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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Outcomes of the work of the Bureau

Outcomes of the work of the Bureau for the period November 2014–July 2015

Report by the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy*

Summary

At its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October 2014), the Committee on Environmental Policy elected its Bureau and mandated it to carry out a number of activities (see ECE/CEP/2014/2, para. 98 (mm)), including to: (a) prepare the twenty-first session of the Committee, including reports and documents necessary for the Committee's work at the session; (b) advance the preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016); and (c) continue the work on developing the Committee's rules of procedure.

To fulfil the above mandates, the Bureau worked via electronic consultations and met in Geneva on 15 and 16 June 2015. The present document outlines the outcomes of the Bureau's work, including its June meeting, with a view to supporting the Committee's work at its twenty-first session.

* This document was submitted on the above date due to resource constraints.



Introduction

1. In the intersessional period, the Bureau of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy worked on fulfilling the mandates received from the Committee at its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October 2014) and made preparations for the Committee's twenty-first session. The Bureau worked by means of electronic consultations and met in Geneva on 15 and 16 June 2015.

2. In particular, the Bureau worked on advancing the preparation of the Eighth Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Batumi, 8–10 June 2016). Also, it considered both the substance and organization of the discussions to be held at the Committee's twenty-first session, such as those related to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the ECE environmental performance reviews (EPRs). It furthermore revised the Committee's draft rules of procedure and looked into updating criteria for eligibility for financial support for participating in meetings and events, as well as considered the revised calendar of meetings for the Committee until the end of 2018.

3. Regarding its June meeting, following interest expressed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) and the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE), the Bureau agreed to open participation in the preparations for the Batumi Conference to representatives of these two EfE partners.

4. The Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy comprises the Chair from Portugal and Vice-Chairs from Belarus, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland and the United States of America.

I. Developing questions for discussion under the two themes of the Batumi Ministerial Conference

5. As mandated, in the period from November 2014 to January 2015, the Bureau, supported by the secretariat and in consultation with relevant partners, worked on developing a set of questions for discussion to guide the work under the two themes of the Batumi Ministerial Conference. These questions are integrated in the draft provisional agenda for the Conference and are set out in the annex to the present document.

6. Based on the questions for discussion, the secretariat jointly with relevant partners prepared drafts of the two thematic background documents for the Committee's consideration (see section IV.B below).

II. Provisional agenda for the Committee's twenty-first session

7. During its meeting in June 2015, the Bureau approved the draft provisional agenda and the draft organization of work for the Committee's twenty-first session with a number of revisions, which were to be reflected in the final version of those documents. For instance, the Bureau:

(a) Recommended that the session on EPRs be organized in accordance with the scenario proposed by the secretariat in order to make discussions more interactive as well as to allow for a brief exchange of experience among countries on implementing

recommendations of recent EPRs, including member countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, if feasible;

(b) Recommended that the discussion on the European Environment and Health Process take place on the first day of the meeting, so as to be grouped next to the discussion on the cleaning the air theme, and to invite the Alternates to the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board and the co-Chairs of the EHMB and the European Environment and Health Task Force to the Committee's twenty-first session;

(c) Recommended that adequate time be allocated for the discussion on developing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and establishing a regular environmental assessment process in the pan-European region, in order to accommodate presentations by relevant partners;

(d) Agreed to allocate time to the presentation of information and an exchange of views on the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), scheduled to take place in May 2016.

8. Concerning the second and final reporting on implementation of the Astana Water Action (AWA), the Bureau made changes to the template for reporting and recommended that the Bureau of the Water Convention be consulted before sending out the invitation letters to the AWA stakeholders, with a view to collecting their responses in September 2015. Furthermore, in addition to preparing the second progress report on AWA for the consideration by the Committee at its special session in February 2016, the Bureau recommended, if feasible, to prepare a draft of the second progress report on AWA in time for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015).

9. In the e-mail exchange following up to the Bureau meeting in June 2015, a member of the Bureau proposed that the secretariat explore the possibility of organizing a side event on the Green Growth Knowledge Platform on the margins of the Committee's twenty-first session. Following consultation with the Green Growth Knowledge Platform and UNEP/ROE, it was decided to organize such a side event at lunchtime on Wednesday, 28 October 2015.

