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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Twenty-third session

Geneva, 14-17 November 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

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

## **Organizing the mid-term review of the main outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

### **Note by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

At its twenty-second session (Geneva, 25-27 January 2017), the Committee on Environmental Policy requested the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a document proposing the scope, format and modalities for organizing a mid-term review of the main outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8-10 June 2016). The Committee asked that the document be ready for its consideration at its next session (ECE/CEP/2017/2, para. 28 (f)).

Following up on that request, the current document proposes the scope, format and modalities for organizing the mid-term review. The document reflects comments made by the Bureau.

The Committee is invited to consider the present document with a view to the prospective approval of the proposed organization of the mid-term review in 2018 that will guide the preparation process.

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## I. Introduction

1. The 2009 Reform Plan of the Environment for Europe process stipulates that a mid-term review should be convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy to assess progress in the implementation of the outcomes of each of the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conferences and provide renewed impetus to the process. The review should be based on existing information and the findings of the review should be taken into account in the preparatory process for the next conference (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, para. 17).

2. In accordance with the Reform Plan, at its twentieth session (Geneva, 28-31 October 2014), the Committee on Environmental Policy welcomed a document presenting the lessons learned from the Environment for Europe mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes (ECE/CEP/2014/10), prepared by the Bureau with support from the secretariat, and agreed to take into account the lessons learned and challenges identified during the organization of the next mid-term review (ECE/CEP/2014/2, paras. 66 and 98 (dd)).

3. At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8-10 June 2016) 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 (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1, para. 16).

4. In response, at its twenty-second session (Geneva, 25-27 January 2017), the Committee on Environmental Policy requested the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a document proposing the scope, format and modalities for organizing the mid-term review for consideration by the Committee at its next session (ECE/CEP/2017/2, para. 28 (f)).

5. Following up on the above decisions and requests, the current document proposes the scope, format and modalities for organizing the Batumi mid-term review. Annexes I and II contain the provisional outline of the agenda of the mid-term review and the template for preparing reports, respectively. The lessons learned section from the document reviewing the mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes is included in annex III for the reader's convenience. The document reflects comments made by the Bureau.

6. The Committee is invited to consider the present document with a view to agreeing on the organization of the Batumi mid-term review in 2018, which will guide the preparation process for that review.

## II. Overview of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

7. The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference took place in Batumi, Georgia, in June 2016. The Conference addressed two main themes: greening the economy in the pan-European region; and improving air quality for a better environment and human health. In addition, during a segment on education for sustainable development, participants assessed progress made during 10 years of implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and decided on the next priorities and the Strategy's future implementation framework.

8. On the first day of the Conference, delegates worked on moving forward the environment dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both by considering how the ECE multilateral environmental agreements, policies and institutions

support the 2030 Agenda and by assessing progress in the development of the Shared Environmental Information Systems to keep the pan-European environment under review.

9. The key outcomes of the Conference include: the Batumi Ministerial Declaration; the Pan-European Strategic Framework on Greening the Economy (Strategic Framework) and its Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E); the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA); and the Batumi Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development.

10. The Conference was organized in an interactive format, including interactive discussions organized in a “talk show” format, four high-level multi-stakeholder round tables and panel discussions. To support multi-stakeholder discussions during the Conference and to facilitate decision-making, substantive documents on each of the two main themes were prepared by ECE jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other Environment for Europe partners. In addition, a number of valuable information documents and a set of 11 fact sheets, linking the ECE environment activities to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, were prepared by ECE and the Environment for Europe partners. The Batumi Conference was a paperless event.

11. On the margins of the Conference, ECE and the Environment for Europe partners organized 7 exhibitions and 33 side events on issues related to the themes of the Conference. The Batumi Conference gathered over 630 official delegates from Governments, the international community, civil society, business and the media throughout the ECE region. There were over 700 participants in total, including those participating only in side events and exhibitions.

12. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy prepared the Conference. The ECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Environment for Europe partners, supported the work of the Committee. The Georgian Government supported the preparation, organization and hosting of the Conference in accordance with decisions taken by the Committee. The preparatory process and the Conference were organized based on the provisions of the Environment for Europe Reform Plan adopted in 2009 (ECE/CEP/S/152 and Corr.1, annex I), and in accordance with the procedures for the Batumi Ministerial Conference adopted by the Committee in 2014 (ECE/CEP/2014/15).<sup>1</sup>

13. The preparatory process for the Batumi Conference commenced in 2014 and included: two regular sessions of the Committee (in 2014 and 2015) and two special sessions (in 2016); two separate meetings of the Bureau (in 2014 and 2015) and four meetings back to back to Committee sessions (2014–2016); and work of the group of experts on green economy by virtual means and at one meeting of the group in Glion, Switzerland (in 2016).

### III. Scope of the mid-term review

14. The Reform Plan of the Environment for Europe process stipulates that particular efforts should be made by all relevant responsible actors to implement the outcomes of the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences. Member States should regularly consider how to promote the objectives and priorities of the Environment for Europe process and strengthen implementation of the outcomes of the Environment for Europe conferences, including through national policies and relevant partnerships. Active participation by and input from all interested countries of ECE, and in particular of interested countries of

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<sup>1</sup> Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35032>.

subregions with specific needs in improving their environmental situation, is crucial for the success of the activities under the Environment for Europe process.

15. The Batumi Conference resulted in a number of outcomes related to its two main themes. 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).<sup>2</sup> 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 4, respectively).

16. In accordance with the Ministerial Declaration, the mid-term review of the Batumi Conference main outcomes will focus on reviewing progress achieved in:

- (a) Implementing the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy;
- (b) Implementing the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air;
- (c) Developing a Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment;
- (d) The third cycle of ECE environmental performance reviews, including in support of the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) Implementing the ECE multilateral environmental agreements in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), while also strengthening participation of civil society and the private sector in their implementation;
- (f) Activities of the Green Economy and Environment (GREEN) Action Programme Task Force (GREEN Action Task Force);
- (g) Strengthening activities of the regional environmental centres to support the needs of the target countries.

17. The ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development will review outcomes related to education for sustainable development.

18. In regard to the above, the Committee at its twenty-third session may wish to consider taking specific actions to prepare background documents (short mid-term reports) for the mid-term review in 2018 in accordance with the template provided in annex II to the present document on topics set out in sections A to G below.

## **A. Greening the economy**

19. Among areas for follow-up, in Batumi, ministers endorsed the voluntary Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy — a tool supporting countries' efforts in transitioning to green economy and, at the same time, contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals — and invited ECE member States and other stakeholders to implement it. Ministers also welcomed the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy, which fosters voluntary commitments to operationalize the Strategic Framework. Ministers encouraged countries and other stakeholders to implement commitments under the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy in

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<sup>2</sup> These documents are available on the ECE website at: [www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/efe-conferences/batumi-conference/welcome](http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/efe-conferences/batumi-conference/welcome).

order to facilitate the transition to green economy and to report on progress thereon to the Committee on Environmental Policy in accordance with the Strategic Framework's provisions. Ministers also encouraged the promotion of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy through existing knowledge-sharing platforms, such as the Green Growth Knowledge Platform.

20. Ministers further commended the good cooperation between ECE and UNEP, and invited the two organizations, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, to support countries in their efforts to green their economies and achieve sustainable development.

21. Green economy actions to which countries and organizations committed before the Batumi Conference and new actions submitted after the Conference are available on the Green Growth Knowledge Platform website<sup>3</sup> and on the ECE website.<sup>4</sup>

22. To support the review of progress achieved in implementing the Strategic Framework and the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy, the Committee could invite stakeholders to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of their commitments under the Batumi Initiative on the basis of a template prepared by the secretariat together with UNEP in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee. On the basis of such reports, to be submitted by **31 May 2018**, the secretariat jointly with UNEP and with support from a consultant would prepare a mid-term review report.

23. In addition, the Committee could invite the secretariat together with UNEP, in cooperation with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other relevant partners, to prepare a mid-term review report on activities to support countries in their efforts to green their economies and achieve sustainable development.

## **B. Cleaning the air**

24. Regarding actions taken to improve air quality, ministers in Batumi endorsed the voluntary Batumi Action for Cleaner Air and welcomed the initiatives launched by interested countries and other stakeholders aimed at improving air quality and protecting public health and ecosystems. Ministers invited countries and other stakeholders to implement the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air in close cooperation with the ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention), as appropriate, and to report on progress thereon to the Committee on Environmental Policy.

