



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2013

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Nineteenth session

Geneva, 22–25 October 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on
Tuesday, 22 October 2013*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy.
4. Outcomes of the sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy.
5. Multilateral environmental agreements: strengthening national implementation and compliance.
6. The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes:
 - (a) Multilateral environmental agreements;

* 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 web page for the Committee’s nineteenth session on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/2013sessionoctober.html>), and to transmit it to the ECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (efe@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 and other practical information available from the ECE website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682.

- (b) Astana Water Action;
 - (c) Greening the economy;
 - (d) Environmental performance reviews;
 - (e) Environmental assessment and reporting;
 - (f) Work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force and the Regional Environmental Centres;
 - (g) Main findings of the review.
7. The Eighth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.
 8. Environmental Performance Review Programme:
 - (a) Second Environmental Performance Review of Croatia;
 - (b) Third Environmental Performance Review of the Republic of Moldova;
 - (c) Environmental Performance Review of Morocco;
 9. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.
 10. Cross-sectoral activities:
 - (a) Education for sustainable development;
 - (b) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme;
 - (c) Environment and security;
 - (d) European Environment and Health Process;
 - (e) Green building.
 11. Programme of work:
 - (a) Review of programme performance in the biennium 2012–2013;
 - (b) Work for the biennium 2014–2015;
 - (c) Publications for the biennium 2014–2015;
 - (d) Resource requirements and criteria for financial support;
 - (e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental activities.
 12. Rules of procedure.
 13. Calendar of meetings.
 14. Other business.
 15. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The activity of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) is guided by the goals set out in the document on future strategic directions for the environment (CEP/2004/2) adopted in 2003 and by the workplan on the reform of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) adopted in 2005, as well as by the review of the 2005 ECE reform (E/ECE/1464, annex III) concluded in 2013. In 2007, ECE adopted the revised terms of reference for CEP (E/ECE/1447/Add.1) as a result of the reform process.

2. In addition, the reform plan of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1) adopted by CEP in 2009, and subsequently endorsed by ECE, mandated CEP to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the EfE Ministerial Conferences.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

3. Following the opening of the meeting, CEP will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/2013/1). The provisional organization of work is presented in information paper No. 1.¹

2. Election of officers

4. CEP will be invited to elect a chair and other members of the Bureau. A list of proposed candidates will be circulated by e-mail in advance of the meeting.

3. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy

5. At its eighteenth session, CEP elected its Bureau and mandated it to carry out a number of activities, including: (a) to prepare the EfE mid-term review; (b) to contribute to the Environment and Health process; (c) to prepare the CEP criteria for financial support; and (d) to develop rules of procedure for CEP. To fulfil the above mandates, the CEP Bureau worked via electronic consultations and met in Geneva on 29 April 2013.

6. CEP will be invited to consider the outcomes of the work of the CEP Bureau in the period April 2012–June 2013, as presented in document ECE/CEP/2013/22.

4. Outcomes of the sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy

7. The secretariat will inform CEP about the main outcomes of the sixty-fifth session of ECE (Geneva, 9–11 April 2013) of relevance to CEP.² These include:

(a) The outcomes of the high-level segment addressing the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) and the post-2015 development agenda. Within this session two panel discussions were organized. The first panel, on “the future of sustainability: from transition to transformation” focused on how and in which areas ECE can best contribute to the follow-up of the Rio+20 Conference and the Secretary-General’s five-year action agenda. The second panel, on “sustainable development governance: regional implications and perspectives for the post-Rio+20 institutional set-up”, focused on regional implications related to the establishment of a high-level political forum with a view to providing input to global-level discussions and the General Assembly negotiation process. Two background documents (E/ECE/1465 and E/ECE/1466) to facilitate the above discussions have been prepared by the secretariat

¹ Information and materials for the meeting are being made available on a dedicated web page on the ECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/2013sessionoctober.html>).

