



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Twenty-first session

Geneva, 27–30 October 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-first session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on  
Tuesday, 27 October 2015\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau.
3. Sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
4. Multilateral environmental agreements.
5. The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:
  - (a) Host country preparations;
  - (b) Greening the economy;
  - (c) Cleaning the air;
  - (d) Learning together;

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\* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the online registration form available from the Internet ([www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=gmgcog](http://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=gmgcog)) no later than two weeks before the meeting. 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 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682.



- (e) Developing the Shared Environmental Information System and establishing a regular environmental assessment in the pan-European region;
  - (f) Proposed outcomes of the Conference;
  - (g) Draft agenda for the Conference;
  - (h) Communication plan for the Conference;
  - (j) Resource requirements for preparing the Conference.
6. Environmental performance reviews.
  7. Cross-sectoral activities:
    - (a) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme;
    - (b) Environment and security;
    - (c) European Environment and Health Process;
    - (d) Green building.
  8. Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme:
    - (a) Streamlining the work on environmental monitoring and assessment;
    - (b) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental activities;
    - (c) Performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme in 2014–2015 and performance plan for 2016–2017;
    - (d) Programme of work and list of publications of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017;
    - (e) Proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018–2019;
    - (f) Overview of resources for environmental activities and criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events.
  9. Presentation and exchange of views on the second United Nations Environment Assembly.
  10. Rules of procedure.
  11. Election of officers.
  12. Calendar of meetings.
  13. Other business.
  14. Closure of the meeting.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

1. The work 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, the workplan on the reform of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) adopted in 2005 and the review of the 2005 ECE

reform (E/2013/27–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.<sup>1</sup>

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 its agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/2015/1). The provisional time schedule is presented in information paper No. 1.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau**

4. At its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October 2014), CEP elected its Bureau and mandated it to carry out a number of activities, including: (a) to prepare the twenty-first session of CEP; (b) to advance the preparations for the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016); and (c) to continue the work on developing rules of procedure for CEP. To fulfil the above mandates, the CEP Bureau worked via electronic consultations and met in Geneva on 15 and 16 June 2015.

5. CEP will be invited to consider the outcomes of the work of the CEP Bureau as presented in document ECE/CEP/2015/3.

## **3. Sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

6. The secretariat will inform CEP about the main developments at the regional level regarding the post-2015 development agenda. These include:

(a) Outcomes of the sixty-sixth session of ECE (Geneva, 14–16 April 2015) of relevance to the work of CEP;

(b) The regional contribution and the relevant outcomes of the third meeting of the High-level Political Forum (New York, 26 June–8 July 2015) and the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (New York, 25–27 September 2015).

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

## **4. Multilateral environmental agreements**

8. At its session in 2014, CEP welcomed progress made under each of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) —the “flagships” of ECE — including on

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<sup>1</sup> CEP might wish to consider whether to revise its terms of reference from 2007, for instance at its twenty-second session in December 2016, after the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, or at its twenty-third session in 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Information and materials for the meeting are available on a dedicated web page on the ECE website ([www.unece.org/index.php?id=38470#](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38470#)).

national implementation reporting, promotion of the benefits of MEAs beyond the region and continuing progress in opening the MEAs to global accession.

9. CEP will be invited to consider the role of ECE MEAs in the post-2015 development agenda, i.e.:

(a) How can the ECE MEAs, through their experience in implementation (e.g., with regard to developing regulatory instruments and programmes, setting standards and establishing partnerships), facilitate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by countries?;

(b) Can CEP contribute to that [facilitation] role?

The CEP Bureau recommended that the present session be organized in the form of a moderated discussion around the table to deliberate on and answer the above two questions with the participation of the MEA chairs and CEP delegates. Depending on the outcomes of discussion, CEP might wish to reflect on the usefulness of expanding such discussion at the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference, for example, under the general segment on the first day of the Conference.

10. Furthermore, CEP will be informed about the main outcomes of the informal joint meetings between the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE MEAs and CEP (Geneva, 13 April and 26 October 2015).

11. CEP may wish to consider the information provided.

## **5. The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

12. At its twentieth session, CEP agreed on the two themes for the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference: greening the economy in the pan-European<sup>3</sup> region; and improving air quality for a better environment and human health. CEP invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to proceed with the preparation of the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference.

