

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
and
the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

WHEREAS the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter referred to as “UNECE”) is mandated to promote regional cooperation and integration as a means of achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

WHEREAS the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as “UNEP”) was endorsed by the General Assembly in 1997 as “the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment”;

CONSIDERING that UNECE and UNEP share common goals and objectives with regard to the environment, sustainable development and green economy and wish to collaborate to further these goals and objectives, within their respective mandates under their governing regulations and rules;

DESIRING to establish a mutually beneficial cooperation and in the spirit of collaboration;

UNECE and UNEP (hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Parties”), each represented by its respective Executive Head, have entered into the present Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”).

Article I
Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this MoU is to provide a general framework for collaborative efforts of the Parties, within their respective mandates and approved work programmes, on projects and activities in areas of shared interest and common priorities.

1.2 In recognition of and with respect for each other’s respective mandates, competencies and objectives, the Parties commit themselves to cooperate on the basis of the exchange of relevant information, expertise and viewpoints in order to realize potential synergies, enhance public dialogue and endeavour to implement common activities, as set forth in Article II below.

Article II

Areas of cooperation

2.1 The overarching goal of the collaboration is support to the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development goals and the improvement of environmental governance in the pan-European region.

The possible areas of cooperation identified by the Parties — subject to the respective available resources — are listed below. Additional areas may be subsequently agreed upon by the Parties.

2.2 Environmental governance

- Environment for Europe process
- UNECE and UNEP multilateral environmental agreements: synergies and mutual support for implementation
- Environmental performance reviews
- Education for sustainable development
- Strengthening of subregional cooperation, including in Central Asia (e.g., the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia)
- Promotion of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and stakeholders' participation in international forums
- Transforming risks into cooperation (the Environment and Security Initiative)
- Promoting environmental sustainability in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks

2.3 Green Economy

- Mainstreaming of green economy in the region
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Sustainable energy
- Green innovation and eco-friendly technology transfer
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable cities and buildings
- Climate change (adaptation, mitigation and financing)

2.4 Ecosystem management

- Sustainable forest management
- Water
- Air quality
- Hazardous and harmful substances and chemicals

2.5 Environmental monitoring and information management

- Information and knowledge management (e.g., UNEP Live, the regional Global Environmental Outlook 6 (GEO6) and the Shared Environmental Information System)
- Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

Article III **Interpretation**

3.1 References to this MoU shall be construed as including any Annexes, as varied or amended in accordance with the terms of this MoU. Any Annexes shall be subject to the provisions of this MoU and, in case of any inconsistency between an Annex and this MoU, the latter shall prevail.

3.2 Implementation of any subsequent activities, projects and programmes pursuant to this MoU, including those involving the transfer of funds between the Parties, shall necessitate the execution of appropriate legal instruments between the Parties. The terms of such legal instruments shall be subject to the provisions of this MoU.

Article IV **Implementation**

4.1 The Parties agree to carry out their respective responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of this MoU. The Parties agree to join efforts and work in close cooperation in order to achieve the objectives of the present MoU.

4.2 Specific activities in the above-mentioned areas of cooperation will be negotiated, agreed upon and approved on the basis of the Parties' respective work programmes through Annexes to this MoU. Annexes may be added or revised at the initiative of either Party by written notice to the other and shall enter into force once confirmed by an exchange of letters between the MoU Focal Points identified in Article V.

4.3 As applicable, each project shall contain but not be limited to the terms and conditions for its implementation, including clear deliverables, time frames and funding arrangements, specified in a project document to be agreed upon and signed by both Parties.

4.4 Project documents may be modified at any time by written agreement of the Parties through their MoU Focal Points designated in Article V.

4.5 The Parties shall refrain from any action that may adversely affect the interests of the other Party and shall fulfil their commitments to the terms and conditions of this MoU and the objectives of UNECE and UNEP.

4.6 This MoU does not create any resource or administrative liability for either Party.

Article V **MoU Focal Points**

The Parties have designated the MoU Focal Points, as indicated below, to plan and develop activities and ensure its proper implementation:

UNECE:

Mr. Marco Keiner
Director
Environment Division
Tel.: +41 22 917 2370
E-mail: marco.keiner@unece.org

UNEP:

Mr. Jan Dusik
Regional Director
Tel: + 41 22 917 8231
E-mail: jan.dusik@unep.org

Article VI **Intellectual property rights**

Entitlement to all intellectual property rights, including, but not limited to, patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to materials produced and published by either of the Parties pursuant to the provisions of the present MoU shall be agreed upon in advance in writing by both Parties.

Article VII **Reporting requirements**

The Parties shall keep each other informed of all relevant activities pertaining to this collaboration and shall hold consultations as appropriate, in order to evaluate the progress in the implementation of this MoU and to revise and develop new plans for current or prospective activities.