² Information and materials for the sixty-fifth session of ECE are available on a dedicated web page on the ECE website (http://www.unece.org/commission/2013/65th_index.html).

and are available on the ECE website. The outcomes of the high-level segment are presented in a Chair's Summary of the discussion (E/ECE/1464, annex II) and were transmitted to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

(b) The outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform. The review was carried out by the ECE Executive Committee in the period July 2011–February 2013. It included a series of consultations with member States, as well as reports by the ECE Sectoral Committees. The outcome of the review (E/ECE/1468) was submitted to the sixty-fifth session of ECE for adoption. ECE adopted the outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform in its final version as presented in the report of the sixty-fifth session of ECE (E/ECE/1464, annex III).

8. CEP may wish to consider, as appropriate, the information provided.

5. Multilateral environmental agreements: strengthening national implementation and compliance

9. CEP will be informed about the main outcomes of the informal joint meetings between the representatives of the governing bodies of ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and CEP (Geneva, 27 February 2013 and 21 October 2013). The meeting participants exchanged information on priorities under the ECE MEAs and discussed possible areas of cooperation and synergies among them, as well as with CEP.

10. Furthermore, CEP will be briefed on progress made under each of the ECE MEAs, with a particular focus on strengthening national implementation and compliance.

11. The Committee may wish to consider, as appropriate, the information provided.

6. The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes

12. The reform plan of the EfE process stipulates that a mid-term review should be convened by CEP to assess progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences and to provide renewed impetus to the process. The review should be based on existing information. The findings of the review should be taken into account in the preparatory process for the next conference (ECE/CEP.S/152, annex I, para. 17).

13. The seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) invited CEP to convene in 2013 a mid-term review to assess the progress in implementation of Conference's main outcomes. At its eighteenth session (17–20 April 2012), CEP decided to organize the mid-term review at its nineteenth session and approved the proposed preparations for the mid-term review, including its scope, format and modalities (ECE/CEP/2012/5), as well as making a number of specific decisions and additional requests (ECE/CEP/2012/2, para. 25). CEP entrusted the secretariat, in consultation with the CEP Bureau and in cooperation with relevant EfE partners, to proceed with the preparations for the mid-term review.

14. The Astana Conference main outcomes include: (a) ratifying and implementing the relevant MEAs; (b) implementing the Astana Water Action; (c) promoting a green economy in the region and the Green Bridge Partnership Programme; (d) conducting a third cycle of environmental performance reviews (EPRs); (e) establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing a Shared Environmental Information System

(SEIS); and (f) continuing the work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP Task Force) and strengthening the work of the Regional Environmental Centres (see ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1).³

15. At its meeting in April 2013, the CEP Bureau made several recommendations concerning the organization of the EfE mid-term review (ECE/CEP/2013/22, section IV) which are reflected in the present agenda, as well as in the proposed organization of work of the nineteenth session of CEP.

(a) Multilateral environmental agreements

16. The Ministers in Astana invited countries to ratify and implement the relevant MEAs, and underlined the role of ECE in assessing the obstacles to ratification and in assisting countries to ratify.

17. CEP therefore invited the secretariat to prepare a summary report to demonstrate the work carried out by the secretariat to assist countries to ratify and implement ECE MEAs, as well as to assess obstacles to ratifying them (ECE/CEP/2013/8).

18. In accordance with the recommendations by the CEP Bureau, this item of the mid-term review will be combined with item 5 of the agenda into a segment on MEAs that will be organized in the form of a panel and plenary discussions. The MEAs segment will commence with the presentation of the outcomes of informal meetings (see para. 9 above). Subsequently, the secretariat will introduce the summary report and the MEA Chairs will take part in a panel discussion, presenting the work carried out to strengthen national implementation and compliance. Delegations will then be invited to ask questions and engage in an interactive discussion from the floor.

19. The CEP Chair will highlight the main findings from the discussion.

(b) Astana Water Action

20. Ministers endorsed the Astana Water Action (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/5) and welcomed the initiatives launched by interested countries and organizations during the Conference aimed at improving water management and strengthening transboundary cooperation. They invited countries and other actors to implement the Astana Water Action and to report progress to CEP.