13. Furthermore, CEP requested the secretariat to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the organization of the Conference in consultation with the host country, in accordance with the provisions in the EfE Reform Plan and based on decisions by CEP. The organizational procedures for the Conference, adopted by CEP at its last session, are contained in document ECE/CEP/2014/15.<sup>4</sup>

14. CEP will be invited to consider a number of issues with a view to advancing the preparatory process, including deciding and providing guidance for the follow-up work of its Bureau, the secretariat and partners, on a number of Conference-related issues or activities presented below.

### **(a) Host country preparations**

15. CEP at its previous session expressed gratitude to Georgia for offering to host the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference in Batumi in June 2016, welcomed the preparations by the host country and decided to organize the event from 8 to 10 June 2016.

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<sup>3</sup> The pan-European region under the Environment for Europe Process covers the full membership of ECE, i.e., the 56 ECE member States.

<sup>4</sup> The document is available on the ECE website from [www.unece.org/index.php?id=35032#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35032#/).

16. The representative of Georgia will be invited to inform CEP about the ongoing preparations for the hosting of the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference.

17. CEP will be invited to consider the information provided.

**(b) Greening the economy**

18. CEP invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat and stakeholders, to prepare the first draft of the thematic document on greening the economy based on the agreed questions for discussion. Furthermore, CEP invited ECE and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations working on green economy, to elaborate a proposal for a pan-European strategic framework for greening the economy.

19. CEP will be invited to consider the draft of a thematic document (one of two official substantive documents) on greening the economy in the pan-European region (ECE/CEP/2015/L.2).

20. Furthermore, CEP will be invited to consider the first draft of the pan-European strategic framework for greening the economy (ECE/CEP/2015/L.4), which CEP had requested be prepared in response to the decision by ministers in Astana to take the lead in the transition to a green economy. The draft strategic framework is complemented by a draft menu of actions for countries to choose for greening their economies (ECE/CEP/2015/L.7).

21. CEP will be invited to decide on the next steps and provide guidance on developing further the thematic document as well as the strategic framework and its menu of actions in time for the Conference.

**(c) Cleaning the air**

22. CEP invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat and stakeholders, to prepare a first draft of the thematic document on cleaning the air.

23. CEP will be invited to consider the draft of the thematic document on improving air quality for a better environment and human health (ECE/CEP/2015/L.3).

24. In addition, CEP will be invited to consider the draft of an initiative — Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (ECE/CEP/2015/L.5) — under development by the Bureau of the ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention).

25. CEP will be invited to decide on the next steps and provide guidance on developing further the thematic document, as well as to advise the Air Convention Bureau on the further development of the Action for Cleaner Air initiative in time for the Conference.

**(d) Learning together**

26. CEP supported the request by the ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (Steering Committee on ESD) to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference with a view to assessing progress during the first 10 years of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and to consider the future implementation of the Strategy.

27. CEP will be informed about the main outcomes of the tenth meeting of the ECE Steering Committee on ESD (Geneva, 8–9 June 2015) regarding the organization and substance of the High-level Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development.<sup>5</sup>

28. CEP will be invited to consider the information provided and, in particular, to reflect on best ways to interlink the education for sustainable development (ESD) segment and the two themes of the Conference.

**(e) Developing the Shared Environmental Information System and establishing a regular environmental assessment in the pan-European region**

29. CEP welcomed the work of the Group of Friends of the Shared Environmental Information System accomplished in 2014 and adopted the targets and performance indicators for measuring progress in developing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the pan-European region (ECE/CEP/2014/8). CEP mandated the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to review SEIS progress based on targets and performance indicators, with a view to preparing an evaluation report for the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference.

30. CEP will be invited to consider the results of the Working Group's evaluation of progress made in developing SEIS across the pan-European region (ECE/CEP/2015/11). Also, CEP will be informed about the outcomes of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of the Working Group (Geneva, 6–7 November 2014; Istanbul, 16–17 April 2015; and Geneva, 7–8 September 2015, respectively).<sup>6</sup>

31. Furthermore, CEP will be invited to consider the results of the work of the Joint Task Force's ninth and tenth meetings (Geneva, 3–5 November 2014 and 11–13 May 2015, respectively).<sup>7</sup>

32. Concerning the establishment of a regular environmental assessment, CEP will be invited to consider and approve the outcomes of the work of the Group of Friends of SEIS at its second meeting held in Geneva on 11 May 2015 (ECE/CEP/2015/9), including the proposed shape and organization of the regular assessment process based on SEIS (ECE/CEP/2015/10).