III. Multilateral environmental agreements: facilitating the achievement of the sustainable development goals

10. At its meeting in June 2015, the Bureau discussed the MEAs focus for the twenty-first session, and considered options for stimulating an interactive discussion. In that regard, the Bureau was informed about the outcomes of the informal joint gathering of the Committee with the chairs and vice-chairs of the MEAs, which had taken place in Geneva on 13 April 2015. At the informal meeting, the MEA chairs had suggested that the session on MEAs be focused on the role of MEAs in helping countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, they had proposed that if the debates at the Committee's twenty-first session were fruitful, the Committee should consider replicating such discussions at the Batumi Ministerial Conference during the general segment on the first day of the Conference.

11. The Bureau deliberated further on the suggestion by the MEA chairs and recommended that the discussion focus on the role of the ECE MEAs in achieving the post-2015 development agenda, in particular by sharing relevant experience on implementing MEAs with regard to regulatory instruments and programmes, setting standards and establishing partnerships.

12. In addition, the Bureau considered that it would be important to explore the linkages and synergies between the reporting under MEAs and developing SEIS, as well as integrating MEA national implementation reports into other United Nations reporting mechanisms, such as national reporting under the System of National Accounts.

13. The Bureau agreed on two questions to facilitate a round-table discussion between the MEA chairs and Committee members at the Committee's twenty-first session, as follows:

(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 the achievement of SDGs by countries?;

(b) How can the Committee on Environmental Policy contribute to that [facilitation] role?

14. Regarding the organization of an interactive discussion, the Bureau proposed to consider a discussion around the table with an opening speech (or a very short PowerPoint presentation) by an MEA chair presenting the ECE MEAs as a package (as triggers to change or develop regulations, set standards and establish partnerships), followed by a moderated round-table discussion responding to the two Bureau questions with interventions by each MEA chair and several Committee representatives (up to two minutes per speaker).

IV. Advancing the preparations for the Batumi Ministerial Conference

A. Hosting the Conference

15. At the Bureau's June meeting, the representative of Georgia reported on the status of preparations for hosting the Conference. A decree had been issued by the Prime Minister espousing the Government's commitment to host the Conference and an organizational committee had been established on 4 June 2015 under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection and with the participation of other ministries, including for foreign affairs, economy, internal affairs and finance, as well as the government of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara. Other relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education and Science, would be invited to the future meetings and engaged in the work of the organizational committee, as relevant.

16. The representative of Georgia also noted that the budget for hosting the Conference was being recalculated, with preliminary estimates indicating that the funds allocated would need to be doubled, at a minimum. The Bureau was invited to visit the city of Batumi and explore the available infrastructure and possible meeting venues, for instance by joining the ECE secretariat for the country mission in September/October 2015. The transportation issue, which was of potential concern because of the limited number of flights, should be addressed jointly with the relevant governmental bodies with a view to considering opportunities to provide more flights to Batumi during the Conference period.

17. In November 2015, the official invitation letter for the Conference would be sent by the office of the Prime Minister of Georgia to the other 55 ECE member States with a copy to ministers of environment and education. The Bureau asked that, in addition, a copy of the official letter be sent to the Committee members.

B. The documents for the two themes of the Conference

18. Also at its June meeting, the Bureau considered the drafts of the two thematic documents for the Conference — on greening the economy in the pan-European region and on improving air quality for a better environment and human health — as well as drafts of the two initiatives — the draft pan-European strategic framework on greening the economy and the draft Batumi Action for Cleaner Air.

19. The Bureau welcomed the draft documents and provided a number of comments, which were to be reflected in revised drafts for submission to the Committee at its twenty-first session. For the green economy-related documents it was furthermore suggested to better reflect the role of: natural capital accounting;¹ the Green Growth Knowledge Platform; the UNEP 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns; and corporate social and environmental responsibility.