21. Information on actions to which countries and organizations committed before the Astana Conference, as well as new actions submitted after the Conference, are available on the ECE website.⁴

22. At its eighteenth session, CEP invited delegations to report on the progress in implementing the Astana Water Action, using a template prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureaux of CEP and of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). On the basis of those reports, the secretariat prepared a review document (ECE/CEP/2013/9) to facilitate the discussion by CEP.

23. This item will be organized in the form of a multi-stakeholder panel discussion. The panel will include up to five panellists representing the Astana Water Action stakeholders. It will open with introductory remarks by the CEP Chair, followed by presentations by the

³ The Astana Ministerial Declaration and other Conference documents are available on the ECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/astana/welcome.html>).

⁴ See <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/documents.html>, under the tab "Astana Water Action".

panellists (up to five minute per address) to kick-off the discussion. Subsequently, the CEP Chair will facilitate an interactive discussion from the floor.

24. The CEP Chair will highlight the main findings from the panel discussion.

(c) Greening the economy

25. Ministers in Astana 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 Rio+20 Conference. They invited ECE to contribute, together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and relevant international organizations, to the development of the Rio+20 green economy outcomes.

26. The Ministers also welcomed and supported, as appropriate, the “Green Bridge” Initiative and Partnership Programme, and encouraged its further development. Ministers invited interested Governments, international financial institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders to join this Programme to promote an environmentally sustainable, equitable and prosperous future in both the pan-European and the Asia and the Pacific regions.

27. Following a decision by CEP, the secretariat prepared jointly with UNEP and other relevant Efe partners an overview on developments in the ECE region towards a green economy (ECE/CEP/2013/10). Furthermore, the delegation of Kazakhstan prepared, in cooperation with its partners, a report on the development of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme (ECE/CEP/2013/11). These two reports aim at facilitating discussion by CEP.

28. This item will be organized in the form of a multi-stakeholder panel discussion. The panel will include up to five panellists representing Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as business. It will open with introductory remarks by the CEP Chair, followed by presentations by the panellists (up to five minute per address) to kick-off the discussion. Subsequently, the CEP Chair will facilitate an interactive discussion from the floor.

29. The CEP Chair will highlight the main findings from the panel discussion.

(d) Environmental performance reviews

30. Building upon the success of the ECE EPR Programme, Ministers in Astana invited ECE to conduct its third cycle of EPRs, which may include a focus on environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries’ cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors.

31. Following a CEP request, the secretariat prepared a report on progress made in the preparation for the third cycle of EPRs (ECE/CEP/2013/12) to facilitate the discussion by CEP. Delegations will be invited to engage in an interactive discussion from the floor.

32. The CEP Chair will highlight the main findings from the discussion.

(e) Environmental assessment and reporting

33. Ministers decided in Astana to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop SEIS across the region in order to keep the pan-European environment under review. These should serve multiple policy processes, including MEAs, and include the building of capacity in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to monitor and assess their environment. Ministers invited the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its partners to develop an outline for how these actions could be performed and to present it to CEP.

34. EEA prepared the “Outline on the establishment of a regular assessment and reporting process underpinned by the gradual development of SEIS” as a response to the request of Ministers (ECE/CEP/2013/15). A first version of the document was presented as an informal paper to the eighteenth session of CEP, followed by a revised version to reflect comments received, which was circulated by e-mail to CEP in December 2012 (in English and Russian). A separate document presenting ECE inputs into the development of SEIS, which is complementary to the EEA document, was prepared by the ECE secretariat and circulated in draft form to CEP in February 2013 (ECE/CEP/2013/13).

35. CEP invited EEA, together with its partners, to prepare for its nineteenth session an overview on progress made in establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and reporting, including the development of SEIS (ECE/CEP/2013/18).

36. Furthermore, CEP invited the representatives of the Water Convention to report on steps taken and future plans related to the preparation of future assessments of transboundary waters and the envisaged cooperation with SEIS. Also, the representatives of other MEAs might wish to inform CEP on steps taken and future plans related to SEIS development in the region. In this regard, it should be noted that the CEP Bureau, at its April 2013 meeting, considered participation by MEAs in the establishment of SEIS and stressed the need to highlight its value added, i.e., how SEIS can help to implement the MEAs and facilitate new countries’ joining them. The Bureau recommended that a step-by-step approach should be used, as well as identifying concrete actions and synergies, so that MEAs could gradually adjust their procedures to comply with SEIS principles.

