aggressively prioritized economic development and enhance environmental protection to ensure long-term sustainability of water resources.

44. The series of intensive capacity-building events on the Water Convention in Central Asian countries has contributed to a better understanding of the Convention's obligations and advantages. However, it also showed that implementation capacity remains, in many cases, weak.

45. The results of the first reporting exercise under the Protocol on Water and Health in 2010 illustrated how the Protocol is helping to address water and health issues in the region, but also highlighted remaining gaps and common challenges. These are mostly linked to difficulties in intersectoral cooperation, which remain the main obstacle for the proper implementation of the Protocol and for the development of integrated strategies.

Indicator of achievement

46. Increased number of countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention in five key areas:

(a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Water Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);

(b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (average participant-days per non-Party);

(c) Increased number of countries ratifying the Protocol on Water and Health;

(d) Increased number of countries participating in the preparation of the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* in the ECE region as compared with the first Assessment;

(e) Increased number of countries participating in the National Policy Dialogues under the European Union Water Initiative.

Baseline 2009:	(a) 10	(b) 8	(c) 24	(d) 43	(e) 4
Target 2010–2011:	(a) 25	(b) 9	(c) 26	(d) 50	(e) 7
Actual 2010–2011:	(a) 50	(b) 20	(c) 25	(d) 50	(e) 8.

Cluster 10

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Strengthened implementation of the Convention

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

47. The period 2010–2011 saw the continuation of activities within the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) to help ECE member countries, depending on their level of implementation, to further strengthen or maintain a high level of industrial safety. With regard to improving industrial safety, a training session on the application of benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention, developed in 2010, was organized in 2011 for the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Through the training, national experts learned how to use the benchmarks to analyse the efficaciousness of their countries' legal and institutional frameworks for identifying and addressing gaps and shortcomings in assuring the safe operation of their hazardous industrial facilities.

48. In addition, a number of projects were implemented or initiated in 2010–2011. An Industrial Accidents Convention project in the Balkans, supported by Germany, helped the participating countries to better understand risk assessment and measures applied by

industry, including safety management systems and major accident prevention policy to reduce environmental risks. A project in the Danube Delta, also supported by Germany, initiated improvements in the Danube Delta countries in applying basic safety measures at facilities, such as oil terminals, which can be dangerous to waters in the event of an accident. Moreover, national training sessions in the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Azerbaijan and the Central Asian countries helped local experts to better understand mechanisms for hazard identification.

49. Concerning the maintenance of a high level of safety, a seminar on land-use planning around hazardous industrial sites, a workshop on discussing cost-effectiveness in major accident prevention and a workshop on reviewing progress achieved in accidental water pollution were organized. During the first workshop countries had a chance to discuss practices to improve cooperation and information exchange between safety experts and land-use planners. The second workshop allowed for an exchange of good practices in introducing systems for assuring high-level safety at lower cost, but also to discuss the risk to systems' effectiveness and consequences of their malfunctioning. In the third workshop the participating countries discussed, among others, how to address the risks stemming from complacency and leading to inadequate enforcement of good safety policies and standards.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

50. While progress has been visible in strengthening industrial safety, this is happening at a different pace in the countries with economies in transition. A number of countries with an already good understanding of the necessary mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response were able to identify gaps in their systems and to work with support received under the Convention on eliminating them and thus to progress faster. For the others, in order to build awareness on the necessary mechanisms to be established, indicators and criteria were developed in 2010. The application of these indicators and criteria should allow all the countries with economies in transition to reach the same level of understanding; nevertheless, to facilitate the use of the methodology, additional training sessions such as the one organized in 2011 might be needed.

51. For the countries with developed economies, which in general do not face challenges with the implementation of the Convention's provisions, the work needs to continue on preventing complacency and to facilitate further improvements to the existing policies. Such work is the only guarantee that the good level of industrial safety can be maintained.

Indicator of achievement

52. Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention in five main areas:

- (a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);
- (b) Intensity of capacity development in Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per Party);
- (c) Identification of hazardous activities through training sessions;
- (d) Prevention — application and strengthening of preventive measures at hazardous activities through capacity-building sessions;
- (e) Notification of industrial accidents using the Industrial Accidents Notification System implemented through training sessions.

Baseline 2009: (a) 21 (b) 30 (c) 35 (d) 35 (e) 24

Target 2010–2011:	(a) 30	(b) 23	(c) 40	(d) 40	(e) 40
Actual 2010–2011:	(a) 31	(b) 23	(c) 40	(d) 40	(e) 40.