25. Actions to clean the air to which countries and organizations committed before the Batumi Conference and new actions submitted after the Conference are available on the ECE website.<sup>5</sup>

26. To support the review of progress achieved in implementing the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air, the Committee could invite the stakeholders to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of commitments made under the Batumi Action on the basis of a template prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureaux of the Committee and of the Air Convention. On the basis of such reports, to be submitted by **31 May 2018**, the secretariat (with support from a consultant) would prepare a mid-term review report.

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<sup>3</sup> See [www.greengrowthknowledge.org/big-e](http://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/big-e).

<sup>4</sup> See [www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/initiatives/big-e](http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/initiatives/big-e).

<sup>5</sup> See [www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/initiatives/baca](http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/initiatives/baca).

### **C. Developing the Shared Environmental Information System**

27. While welcoming progress in developing the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment, at Batumi ministers invited countries to continue their efforts and to further develop their national information systems to have the system in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021. In this regard, ministers noted the value of UNEP Live and the Group on Earth Observations as global knowledge-sharing platforms.

28. The Committee could invite the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to prepare a mid-term review report to assess progress achieved in developing the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment.

### **D. Environmental performance reviews**

29. At the Batumi Conference, 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.

30. The Committee could invite the secretariat to prepare a mid-term review report to assess progress achieved in the third cycle of reviews, including in support of the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **E. Multilateral environmental agreements**

31. Ministers in Batumi 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. They invited countries to ratify, implement and provide adequate resources for the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, inter alia, the Air Convention and its three most recent protocols. They also recognized the opportunities provided by multilateral environmental agreements to implement the 2030 Agenda.

32. The Committee could invite the secretariat to prepare a mid-term review report to assess progress achieved in implementing the ECE multilateral environmental agreements in support of the 2030 Agenda, while also strengthening participation of civil society and the private sector in their implementation.

### **F. GREEN Action Task Force**

33. Furthermore, in Batumi ministers welcomed the work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force, and invited OECD to continue its activities under its new name, the GREEN Action Task Force, in cooperation with relevant partners.

34. The Committee could invite the GREEN Action Task Force to prepare a mid-term review report to assess progress achieved in its activities.

## G. Regional Environmental Centres

35. In the Batumi Declaration, ministers valued the role of regional environmental centres in implementing initiatives to improve environmental governance at all levels, and encouraged them to strengthen their activities and to continue playing a valuable role in the pan-European region by supporting the needs of target countries.

36. The Committee could invite the regional environmental centres to prepare jointly a mid-term review report to assess progress achieved in improving environmental governance and strengthening activities of the regional environmental centres to support the needs of the target countries. The regional environmental centres would be invited to coordinate among themselves and agree on their production of a single joint report.

## IV. Format and modalities of the mid-term review

37. The mid-term review will be convened in the framework of the twenty-fourth annual session of the Committee, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 13 to 16 November 2018. Up to one-and-a-half days could be dedicated to the review. A tentative time schedule for the mid-term review segment is presented in annex I to the present document.

38. Participation in the mid-term review would include representatives of Governments (members of the Committee on Environmental Policy), intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, along with representatives of business and other relevant stakeholders.

39. Active participation of non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society is expected in the mid-term review. Concerning the involvement of civil society, in Batumi, ministers reiterated the importance of civil society participation — including business, women, non-governmental organizations, academia and other groups — in decision-making to improve the environment and promote sustainable development. Ministers appreciated the activities of civil society organizations in the region in that regard and committed themselves to further develop partnerships with civil society organizations and create favourable conditions for their operation. Ministers also welcomed the contribution of the European ECO Forum to the Environment for Europe process.

40. Concerning discussions on greening the economy and cleaning the air, active involvement of business representatives is of paramount importance for the success of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy and the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air.

41. The mid-term review could be organized in the form of plenary sessions, multi-stakeholder round-table and panel discussions, or a mix of formats, with a view to using the available time in the most efficient manner and at the same time to ensuring the interactivity necessary for constructive and comprehensive discussions. For instance, the review of progress achieved in greening the economy and cleaning the air could include a one-hour “Batumi Talk Show: Scoring SDGs through action on green economy and clean air” and a one-hour discussion based on the respective mid-term reports, i.e., on progress achieved in implementing the Batumi initiatives on clean air and green economy.