**(f) Proposed outcomes of the Conference**

33. The EfE Reform Plan includes provisions regarding possible outcomes for EfE conferences, including an agreed outcome document of two pages on follow-up and further actions strictly limited, in terms of scope, to the themes of the conference.

34. CEP will be invited to consider possible outcomes of the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference. Following recommendation by the CEP Bureau, a document containing an overview of proposed outcomes based on inputs provided by partners was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau to facilitate CEP in its deliberations (ECE/CEP/2015/8).

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<sup>5</sup> Meeting documents for the Steering Committee on ESD are available online from [www.unece.org/index.php?id=38322](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38322).

<sup>6</sup> Meeting documents for the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment are available online from [http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment/meetings-and-events.html#](http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment/meetings-and-events.html#/).

<sup>7</sup> Meeting documents for the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators are available online from [http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment/meetings-and-events.html#](http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment/meetings-and-events.html#/).

**(g) Draft agenda for the Conference**

35. CEP invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prepare a first draft of the provisional annotated agenda for the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference.

36. CEP will be invited to consider the draft agenda for the Conference (ECE/CEP/2015/L.1) with a view to agreeing on the organization of the Conference's work. To support CEP in its deliberations, different options for interactive formats are provided in document ECE/CEP/2015/14.

**(h) Communication plan for preparing the Conference**

37. The EfE Reform Plan states that an effective communication strategy, including broad mass media coverage, as appropriate, should be developed, comprising, inter alia, special events for journalists, circulation of electronic newsletters and maintaining a dedicated website.

38. CEP will be invited to consider communication activities to promote and enhance the visibility of the Batumi Conference. Following the recommendation of the CEP Bureau, a communication plan was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the host country (ECE/CEP/2015/13). In particular, participants will be invited to identify innovative green activities to be held for the ministers and heads of delegations on the margins of the Conference.

**(j) Resource requirements for the Conference**

39. The EfE Reform Plan stipulates that for the preparatory process of an EfE conference and the conference itself, the necessary extrabudgetary financial resources will have to continue to be provided to ECE to supplement the United Nations core budget resources. The Reform Plan also states that the host country should assume relevant financial commitments.

40. CEP will be invited to consider the resource requirements for the preparatory process and the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference (information paper No. 2), as well as ways to ensure smooth and efficient Conference preparations. Interested countries and organizations may inform the meeting of envisaged contributions to the preparation of the Conference.

**6. Environmental performance reviews**

41. Building up upon the success of the ECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme, ministers invited ECE to conduct a 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.

42. CEP will conduct peer reviews of the environmental performance of Georgia and of Belarus. The Expert Group on EPRs worked on finalizing the recommendations for the two reviews at its meeting held from 12 to 14 October 2015 in Geneva. CEP will be invited to consider the recommendations presented in information papers Nos. 3 and 4 with a view to their prospective adoption. The draft EPRs are being made available on the ECE website.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> See [www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-performance-reviews/ongoing-reviews](http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-performance-reviews/ongoing-reviews).

43. Furthermore, CEP will be invited to consider the recent and planned activities under the EPR Programme.

44. In consultation with the CEP Bureau it is proposed to organize consideration of this agenda item as follows in order to increase the interactivity of the discussion:

- (a) Overview of activities;
- (b) Third Environmental Performance Review of Georgia;
- (c) Third Environmental Performance Review of Belarus;
- (d) Moderated round-table discussion on the basis of recent EPRs;
- (e) Report on the implementation of recommendations of reviews concluded several years ago;
- (f) Future activities of the EPR Programme.

## **7. Cross-sectoral activities**

45. There are a number of cross-cutting activities under the auspices of the ECE Environment subprogramme, mostly carried out jointly or in partnership with other ECE subprogrammes and other partner organizations. CEP will be invited to consider recent developments and plans for the future under these cross-cutting activities. Given that ESD will be discussed at the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference, in order to rationalize the organization of discussions at the current CEP session it is proposed to consider this activity under agenda item 5 above.

### **(a) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme**

46. CEP will be invited to consider the main developments under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) since the CEP session in 2014, including the main outcomes of the twelfth session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP (Geneva, 19–20 November 2014).<sup>9</sup>

### **(b) Environment and security**

47. CEP will be invited to consider the ongoing contributions of ECE to the Environment and Security Initiative (information paper No. 5).

### **(c) European Environment and Health Process**

48. At its 2014 session CEP agreed to allocate time in its agenda to discuss environment and health issues, as well as to contribute to the mid-term review of the European Environment and Health Process and the Sixth European Environment and Health Ministerial Conference to take place in 2017.

