



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 November 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Twenty-second session

Geneva, 25–27 January 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-second session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on
Wednesday, 25 January 2017*

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 region.
4. Multilateral environmental agreements.
5. Follow-up to the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and preparation of the mid-term review of the Conference's main outcomes.
6. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.
7. Environmental performance reviews.

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8. Cross-sectoral activities:
 - (a) Education for sustainable development;
 - (b) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme;
 - (c) Environment and security;
 - (d) European Environment and Health Process.
 - (e) Green building.
9. Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme:
 - (a) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental activities;
 - (b) Overview of resources for environmental activities and criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events.
10. Presentation and exchange of views on the second and third sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
11. Terms of reference.
12. Rules of procedure.
13. Election of officers.
14. Calendar of meetings.
15. Other business.
16. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The work of the Committee on Environmental Policy 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. The Committee's terms of reference were adopted by ECE in 2007 (E/ECE/1447/Add.1).¹
2. In addition, the Reform Plan of the Environment for Europe process (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1) adopted by the Committee in 2009, and subsequently endorsed by ECE, mandated the Committee to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

3. The Chair will open the twenty-second session. The Committee will then be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/2017/1). The provisional time schedule is presented in information paper No. 1.²

¹ The terms of reference are available on the ECE website (www.unece.org/env/cep/tor).

² Information and materials for the meeting are available on a dedicated web page on the ECE website (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42766>).

2. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau

4. At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015), the Committee elected its Bureau and requested the Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the Committee’s decisions, including by preparing the documents and reports necessary for the Committee’s work. The Bureau worked by means of electronic consultations to prepare the agenda and other documents for the twenty-second session, including the Committee’s rules of procedure. The Committee will be invited to consider the outcomes of the Bureau’s work under the respective agenda items.

3. Sustainable development in the region

5. The secretariat will inform the Committee about the main developments at the regional level regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), including the organization of the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 25 April 2017) and the planned contribution of the ECE region to the fifth meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (New York, 10–19 July 2017). The Committee will also be informed about preparations for the sixty-seventh session of ECE (Geneva, 26–27 April 2017). At its sixty-seventh session, the Commission will take a decision on the set-up of and modalities for the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, which might provide guidance on the future work of the ECE sectoral committees.

6. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided.

7. Furthermore, interested countries may wish to use the Committee’s platform to share their experience to date in identifying practical ways and means of approaching national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and relevant Sustainable Development Goals from an environmental perspective. Of particular interest would be information on steps taken to foster the integration foreseen in the 2030 Agenda. Such an exchange of information would facilitate the sharing of practical experience among the environmental constituency in addressing the Goals from the environmental perspective.

8. In that regard, the information document “Mapping of the Environment subprogramme processes and activities that support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/INF/1),³ prepared for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), could serve as useful background material for identifying relevant Goals with a view to focusing the information exchange and subsequent discussion by the Committee. Moreover, in 2017 the high-level political forum on sustainable development is expected to undertake an in-depth review of Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17.⁴ In the light of the Batumi document and the Goals chosen for global review in 2017, the exchange of experience at the current session could focus on Goals 3, 9 and 17, as the work of the ECE Environment subprogramme has a strong bearing on these Goals. Interested countries are invited to inform the secretariat in advance of the Committee’s session of their interest in sharing their practical experience in the implementation of Goals 3, 9 and 17.

9. In addition, at its twenty-first session, the Committee invited countries to consider the Committee’s role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and to continue to discuss the

³ The document is available on the Conference website (www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/efe-conferences/batumi-conference/documents-and-materials).

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 70/299 on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level.

matter at future meetings. The Committee may wish to consider its role at the current session as well as invite its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a background note to facilitate further discussion at the Committee's twenty-third session in November 2017. If it so decides, the Committee could discuss the matter while revising its terms of reference (agenda item 11).

