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Geneva, 28–31 October 2014 Item 10 (e) of the provisional agenda

The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: selection of the themes for the Conference

Proposed framework for preparing the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Note by the secretariat

Summary

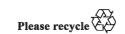
The Environment for Europe (EfE) reform plan stipulates that not later than 18 month before the conference, the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) at its regular session will decide on not more than two themes and discuss the outline of the agenda of the conference (ECE/CEP/S/152 and Corr.1, annex I, para. 12 (a)).

At its nineteenth session in October 2013, CEP agreed to organize the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference in 2016 and mandated its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare for the CEP session in 2014 an updated proposal for a possible framework for the next conference (ECE/CEP/2013/2, para. 116 (h) (ii)).

The present document aims to facilitate the discussion by CEP on the preparations for the Eighth EfE Conference and to assist it in reaching agreement on the themes of the conference.

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ECE/CEP/2014/9

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Introduction

- 1. The Environment for Europe (EfE) Reform Plan (ECE/CEP/S/152 and Corr.1, annex I) stipulates that not later than 18 month before the conference the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) at its regular session will decide on not more than two themes and discuss the outline of the agenda of the conference. When deciding on the themes, preliminary findings of available assessments and statistical reports on the environment should be taken into consideration. Also, the findings of the EfE mid-term review should be taken into consideration in the preparatory process for the next conference.
- 2. Concerning the selection of themes, the Reform Plan states the need to identify a limited number of themes, not more than two, to be addressed by each conference. Within the identified themes there should be a focus on specific needs of the subregions, in order to contribute to better cooperation and more substantive and action-oriented outcomes of the conference.
- 3. At its nineteenth session in October 2013, CEP agreed to organize the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference in 2016 and mandated the CEP Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare for the CEP session in 2014 an updated proposal for a possible framework for the next conference, taking into account the comments made by delegations at the nineteenth session (ECE/CEP/2013/2, para. 116 (h) (ii)).
- 4. Following up on the request by CEP, the present document has been prepared to facilitate the selection of themes for the next EfE conference, as well as the discussion on the prospective outline of the agenda of the Conference. The document is largely based on the outcomes of the 2013 mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes and on the 2013 EfE survey, as well as on the decisions of the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) and the outcomes of eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of CEP.
- 5. At its Lisbon meeting in May 2014, the CEP Bureau considered a draft of this document, including the timeliness and relevance in addressing issues related to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) and the post-2015 development agenda, e.g., sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as greening the economy across the pan-European region. In that regard, the CEP

¹ The survey is available on the web page for the nineteenth session of CEP in 2013 (http://www.unece.org/env/cep/2013sessionoctober.html).

To make statistical data from the survey responses easier to read, the footnotes to this document use two-letter ISO country codes to indicate country choices. In particular, the following codes are used:

AD = Andorra; AL = Albania; AM = Armenia; AT = Austria; AZ = Azerbaijan; BA = Bosnia and Herzegovina; BE = Belgium; BG = Bulgaria; BY = Belarus; CA = Canada; CH = Switzerland;

CY = Cyprus; CZ = Czech Republic; DE = Germany; DK = Denmark; EE = Estonia; ES = Spain;

FI = Finland; FR = France; GB = United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

GE = Georgia; GR = Greece; HR = Croatia; HU = Hungary; IE = Ireland; IL = Israel; IS = Iceland;

IT = Italy; KG = Kyrgyzstan; KZ = Kazakhstan; LI = Liechtenstein; LT = Lithuania;

LU = Luxembourg; LV = Latvia; MC = Monaco; MD = Republic of Moldova; ME = Montenegro;

MK = the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; MT = Malta; NL = Netherlands; NO = Norway;

PL = Poland; PT = Portugal; RO = Romania; RS = Serbia; RU = Russian Federation; SE = Sweden;

SI = Slovenia; SK = Slovakia; SM = San Marino; TJ = Tajikistan; TM = Turkmenistan; TR = Turkey; UA = Ukraine; US = United States of America; and UZ = Uzbekistan.

Bureau also considered possible themes for the next conference and recommended two themes, which are set out in chapter I, section H, of the current document.

