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**Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme:
proposed strategic framework for the Environment
subprogramme for 2020-2021**

Draft proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2020-2021

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/2016/6).

The present document contains a draft of the proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2020-2021, 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 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-third session.

The draft document was prepared by the secretariat and was considered by the Bureau at its meeting in Lisbon on 28 and 29 June 2017.

The Committee is invited to review the proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2020-2021.

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I. Introduction

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/2016/6). 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) and logical frameworks (logframes) of its constituent subprogrammes. The logframe of each subprogramme follows a 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 reviewed and provided comments to the draft strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CEP/2015/7)¹ at its twenty-first session in October 2015.
4. The present document contains the draft strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2020-2021, as a component part of the ECE strategic framework for the same biennium. After consideration by the Committee on Environmental Policy, the draft will be forwarded to the ECE Executive Committee. A final draft will then be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for adoption at its seventy-third session, which convenes in September 2018.
5. The draft document was prepared by the secretariat and was considered by the Committee's Bureau at its meeting in Lisbon, on 28 and 29 June 2017.
6. The Committee is invited to consider the document with a view to providing recommendations, as appropriate.

II. Draft proposed strategic framework of the Environment subprogramme for 2020-2021

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

<p>Objective of the Organization</p> <p>To improve environmental governance and performance throughout the region to safeguard the environment and health</p>
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¹ Available from www.unece.org/index.php?id=38470.

Expected accomplishments of the secretariat	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures			
		2020-2021	2018-2019	2016-2017	
(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	2
		Estimate		2	2
		Actual ^a			2 ^c
(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	92	87	85
		Estimate		87	85
		Actual ^a			91 ^d
	(b) (ii) Increased number of contracting parties to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements	Target	320	318	310
		Estimate		318	310
		Actual ^a			318
(c) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe	(c) Increased percentage of implementation of ECE recommendations on environmental monitoring by member States	Target	56	52	50
		Estimate		52	50
		Actual ^b			54
(d) Improved environmental performance of interested countries	(d) Percentage of environmental performance review recommendations implemented by countries reviewed during a biennium	Target	65	65	65
		Estimate		65	65
		Actual ^b			75 ^e

^a Interim figure, as at 15 August 2017.

^b Interim figure, as at 31 December 2016.

^c The two measures include: (a) the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, along with its implementing Batumi Initiative on Green Economy; and (b) the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air.

^d The 91 per cent increase includes the average of the reporting rate in 2016 and 2017 (as at 15 August) under: (a) the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; (b) the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention); (c) the Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention; (d) the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; (e) the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention); and (f) the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention.

^e The 75 percent increase includes the implementation rate of recommendations by Tajikistan, reviewed in 2016. In 2017 the following implementation rates will be added to the average: (a) Albania; and (b) Bosnia and Herzegovina. Consequently, the final average for 2016-2017 may change.

B. Strategy

7. The Environment Division is responsible for implementing the Environment subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of outcomes of global and regional summits and conferences on environment and sustainable development,

in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Given that the environment represents one of the dimensions of sustainable development, the subprogramme will support the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, and especially Goals 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17. The work will be carried out through international policy dialogue, normative work, capacity-building and the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned in the areas of air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, environmental assessment, monitoring and performance, education for sustainable development and mainstreaming of environmental concerns into other dimensions of sustainable development.

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

9. The subprogramme will work on enhancing environmental governance in the region and cross-border cooperation between countries. It will further strengthen integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies through the implementation of ECE policy tools, education for sustainable development, the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and the sharing of information (e.g., through the Shared Environmental Information System), experiences and good practices in the ECE region. Cross-sectoral work will also include the promotion of synergies between ECE legal instruments. Work will also be undertaken with interested non-ECE countries, in particular those interested in joining the multilateral environmental agreements that are open to global accession.

10. The subprogramme will continue to conduct environmental performance reviews, assist member States in the implementation of the recommendations from those reviews and monitor the impact of the recommendations on national policies. It will also strengthen the capacity of member States to implement ECE guidelines and recommendations for environmental monitoring and assessment.

C. External factors

11. 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.