4. Multilateral environmental agreements

10. At its twenty-first session, the Committee welcomed the interactive discussion on how the ECE multilateral environmental agreements could facilitate countries' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee took a number of decisions in that regard, including asking the secretariat to prepare an information note for the Batumi Ministerial Conference. At its special session in February 2016, the Committee welcomed the draft note on the mapping of the Environment subprogramme processes and activities that supported countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which was subsequently submitted to the Batumi Conference (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/INF/1).⁵

11. In Batumi, ministers and other heads of delegation appreciated progress achieved under the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and recognized the need to strengthen the participation of civil society and the private sector in their implementation. Ministers invited countries to ratify, implement and provide adequate resources for the relevant ECE multilateral environmental agreements. They also recognized the opportunities provided by the ECE multilateral environmental agreements to implement the 2030 Agenda (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1, para. 8).

12. The Committee will be invited to review efforts under each of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements to define their role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The treaty Chairs will be invited to provide recent examples of such efforts and to share their activities and experiences carried out thus far. Such activities might include, inter alia, adjusting a treaty's programme of work to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee could also consider effective approaches to enhance cooperation between relevant sectors (e.g., a nexus approach), including the effective engagement of stakeholders and inter-agency mechanisms, which is of paramount importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

13. Based on the experience of the twenty-first session, the discussion on the multilateral environmental agreements could be organized in the form of a moderated round-table discussion to deliberate on the above issues with the participation of the treaty Chairs and the Committee delegates.

14. Furthermore, the Committee will be informed of the main outcomes of the informal joint meeting between the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 24 January 2017).

15. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided.

⁵ Meeting documents are available on the Conference website: <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/efe-conferences/batumi-conference/documents-and-materials>.

5. Follow-up to the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and preparation of the mid-term review of the Conference's main outcomes

16. The Batumi Conference resulted in a number of outcomes related to its two main themes — greening the economy in the pan-European region; and improving air quality for a better environment and human health. The Conference outcomes are included in the Ministerial Declaration (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1), the Chair's summary of the Conference (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.3) and the report of the Conference (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2). The results of the segment on education for sustainable development are reflected in the Batumi Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development and in the co-Chairs' summary of the segment on education for sustainable development (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.2 and Add.4, respectively).

17. The secretariat received oral and written feedback from several delegations praising the successful organization of the Conference. In that regard, the Committee may wish to consider the usefulness of conducting a survey to assess lessons learned from the preparation, organization and running of the Batumi Conference. In addition, the survey could solicit any other ideas or suggestions on how to further improve the organization of conferences. It would be useful if the results of such a survey could be available in time for the Committee's twenty-third session in November 2017, in order to support the preparatory process for the next Conference. To facilitate the Committee's discussion on the survey, following the recommendation of the Bureau, the secretariat prepared a draft survey for consideration (ECE/CEP/2017/L.3).

18. In their Declaration, ministers invited the Committee on Environmental Policy to convene in 2018 a mid-term review to assess progress in the implementation of the main outcomes of the Batumi Conference. The mid-term review could be organized in a similar manner to the 2013 mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes (see ECE/CEP/2012/5),⁶ taking into account the lessons learned from that review (see ECE/CEP/2014/10).⁷ The Committee may wish to consider asking the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to prepare a document proposing the scope, format and modalities for organizing the mid-term review, which could be discussed by the Committee at its twenty-third session.

19. Interested countries and organizations may also wish to use the Committee's current session to share their experience and lessons learned in using the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy. For countries and organizations that participated in the Batumi Initiative for Greening the Economy (BIG-E), while the first review of progress will be carried out in 2018, the present session could be used for sharing the initial experience in implementing their voluntary commitments to green the economy. Interested countries and organizations are invited to inform the secretariat in advance of the Committee's session of their interest in presenting their practical experience. The twenty-second session could also provide an opportunity for additional countries and organizations to join the BIG-E by submitting voluntary commitments.

20. In addition, the Committee may wish to consider efficient modalities for implementing the Strategic Framework and the BIG-E and also the regular monitoring of progress in their implementation (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, para. 15). Such modalities would support the Committee's work, including enabling the exchange of experience and know-how, identifying challenges and needs for capacity development,

⁶ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28552>.