6. CEP is invited to consider the present document and the CEP Bureau recommendations with a view to deciding on the two themes for the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference.

I. Prospective themes for the next ministerial conference

- 7. At its eighteenth session in April 2012, CEP assessed the effectiveness of the Astana Conference. Delegations highly appreciated the organization and the outcomes of the Conference, structured in a new format according to the EfE Reform Plan. The success of the Conference was attributed to its two main themes, which were of importance for the entire region, its interactive format and its good outcomes, as well as its efficient preparatory process.²
- 8. Participants at the eighteenth session further observed that the Astana Conference had demonstrated once again that the EfE process provided a unique high-level platform for addressing environmental concerns across the region and should be continued. Delegations expressed the wish for the future EfE conferences to be prepared in the same manner, including an even higher interactivity during the conference.
- 9. At the same time, some delegations considered that the biggest challenge for future conferences was to provide new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, given the ongoing economic crisis that affected all countries in the ECE region. Delegates further stressed the need to find the right balance between established and emerging themes for future conferences, including enhancing the work related to green economy and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into economic development. Also, it was thought that future conferences should be better streamlined, in particular in terms of side events.
- 10. At the nineteenth session of CEP in October 2013, delegates commenced discussions concerning the next Conference. The results of the survey on the promotion of the EfE process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences (ECE/CEP/2013/21) and the document presenting the proposed framework for preparing the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2013/17) supported CEP in its deliberations.
- 11. At the 2013 session, delegations supported several possible topics for the next conference: the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); water; education for sustainable development (ESD); the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS); sustainable consumption and production; transport, health and environment; and environment and health. Enhancing the participation of civil society was emphasized.
- 12. At their meeting in Lisbon in May 2014, the CEP Bureau considered the possible themes for the Eighth EfE Conference and recommended greening the economy and improving air quality as two overarching themes that would make it possible to address in an integrated manner the topics supported by delegates at the nineteenth session.
- 13. Furthermore, the Bureau suggested that CEP consider organizing dedicated session(s) during the Conference to look at the various instruments and programmes, such as the Astana Water Action (AWA), ESD, MEAs, and SEIS, with a view to assessing the

² The preparatory process for the Astana Conference commenced in 2009 and included four meetings of CEP (October 2009, November 2010 and May and September 2011), two meetings of the CEP Extended Bureau (May 2009 and March 2010), and one joint meeting of the Bureaux of CEP and the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (January 2010).

progress achieved since the last conference and extending the mandates for those processes, as necessary. It also recommended organizing an event to launch the third Environmental Performance Review of Georgia on the margins of the Conference.

A. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe multilateral environmental agreements

- 14. During its nineteenth session, CEP welcomed the progress achieved with regard to further ratifications of the MEAs and their implementation, and invited the secretariat to prepare a report on the status of and activities relating to the opening of ECE MEAs and other instruments under ECE to accession by States outside the ECE region for consideration at its twentieth session.
- 15. Also at that session, in the context of the mid-term review of the Astana Conference outcomes, CEP agreed that more efforts should be made to ensure adequate political support to the implementation of MEAs and recognized the need to strengthen the secretariats of MEAs, urging in particular that more resources should be allocated from the United Nations regular budget for that purpose.
- 16. The EfE survey results regarding a proposal to organize a high-level segment on ECE MEAs at the next Conference received an overall positive response, but with substantial opposition;³ the sub-theme for the segment, on "The role of public participation in effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements", had an overall positive response, with the majority having no strong position.⁴
- 17. The CEP Bureau supported the idea to organize a session dedicated to ECE MEAs.

B. Water

- 18. Also in the context of the EfE mid-term review, CEP appreciated the overall progress achieved in implementing AWA, and invited AWA stakeholders to continue with the implementation of those actions which were still ongoing, with a view to reporting to CEP on their progress in implementing them at its session in 2015 or 2016. The report was also to be considered at the next EfE ministerial conference, as appropriate.
- 19. The EfE survey results contained the following proposals for a possible theme related to water:
 - (a) Sustainable use of hydropower (Austria);
- (b) Applying integrated approaches to the management of water resources (Georgia);
- (c) Increasing the effectiveness of the transboundary water agreements in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and/or the environment as a stakeholder in transboundary water management (International Environmental Association of River Keepers (Eco-TIRAS)).

