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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Environmental Policy

**Twenty-first session**

Geneva, 27–30 October 2015

Item 8 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme**: **performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme  
in 2014–2015 and performance plan for 2016–2017**

Biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017

Note by the secretariat[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

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| *Summary* |
| The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) agreed at its last session in October 2014 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/2014/2, paras. 91 and 98 (jj)).  The present document provides the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017. It is structured in accordance with the clusters grouping the Environment subprogramme’s activities.  CEP will be invited to consider the document at its twenty-first session for approval. |
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I. Introduction

1. The Environment subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has four overarching expected accomplishments in the strategic framework for 2016–2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 17)). It will report on their implementation to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

2. The activities in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2016–2017 are grouped into clusters of activities. It will report on their implementation to the Committee on Environmental Policy.

3. The table below presents expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the biennium 2016–2017 for each of the clusters grouping the subprogramme’s activities. The left column contains the four overarching expected accomplishments as included in the strategic framework for 2016–2017. The middle column contains the clusters of activities. The right column presents the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, as well as performance measures for each of the clusters. The table is structured in such a way as to show the correlation between the ECE strategic framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial performance assessment for 2016–2017.

II. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement   
for 2016–2017

| *Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2016–2017* | *Cluster of activities* | *EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2016–2017* |
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| EA (a)  Improved response to environmental challenges by ECE constituencies  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: not applicable (N/A)  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 2 measures | 1. Improved response to environmental challenges (This cluster includes outputs/activities from all other clusters, as appropriate. They may relate to the follow up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) or to the United Nations Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda) | EA 1  Improved response to environmental challenges by ECE constituencies  IA 1 (a) Number of new measures taken by ECE constituencies in response to existing and emerging environmental challenges  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 2 measures |
| EA (b) Strengthened implementation of ECE multilateral environmental commitments and increased geographical coverage  IA (b) (i) Increased percentage of Contracting Parties reporting on the implementation of ECE multilateral environmental agreements  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 85  IA (b) (ii) Increased number of Contracting Parties to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 310 | 2. Activities under the Environment for Europe (EfE) process | EA 2  Successful implementation of the reform of the EfE process  IA 2 (a) Consensus reached by member States on the activities under the EfE process  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: Consensus reached on the organization of the mid-term review  Estimate 2014–2015: Consensus to be reached on the follow-up to the mid-term review and preparing the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): Consensus was reached on the follow-up to the mid-term review and preparing the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016)  Target 2016–2017: Consensus to be reached on the follow-up to the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference |
| 3. Education for sustainable development (ESD) | EA 4 Enhanced implementation of the ECE Strategy for ESD at the national level  IA 4 Successful measures to implement the ECE Strategy for ESD at the national level, assessed through the reporting by member States  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: 42 countries  Estimate 2014–2015: 40 countries  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): 38 countries *a*  Target 2016–2017: 38 countries |
| 4. Transport, health and environment | EA 5 Enhanced integration between transport, health and environment policies through exchanging experiences and good practice and capacity-building with a special focus on Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia  IA 5 Number of member States, international governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in meetings of Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee and relevant workshops undertaken in this framework  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: Participation of 62 countries and 31 IGOs and NGOs in 4 substantive meetings, including 2 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee  Estimate 2014–2015: Participation of 60 countries and 20 IGOs and NGOs in 6 substantive meetings, including 4 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015):*b* Participation of 58 countries and 23 IGOs and NGOs in 3 substantive meetings, including 1 capacity-building workshop, 1 high-level meeting and 1 session of THE PEP Steering Committee  Target 2016–2017: Participation of 60 countries and 20 IGOs and NGOs in 6 substantive meetings, including 4 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee |
| 5. Convention on Long-range Transboundary  Air Pollution (Air Convention) | EA 6 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Air Convention and its three most recent protocols (Protocol on Heavy Metals, Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol)) by ECE members States, in particular countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia  IA 6 Indicators of progress in implementing the Convention and its three most recent Protocols through:  (a) Number of reports on emission reduction commitments;  (b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Air Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (c) Number of ratifications of the three most recent Protocols to the Convention;  (d) Number of training sessions targeting implementation of the Convention and its protocols in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: (a) 37; (b) 27; (c) 91; (d) 6  Estimate 2014–2015: (a) 45; (b) 28; (c) 93; (d) 6  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): (a) 45; (b) 28; (c) 92; (d) 6  Target 2016–2017: (a) 45 (b) 28; (c) 93 (d) 6 |
| 6. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) | EA 7 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs)  IA 7 Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs through:  (a) Intensity of capacity development for non-Parties to the Aarhus Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (b) Intensity of capacity development for non-Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (average participant-days per non-Party);  (c) Number of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention;  (d) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on PRTRs;  (e) Number of countries submitting national implementation reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, indicating progress in implementing key obligations;  (f) Number of countries submitting national implementation reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs, indicating progress in implementing key obligations  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: (a) 4; (b) 3; (c) 46; (d) 33; (e) N/A;*c* (f) N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: (a) 4; (b) 3; (c) 47; (d) 34; (e) 46; (f) 32  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): (a) 6;*d* (b) 2;*e* (c) 47; (d) 33; (e) 46; (f) 32  Target 2016–2017: (a) 2; (b) 3; (c) 47; (d) 34; (e) 46; (f) 32 |
| 7. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) | EA 8 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)  IA 8 Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on SEA through:  (a) Number of countries contributing to subregional cooperation under the Convention;  (b) Number of Parties reporting on their implementation of the Convention;  (c) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Espoo Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (d) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Convention’s Protocol on SEA (average participant-days per non-Party);  (e) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on SEA  (f) Number of ratifications, approvals or acceptances of the Espoo Convention  (g) Number of ratifications, approvals or acceptances of the two amendments to the Espoo Convention  (h) Number of Parties reporting on their implementation of the Protocol *f*  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: (a) 16; (b) 38; (c) 11; (d) 10; (e) 25; (f) 45; (g) first amendment 24, second amendment 24  Estimate 2014–2015: (a) 30; (b) 44; (c) 33; (d) 12; (e) 29; (f) 46; (g) first amendment 26, second amendment 26  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): (a) 30; (b) 41; (c) 37; (d) 71; (e) 26; (f) 45; (g) first amendment 26, second amendment 26  Target 2016–2017: (a) 35; (b) 45; (c) 18; (d) 35; (e) 31; (f) 47; (g) first amendment 32, second amendment 31; (h) 26 |
| 8. Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes  (Water Convention) | EA 9 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health  IA 9 Increased number of countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health through:  (a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Water Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (average participant-days per non-Party);  (c) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on Water and Health;  (d) Number of accessions to the Water Convention by non-ECE States *g*  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: (a) 66; (b) 25; (c) 26; (d) N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: (a) 55; (b) 25; (c) 27; (d) 2  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): (a) 55; (b) 44; (c) 26 (d) 0*h*  Target 2016–2017: (a) 50; (b) 35; (c) 27; (d) 1 |
| 9. Convention on the Transboundary Effects  of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) | EA 10 Strengthened implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention  IA 10 Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention in five key areas:  (a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (b) Intensity of capacity development in Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per Party);  (c) Identification of hazardous activities through training sessions;  (d) Prevention — application and strengthening of preventive measures for hazardous activities through capacity-building sessions;  (e) Notification of industrial accidents using the Industrial Accidents Notification System implemented through training sessions  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: (a) 26; (b) 32; (c) 32;*i* (d) 39;*j* (e) 16*k*  Estimate 2014–2015: (a) 37; (b) 20; (c) 43; (d) 40; (e) 40  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): (a) 18; (b) 20; (c) 33;*l* (d) 40;*m* (e) 14*n*  Target 2016–2017: (a) 17; (b) 15; (c) 34; (d) 40; (e) 15 |
| EA (c) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe  IA (c) Increased percentage of implementation of ECE recommendations on environmental monitoring by member States  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 50 | 10. Environmental monitoring and assessment | EA 11 Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe  IA 11 Increased percentage of implementation of ECE recommendations on environmental monitoring by member States  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 50 |
| EA (d) Improved environmental performance of interested countries  IA (d) Percentage of environmental performance review recommendations implemented by countries reviewed during a biennium  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 65 | 11. Environmental performance reviews | EA 12 Improved environmental performance of interested countries  IA 12  Percentage of environmental performance review recommendations implemented by countries reviewed during a biennium  *Performance measures:*  2012–2013: N/A  Estimate 2014–2015: N/A  Actual 2014–2015 (as of 31 July 2015): N/A  Target 2016–2017: 65 |

