

**Twenty-first session**

Geneva, 6-7 May 2019

Palais des Nations

Meeting room VIII

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the report of the twentieth session

Key outcomes of the 20th session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment



**ENVIRONMENT**

- Objectives
- Decision taken
- Status of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations

Objectives of the 20th session of the Working Group



ENVIRONMENT

- To review the progress in SEIS
- To review the SEIS Assessment Framework (focus on data quality, comparability and self-assessment)
- To identify and explore options for establishing a regional network of networks
- To develop an inclusive platform to discuss integration of economic, social and environmental data
- To consult on streamlining of regular state-of-the environment reporting



Decisions taken by the Working Group

ENVIRONMENT

Implementing the renewed mandate and terms of reference

- Agreed to add a column to the main tables in both the draft outline of activities leading up to 2021 and the annual timetable of activities for 2019 to indicate priorities and include a summary of activities and priorities by year in the former and toned down expected achievements.
- Requested the secretariat to ensure that members of the Working Group would continue to be invited to meetings of the Joint Task Force and vice versa, while avoiding a duplication of topics.
- Agreed that the secretariat should send revised documents to the meeting participants and the Austrian Presidency of the European Union, given two weeks for concrete changes to be suggested and, once further revised, send it again to participants for approval by a written silence procedure.

Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment

- Agreed to adjust the Shared Environmental Information System assessment framework, notably on the clarity of the questions, the terminology used and the scoring. The revised assessment framework should be presented at the 21st session of the Working Group.
- Decided that the revised framework, once approved, would be used for a final report of progress in the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System at the pan-European level for the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.



Decisions taken by the Working Group

ENVIRONMENT

- Agreed that a larger number of indicators would have to be reported upon and the actual indicators to be assessed would be determined at the time when it is decided to initiate the report and requested UNEP to finalize the online reporting tool once the revised framework has been agreed.
- Agreed that the secretariat should revise the draft mid-term review report to address comments made. Once revised, the secretariat should send it to the meeting participants, copied to the Austrian Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission, and allow a two-week period for further suggested concrete changes to be sent to the secretariat and, once further revised, send it again to participants copied to the Austrian Presidency of EU and the European Commission for approval by a written silence procedure.
- Agreed that the secretariat should start preparation of a publication on the Shared Environmental Information System, in English and Russian, to include the assessment framework, progress in the establishment of the System, case studies and country profiles, as appropriate.

Streamlining reporting obligations in environmental policy

- Welcomed the presentations made and invited its members to continue their efforts in streamlining reporting obligations through the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System.



Decisions taken by the Working Group

ENVIRONMENT

Regular pan-European environmental assessment and streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting supported by the Shared Environmental Information System

- Noted the draft concept for the next pan-European environmental assessment, as presented by UNEP, and invited its members to send to the secretariat concrete suggestions for the modalities, scope and form of such an assessment.
- Requested the secretariat and UNEP, in consultation with the European Environment Agency, to develop a revised concept and share it with the Working Group members.
- Requested the secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy on the outcomes of this agenda item and the suggestions made for the pan-European assessment.

Guidance and information on environmental statistics and indicators

- Noted the information on a possible web-based portal and invited the secretariat to explore further possibilities in this regard and to report back during the 21st session of the Working Group.

Progress in environmental monitoring and assessment, including institutional and regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level

- Decided that the country factsheets would be made available on the ECE website once comments had been collected and integrated.



ENVIRONMENT

- Agreed to add a column to the main tables in both the draft outline of activities leading up to 2021 and the annual timetable of activities for 2019 to indicate priorities and include a summary of activities and priorities by year in the former and toned down expected achievements. [*ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/3, done*]
- Requested the secretariat to ensure that members of the Working Group would continue to be invited to meetings of the Joint Task Force and vice versa, while avoiding a duplication of topics. [*ongoing*]
- Agreed that the secretariat should send revised documents to the meeting participants and the Austrian Presidency of the European Union, given two weeks for concrete changes to be suggested and, once further revised, send it again to participants for approval by a written silence procedure. [*done*]
- Agreed to adjust the Shared Environmental Information System assessment framework, notably on the clarity of the questions, the terminology used and the scoring. The revised assessment framework should be presented at the 21st session of the Working Group. [*ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/5, on the agenda*]
- Decided that the revised framework, once approved, would be used for a final report of progress in the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System at the pan-European level for the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference. [*on the agenda*]
- Agreed that a larger number of indicators would have to be reported upon and the actual indicators to be assessed would be determined at the time when it is decided to initiate the report and requested UNEP to finalize the online reporting tool once the revised framework has been agreed. [*on the agenda*]



ENVIRONMENT

- Agreed that the secretariat should revise the draft mid-term review report to address comments made. Once revised, the secretariat should send it to the meeting participants, copied to the Austrian Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission, and allow a two-week period for further suggested concrete changes to be sent to the secretariat and, once further revised, send it again to participants copied to the Austrian Presidency of EU and the European Commission for approval by a written silence procedure. [*ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/7, presented to CEP*]
- Agreed that the secretariat should start preparation of a publication on the Shared Environmental Information System, in English and Russian, to include the assessment framework, progress in the establishment of the System, case studies and country profiles, as appropriate. [*on the agenda*]
- Noted the draft concept for the next pan-European environmental assessment, as presented by UNEP, and invited its members to send to the secretariat concrete suggestions for the modalities, scope and form of such an assessment. [*on the agenda*]
- Requested the secretariat and UNEP, in consultation with the European Environment Agency, to develop a revised concept and share it with the Working Group members. [*ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/6, on the agenda*]
- Requested the secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy on the outcomes of this agenda item and the suggestions made for the pan-European assessment. [*presented to CEP*]
- Noted the information on a possible web-based portal and invited the secretariat to explore further possibilities in this regard and to report back during the 21st session of the Working Group. [*on the agenda*]
- Decided that the country factsheets would be made available on the ECE website once comments had been collected and integrated. [*done*]



Questions & Comments?

Thank you!