Strongly agree: 11 (AT, BE, BG, FI, FR, GE, KG, NO, RO, SE, CH); somewhat agree: 8 (BY, GR, HR, HU, IL, IT, SI, UA); somewhat disagree: 6 (CZ, DE, MC, MD, PL, SK); strongly disagree: 2 (NL, US).

Strongly agree: 7 (AT, BE, BG, GE, HU, NO, RO); somewhat agree: 14 (BY, CZ, FI, FR, GR, HR, IL, IT, KG, MC, PL, SE, SI, UA); somewhat disagree: 5 (CH, MD, NL, SK, US); strongly disagree: 0.

20. The CEP Bureau recommended reporting on AWA at the CEP special session in February 2016 and subsequently at the Eighth EfE Conference. For instance, such reporting could be done under one of the two thematic sessions of the Conference.

C. Education for sustainable development

- 21. At its 2013 session, CEP took note of information provided and welcomed progress in the work under the ECE Strategy for ESD, and supported the proposal presented by the secretariat to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the next EfE conference, as appropriate, in order to assess 10 years of ESD implementation and to consider the future implementation of the Strategy.
- 22. At the most recent meeting of the Steering Committee on ESD (Geneva, 3–4 April 2014), the Committee reconfirmed its strong wish to continue implementing the Strategy for ESD beyond implementation phase III (i.e., beyond 2015). The Steering Committee decided to hold two more meetings, in 2015 and 2016, before the next EfE ministerial conference and reconfirmed its readiness to prepare the high-level meeting, including the preparation of a draft framework for the future implementation of the Strategy as well as a draft ministerial declaration.
- 23. The EfE survey regarding the theme "Strengthening implementation of ESD" had three options for sub-themes, with the following results:
- (a) "Mainstreaming ESD into technical and vocational training to meet future labour market demand" received a strongly positive response, with some opposition;⁵
- (b) "Mainstreaming ESD into teachers/educators' training" had a strongly positive response, but with some opposition;⁶
- (c) "Implementing an ESD school plan in every school" (i.e., addressing campus management, curricula and community interaction) had an overall positive response, but with some opposition.⁷
- 24. The CEP Bureau supported the proposal by the Steering Committee on ESD to organize a high-level segment on ESD during the Eighth EfE Conference.

D. The Shared Environmental Information System

25. Also during the mid-term review of the Astana outcomes, CEP considered the report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) reviewing SEIS-related developments with an impact on environmental assessment and reporting since the Seventh EfE Conference (ECE/CEP/2013/18). Following recommendations by the CEP Bureau, CEP decided to establish a coordination mechanism for the development of SEIS in the form of a Group of Friends of SEIS. CEP welcomed information provided by the Chair of the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) regarding the plans to apply SEIS principles to the future work within the

Strongly agree: 17 (AT, BG, CZ, DE, GE, GR, HR, HU, IL, KZ, MC, MD, PL, RO, SE, SI, UA); somewhat agree: 4 (CH, FI, FR, SK); somewhat disagree: 3 (BY, NL, NO); Strongly disagree: 1 (US).

⁶ Strongly agree: 20 (AT, BG, CZ, DE, FR, GE, GR, HR, HU, IL, KG, KZ, MC, MD, PL, RO, SE, SI, SK, UA); somewhat agree: 3 (BY, CH, FI); somewhat disagree: 2 (NL, NO); strongly disagree: 1 (US).

⁷ Strongly agree: 12 (AT, BG, GE, GR, IL, HR, KZ, MC, PL, RO, SI, UA); somewhat agree: 6 (CH, CZ, FI, FR, HU, SK); somewhat disagree: 5 (BY, DE, MD, NL, NO); strongly disagree: 1 (US).