37. The CEP Bureau agreed that the decision to develop SEIS across the region was one of the most important outcomes of the Astana Conference and recommended that progress in its development be reported at the next EfE conference. To strengthen the work of CEP at the political level and the work of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at the technical level, the Bureau recommended to CEP to consider establishing a SEIS coordination mechanism in the form of an ad hoc group of “Friends of SEIS” in which the main SEIS stakeholders would be expected to participate. At the request of the CEP Bureau, the secretariat prepared draft term of reference for such a group for consideration (ECE/CEP/2013/23).

38. This item will be organized in the form of a plenary. Delegations will be invited to engage in an interactive discussion from the floor.

39. The CEP Chair will highlight the main findings from the discussion.

40. At the invitation of CEP, EEA together with its partners will organize a side event on SEIS on the margins of the mid-term review, most probably at lunchtime on Wednesday, 23 October 2013.

(f) Work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force and the Regional Environmental Centres

41. Ministers in Astana welcomed the work of the EAP Task Force and invited the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to continue its work, including on themes of the Conference, in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centres and other partners.

42. Furthermore, the Ministers recognized the role of the Regional Environmental Centres in communicating and implementing initiatives, and called for their contribution in promoting green economy and better environmental governance at the local, national, subregional and regional levels to be strengthened.

43. CEP invited the EAP Task Force to prepare a report on progress made in its activities, especially on water and greening the economy (ECE/CEP/2013/19).

44. CEP invited the Regional Environmental Centres to prepare jointly a report on their progress in promoting green economy and better environmental governance (ECE/CEP/2013/14).

45. This item of the mid-term review will be organized in the form of a plenary. Delegations will be invited to engage in an interactive discussion from the floor.

46. The CEP Chair will highlight the main findings from the discussion.

(g) Main findings of the review

47. In accordance with the reform plan of the EfE process, member States should regularly consider how to promote the objectives and priorities of the EfE process and strengthen implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences, including through national policies and relevant partnerships. Active participation by and input of all interested countries of ECE, and in particular of interested countries of subregions with specific needs in improving their environmental situation, is crucial for the success of the activities under the EfE process.

48. CEP invited the secretariat to organize consultations (in the format of a survey) with ECE member States to collect information on how countries have been promoting the objectives and priorities of the EfE process and strengthening implementation of the outcomes of the Astana Ministerial Conference, including through national policies and relevant partnerships. The results of these consultations are presented in document ECE/CEP/2013/21, prepared to facilitate the discussion by CEP.

49. Delegations will be invited to engage in an interactive discussion from the floor.

50. CEP will be invited to consider the main findings of the mid-term review on the basis of the above discussions, including those under sub-items (a)–(f). Furthermore, delegations will be invited to express their preliminary views about the format and content of the first mid-term review, which is a new feature of the EfE process.

7. The Eighth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

51. In accordance with the EfE reform plan, which provides that the EfE Conferences should be organized every four to five years, the next Ministerial Conference should be held in 2015 or 2016. Also, the EfE reform plan stipulates that not later than 18 months before the Conference CEP at its regular session should decide on not more than two themes and discuss the outline of the agenda of the Conference. A decision on the agenda of the Conference should be taken at the regular meeting of CEP approximately 12 months prior to the Conference, and further preparatory work should then commence. Thus, should it be decided that the Conference will be held in 2015, the two themes for the Conference will need to be identified by CEP already at its nineteenth session in October 2013.

52. However, the CEP Bureau has recommended that CEP organize the next EfE conference in 2016, given that the mid-term review is being organized in 2013 and that its results should be taken into account in preparing the next conference. The Bureau further pointed out that the host country for the next conference had yet to be identified and the exact date would need to be agreed with the host country. Also, the participation of the future host country would be crucial for the discussion about the substance (themes) of the next conference.