20. With regard to monitoring of progress in greening the economy, it was argued that introducing a new monitoring process would be burdensome and unnecessary (in particular in view of the upcoming SDGs monitoring process) and therefore it was suggested to make use of the existing systems, such as EPRs, which could look at policies for greening the economy, SEIS, the internationally agreed System of Environmental-Economic Accounting² and the reporting processes under the global and regional MEAs. Furthermore, it was argued that the green economy monitoring and assessment would cover the outputs rather than the outcomes. One possible example to consider for replication was the methodology used for developing targets and performance indicators for measuring progress in SEIS development across the pan-European region.³ Another example was the voluntary reporting process under the Astana Water Action (2011–2016), which had been carried out at the Committee's request in 2013 and in 2015. Also, special consideration was to be given to the required infrastructure, including the institutional set-up to manage the implementation of the strategic framework until 2030 and beyond.

21. Concerning capacity development for putting green economy into practice, particular provisions were to be made to support interested countries in choosing and compiling appropriate sets of actions (from the menu of actions annexed to the draft strategic framework) that were the most relevant for the specific needs of each country. In that regard, adequate mechanisms and tools would be developed to enable the exchange of experience and good practices, e.g., the Green Growth Knowledge Platform could be used, and use of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy⁴ could be explored. Furthermore, while the strategic framework was being developed for the entire pan-European region (i.e., the 56 ECE member States), it was important to note that countries from the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe might derive more benefits from its implementation.

22. Regarding the air theme-related documents, the Bureau recommended that the focus be maintained on the specific theme of the Conference — i.e., air quality rather than the climate change aspects of air pollution — and that the linkages between air quality and human health be emphasized, including by providing related data and information. The case studies included in the draft thematic document were appreciated and would need to be complemented by relevant case studies, as available, from the countries in the Caucasus,

¹ For more information see www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/environmental-economics-natural-capital-accounting.

² For more information see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seea.asp>.

³ For details see document ECE/CEP/2014/8 available from www.unece.org/index.php?id=35032.

⁴ For more information about PAGE please see www.unep.org/greeneconomy/PAGE.

Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Also, the role of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition needed to be included in the document.

23. The Bureau highlighted also the role of EPR recommendations in tackling air quality issues in the countries reviewed. Special consideration should be given to the transport sector's impact on air quality, in particular given that in some countries road transport was the greatest source of air pollution. A major challenge was the lack of adequate data to support informed decision-making to address that concern. Also, it could be interesting to showcase the impact on air quality of particular industries and other economic activities. In addition, it was suggested to consult the draft thematic document with the relevant parties under the European Environment and Health Process.

24. The Vice-Chair of the Executive Body for the Air Convention drew attention to a report on 30 years of the Air Convention, which was under development. The executive summary of that document could be ready in time for the Batumi Conference to provide useful information in support of ministerial discussions. The representative from Georgia said that, in the Caucasus, the Aarhus Centres were actively involved in activities related to air quality; their work could be reflected in a case study or during a side event organized on the margins of the Conference, including by engaging the Batumi population in some innovative ways.

25. Furthermore, the Bureau provided comments to the draft Batumi Action for Cleaner Air prepared by the Bureau of the Air Convention in a similar format to AWA. The Bureau recommended stressing the voluntary nature of that initiative, which provided a menu of actions for interested countries and organizations (stakeholders of the initiative) to choose from. The Committee on Environmental Policy would need to consider the modalities for reaching out to stakeholders to encourage them to join the initiative and collect their commitments to the proposed actions.

26. The Bureau agreed to send to the secretariat additional specific comments on the draft documents for the Committee's consideration by 30 June 2015.

C. Establishing a regular environmental assessment process in the pan-European region

27. At its June meeting, the Bureau considered the drafts documents for the Committee's twenty-first session, as well as information provided by the ECE secretariat jointly with UNEP/ROE, regarding progress in developing SEIS and the proposal by the Group of Friends of SEIS for the establishment of a regular environmental assessment in the pan-European region. The Bureau also discussed the possible options for streamlining the work on environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.