Cluster 11 Environmental Performance Reviews

Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition

Statement of accomplishments/results achieved

53. The second Environmental Performance Reviews of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were carried out and confirmed improved environmental performance of these countries since the first review. Thus, Azerbaijan had fully or partially implemented 73 per cent of the 59 recommendations of the first review; Bosnia and Herzegovina 70 per cent of 53 recommendations; Georgia 55 per cent of 62 recommendations; Tajikistan 65 per cent of 54 recommendations; and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia implemented 88 per cent of 64 recommendations. The second review also revealed a number of obstacles and challenges faced by countries, including lack of political will, lack of funding and frequent changes in the institutional framework or in governmental policy. Implementation was higher for those recommendations directly addressed to the authorities responsible for the environment as compared with those shared with or addressed to other decision-makers. Recommendations comprising large areas of expertise or many actors usually took a longer time to implement.

Lessons learned/areas needing improvement

54. Full implementation of the recommendations from previous Environmental Performance Reviews has yet to be achieved. The environment is not a priority for some Governments. Lack of capacity and resources, as well as gaps in legislation, institutional development and administrative organization, have been constraining factors in countries' efforts to implement the recommendations from the Environmental Performance Reviews.

Indicators of achievement

55. Increased number of countries with improved environmental performance as measured by a set of indicators developed for Environmental Performance Reviews.

Baseline 2009: 10 Countries

Target 2010–2011: 14 Countries

Actual 2010–2011: 15 Countries.

56. Increased number of recommendations which have contributed to policy formulation and implementation as reported by the reviewed countries.

Baseline 2009: 255 Recommendations

Target 2010–2011: 385 Recommendations

Actual 2010–2011: 460 Recommendations

Annex

Joint activities with international organizations

1. The activities related to the Environment and Health Process and the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) are not included in the above 11 clusters, given that the ECE neither is the lead organization nor provides the secretariat for them. This annex provides a short description of these two activities.

Environment and Health

2. Cooperation between ECE and WHO on environment and health, which dates back to the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in London in 1999, has been strengthened over recent years. The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Parma, 2010) adopted a new institutional framework for the period 2010–2016, including a European Environment and Health Ministerial Board, of which ECE is a member, and which includes four ministers appointed by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy for the environment sector and four ministers appointed by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe for the health sector. At the first session of the Ministerial Board, held in Paris on 4 and 5 May 2011, the Executive Secretary of ECE noted that health, environment and development are closely related, and that health supporting environment is a driver of social equity and is essential for sustainable development. Mr. Kubiš also emphasized that the revitalized European Environment and Health Process needed to be driven by member States.

3. The European Environment and Health Process is given due prominence in the EfE process, as well as in preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, including the Regional Preparatory Meeting organized by ECE in December 2011. Further work is planned to elaborate tools and approaches to assess the positive links between attainment of environment and health objectives and the development of the green economy. At the First Environment and Health Task Force Meeting in Bled, Slovenia, in October 2011, ECE presented the progress in achieving the Parma Commitments. The main value added of ECE to the European Environment and Health Process and the implementation of the Parma commitments is through:

- The five ECE multilateral environment agreements
- THE PEP
- The EfE process
- The ECE programme on environmental monitoring and assessment.

Environment and Security Initiative

4. ENVSEC provides an innovative solution for addressing complex problems of the twenty-first century. The ENVSEC partner agencies (ECE, UNEP, UNDP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)), with their specialized and complementary mandates and expertise in environment, development, economics and security, assist the Governments of Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia in drawing together the disciplines required for sustainable development. Examples of economic sectors where ENVSEC is active are the mining and forest-logging sectors, where it makes a contribution to the development of a green economy.

5. The multilateral environmental agreements administered by ECE are an important pillar of ENVSEC activities and provide value added to the partnership. In 2011, the activities implemented by ECE under ENVSEC included work on dam safety in Central Asia; activities regarding water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; joint research on transboundary impacts in the Danube Delta; capacity development within the Industrial Accidents Convention's Assistance Programme in South-Eastern Europe; and development of capacities for application of the Espoo Convention in Central Asia — all of which contribute to sustaining and advancing economic, environmental and social well-being. In terms of the development of a green economy, work done to support the implementation of the Espoo Convention, as well as establishing a basis for the equitable use of available water resources, are of particular importance.