Article VIII

General provisions

8.1 *Entry into force and duration.* This MoU shall enter into force upon signature by both Parties and will remain in effect until 31 December 2017, unless terminated by the Parties in accordance with the provisions specified in 8.4.

8.2 *Notification.* Each Party shall promptly notify the other in writing of any anticipated or actual material change that will affect the execution of this MoU.

8.3 *Amendments.* This MoU may be amended only by written agreement of both Parties, which shall be appended to this MoU and become an integral part of it.

8.4 *Termination.* This MoU may be terminated by mutual agreement of the Parties or by either Party providing ninety days advance written notice to the other. In any such event, the Parties shall take all necessary actions as required to promptly and in an orderly manner terminate any on-going activities or projects carried out pursuant to this MoU in a cost-effective manner.

8.5 *Settlement of disputes.* Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MoU shall be settled by amicable and good-faith consultations and negotiations between the Executive Heads of the Parties.

8.6 *Privileges and immunities.* Nothing in this MoU shall be deemed to be a waiver, expressed or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of UNECE or UNEP, including their respective Secretariats.

8.7 Unless expressly authorized in writing by the other Party, neither Party shall in any manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of the other Party in connection with its business or otherwise.

8.8 The Parties are recognized to be legally separate and independent of each other. Neither Party has the authority to act on behalf of the other, unless specifically agreed upon.

Article IX
Notices

Any notices required by this MoU shall be given in writing and delivered to the following addresses:

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Palais des Nations
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Attention: Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova, Director, Programme Management Unit
E-mail: zamira.eshmambetova@unece.org

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi
Kenya
Attention: Mr. J. Christophe Bouvier, Director, Office for Operations and Corporate Services
E-mail: christophe.bouvier@unep.org

or at such other address as may be designated in accordance with the terms of this notice provision.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have signed this MoU in two (2) originals in the English language on the date set forth below:

For UNEP

For UNECE

Signature: -----

Signature: -----

Achim Steiner
Executive Director

Christian Friis Bach
Executive Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____

Annex I

to the Memorandum of Understanding
between
the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
and
the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
of 4 May 2015

Preamble

This annex outlines priority areas for enhancing cooperation between UNECE and UNEP (collectively, “the Parties”) towards mainstreaming environmental sustainability in all sectors in the countries of the pan-European region for the initial period until 31 December 2017. The cooperation is subject to the decisions and mandates accorded by respective governing bodies and intergovernmental conferences, in particular the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conferences and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), as well as to the availability of resources. The Parties will agree on regular joint visibility and communication activities to promote their cooperation in the region. The Parties may seek to join efforts for resource mobilization to support joint activities.

The Parties will facilitate the science-policy dialogue on national and regional levels to improve countries’ environmental performance. They will also facilitate communication at the regional level through networks of national focal points.

1. Platforms for cooperation on environmental governance

The political platform of CEP will be used, as appropriate and feasible, with a view, on the one hand, to providing a regional perspective and input into relevant UNEP global activities and events, e.g. UNEA, and, on the other hand, to informing CEP of relevant outcomes of UNEP global activities and events. The organization of back-to-back meetings and events will be considered, as necessary. The cooperation will include UNECE consulting UNEP on agenda items of CEP meetings relevant to the present annex, as well as ad hoc participation of UNEP in meetings of the CEP Bureau for agenda items pertaining to issues included in the present annex, upon prior agreement by the CEP Bureau.

The Parties will consult each other in preparation of major global and regional environmental conferences. The Parties will explore and identify synergies between UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and UNEP MEAs.

In preparation for the EfE Ministerial Conferences, UNECE and UNEP will continue to cooperate effectively and efficiently under the EfE process. That cooperation will focus on, among others, greening the economy and establishing and promoting a regular process of

environmental assessment based on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS; see section 3 below).

UNECE and UNEP will also join efforts in preparing for and following-up the EfE mid-term reviews in between two ministerial conferences, including the mid-term review of the main outcomes of the eighth EfE Ministerial Conference (Batumi, 2016).

The specific areas of cooperation will include the following:

(a) Greening the economy in the pan-European region

UNECE and UNEP will continue their cooperation in supporting countries in their transition to green economy in the region. In particular, in preparing the Batumi Conference, and its follow-up activities, UNECE and UNEP will work jointly and in cooperation with other relevant partners on preparing documents, materials and other activities related to green economy.

Based on the outcome of the Conference related to the implementation of the expected strategic framework for greening the economy, UNECE and UNEP will cooperate on activities such as: the review of progress in the transition to green economy by the countries in the region; the review of progress in the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) based on countries' progress in transitioning to green economy; promotion of tools and instruments of the strategic framework for greening the economy, both in sectors (energy, transport, buildings and construction and water) and in the economy as a whole including at the city level; and on elaborating, whenever possible, or supporting the elaboration of new tools and instruments (as a new knowledge base) for greening the economy.