49. CEP will be invited to consider the developments under the European Environment and Health Process, including the main outcomes of the mid-term review (Haifa, Israel, 28–30 April 2015) of relevance to the work of CEP, and the status of preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference in 2017.

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<sup>9</sup> Meeting documents for the Steering Committee of THE PEP are available online from [www.unece.org/index.php?id=36755](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36755).

**(d) Green building**

50. 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 Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (formerly known as the Timber Committee), the Housing and Land Management Committee, CEP and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, together with partner organizations. Since then CEP has been briefed regularly on developments in the area of green building, including about the delay in the establishment of the task force due to the finalization of the review of the 2005 ECE reform.

51. At the same time, the work on green building, including in the context of greening the economy, is progressing well. CEP will be informed about developments in this area.

**8. Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme****(a) Streamlining the work on environmental monitoring and assessment**

52. CEP highly appreciated the work on environmental monitoring and assessment carried out in 2014 by the two ECE specialized bodies in this area: the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. It renewed the mandates of both bodies for one year and requested the secretariat to prepare a proposal on ways to streamline the work of these bodies, as well as potentially incorporating the responsibilities of the Group of Friends of SEIS, with a view to enhancing the coordination of activities and reinforcing the work on environmental monitoring and assessment.

53. Taking into account the discussion under agenda item 5 (e), CEP will be invited to consider the options for streamlining the work on environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting (ECE/CEP/2015/12) with a view to deciding on the extension of mandate(s) in this area of work.

**(b) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental activities**

54. 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.

55. 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.

56. The ECE Gender Action Plan 2014–2015 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.

57. CEP will be invited to consider how to better mainstream a gender perspective in environmental activities carried out under its auspices, including in the light of the

outcomes of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

**(c) Performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme in 2014–2015 and performance plan for 2016–2017**

58. CEP agreed to continue with the biennial performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme for another cycle, at least, and approved the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015 (ECE/CEP/2014/4).

59. Based on the plan, the secretariat prepared an assessment of performance of the Environment subprogramme in 2014–2015 (ECE/CEP/2015/6) for consideration by CEP for approval.

60. Furthermore, CEP will be invited to consider for approval the performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017 (ECE/CEP/2015/5).

**(d) Programme of work and the list of publications of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017**

61. CEP will be invited to consider for adoption the draft programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017, including the list of publications (ECE/CEP/2015/4).

**(e) Proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018–2019**

62. CEP will be invited to consider for approval the proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018–2019 (ECE/CEP/2015/7).

**(f) Overview of resources for environmental activities and criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events**

63. CEP requested the secretariat to provide information on the status of resources in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015. In that regard, 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. 6 and addendum). Donor countries will be invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds.

64. In accordance with the recommendations regarding criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events approved by CEP at its last session, the CEP Bureau with support from the secretariat has recommended updating the criteria for financial support.

65. CEP may consider updating the criteria for financial support on the basis of the Bureau's recommendation (information paper No. 7).

**9. Presentation and exchange of views on the second United Nations Environment Assembly**

66. At its last session, CEP expressed appreciation to UNEP for organizing a side event on the activities of UNEP in the pan-European region, in particular in follow-up to the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) (Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014). The CEP Bureau, at its meeting in June 2015, recommended that for the twenty-first session of CEP an agenda item be allocated to presenting and exchanging views on the second session of UNEA (Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016).

67. CEP will be invited to consider the information provided by UNEP and exchange views on the UNEA session in 2016.

## **10. Rules of procedure**

68. CEP mandated its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a further revised draft of its rules of procedure, taking into account the comments received, for consideration at its twenty-first session. CEP also agreed to send any possible additional comments to the draft prepared by the Bureau at least one week before the present session, i.e., by 19 October 2015.

69. Following that request, the CEP Bureau, with support from the secretariat, further revised the draft rules of procedure of CEP (ECE/CEP/2015/L.6).

70. CEP will be invited to consider adopting the draft rules of procedure.

## **11. Election of officers**

71. 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 (information paper No. 8).

## **12. Calendar of meetings**

72. Based on the calendar of meetings of CEP for 2014–2017 approved at its previous session, the secretariat prepared an updated schedule of meetings for consideration and approval by CEP (information paper No. 9). A special session of CEP to advance the organization of the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 23 to 25 February 2016.

## **13. Other business**

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

## **14. Closure of the meeting**

74. 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 CEP after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the meeting website.

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