28. A representative of the ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment said that, at its meeting in September 2015, the Working Group would continue reviewing progress in developing SEIS. To establish a regular environmental assessment process based on SEIS, it was proposed that the pan-European regional component of the Global Environment Outlook be made into a single pan-European assessment product to serve multiple purposes. The Working Group would take the technical lead in developing that product, under the political oversight of the Committee on Environmental Policy and taking into account the UNEA decisions related to the Global Environment Outlooks. The UNEP Live online data-sharing platform would serve in that process as a central access point to the SEIS data and information, which were to be published regularly by the ECE countries.

29. The Bureau welcomed the draft documents and provided comments, including the need for cooperation with relevant partners in developing SEIS and providing data needed

to generate the future environmental assessments. Relevant partners, among others, would be statistical agencies, such as Eurostat; the Group on Earth Observations; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. The secretariat confirmed that there was already ongoing cooperation in place with Eurostat and FAO and informed the Bureau of steps taken to establish close links with the Group on Earth Observations.

30. The Bureau supported the idea of launching the regional component of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook assessment at the Batumi Ministerial Conference and recommended that the Committee be given a draft of the assessment for possible comments and clearance before submitting it to the Conference. The importance of the Committee on Environmental Policy having a say on the selection of themes for the future regional Global Environment Outlooks was also highlighted. The Bureau requested the secretariat to revise the documents in the light of comments received for submission to the Committee at its twenty-first session.

D. Draft agenda and proposed outcomes of the Conference

31. The Bureau considered at its June meeting a first draft of the provisional agenda for the Batumi Conference. Taking into account the flight options in and out Batumi, the Bureau recommended to start the Conference early on the morning of Wednesday, 8 June 2016 and to end it at lunchtime on Friday, 10 June, so as to allow for participants to depart in the afternoon and evening of the last day of the Conference.

32. The Bureau also made recommendations regarding the scheduling of agenda items for both the thematic and the general segments. For instance, it was suggested to shorten the opening ceremony to one-and-a-half hours. Concerning the general segment on the first day, it was proposed to split it into two parts to address both the establishment of a regular process of environmental assessment based on SEIS in the pan-European region and the role of MEAs in the post-2015 development agenda. It was recommended to set aside an hour and a half on the afternoon of 8 June for the discussions on education for sustainable development. Also, the Bureau suggested the host country consider organizing a side event dedicated to the third EPR of Georgia on the first day of the Conference, as appropriate.

33. Regarding the two thematic segments, it was proposed to address them on the same day during two three-hour dedicated sessions, one theme in the morning and the second in the afternoon. The last day of the Conference (10 June) would be dedicated to reporting on the outcomes of the discussions under the thematic sessions, as well as to the adoption of the Conference outcomes. The Bureau asked the secretariat to amend the draft provisional agenda for the Conference accordingly for the Committee's further consideration.

34. Concerning the format of the sessions, including enabling interactive discussions, the Bureau exchanged views by e-mail after its June meeting. Some members of the Bureau supported the idea of organizing the two thematic discussions in the form of a "serious game/role play" exercise. The European ECO Forum had offered to organize a round table between ministers and non-governmental organizations during the "Greening the economy in the pan-European region" session, also with the participation of other relevant stakeholders. In the e-mail exchange, some members of the Bureau suggested that the European ECO Forum should consider organizing such a possible multi-stakeholder discussion in a "role playing" format. The secretariat was requested to process the paper containing various options for group discussion to facilitate the Committee's deliberations on that issue, in particular identifying a format that would attract participation by ministers.

35. Furthermore, the Bureau considered a draft document presenting the proposed outcomes for the Conference and requested the secretariat to revise the document so as to have a better balance between the outcomes proposed under each of the two themes. The

Bureau also requested secretariat support in preparing the possible elements of the draft ministerial declaration.

E. Communication plan and resource requirements for the Conference

36. At its June meeting, the Bureau discussed the proposed communication activities for the Conference, as contained in a draft document presenting the communication plan for the Conference. Members provided a number of comments and asked the secretariat to revise the document for the Committee's further consideration. For instance, with regard to the workshop for journalists, as provided in the EfE Reform Plan, it was suggested to specify the purpose of the costs and, if funds were not available, to consider organizing a workshop for the Georgian journalists only. Also, a Bureau member suggested exploring the possibility of inviting a journalist from a world-renowned environmental magazine (to be identified) to cover the Conference.