53. Following the request by the CEP Bureau, the secretariat prepared a document containing the host country requirements on the basis of experience from previous conferences (ECE/CEP/2013/16). Furthermore, the Bureau suggested circulating this document to CEP after the summer break, inviting countries to consider it and express their

interest in hosting the conference by the end of September 2013 to the CEP Bureau via the secretariat.

54. Concerning the substance of the next conference, the Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare a short document, not limited in scope, to facilitate the discussion by CEP. Taking stock of SEIS development should be included in the document. The secretariat prepared the requested document (ECE/CEP/2013/17).

55. Delegations will be invited to share their views and engage in discussion about the next EfE Ministerial Conference.

8. Environmental Performance Review Programme

(a) Second Environmental Performance Review of Croatia

56. CEP will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Croatia. CEP will be invited to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations agreed upon by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at its meeting held from 1 to 3 October 2013 in Geneva (information paper No. 4).

(b) Third Environmental Performance Review of the Republic of Moldova

57. CEP will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of the Republic of Moldova. CEP will be invited to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations agreed upon by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at its meeting held from 1 to 3 October 2013 in Geneva (information paper No. 5).

(c) Environmental Performance Review of Morocco

58. CEP will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Morocco. CEP will be invited to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations agreed upon by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at its meeting held in September 2013 in Rabat (information paper No. 6).

9. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

59. CEP will be invited to consider the results of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Joint Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators (Geneva, 4–6 July and 30 October–1 November 2012; ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2012/5 and ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2012/10), as well as of the thirteenth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 30 October–1 November 2012; ECE/CEP/AC.10/2012/2).

60. CEP will be invited to comment on the progress made in the activities of the two bodies and to adopt the Guidelines for developing national strategies to use biodiversity monitoring as an environmental policy tool for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as Interested South-Eastern European countries (ECE/CEP/2013/7) prepared by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

10. Cross-sectoral activities

(a) Education for sustainable development

61. CEP will be informed about the main outcomes of the eighth meeting of the ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (Geneva, 21–22 March 2013; ECE/CEP/AC.13/2013/2).⁵

62. CEP may wish to take note of the information provided.

(b) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

63. CEP will be informed about the main outcomes of the tenth session of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) (Geneva, 14–15 November 2012; ECE/AC.21/SC/2012/9–EUDCE1206040/1.9/SC10/9) and progress made in the preparation of the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Paris, 14–16 April 2014).⁶

64. CEP may wish to take note of the information provided.

(c) Environment and security

65. CEP will be briefed on the ongoing contributions of ECE to the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) (information paper No. 7).

66. CEP may wish to consider the information provided.

(d) Environment and Health process

67. CEP will be informed about the relevant activities under the Environment and Health process. In this context, CEP will be invited to consider a report of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board and the European Environment and Health Task Force on the implementation of the European Environment and Health process.⁷

68. CEP may wish to provide guidance to both bodies for further implementation of the European Environment and Health process.

(e) Green building

69. At its special session in May 2011, CEP agreed to participate in a task force on green building to be composed of experts from the Timber Committee, the Housing and Land Management Committee, CEP and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, together with partner organizations.

70. In April 2012 CEP was briefed on developments in the area of green building, including about the delay in the establishment of the task force until the finalization of the review of the 2005 ECE reform. The CEP will be informed about recent developments in this respect.

⁵ Meeting documents and materials for the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development meetings are available online from <http://www.unece.org/env/esd.html>.

⁶ The documents and materials for THE PEP Steering Committee meetings are available online at: <http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/welcome.html>.

⁷ Information and documents related to the Board's work are available online from <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/european-process-on-environment-and-health/governance/european-environment-and-health-ministerial-board-ehmb>.

11. Programme of work

71. CEP will be invited to consider the sub-items below related to the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme, bearing in mind the information provided under item 2 of the present agenda related to the outcomes of the review of the 2005 ECE reform.