Convention's framework. CEP encouraged other MEAs to consider whether their reporting mechanisms were aligned with SEIS principles, and asked them to revise them as necessary to do so and to provide information in that regard to CEP at its next session. CEP also invited countries and other SEIS stakeholders to engage more actively in the establishment of SEIS both at the national and regional levels.

- 26. The EfE survey results regarding the proposal to organize a high-level segment on assessing the progress in establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing the SEIS across the region gained an overall positive response, but with substantial opposition.⁸
- 27. The CEP Bureau supported the idea to address the progress in developing SEIS at the next EfE Conference.

E. Sustainable consumption and production

- 28. Ministers in Astana stated that sustainable consumption and production (SCP) are fundamental to green the economy and agreed to pursue completion and implementation of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP.
- 29. The EfE survey results regarding the theme "Promoting sustainable consumption and production" received a strongly positive response.⁹
- 30. The CEP Bureau recommended that CEP consider addressing SCP at the next EfE Conference, possibly in the context of greening the economy.
- 31. It should be noted that, on the margins of the twentieth session of CEP, on Monday, 27 October 2014, the secretariat of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Europe is planning to organize the first European Regional meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production as a contribution to the EfE process. The event outcomes will be presented during the consideration of the CEP agenda item on greening the economy.

F. Transport, health and environment

- 32. At its last session in 2013, CEP took note of information provided and welcomed the progress of work under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), and invited countries to consider an active participation in the upcoming Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment.
- 33. European ministers attending the Fourth High-level Meeting (Paris, 14–16 April 2014) adopted the Paris Declaration "City in Motion People First!", reaffirming their commitment to a new vision of green and healthy mobility and transport for sustainable livelihoods for all, and linking the promotion of health and sustainability to socioeconomic justice. This is supported by new goals and tools including:
- (a) A new priority to integrate transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies;

Strongly agree: 10 (BE, BG, BY, GE, HU, IL, MD, SE, SK, US); somewhat agree: 9 (AT, FI, FR, HR, IT, KG, NO, PL, RO); somewhat disagree: 7 (CH, CZ, GR, MC, NL, SI, UA); strongly disagree: 1 (DE).

Strongly agree: 17 (BE, CH, CZ, FR, GE, GR, HR, IL, KZ, KG, MC, MD, PL, RO, SE, SI, SK); somewhat agree: 7 (AT, BY, DE, FI, HU, NO, UA); somewhat disagree: 2 (BG, US); strongly disagree: 0.

- (b) THE PEP Academy, strengthening knowledge and skills development for integrated transport, health, environment and spatial planning;
 - (c) A pan-European master plan to promote cycling;
- (d) Stronger partnerships with city networks, civil-society organizations and the research community;
 - (e) The mobilization of young people and their organizations.
- 34. In the EfE survey results regarding the themes for the next EfE Ministerial Conference, the overarching theme on strengthening environmental considerations in other social and economic sectors, and the proposed theme "Sustainable urban development (e.g. bringing together the relevant activities under THE PEP, the Environment and Health process, and green building)" gained an overall positive response. ¹⁰ The survey also contained the following proposed theme "Sustainable transport in cities and green economy (Czech Republic)".
- 35. The CEP Bureau recommended the two themes for the next Conference, as specified in in paragraphs 39–42 below. Issues relevant to THE PEP could be addressed under both of these themes, subject to the consideration by CEP.

G. Environment and health

- 36. At its last session, CEP invited the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to explore possible synergies between the EfE and the European Environment and Health Ministerial Conferences. Furthermore, CEP took note of the report of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (EHMB) to the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe and CEP, the Report on the European Environment and Health Process (2010–2013) and the information provided on the progress of work of EHMB. Inter alia, CEP agreed to hold a panel discussion on the European Environment and Health process at the next CEP session and to invite the Chairs of the EHMB and the Environment and Health Task Force. It also requested the Bureau and the secretariat to explore the WHO proposal to hold a joint CEP Bureau and EHMB Alternates' meeting to discuss issues of common interest.
- 37. Regarding the EfE survey results on environment and health themes for the next EfE Conference, please refer to the paragraph 34 above.
- 38. The CEP Bureau discussed issues related to the European Environment and Health process during its meeting as well as during the joint meeting of the CEP Bureau and the EHMB Alternates, both organized back to back in Lisbon in May 2014. With regard to exploring synergies between the EfE and the European Environment and Health Ministerial Conferences, the participants agreed that given that the EfE and the European Environment and Health processes were at a different stage of preparation for the next ministerial conferences, organization of those two conferences back to back was not deemed feasible. At the same time, issues related to environment and health would be addressed as suggested in paragraphs 39–42 below.