37. Concerning the International Institute for Sustainable Development reporting services, which had been successfully used for the EfE Conferences in Belgrade and in Astana, it was suggested to provide a more accurate figure with estimated costs for the Batumi Conference and to leave it to the Committee to decide at its twenty-first session about the further details for contracting the Institute's services. Alternatively, an interested country could consider contracting the Institute's services directly, as an in-kind contribution, in order to globally mediatize the event.

38. Regarding the organization of exhibitions related to the themes of the Conference, the Bureau recommended that interested stakeholders (countries, organizations and civil society) be encouraged to partner and organize joint exhibitions, e.g., one exhibition for each of the two Conference themes, given the space limitations at the Conference venue.

39. Similarly, the side events should be limited to a maximum of four events running in parallel during the designated times for such events, amounting to a total of some 20 side events on the margins of the Conference. Given the limited number of events, interested stakeholders would be encouraged to partner and organize joint side events, hopefully resulting in attracting a higher number of participants for each event.

40. Concerning the official slogan for the Conference, the Chair suggested using the shortest proposal: i.e., "Cleaner, Greener, Smarter!". At the same time, in the correspondence following up to the June meeting, one member of the Bureau proposed that the host country consider organizing a competition among children in Batumi to develop a slogan. The host country representative also liked the slogan "Clean the air, grow green, and learn together!". The final version of the official slogan remains to be decided by the Committee at its twenty-first session.

41. The Bureau also considered the updated status of available resources and the estimated costs for organizing the Conference and requested the secretariat to send out during the month of September 2015 official letters for the purpose of fundraising. Furthermore, the Bureau recommended that the host country inform the Committee at its twenty-first session on the status of organization of the event, including the financial implications required to host it, from the host country side.

42. As a follow-up to the discussions on the organization of the Conference, at its June meeting the Bureau agreed to continue the discussion by e-mail on the outstanding issues and to provide additional comments to the draft documents for the Committee's consideration by the deadline of 30 June 2015.

V. Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Committee

43. The Committee mandated its Bureau and the secretariat to continue working on the Committee's draft rules of procedure with a view to providing recommendations at the Committee's twenty-first session. At its June 2015 meeting, the Bureau requested the secretariat to revise the draft rules of procedure in the light of comments received before and at the twentieth session and to circulate it to the Bureau for further comments to be provided by 15 July 2015. The agreed final revised draft would be submitted to the Committee for further consideration at its twenty-first session.

VI. Criteria for financial support for participating in meetings and events

44. At its meeting, the Bureau considered the updated criteria for eligibility for financial support for participating in meeting and events. Given that in June 2015 the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita for ECE countries with economies in transition was available only for 2013, the Bureau recommended submitting the criteria to the Committee as revised by the secretariat (using GDP for 2013), unless in September 2015 the data on the GDP for 2014 were available.

VII. Contributing to the European Environment and Health Process

45. The Bureau considered issues related to the European Environment and Health Process, including the main outcomes of the mid-term review, which took place in Haifa, Israel, from 28 to 30 April 2015, as well as other developments in preparation for the Environment and Health Ministerial Conference to be held in 2017.

46. At its twentieth session, the Committee encouraged the continuation of joint meetings with the European Environment and Health Process — and possibly the holding of a tripartite meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy Bureau, the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board Alternates and the ECE MEA Chairs — as well as the practice of extending invitations to participate in each other's meetings (ECE/CEP/2014/2, para. 49). The Bureau recommended considering organizing such a tripartite meeting back to back to a Committee session or a Bureau meeting, after the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference, given that the Committee's agenda was very busy with the preparations for the Batumi Ministerial Conference.

47. At the same time, the Bureau extended an invitation to the EHMB Alternates to participate in the Committee's twenty-first session, in particular in the discussions related to the Batumi Ministerial Conference theme "Improving air quality for a better environment and human health".

