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**Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme:
proposed strategic framework of the Environment
subprogramme for 2018–2019**

Draft proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018–2019

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Strategic Framework for the United Nations is prepared on a biennial basis in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

The present document contains a draft of the proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018–2019, as a component part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Strategic Framework for that period. The draft is being submitted for the consideration of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and subsequent forwarding to the ECE Executive Committee for further consideration. A final draft will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for adoption at its seventy-first session.

CEP will be invited to consider the document at its twenty-first session with a view to provide recommendations, as appropriate.



I. Background

1. The Strategic Framework of the United Nations — the principal policy directive of the Organization — is prepared in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/200/8).¹ It reflects the organizational priorities of the United Nations Member States, and translates legislative mandates into programmes (departments) and subprogrammes (substantive areas of work) financed by the regular budget. The Strategic Framework covers two years (a biennium) and serves as the basis for the preparation of the proposed programme budget.

2. The strategic framework of each United Nations department contains a short narrative highlighting the main themes of programmatic activity (overall orientation) as well as logical frameworks (logframes) of its constituent subprogrammes. Each subprogramme's logframe follows results-based approach and articulates its objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, performance measures, strategy and external factors.

3. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) approved the draft strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017 (Information paper No. 12/Rev.1) at its nineteenth session in October 2013.²

4. The present document contains the draft strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018–2019, as a component part of the ECE Strategic Framework for the same biennium. The draft will be considered by CEP and, subsequently, by the ECE Executive Committee. The final draft will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for adoption at its seventy-first session, which convenes on 13 September 2016.

5. CEP will be invited to consider the document at its twenty-first session with a view to providing recommendations, as appropriate.

II. Draft proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018-2019

A. Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

<p>Objective of the Organization: To improve environmental governance and performance throughout the region for safeguarding the environment and health</p>
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¹ Available from the United Nations Human Resources portal at <https://hr.un.org/content/regulations-and-rules-governing-programme-planning-programme-aspects-budget-monitoring>.

² Available from the ECE website at www.unece.org/index.php?id=32257.

<i>Expected accomplishments of the secretariat</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Performance measures</i>			
			2018–2019	2016–2017	2014–2015
(a) Improved response to environmental challenges by ECE constituencies	(a) Number of new measures taken by ECE constituencies in response to existing and emerging environmental challenges	Target	2	2	—
		Estimate		2	—
		Actual			—
(b) Strengthened implementation of ECE multilateral environmental commitments and increased geographical coverage	(b) (i) Increased percentage of Contracting Parties reporting on the implementation of ECE multilateral environmental agreements	Target	87	85	—
		Estimate		85	—
		Actual			—
	(b) (ii) Increased number of Contracting Parties to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements	Target	312	310	—
		Estimate		310	—
		Actual			—
(c) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	(c) Increased percentage of implementation of ECE recommendations on environmental monitoring by member States	Target	52	50	—
		Estimate		50	—
		Actual			—
(d) Improved environmental performance of interested countries	(d) Percentage of environmental performance review recommendations implemented by countries reviewed during a biennium	Target	65	65	—
		Estimate		65	—
		Actual			—

B. Strategy

6. The Environment Division is responsible for implementing the Environment subprogramme. The subprogramme will work in the areas of air, water, industrial safety, environmental democracy, environmental assessment, monitoring and performance, education for sustainable development, and mainstreaming of environmental concerns into other dimensions of sustainable development. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through international policy dialogue, normative work, capacity-building and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.

7. Using a country needs-based approach, the work will focus on strengthening the capacity of the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in environmental policymaking and management, including for the effective implementation of environmental legislation.

8. The subprogramme will work on enhancing the environmental governance in the region and cross-border cooperation between countries, and it will further strengthen integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies through the implementation of ECE policy tools, education for sustainable development, transport, health and environment, the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and the sharing of information (e.g., via the Shared Environmental Information System), experiences and good practices in the ECE region. Cross-sectoral work will also include the promotion of

synergies between the ECE legal instruments. The subprogramme will also work with interested non-ECE countries, in particular those interested in joining the multilateral environmental agreements that are open to global accession.

9. The subprogramme will continue to conduct environmental performance reviews, assisting countries in the implementation of the recommendations from their national reviews and monitoring the impact of the recommendations on policy formulation and implementation. It will also strengthen countries' capacity to provide timely and accurate environmental data, thus contributing to improved environmental monitoring and reporting. The subprogramme will further promote the use of the ECE guidelines for environmental monitoring and assessment by member States.

10. Activities will include promoting sustainable development in the region, as well as contributing to the implementation of the outcomes of the regional and global summits and conferences on environment and sustainable development, in particular the post-2015 development agenda, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and especially goals 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

11. Because the Environment subprogramme addresses one of the dimensions of sustainable development, it will contribute to the achievement of all SDGs, including through partnerships with other relevant organizations and institutions operating in the subprogramme's areas of work. It will also strengthen synergies with all other ECE subprogrammes in the relevant areas of work.

C. External factors

12. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that, at the country level, there is: (a) political will and sufficient capacity to integrate the environmental dimension in policy formulation and to implement national legislation in accordance with the ECE multilateral environmental agreements; (b) sufficient awareness of environmental issues and the active support of the public in the implementation of national and regional policies; and (c) no critical impact on resource availability owing to global, regional or national economic developments.