⁷ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35032>.

facilitating partnerships, monitoring progress and deciding on future activities. Relevant activities of major green economy partners could be mapped with a view to enhancing synergies and ensuring effective coordination in support of country efforts. The proposed modalities could include discussions during the Committee's regular sessions, along with possible additional events (seminars, workshops), which might be organized on the margins of the Committee's sessions. The Committee may wish to mandate the Bureau, with support from ECE and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and in cooperation with other partners, to develop a proposal for such modalities, to be submitted for the Committee's consideration at its next session.

21. In that regard, the Committee may also wish to consider promoting the BIG-E to the other ECE Sectoral Committees⁸ and governing bodies, as appropriate, as well as exploring their potential interest (as bodies) in participating in the BIG-E by submitting green economy actions and participating in the reporting on their implementation.

6. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

22. At its twenty-first session, the Committee mandated the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to review progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), based on the adopted targets and performance indicators, with a view to preparing an evaluation report for the Batumi Conference. The Committee also adopted the Working Group's renewed mandate and terms of reference until the present session, and requested the secretariat to prepare an updated proposal for the Working Group's terms of reference for consideration at the present session. The proposal was to take into account the outcomes of the Batumi Conference and further consultations with Committee members and observers on possible additional activities to be carried out by the Working Group. The draft terms of reference were also to include a provision for the Working Group to report on activities pursued to increase cooperation with the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, with a view to enhancing the coordination of activities and streamlining and reinforcing the work on environmental monitoring and assessment. The ECE Executive Committee approved the renewed mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group for 2016 at its meeting in Geneva on 10 May 2016 (ECE/EX/2016/L.11).

23. In Batumi, ministers welcomed progress in developing the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment, and invited countries to continue their efforts and to further develop their national information systems so that the Shared Environmental Information System would be in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021. In that regard, ministers noted the value of UNEP Live and the Group on Earth Observations as global knowledge-sharing platforms. Furthermore, ministers welcomed the launch of the European regional assessment of the Global Environment Outlook, as the regular pan-European environmental assessment.

24. The Committee will be informed about the outcomes of the Working Group's eighteenth meeting (Geneva, 28–29 June 2016),⁹ and invited to consider the revised mandate and terms of reference for the Working Group with a view to their prospective adoption (ECE/CEP/2017/3).

⁸ An overview of the ECE Sectoral Committees is available on the ECE website (http://www.unece.org/oes/nutshell/governing_bodies).

⁹ See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42166>.

25. In addition, at its twenty-first session, the Committee adopted the renewed mandate of the former Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators (2016–2017), renaming the body as the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators. Since the previous Committee meeting, the Joint Task Force held its eleventh and twelfth meetings (Geneva, 30 June–1 July and 17–18 November 2016, respectively).¹⁰ The ECE Executive Committee approved the renewed mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force for 2016–2017 at its meeting in Geneva on 10 May 2016 (ECE/EX/2016/L.11).

26. The Committee will be invited to consider the results of the work of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators.

7. Environmental performance reviews

27. Building upon the success of the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme, at the Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011), ministers invited ECE to conduct a third cycle of environmental performance reviews. New focus areas for the third reviews could include environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries' cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors (see ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1).¹¹

28. At its nineteenth session in 2013, the Committee welcomed the report by the secretariat on "Environmental performance reviews: progress made in preparation for the third cycle" (ECE/CEP/2013/12),¹² and took note of progress achieved since the Astana Conference. The Committee supported the detailed structure proposed by the ECE secretariat for the third cycle of environmental performance reviews and agreed to revisit it in the future in the light of experience gained in its practical application.

29. At its twenty-first session, the Committee recognized the importance of environmental performance reviews as a mechanism for review, exchange of experience and transfer of good practices that could be useful in reviewing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee also underlined the importance of using the existing tools, including the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and environmental performance reviews, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and, at the same time, considering the need to adjust the activities under the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and environmental performance reviews in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to promote further interlinkages between the environmental performance reviews recommendations and the ECE multilateral environmental agreements.

30. In Batumi, ministers acknowledged the important contribution of the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme over the past 20 years as an effective and practical policy tool, and highlighted the role it could play in supporting the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region. Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress in the third cycle of reviews and encouraged countries to benefit from the Environmental Performance Review Programme by undertaking further reviews.

¹⁰ Meeting documents are available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35518> and <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43450>.