VIII. Calendar of meetings

48. At its June meeting the Bureau considered the calendar of meetings until the end of 2018. It requested the secretariat to slightly revise the schedule to include a meeting of the Bureau by means of videoconference in the first week of September 2016, so that it could consider draft documents for the Committee's twenty-second session, bearing in mind that the ultimate deadline for submission of pre-session documents for processing in the three ECE languages was 23 September 2016. The Bureau also took note that the Committee's twenty-second session would be a three-day session.

49. The Bureau also agreed to hold a short meeting on the afternoon of the day before the Committee's twenty-first session, as well as another short meeting the day before the special session in February 2016.

Annex

Questions to guide ministerial discussion at the Batumi Ministerial Conference

1. Following the mandate from the Committee given at its last session (ECE/CEP/2014/2, para. 98 (gg) (x)), the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, prepared a set of questions for discussion with a view to support the preparation of the two background thematic documents and to guide the ministerial discussion at the Conference.

1. Greening the economy in the pan-European region

2. The following set of questions will guide the ministerial discussion under the thematic session on greening the economy in the pan-European region:

(a) **Opportunities and challenges:** What are the pressing challenges to greening the economy in your country? What positive effects on, e.g., employment, human well-being, prosperity and natural capital are evident after introducing green economy policies? Have trade-offs been taken into account in policymaking — e.g., in terms of the impact on employment, social equity and private investment?;

(b) **Best paths to sustainability:** What approaches have proven most useful to promote a more efficient use of natural resources and to reduce pressures on them (e.g., circular economy, green innovation and initiatives in the fields of energy, building, transport infrastructure, water, fiscal reforms, standards and labelling)? What initiatives are working successfully or are planned to be introduced in your country to address challenges and major obstacles, including to sustainable consumption and production patterns?;

(c) **Green incentives:** What incentives concerning sustainable public procurement, environmental taxation and the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, including fossil fuel subsidies, have been introduced, and what else can be done? What do you do to encourage green investment, including private and foreign direct investment and technology transfer in different sectors?;

(d) **Cooperation:** What steps could be taken to further promote cooperation among countries in the pan-European region to facilitate the transition to a green economy, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda?

3. In addition, during the discussion of the above questions, a number of related issues will be addressed, as appropriate, such as: green agriculture, including its resource needs, possible loads on the environment and some good practices; how subnational and local authorities, business and civil society are involved in greening the economy in their countries; and environmental risk reduction as a key element in defining green economy.

2. Improving air quality for a better environment and human health

4. The following set of questions will guide the ministerial discussion under the thematic session on improving air quality for a better environment and human health:

(a) **Pollutants and policies:** Which air pollutants (indoor and outdoor) pose the highest risk to the environment and human health in your country, and how is this risk assessed (e.g., emission inventories, pollutants registers and air-quality-monitoring- and health-related data)? Which aspects of air pollution do you see as the most important to manage in the near future and in the longer term? How effective are current policies in addressing the impact of air pollution on public health, in particular in urban areas, as well

as on ecosystems and crops? What can be done to make such policies more effective and how are the costs of inaction taken into account?;

(b) **Sectors and funding:** What sectors contribute the most to air pollution in your country and how successful has your Government been in integrating air pollution reduction measures into financial and development policies, as well as other sectoral policies? What role can policymakers and financing institutions play in ensuring that projects that reduce air pollution receive funding?;

(c) **Public awareness and participation:** Are the prevailing problems with air pollution and its transboundary character generally known in your country? How can communication be improved? Which channels, messages and means work best in your country? How could enabling public participation in relevant processes (e.g., policy development) improve air quality and what measures work best in your country?;

(d) **Cooperation:** Has international cooperation led to an improvement in air quality? How can international cooperation strengthen the national work? Which international instruments are the most effective in your experience? Which activities should be further strengthened to promote ratification, implementation and possible development of the ECE Air Convention and its protocols?

5. In addition, during the discussion of the above questions, a number of related issues will be addressed, as appropriate, such as: green agriculture, including its resource needs, possible loads on the environment and some good practices; and how subnational and local authorities, business and civil society are involved in greening the economy in countries.