42. Brief documents (mid-term review reports) of up to eight pages (up to 4,500 words) on issues referred to in chapter III (sections A–G) of the present document would be prepared by relevant Environment for Europe partners. Such documents would need to be submitted to the secretariat by **31 July 2018** with a view to be processed in the three ECE official languages (English, French and Russian) in due time for the mid-term review. The Environment for Europe partners that could ensure an adequate translation of their respective document(s) into the three languages should submit those document(s) in the

three languages to the secretariat by **1 October 2018**. To ensure a harmonized approach in preparing the mid-term review reports, a template for the reports is presented in annex II to the current document. In their consideration of the template, the Bureau stressed the need to keep the mid-term reports very short and resource non-intensive. To ensure an interactive and user-friendly presentation, the Bureau recommended adding fact sheets, based on key findings or key messages, including their quantitative representation through graphs and pie charts.

43. Concerning lessons learned from the previous mid-term review (see annex III), the proposed organization of the current mid-term review clusters the main outcomes into several interactive discussions with a view to rationalizing the use of time during the one-and-a-half day dedicated to the mid-term review. Also, the Committee's twenty-fourth session in 2018 is in the middle of a United Nations biennium and therefore will be less busy (with four less programmatic documents for consideration). Regarding the length of mid-term review reports, partners will be urged to limit their reports to 4,500 words to avoid overburdening the delegates with information.

44. The Committee may wish to entrust the secretariat, in consultation with the Committee's Bureau and in cooperation with relevant Environment for Europe partners, to proceed with preparations for the mid-term review in line with the above proposals.

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## Annex I

### Tentative schedule for the mid-term review

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<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Proposed agenda item (format)</i>	<i>Timing</i>
<b>Tuesday, 13 November 2018</b>		
1	Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda ( <i>plenary session</i> )	10-10.30 a.m.
2	Mid-term review ( <i>plenary sessions and panel or round-table discussions</i> )	10.30 a.m.-6 p.m.
2 (a)	Multilateral environmental agreements and civil society ( <i>round-table discussion</i> )	10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.
2 (b)	Environmental performance reviews ( <i>panel or round-table discussion</i> )	3-4.30 p.m.
2 (c)	Developing the Shared Environmental Information System ( <i>panel or round-table discussion</i> )	4.30-6 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, 14 November 2018</b>		
2	Mid-term review (continued):	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
2 (d)	Greening the economy and cleaning the air, including the activities of the GREEN Action Task Force and the Regional Environmental Centres ( <i>Batumi Talk Show and plenary session</i> )	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
3	[...] continuing the annual session	3-6 p.m.

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## **Annex II**

### **Proposed template for preparing reports for the mid-term review**

1. Title of the report.
2. Overview of main achievements and, as appropriate, key findings or key messages (up to three pages).
3. Lessons learned and challenges (up to one page).
4. Further steps (up to one page).
5. Fact sheets on key findings or key messages, including their quantitative representation through graphs and pie charts to ensure a user-friendly and interactive presentation of the mid-term review reports (up to three pages).

The mid-term report should be up to 4,500 words (up to eight pages), font Times New Roman, size 10.

## Annex III

### Lessons learned from the Environment for Europe mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes<sup>6</sup>

Excerpt from the document “Lessons learned from the Environment for Europe mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes” (ECE/CEP/2014/10)

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20. A number of lessons were learned from the organization of the EfE mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes which should be taken into consideration in preparing any future mid-term reviews.

21. With regard to administrative aspects of the mid-term review, lessons were learned from the preparatory process. The mid-term review was organized two years after the Astana Ministerial Conference, which allowed adequate time for progress to be made in the implementation of its outcomes in order to be assessed during the review. Overall, the schedule of preparations was adequate. The CEP discussion and decision on the scope, format and modalities of the mid-term review, made at its session in April 2012, were of paramount importance in guiding the preparation of the review. Also, the extensive involvement of the CEP Bureau during the intersessional period had been essential. This is a positive lesson learned and such a preparatory process could be replicated for future mid-term reviews under the EfE process.