¹¹ Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/astana/welcome>.

¹² Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32257>.

31. Accordingly, the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews is meeting on 9 December 2016 in an extended format, inviting other relevant experts, to prepare a first draft of a proposal presenting the different options for how the Programme can support the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region. A revised draft reflecting the results of the work of the extended Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews will be submitted to the Committee for consideration at its current session (ECE/CEP/2017/L.2), with a view to submitting a final draft to the Committee at its twenty-third session for approval.

32. At its present session, the Committee will conduct peer reviews of the environmental performance of Bulgaria and Tajikistan. The Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews will have finalized the recommendations for the two reviews at a meeting to be held from 6 to 8 December 2016 in Geneva. The Committee will be invited to consider the recommendations presented in the information papers Nos. 2 and 3 with a view to their prospective adoption. The drafts of the two Environmental Performance Reviews are being made available on the ECE website.¹³

33. Furthermore, the Committee will be invited to consider the recent and planned activities under the Environmental Performance Review Programme.

34. Building on the successful organization of interactive discussions on the environmental performance reviews during the Committee's twenty-first session, it is proposed to organize the discussions at the current session in a similar manner, in accordance with the following programme:

- (a) Overview of activities;
- (b) Third Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan;
- (c) Third Environmental Performance Review of Bulgaria;
- (d) Peer-learning discussion on countries' cooperation with the international community: lessons learned from environmental performance reviews;
- (e) Reporting on the implementation of recommendations of reviews concluded several years ago;
- (f) The role the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme can play in supporting the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region.

8. Cross-sectoral activities

35. There are a number of cross-sectoral activities under the auspices of the ECE Environment subprogramme, mostly carried out jointly or in partnership with other ECE subprogrammes and other partner organizations. The Committee will be invited to consider recent developments and plans for the future under these cross-sectoral activities.

(a) Education for sustainable development

36. The Committee will be informed about developments under the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development since the twenty-first session, including the main

¹³ See <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-performance-reviews/ongoing-reviews>.

outcomes of the Batumi segment on education for sustainable development (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.2).

37. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided.

(b) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

38. The Committee will be informed about developments under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme since the Committee's twenty-first session, including the main outcomes of the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (Geneva, 17–18 November 2015 and 7–9 November 2016, respectively).¹⁴

39. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided.

(c) Environment and security

40. At its twenty-first session, the Committee took note of and welcomed information provided with regard to the Environment and Security Initiative. At its current session, the Committee will be invited to consider the ongoing contributions of ECE to the Initiative (information paper No. 4).

(d) European Environment and Health Process

41. At its twenty-first session the Committee welcomed the information provided regarding developments under the European Environment and Health Process and agreed to allocate more time in the agenda of its twenty-second session to discussing progress in preparing the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.

42. Furthermore, the Committee requested the secretariat to solicit interest from the 53 ECE member States also members of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe in serving on the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board during the next term (2017–2018), by sending official letters to ministers of environment to seek their views in that regard. Pursuant to the request, on 1 September 2016 the secretariat sent out official letters through the permanent missions of ECE member States in Geneva.

43. In the light of the above, the Committee will be invited to consider developments under the European Environment and Health Process, including the status of preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference to be held in Ostrava, Czechia, from 13 to 15 June 2017.¹⁵

44. In addition, the Committee will be invited to consider and appoint four board members from the environment sector for 2017–2018 (information paper No. 5).

(f) Green building

45. At its special session in May 2011, the Committee 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, the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, together with partner organizations. Since then the Committee has been

¹⁴ See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43119#/> and <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40554#/>.

¹⁵ Information and materials on the European Environment and Health Process, including the work of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board and the Environment and Health Task Force are made available on the World Health Organization website (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/pages/european-environment-and-health-process-ehp>).

briefed regularly on developments in the area of green building, including about the delay in the establishment of the task force owing to the finalization of the review of the 2005 ECE reform. At the same time, the work on green building, including in the context of greening the economy, is progressing well.

46. At its October 2015 session, the Committee took note of the activities of the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, in particular the progress of work on green building and greening the forestry sector. At its current session, the Committee will be informed about developments in these areas.

47. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided.

9. Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme

(a) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental activities

48. The 2005 ECE Reform Plan (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1, para. 79)¹⁶ states that ECE “shall pay particular attention to the gender dimension of development, as a priority cross-cutting theme, by identifying good practice in further mainstreaming gender issues in its various subprogrammes and activities, taking into account the economic areas addressed by the regional Beijing+10 review”.

49. In line with the Reform Plan, the ECE secretariat developed a new policy for gender equality and the empowerment of women, which elaborates further a gender mainstreaming strategy for all areas of work. The ECE Executive Committee welcomed the new policy in September 2016. The ECE policy for gender equality 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. A key element of the ECE policy is to mainstream a gender perspective in the substantive work of the sectoral committees.

50. The ECE Gender Action Plan 2016–2017 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 the Environment subprogramme, as appropriate.

51. At its past regular sessions, the Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat with respect to gender mainstreaming in environmental activities carried out by the Environment Division. In particular, at its nineteenth session in 2013, the Committee recognized the importance of taking into consideration a gender perspective in the preparation of activities and policy discussions within the ECE environmental governance framework, and welcomed the gender mainstreaming efforts already being made by the Environment Division.

52. The Committee 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 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹⁶ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=24004>.

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

53. At its twenty-first session, the Committee adopted the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2016–2017 and requested the secretariat to provide information on the status of resources in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015 at the Committee’s special session in February 2016.

54. At its special session in February 2016, the Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat on access to financial data during the period of transition to the new United Nations “Umoja” enterprise resource planning system, which was rolled out for ECE in November 2015, as well as the note verbale of 18 February 2016 issued to all permanent missions of ECE member States by the Office of the Executive Secretary. In that regard, the Committee expressed concern about the difficulties arising due to Umoja not being fully operational, and requested the secretariat to provide information on the status of resources in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015 at the Committee’s twenty-second session, in a possibly revised format, taking into account the features and information available through Umoja.

55. The secretariat will submit the requested information if it is made available through Umoja in time for the twenty-second session. Consequently, the Committee 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). Donor countries will be invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds.

56. In accordance with the recommendations regarding criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events approved by the Committee at its twenty-first session, the Bureau with support from the secretariat has recommended updating the criteria for financial support. The Committee may consider updating the criteria for financial support on the basis of the Bureau’s recommendation (information paper No. 7).

10. Presentation and exchange of views on the second and third sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly

57. At its twenty-first session and its special session in February 2016, the Committee took note of the information provided by UNEP and welcomed the developments in preparing the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016).

58. The Committee will be invited to consider the information provided by UNEP and exchange views on follow-up to the second session of the Environment Assembly, as well as preparations for the third session (Nairobi, 4–6 December 2017).

11. Terms of reference

59. The Committee’s current terms of reference (E/ECE/1447/Add.1), which were adopted by the Commission in 2007, are largely based on a 2003 document on the future strategic directions for the environment. The Committee will be invited to consider the need to revise its terms of reference with a view to submitting them for prospective adoption to ECE at its sixty-eighth session in 2019. In that regard, the Committee may wish to consider mandating its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a first draft of the revised terms of reference for the Committee’s consideration at its twenty-third session in November 2017.

12. Rules of procedure

60. At its twenty-first session, the Committee expressed appreciation to the Bureau and the secretariat for the work on the Committee's draft rules of procedure (ECE/CEP/2015/L.6), took note of the comments provided by delegations during the meeting, and decided to postpone the consideration of the draft rules of procedure until the Committee's twenty-second session, on the basis of a revised proposal by the Bureau.

61. In accordance with that request, the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, further revised the draft rules of procedure of the Committee (ECE/CEP/2017/L.1). The Committee will be invited to consider adopting the draft rules of procedure.

13. Election of officers

62. The Committee 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).

14. Calendar of meetings

63. The Committee will be invited to consider for approval an updated schedule of meetings in 2017–2019 prepared by the secretariat (information paper No. 9). The twenty-third session of the Committee is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 14 to 17 November 2017.

15. Other business

64. The Committee 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.

16. Closure of the meeting

65. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions and decisions of the Committee 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 the Committee after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the meeting website.