Strongly agree: 12 (AT, BE, CZ, GE, HU, IL, KZ, MD, PL, RO, SI, UA); somewhat agree: 10 (BG, BY, DE, FI, FR, GR, HR, KG, MC, SE); somewhat disagree: 3 (CH, SK, US); strongly disagree: 0.

H. Proposal for the two themes for the Eighth Environment for Europe Conference

- 39. At their Lisbon meeting, the CEP Bureau deliberated extensively on the possible themes for the next EfE Conference. In considering the two themes, the CEP Bureau suggested that alongside the EfE Reform Plan provisions, using some general criteria would facilitate the selection of the themes for the next Conference. For instance a criterion could be to narrow down the possible themes to those for which ECE and other EfE partners have competence and expertise. Another criterion could be to identify two themes that would make it possible to address in an integrated way the variety of issues supported by delegates in 2013, such as MEAs, ESD, SCP, SEIS, water, environment and health, and transport, health and environment. A third criterion could be to consider integrating into the regional agenda the ongoing global developments regarding the Rio+20 follow-up activities and the post-2015 development agenda.
- 40. Taking into account the above criteria, the CEP Bureau recommended the following two themes for the further consideration of CEP:
- (a) Greening the economy in the pan-European region in the context of the post-2015 development framework, including SDGs;
 - (b) Improving air quality for a better environment and human health.
- 41. The proposed theme on greening the economy in the pan-European region could encompass issues related to MEAs, SCP, ESD, SEIS, water, environment and health and transport, environment and health. Furthermore, the CEP Bureau supported the idea to proceed with the development of a pan-European regional framework on green economy, in response to the ministers' decision in Astana to take the lead in the transition to a green economy. In that context, the document on "Greening the economy in the pan-European region: progress, priorities, modalities and options" (ECE/CEP/2014/5), prepared jointly by ECE and UNEP in consultation with other partners, provides a wealth of background information on the matter.
- 42. The proposed theme on improving air quality could address issues related to outdoor and indoor air, including the costs of air pollution and the health impact, of relevance both to the entire ECE region as well as its subregions. ECE together with EEA, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNEP, WHO and other relevant partners could provide support to the ECE members States in preparing the background document to facilitate the discussion under this theme at the Conference. In this regard, the ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution would be an important partner to engage under this theme. Development of policy initiative(s) related to this theme (similar to AWA) could be also considered for the Conference.

II. Prospective format and outline of the agenda of the next ministerial conference

- 43. The EfE Reform Plan contains specific provisions regarding the format (the periodicity, duration and the organization of discussions) of the Conference, as follows:
- (a) The Conferences should be held every four to five years, with each Conference lasting two-and-a-half to three days maximum;
- (b) Based on the previous experience, the Conference should start with a short opening event. The host country would be given an opportunity to organize events highlighting its special features in addition to the official Conference agenda;