*a* The number reflects only the formal national implementation reports submitted by the member States in the framework of the third national implementation reporting cycle. In addition, twenty countries submitted their reports for the ninth meeting of the Steering Committee on ESD in April 2014.

*b* The figures include the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment in April 2014, the twelfth meeting of THE PEP Steering Committee in November 2014 and the Kaunas (Lithuania) workshop in September 2014. The figure for the participating countries is lower than the target for 2014–2015 because the thirteenth meeting of THE PEP Steering Committee has yet to take place (scheduled for November 2015). Also, more participants are expected to register for the Irkutsk workshop.

*c* In 2012–2013 no national implementation reports were due. The next reporting cycle was in 2014 for both the Convention and the Protocol.

*d* Major capacity-building activities include the work of the task forces under the Convention. Many capacity-building activities are implemented by partners in the region.

*e* The number is lower than the target because the major capacity-building event, the Global Round Table on PRTRs, is yet to take place in November 2015. It is expected that participants from non-Parties will also attend this meeting.

*f* New indicator proposed for 2016–17 onwards.

*g* The amendments to the Water Convention opening it to accession by all United Nations Member States came into force in February 2013 and are expected to become effective operationally at the end of 2015, once all Parties that were Parties to the Convention when the amendments were adopted have ratified the amendments.

*h* Ukraine still needs to ratify the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention for the opening to be operational.

*i*This is based on data from the national implementation reports for the reporting round 2010–2011.

*j*Idem

*k* Training on the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Notification system was implemented through an online consultation.

*l* This is based on data from the national implementation reports for the reporting round 2012–2013 submitted in 2014.

*m* Idem.

*n* Training on the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Notification system was implemented through an online consultation.

1. \* This document was not formally edited. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)