(a) Review of programme performance in the biennium 2012–2013

72. CEP will be invited to consider the biennial evaluation report of the Environment subprogramme in 2012–2013 (ECE/CEP/2013/5) for approval.

(b) Work for the biennium 2014–2015

73. CEP will be invited to consider the following elements for its future work:

(a) Its draft programme of work for 2014–2015 for adoption (ECE/CEP/2013/3);

(b) The biennial evaluation plan for the biennial performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme (2014–2015) for approval (ECE/CEP/2013/4);

(c) Publications for the biennium 2014–2015

74. United Nations publications are published in response to legislative mandates or requests by intergovernmental bodies. CEP will be invited to consider for approval the list of publications for 2014–2015 proposed by the Environment subprogramme (ECE/CEP/2013/6).

(d) Resource requirements and criteria for financial support

75. Following a request at its eighteenth session, CEP will be invited to consider, on the basis of information received in advance, the regular and extrabudgetary resources for activities relating to the Environment subprogramme (information paper No. 8 and addendum). Donor countries will be invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds.

76. In addition, CEP mandated its Bureau to consider criteria for providing financial support to enable representatives and experts to participate in meetings and events, with a view to assessing whether the current criteria were the most appropriate, and to providing recommendations to CEP at its nineteenth session. The secretariat prepared an assessment of CEP criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events for the CEP Bureau's consideration. The Bureau's deliberations are presented in document ECE/CEP/2013/22. Following comments by the Bureau, the secretariat revised the document for the further consideration by CEP (ECE/CEP/2013/20).

77. CEP may consider updating the criteria for financial support (information paper No. 9) on the basis of the Bureau's recommendation.

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental activities

78. ECE has an Agreed Framework for Gender Mainstreaming for its activities. It is based on the recommendations made by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and was adopted by the ECE senior management in 2001. The framework consists of two categories of actions to be taken: those which cut across all subprogrammes; and those which are specific to the various areas of work carried out by each subprogramme. The framework is under regular review in order to monitor progress, to ensure accountability and to adjust to new developments and opportunities for further gender mainstreaming in ECE.

79. The ECE policy for gender equality and women's empowerment was developed within the above framework and aims to support the achievement of equality between women and men while fostering economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, promoting the regional implementation of the internationally agreed development goals and supporting regional sustainable development in its member countries and subregions. One of the objectives of the ECE policy is to mainstream a gender perspective in the substantive work of the Sectoral Committees.

80. The ECE Gender Action Plan 2012–2013 was developed as an implementation tool of the ECE gender policy. The Plan's strategic actions include the promotion of a gender perspective and raising the importance of taking a gender perspective into account in the different activities and events under CEP, as appropriate.

81. CEP will be invited to consider how to better mainstream a gender perspective into environmental activities carried out under its auspices.

12. Rules of procedure

82. CEP mandated its Bureau to provide recommendations to CEP at its nineteenth session on the possible elaboration and further adoption of the rules of procedure of CEP, in accordance with rule 20 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ECE (E/ECE/778/rev.5).

83. CEP will be invited to consider for adoption the draft rules of procedure prepared by the Bureau with support from the secretariat (ECE/CEP/2013/L.1).

13. Calendar of meetings

84. It is proposed that the twentieth annual session of CEP take place in Geneva from 28 to 31 October 2014. CEP will be invited to agree on the date of its next meeting, also bearing in mind the preparations for the next Efe Ministerial Conference.

85. CEP will also be invited to consider a proposed schedule of meetings for the period 2014–2016 presented in the information paper No. 10.

14. Other business

86. CEP will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose items will be invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

87. The delegation of Sweden informed the CEP Chair and the secretariat that the Swedish Environmental Ambassador, Ms. Annika Markovic, would briefly present to CEP the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC). CCAC is an initiative of Sweden, together with Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, the United States of America and UNEP, and is open to other countries and non-State actors wishing to join in this global effort.

15. Closure of the meeting

88. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions and decisions of CEP and close the meeting. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau for

circulation to the Committee after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the ECE website.⁸

⁸ <http://www.unece.org/env/cep/2013sessionoctober.html>.