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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators

Fourth session

Geneva, 18–20 October 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 18 October 2011²

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the third session.
3. Review of the Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators:
 - (a) Waste generation;
 - (b) Final waste disposal;
 - (c) Transboundary movements of hazardous waste;
 - (d) Ambient air quality in urban areas;

¹ This document has been submitted late to take into account documents revisions that took place after the third meeting of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators held on 11–13 July 2011.

² According to the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form available on the web page for the fourth session of the Joint Task Force (<http://live.unece.org/stats/documents/2011.10.environ.html>) and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks prior to the meeting, by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (elizabeth.james@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please telephone the secretariat at +41 22 917 6307.

- (e) Threatened and protected species;
 - (f) Trends in the number and distribution of selected species.
4. Second reading of indicators of inland and seawater not covered by the Guidelines:
 - (a) Total water use;
 - (b) Water supply industry;
 - (c) Wastewater treatment facilities;
 - (d) Population connected to wastewater treatment;
 - (e) Concentrations of pollutants in seawater and sediments (except nutrients).
 5. Consideration of biodiversity indicators not covered by the Guidelines.
 6. Discussion of developments and plans for future work on indicators under a project for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation.
 7. Other business.

II. Annotations

Following the recommendation by the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Bureau of the Conference of the European Statisticians, the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), at its meeting of 4 March 2011, approved the extension of the mandate of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators for the period 2011–2012. According to its revised terms of reference, the Joint Task Force should assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national state-of-the-environment reports in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe (SEE). Its objectives are to further improve environmental statistics, strengthen environmental reporting and promote comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the region (see ECE/CEP/161, annex II).

Country members of the Joint Task Force include both environmental experts and statisticians from all UNECE countries. The European Environmental Agency (EEA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Statistics Division, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health, the Inter-State Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other institutions are also invited to designate representatives to the Joint Task Force.

In addition to circulation through the normal channels, meeting documentation, including country contributions, will be posted online at <http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/03.01.e.htm>.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda for its fourth session as contained in the present document.

2. Adoption of the report of the third session

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the report of its third session, contained in document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2011/2.

3. Review of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

- (a) **Waste generation**
- (b) **Final waste disposal**
- (c) **Transboundary movements of hazardous waste**
- (d) **Ambient air quality in urban areas**
- (e) **Threatened and protected species**
- (f) **Trends in the number and distribution of selected species**

The Joint Task Force will review selected indicators (sub-items (a)–(f) above) covered by the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia³ (the Guidelines). The discussion will focus on the use of statistical classifications, data-collection methods and procedures for the production of these indicators.

The indicator evaluation will be supported by written communications by members of the Joint Task Force on their countries' experiences with the production of these indicators covering the points (indicator by indicator) as follows:

- (i) Effective inter-agency cooperation mechanisms to produce indicators;
- (ii) Evidence of the publication of indicators in statistical compendiums and state-of-the-environment reports;
- (iii) Procedures applied to ensure data quality assurance and control;
- (iv) Time-series data on the indicators for 1990, 1995 and 2000–2010.

Country submissions (in English and/or Russian) should be provided to the secretariat **before 15 September 2011** so as to ensure their distribution to all registered participants and the preparation of a summary report before the meeting.

4. Second reading of indicators of inland and seawater not covered by the Guidelines

- (a) **Total water use**
- (b) **Water supply industry**
- (c) **Wastewater treatment facilities**
- (d) **Population connected to wastewater treatment**

³ Contained in *Environmental Indicators and Indicator-based Assessment Reports: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E 07.II.E.9), available online at: <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2007/ece/ece.belgrade.conf.2007.inf.6.e.pdf>.

(e) Concentrations of pollutants in seawater and sediments (except nutrients)

The Joint Task Force, at its third session, held a preliminary discussion of a secretariat consultant's informal paper on indicators of inland water and seawater not covered by the Guidelines, and invited members of the Joint Task Force to submit to the secretariat, **by 1 September 2011**, proposals for amendments and comments to the descriptions of the proposed five additional indicators for inland water and seawater (sub-items (a)-(e) above). Accordingly, the Joint Task Force, at its fourth meeting, will continue consideration of these five indicators.

5. Consideration of biodiversity indicators not covered by the Guidelines

The Joint Task Force, at its third session, agreed to discuss at the next session proposals for additional indicators on biodiversity to be prepared by a secretariat consultant. It invited members of the Joint Task Force, in close collaboration with relevant national organizations and institutions, including national focal points in relevant multilateral environmental agreements, to submit to the secretariat, **by 10 October 2011**, proposals for amendments and comments to the descriptions of those additional indicators.

6. Discussion of developments and plans for future work on indicators under a project for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation

This session, to be co-chaired by a representative of EEA, is intended primarily for members of the Joint Task Force from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation, and invited international institutions. EEA is providing co-funding for the Task Force in 2011 under a European Community project on the Shared Environment Information System in the European Neighbourhood. Other members of the Joint Task Force may also wish to attend. EEA will prepare discussion points for circulation among the session participants.

7. Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

III. Organization of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item(s) of the agenda</i>
Tuesday, 18 October 2011	
10–10.10 a.m.	1 and 2
10.10–11.30 a.m.	3 (a)
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 (b)
3–4 p.m.	3 (c)
4–5 p.m.	3 (d)
5–6 p.m.	3 (e)
Wednesday, 19 October 2011	
9.30–10.30 a.m.	3 (f)
10.30–12.30 p.m.	4 (a)–(c)
2.30–4 p.m.	4 (d)–(e)
4–5.30 p.m.	5
Thursday, 20 October 2011	
9.30–12.30 p.m.	6 and 7