(b) Air quality

UNECE and UNEP will continue their cooperation in the area of improving air quality in the region. In particular, UNECE and UNEP will work jointly, and in cooperation with other relevant partners, in the substantive preparations for the Batumi Conference on the theme of air quality, including the preparation of a background document, as well as a possible initiative on action for cleaner air. They will also cooperate on any follow-up actions depending on the outcomes and decisions of the Batumi Conference.

UNECE and UNEP will continue to cooperate on possible joint activities for promoting the issue of air quality as identified through the interagency process of cooperation initiated in early 2015, including the organization of joint side events at high-level forums.

(c) Education for sustainable development

Based on the review of progress on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the region being organized during the Batumi Conference, UNECE and UNEP will cooperate to

ensure the implementation of the two objectives of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD: reorient education and learning so that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development – and make a difference; and strengthen education and learning in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development.

In particular, UNECE and UNEP will join efforts on the five priority action areas identified under the GAP: advancing policy; integrating sustainability practices into education and training environments (whole-institution approaches); increasing the capacity of educators and trainers; empowering and mobilizing youth; and encouraging local communities and municipal authorities to develop community-based ESD programmes.

2. Cooperation on the Environmental Performance Reviews

UNECE and UNEP will increase their collaboration on UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) through enhanced use of UNEP's specialized expertise and experience, in particular in green economy as a focus of the third cycle of EPRs. In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, UNECE and UNEP will identify possibilities for applying the EPR methodology for monitoring of and reporting on SDGs, including jointly promoting it for replication in other regions, possibly in cooperation with respective regional commissions. UNECE and UNEP will support as feasible the countries in their implementation of the EPR recommendations, for example, through incorporating relevant activities in their programmes of work and by facilitating their inclusion in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and Global Environmental Facility portfolios, as well as by leveraging support from other organizations with matching capacities and resources.

3. Cooperation on environmental monitoring and assessment

The cooperation between UNECE and UNEP in the area of environmental monitoring and assessment will aim at the establishment of an integrated environmental knowledge base for the region, supported by relevant existing communities and groups (e.g. EIONET and UNEP Live) linked in one network, and serviced by UNECE and UNEP. The work will follow the SEIS approach.

More specifically, UNEP will contribute to the work of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to ensure that the countries in the region continuously produce and exchange environmental data and information underpinning preparation of environmental assessments, as well as other related assessments, and reporting. This cooperation will include joint capacity building in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia involved in the SEIS and assessment network. Both Parties will promote UNEP Live as one access point to environmental data shared within SEIS on the webpages of national agencies.

UNECE and UNEP will engage in and continue promoting the production of regular environmental assessments based on SEIS, including building on the UNEP Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) regional process and the European Environment Agency assessments. This means that the GEO-6 regional assessment will be developed in time for the Batumi Conference in 2016, with the expectation that the Global GEO-6 (which will have regionally-relevant findings) will be produced in 2018 and a further iteration of the GEO regional assessment will be developed for 2020. This proposal will provide the basis for a regular process of environmental assessment and reporting but will also be flexible to ensure that assessments are available for relevant policy forums.

In addition, UNECE and UNEP will work together in the sharing of relevant lessons learned and good practices with other regions, so that other regions are informed of the joint approach to environmental monitoring and assessment taken in the pan-European region.

4. Cooperation on Central Asia

UNECE and UNEP will cooperate to support further the individual countries of Central Asia, as well as the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD), to develop and implement policies for sustainable development and environmental protection. Building on and going beyond existing initiatives and programmes, this will include support at subregional and national levels to the finalization of “the roadmap to implement recommendations on strengthening the institutional and legal basis of the regional cooperation in the area of environment policy”, as a basis for ICSD activities.

In the overall context of facilitating the implementation of SDGs in Central Asia, UNECE and UNEP will initially focus their enhanced cooperation in supporting:

- The revision of the Regional Environmental Action Programme in the context of the climate change negotiations, the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs, as well as its implementation;
- Improved management of shared and transboundary natural resources including air and water quality and the protection of ecosystems and human health;
- The establishment of a subregional portal for environmental information and technologies;
- The identification of subregional priorities for the transition to green economy, such as research on green economy sectors, green financing and green technology transfer (UNEP GE, PAGE), as well as capacity building for their implementation;
- The active engagement of Central Asian countries in the EfE process, UNEA and other major conferences, including supporting a subregional contribution to the 8th EfE Conference in Batumi.

Geneva, May 2015