



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

### Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators

#### Fifth session

Geneva, 4–6 July 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.  
on Wednesday, 4 July 2012<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fourth session.
3. Review of the *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators*:
  - (a) Emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air;
  - (b) Greenhouse gas emissions;
  - (c) Household water use per capita;
  - (d) Water losses;
  - (e) Land uptake;

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<sup>1</sup> According to the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the website of the Joint Task Force (<http://live.unece.org/stats/archive/03.01.e.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 ([ludmila.boichuk@unece.org](mailto:ludmila.boichuk@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](http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf)). In case of difficulty, please telephone the secretariat at (41 22 917 2364).

- (f) Fertilizer consumption.
- 4. Third reading of indicators of inland water and seawater not covered by the Guidelines:
  - (a) Total water use;
  - (b) Public water supply;
  - (c) Connection to public water supply;
  - (d) Population connected to wastewater treatment;
  - (e) Wastewater treatment facilities;
  - (f) Concentrations of pollutants in coastal seawater and sediments (except nutrients).
- 5. Second reading of indicators of biodiversity not covered by the Guidelines:
  - (a) Biosphere reserves and wetlands of international importance;
  - (b) Invasive alien species;
  - (c) Catches of fish and other aquatic animals and products.
- 6. Discussion of developments and plans for work on indicators under an ongoing 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 (CEP) and the Bureau of the Conference of the European Statisticians (CES), the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), 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 ECE countries. The European Environment 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 on a web page dedicated to the meeting at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.07.enviro.html>.

## 1. Adoption of the agenda

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

## 2. Adoption of the report of the fourth session

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the report of its fourth session, contained in document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2011/4.

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

### (a) Emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air

### (b) Greenhouse gas emissions

### (c) Household water use per capita

### (d) Water losses

### (e) Land uptake

### (f) Fertilizer consumption

The Joint Task Force will review selected indicators (sub-items (a)-(g) above) covered by the *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*<sup>2</sup> (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:

- (a) Effective inter-agency cooperation mechanisms to produce indicators;
- (b) Data quality assurance and control procedures for the production of the indicator;
- (c) Evidence of the publication of indicators in statistical compendiums and state-of-the-environment reports, indicator-based reports, web pages, environmental databases and information systems, as appropriate;
- (d) Usage of the indicator and/or related data at the national level and main information holders;
- (e) Time-series data on the indicators for 1990–2011 and glossaries of terms.

Country submissions (in English and/or Russian) should be provided to the secretariat **before 15 June 2012** so as to ensure their distribution to all registered participants and the preparation of a summary report before the meeting.

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

#### **4. Third reading of indicators of inland water and seawater not covered by the Guidelines**

- (a) **Total water use**
- (b) **Public water supply**
- (c) **Connection to public water supply**
- (d) **Population connected to wastewater treatment**
- (e) **Wastewater treatment facilities**
- (f) **Concentrations of pollutants in coastal seawater and sediments (except nutrients)**

The Joint Task Force, at its fourth session, held a second reading of indicators on inland water and seawater not covered by the Guidelines. The Joint Task Force is invited to consider the proposal for inclusion of the additional selected indicators (sub-items (a)-(e) above) as revised according to the discussion held at its fourth session.

#### **5. Second reading of indicators of biodiversity not covered by the Guidelines**

- (a) **Biosphere reserves and wetlands of international importance**
- (b) **Invasive alien species**
- (c) **Catches of fish and other aquatic animals and products**

The Joint Task Force, at its fourth session, agreed to continue working on additional biodiversity indicators. The Joint Task Force is invited to consider the proposal for inclusion of the additional selected indicators (sub-items (a)-(c) above).

#### **6. Discussion of developments and plans for work on indicators under an ongoing 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 2012 under a European Community project on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). Other members of the Joint Task Force may also wish to attend. EEA will prepare discussion points for circulation among the session participants.

The Joint Task Force will consider, among other things, a proposal for a common core set of indicators across the above countries from the indicators already reviewed by the Joint Task Force, with a view of establishing a process for regular reporting on the selected indicators. This core set will comprise indicators in line with the agreed thematic priorities for the initial phase of the ENPI-SEIS cooperation, for which there is good and comparable data in the countries, possibly related to national and international environmental reporting obligations.

## 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>
<b>Wednesday, 4 July 2012</b>	
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)
<b>Thursday, 5 July 2012</b>	
9.30–10.30 a.m.	3 (f)
10.30–12.30 p.m.	4 (a)–(c)
2.30–4 p.m.	4 (d)–(f)
4–5.30 p.m.	5 (a)–(c)
<b>Friday, 6 July 2012</b>	
9.30–12.30 p.m.	6 and 7