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Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme:

biennial performance plan of the Environment

subprogramme in 2014–2015

Biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has requested that the work of the ECE subprogrammes be evaluated on a biennial basis (E/2004/37–E/ECE/1416, para. 28 (c)). As of June 2014, the cluster-based biennial performance assessment known as the biennial evaluation report became discretionary for the ECE subprogrammes, per a new ECE evaluation policy. In the light of this change, the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) will be invited to consider whether it wishes to continue with the biennial performance assessment for the Environment subprogramme.

Should CEP decide to continue with the biennial performance assessment, it will be invited to approve the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015, presented in the current document, which contains the following amendments to document ECE/CEP/2013/4 previously approved in 2013:

(a) The new title of the document is “Biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015”;

(b) It includes two additional indicators of achievement under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) cluster of activities. The indicators were proposed by Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union member States) at the last session of CEP, with a view to measuring:

(i) The number of Parties that have ratified, approved or accepted the Espoo Convention;

(ii) The number of Parties that have ratified, approved or accepted the two amendments to the Espoo Convention.

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I. Introduction

1. The Environment subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has four overarching expected accomplishments in the strategic framework for 2014–2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 17)). It will report on their implementation to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

2. The activities in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015 are grouped into clusters of activities. It will report on their implementation to the Committee on Environmental Policy.

3. The table below presents expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the biennium 2014–2015 for each of the clusters grouping the subprogramme's activities. The left column contains the four overarching expected accomplishment as included in the strategic framework for 2014–2015. The middle column contains the clusters of activities. The right column presents the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, as well as performance measures for each of the clusters. The table is structured in such a way as to show the correlation between the ECE strategic framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial evaluation for 2014–2015.

II. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for 2014–2015

<i>Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2014–2015</i>	<i>Cluster of activities</i>	<i>EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2014–2015</i>
EA (a) Improved response to environmental challenges in the ECE region by ECE constituencies	1. Improved response to environmental challenges (This cluster includes outputs/activities from all other clusters, as appropriate. They may relate to the follow up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference))	EA 1 Improved response to environmental challenges in the ECE region by ECE constituencies
IA (a) (i) Number of regional and subregional measures taken by ECE constituencies in response to existing and emerging environmental challenges		IA 1 (a) Number of regional and subregional measures taken by ECE constituencies in response to existing and emerging environmental challenges
<i>Performance measures:</i>		<i>Performance measures:</i>
2010–2011: not applicable (N/A)		2010–2011: N/A
Estimate 2012–2013: 2 measures		Estimate 2012–2013: 2 measures
Target 2014–2015: 4 measures		Target 2014–2015: 4 measures
IA (a) (ii) Number of ECE constituencies to which technical assistance and/or advisory services were provided		IA 1 (b) Number of ECE constituencies to which technical assistance and/or advisory services were provided
<i>Performance measures:</i>		<i>Performance measures:</i>
2010–2011: N/A		2010–2011: N/A
Estimate 2012–2013: 2 constituencies		Estimate 2012–2013: 2 constituencies
Target 2014–2015: 4 constituencies		Target 2014–2015: 4 constituencies

<i>Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2014–2015</i>	<i>Cluster of activities</i>	<i>EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2014–2015</i>
EA (b) Strengthened implementation of ECE regional environmental commitments	2. Activities under the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process	EA 2 Successful implementation of the reform of the EfE process
IA (b) Increased number of Parties reporting progress in implementing legally binding instruments		IA 2 Consensus reached by member States on the activities under the EfE process.
<i>Performance measures:</i>		<i>Performance measures:</i>
2010–2011: 150 Parties		2010–2011: Consensus was reached on the organization and outcomes of the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, September 2011)
Estimate 2012–2013: 160 Parties		Estimate 2012–2013: Consensus to be reached on the mid-term review
Target 2014–2015: 170 Parties		Target 2014–2015: Consensus to be reached on the follow-up to the mid-term review
	3. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) ^b	EA 3 Successful review of progress in the implementation of the WSSD outcomes and Agenda 21 within the biennial implementation cycle of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)
		IA 3 Consensus reached by member States on key challenges to be addressed as they relate to the themes of the CSD cycle
		<i>Performance measures:</i>
		2010–2011: Consensus was reached at the Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (Geneva, December 2011)
		Estimate 2012–2013: Consensus to be reached at the Fifth Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development in 2012
		Target 2014–2015: N/A
	4. Education for sustainable development (ESD)	EA 4 Enhanced implementation of the ECE Strategy for ESD at the national level
		IA 4 Successful measures to implement the ECE Strategy for ESD at the national level, assessed through the reporting by member States

Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2014–2015	Cluster of activities	EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2014–2015
5. Transport, health and environment		<p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2010–2011: 36 countries</p> <p>Estimate 2012–2013: 40 countries</p> <p>Target 2014–2015: 40 countries</p> <p>EA 5 Enhanced integration between transport, health and environment policies through exchanging experiences and good practice and capacity-building with a special focus on Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</p> <p>IA 5 Number of member States, international governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in meetings of Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee and relevant workshops undertaken in this framework</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2010–2011: Participation of 69 countries and 28 IGOs and NGOs in 5 substantive meetings, including 3 relay race (“staffette”) capacity-building workshops to disseminate best practice and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee</p> <p>Estimate 2012–2013: Participation of 60 countries and 20 IGOs and NGOs in 5 substantive meetings, including 3 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee</p> <p>Target 2014–2015: Participation of 60 countries and 20 IGOs and NGOs in 6 substantive meetings, including 4 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee</p>
6. Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention)		<p>EA 6 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Air Convention and its three most recent protocols (Protocol on Heavy Metals, Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol)) by ECE</p>

Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2014–2015

Cluster of activities

EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2014–2015

	<p>members States, in particular countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</p> <p>IA 6 Indicators of progress in implementing the Convention and its three most recent Protocols through:</p> <p>(a) Number of reports on emission reduction commitments;</p> <p>(b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Air Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(c) Number of ratifications of the three most recent Protocols to the Convention;</p> <p>(d) Number of training sessions targeting implementation of the Convention and its protocols in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2010–2011: (a) N/A; (b) 220; (c) 87; (d) 6</p> <p>Estimate 2012–2013: (a) N/A; (b) 220; (c) 90; (d) 6</p> <p>Target 2014–2015: (a) 45; (b) 250; (c) 93; (d) 6</p>
<p>7. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)</p>	<p>EA 7 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs)</p> <p>IA 7 Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs through:</p> <p>(a) Intensity of capacity development for non-Parties to the Aarhus Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(b) Intensity of capacity development for non-Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(c) Number of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention;</p>

		(d) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on PRTRs;
		(e) Number of countries submitting national implementation reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, indicating progress in implementing key obligations;
		(f) Number of countries submitting national implementation reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs, indicating progress in implementing key obligations
		<i>Performance measures:</i>
		2010–2011: (a) 8; (b) 4; (c) 45; (d) 27; (e) 41; (f) N/A
		Estimate 2012–2013: (a) 8; (b) 4; (c) 45; (d) 28; (e) 43; (f) 18
		Target 2014–2015: (a) 4; (b) 3; (c) 47; (d) 34; (e) 46; (f) 32
8. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)	EA 8	Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)
	IA 8	Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on SEA through:
		(a) Number of countries contributing to subregional cooperation under the Convention;
		(b) Number of Parties 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 SEA (average participant-days per non-Party);
		(e) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on SEA
		(f) Number of ratifications, approvals or acceptances of the Espoo Convention

Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2014–2015

Cluster of activities

EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2014–2015

	(g) Number of ratifications, approvals or acceptances of the two amendments to the Espoo Convention
	<i>Performance measures:</i>
	2010–2011: (a) 28; (b) 42; (c) 31; (d) 9; (e) 23; (f) 45; (g) first amendment 21, second amendment 20
	Estimate 2012–2013: (a) 29; (b) 44; (c) 32; (d) 10; (e) 27; (f) 45; (g) first amendment 24, second amendment 24
	Target 2014–2015: (a) 30; (b) 44; (c) 33; (d) 12; (e) 29; (f) 46; (g) first amendment 26, second amendment 26
9. Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)	EA 9 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health
	IA 9 Increased number of countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health through:
	(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) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on Water and Health;
	(d) Number of accessions to the Water Convention by non-ECE States ^a
	<i>Performance measures:</i>
	2010–2011: (a) 50; (b) 20; (c) 25; (d) N/A
	Estimate 2012–2013: (a) 45; (b) 18; (c) 26; (d) N/A
	Target 2014–2015: (a) 55; (b) 25; (c) 27; (d) 2

<i>Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2014–2015</i>	<i>Cluster of activities</i>	<i>EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2014–2015</i>
<p>EA (c) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe</p> <p>IA (c) Increased number of countries using the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia</p>	<p>10. Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention)</p> <p>11. Environmental monitoring and assessment</p>	<p>EA 10 Strengthened implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention</p> <p>IA 10 Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention in five key areas:</p> <p>(a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(b) Intensity of capacity development in Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per Party);</p> <p>(c) Identification of hazardous activities through training sessions;</p> <p>(d) Prevention — application and strengthening of preventive measures for hazardous activities through capacity-building sessions;</p> <p>(e) Notification of industrial accidents using the Industrial Accidents Notification System implemented through training sessions</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2010–2011: (a) 31; (b) 23; (c) 40; (d) 40; (e) 40</p> <p>Estimate 2012–2013: (a) 35; (b) 17; (c) 43; (d) 40; (e) 40</p> <p>Target 2014–2015: (a) 37; (b) 20; (c) 43; (d) 40; (e) 40</p> <p>EA 11 Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</p> <p>IA 11 Increased number of countries using the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2014–2015</i>	<i>Cluster of activities</i>	<i>EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2014–2015</i>
<i>Performance measures:</i> 2010–2011: 11 countries Estimate 2012–2013: 14 countries Target 2014–2015: 17 countries		<i>Performance measures:</i> 2010–2011: 11 countries Estimate 2012–2013: 14 countries Target 2014–2015: 17 countries
EA (d) Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition	12. Environmental performance reviews	EA 12 Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition
IA (d) Increased number of countries showing progress in environmental performance		IA 12 Increased number of countries with improved environmental performance
<i>Performance measures:</i> 2010–2011: 15 countries Estimate 2012–2013: 18 countries Target 2014–2015: 21 countries		<i>Performance measures:</i> 2010–2011: 15 countries Estimate 2012–2013: 18 countries Target 2014–2015: 21 countries

^a The amendments to the Water Convention opening it to accession by all United Nations Member States came into force in February 2013 and are expected to become effective operationally at the end of 2013, once all Parties that were Parties to the Convention when the amendments were adopted have ratified the amendments.

^b This cluster is expected to be discontinued from the Environment subprogramme in the light of decision taken by the Rio+20 Conference to replace CSD by a high-level political forum.