22. Concerning the timing of the review, its organization during a regular annual session of CEP had some positive effects, such as ensuring a good attendance by delegates and allowing for savings for both the secretariat and delegates, i.e., by avoiding the need to prepare an additional meeting or additional travel to Geneva.

23. At the same time, combining the event with a regular CEP session, especially at the end of a United Nations biennium (i.e., 2010–2011, 2012–2013, 2014–2015) when a number of programmatic documents need to be processed, put a heavy burden on the secretariat at an already busy time. For future reviews, CEP may wish to consider whether to continue organizing them during the regular sessions of CEP or whether to convene them during a special session.

24. Regarding the length of the mid-term review, having a one-and-a-half-day review during a four-day CEP session, alongside the CEP Bureau meeting and the joint informal meeting of the MEAs and CEP Chairs — organized the day before the CEP session — resulted in a rather busy agenda for the delegates and a large amount of information for them absorb, and also overstretched the available resources in the secretariat.

25. Concerning the quality of the discussion, while discussions during the panels and plenary sessions were of an adequate quality, it would be advisable to avoid the above-mentioned time constraints in the future. Delegates praised the quality of the documents and at the same time some delegates found the number of documents and amount of information provided to be somewhat overwhelming.

26. Also, some discussions, both during the mid-term review and on the regular items of the CEP session, had to be “squeezed” within the available time frame. Reflections on how to ensure a good balance between the required level and depth of substance versus the

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<sup>6</sup> Available on the ECE website at [www.unece.org/index.php?id=35032](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35032).

number and the length of all the related meetings would be necessary for future mid-term reviews.

27. As concerns the secretariat workload regarding documents, a total of 22 pre-session official documents were prepared for the nineteenth session of CEP, of which 11 related to the mid-term review. Also, a total of 12 pre-session information papers were prepared, of which one (235 pages) related to the mid-term review. The large amount of documents put an unforeseen burden on the secretariat, including the regular staff servicing CEP, but also on the other staff who provided input into various documents, as well as on the Environment Division's editor. It will be necessary to consider the overall number of documents and their length when planning the future mid-term reviews. In that regard, consideration should be given to finding the correct balance between the resources available in the secretariat and the estimated cost for participants' travel, with a view to underpinning a decision on holding separate meetings dedicated to the mid-term review in future.

28. With reference to the workload for delegates, the intense four-day session, including the side events (for the CEP Bureau members it was a total of five days), as well as the large number of documents, which required consideration for subsequent decision-making, proved to be demanding. While many delegates praised the substance and the organization of the meeting, a few mentioned that the large amount of information and the intensity of the sessions. In addition, participants experienced discomfort owing to the renovations going on at that time in near to the meeting room in the Palais des Nations.

29. One possibility to address some of the challenges mentioned above would be to consider organizing the mid-term review during a special session of CEP, held at a six-month interval from the regular annual CEP session and at an interval of some two-and-a-half years between EfE ministerial conferences. Alternatively, if the reviews are to be convened during the regular CEP session, it might be necessary to allocate additional resources from the extrabudgetary funds for a six-month contract for professional staff to support the regular staff of the secretariat.

30. The organizational aspects include lessons learned from developing the agenda and the format of the mid-term review. The scope of the mid-term review reasonably covered all the main outcomes of the Astana Conference. In addition, including the results from the EfE survey in the mid-term review contributed to broadening the perspective of the review with regard to the future of the process. Using panel and plenary formats for discussion proved to be a good balance, albeit intensive for some topics because of the time limits.

31. The organization of side events on the margins of the CEP session, and in particular those of relevance to the EfE mid-term review topics, proved to be a valuable contribution to the official sessions.

32. The substantive aspects include lessons learned from preparing the mid-term reports and from carrying out the EfE survey, which included questions regarding the implementation by countries of the EfE Reform Plan, as well as questions about the substance and format of the eighth EfE Ministerial Conference.

33. Developing mid-term reports to assess progress in implementation of each of the Conference outcomes was very helpful in supporting the discussion during the review. At the same time, as already mentioned above, the total number and length of the mid-term review reports and other related documents exceeded the existing capacity, both of the secretariat and other EfE partners as well as of the delegates.

34. The responses to the survey provided a wealth of information, which was useful and continues to be a valuable reference. Carrying out a second round of a similar survey might be considered for the next mid-term review in some five years' time.