- (c) The discussions at the Conference should be arranged in an interactive manner and combine various types of sessions, e.g., plenary sessions, round tables and moderated panel discussions, with a limited number of main speakers from different stakeholders (e.g., ECE member States, EfE partners and major groups). When possible, interactive sessions, such as round tables, could be run in parallel;
- (d) The Conference could be structured around the following main clusters (all of them focusing on the agreed priorities):
 - (i) Plenary sessions for the presentation and discussion of the priority topics;
 - (ii) Sessions on ongoing cooperation and partnerships in the ECE region and its subregions with different stakeholders, including the private sector;
 - (iii) A session of environmental non-governmental organizations and ministers in the round table format as an integral part of the conference;
 - (iv) A session of private sector representatives and ministers in the round table format as an integral part of the conference;
 - (v) Sessions dedicated to announcing new partnerships and initiatives by stakeholders;
 - (vi) A brief concluding session with the presentation (and adoption, if appropriate) of the main outcomes of the Conference.
- (e) To address issues relevant to the agenda of the Conference in more detail, side events should be organized by interested ECE member States, EfE partners and relevant stakeholders;
- (f) To attract the attention of the private sector, opportunities should be provided for the organization of promotional events such as poster exhibitions, trade fairs, round tables and environmental award initiatives.
- 44. At the last session of CEP in October 2013, delegations emphasized the need to enhance the participation of civil society in the EfE ministerial conferences. An interactive format similar to that of the Astana Ministerial Conference was supported.
- 45. The EfE survey results on the format of the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference showed an overall agreement that plenary sessions must be supplemented with parallel events, which should be as interactive as possible. Member States generally supported an interactive format with parallel round tables some citing the positive experience at the Astana Ministerial Conference but also called for some innovations.
- 46. Furthermore, the survey results on the proposal for an "Interactive format for the Conference" (for a more productive ministerial participation), received the following responses on the two proposed options:
- (a) Holding parallel thematic round tables won overwhelming support with no opposition;¹¹
- (b) Interactive discussions, e.g., similar to the British Broadcasting Company's show, "Question Time", won strong support with little opposition.¹²

Strongly agree: 20 (AT, BE, BG, BY, CH, DE, FI, GE, GR, HU, IL, KG, KZ, MC, MD, SE, SI, SK, UA, US); somewhat agree: 5 (CZ, FR, HR, PL, RO); somewhat disagree: 0; strongly disagree: 0.

Strongly agree: 11 (AT, BG, CH, GE, GR, HU, IT, KG, KZ, RO, SE); somewhat agree: 7 (BE, BY, CZ, DE, FI, FR, PL); somewhat disagree: 3 (MC, MD, SI); strongly disagree: 0.

47. At their Lisbon meeting, the Bureau asked the secretariat to adapt the Conference outline to the infrastructure available in the host country. In that context, the annex to this document contains the proposed outline of the agenda of the conference and organization of work, prepared based on the outline of the Astana Ministerial Conference and adapted to the host country infrastructure, to facilitate the discussion on this matter.

Annex

Prospective outline for the agenda and organization of work of the next ministerial conference

[Tbilisi/Batumi, [1–3] [8–10] June] **2016** (the venue and date are to be confirmed by the host country)

Wednesday, June	Thursday, June	Friday, June	
Registration (9 a.m2 p.m.)	3. First theme	6. Second theme	
Greening-the-conference-related interactive events for the heads of	(plenary and round-table/panel discussions, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)	(plenary and round-table/panel discussions, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)	
delegation organized by the host country, e.g., walking or using a	Questions for discussion:	Questions for discussion:	
pedibus to the conference venue,	(a)	(a)	
riding bikes (11 a.mnoon)	(b)	(b)	
	(c)	(c)	
	(d)	(d)	
Lunch break/side events (noon–1.45 p.m.)	Lunch break/side events (1.15–2.45 p.m.)	Lunch break/side events (1.15–2.45 p.m.)	
1. Opening of the Conference	4. Segment on ESD	7. Reporting on the outcomes of the	
(plenary, 2–4 p.m.)	(plenary and round-table/panel discussions, 3–5 p.m.) Questions for discussion: (a)	discussions under the thematic sessions	
 Opening ceremony 		(plenary, 3–4.30 p.m.) 8. Adoption of Conference outcomes	
 Adoption of the agenda 			
2. General session	(b)	(plenary, 4.30–5.30 p.m.) 9. Closure of the Conference (plenary, 5.30–6 p.m.)	
(plenary/panel discussion, 4–6 p.m.)	(c)		
	(d)		
	5. Bilateral meetings for ministers		
	(5–6 p.m.)		
Official events/side events (6.15–9 p.m.)	Official events/side events (6.15–9 p.m.)	Official events/side events (6.15–9 p.m.)	