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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators

Ninth session

Geneva, 4 and 5 November 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 a.m.
on Tuesday, 4 November 2014*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the reports of the seventh and eighth sessions.
3. Implementation of recommendations for production and online sharing of environmental indicators:
 - (a) Emission of pollutants into the atmospheric air;
 - (b) Ambient air quality in urban areas;
 - (c) Consumption of ozone-depleting substances;
 - (d) Greenhouse gas emissions;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete an online registration form using the electronic procedure available from the website of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.11.envIRON.html>) no later than two weeks prior to the meeting. 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 2364.



- (e) Biochemical oxygen demand and concentration of ammonium in rivers;
 - (f) Nutrients in freshwater;
 - (g) Protected areas;
 - (h) Waste generation.
4. Selection of additional indicators from the Indicator Guidelines for production and online sharing.
 5. Further revision of the Indicator Guidelines.
 6. Other business.

II. Annotations

The Committee on Environmental Policy and the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians approved the extension of the mandate of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators for the period 2013–2014 (ECE/CEP/2012/2, annex IV). According to its 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 and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (the target countries).¹ Its objectives are to further improve environmental statistics and produce the agreed indicators, strengthen environmental reporting and promote comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the pan-European region.

The Joint Task Force is open to environmental experts and statisticians from all United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) countries. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other institutions are also invited to designate representatives to the Joint Task Force.

In addition to circulation through the regular channels, meeting documentation, including country contributions, will be posted online on a web page dedicated to the meeting.²

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Adoption of the reports of the seventh and eighth sessions

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the report of its seventh session contained in document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2013/2, as well as the report of its eighth session contained in

¹ I.e., Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

² See <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.11.enviro.html>.

document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2014/2, provided that the latter has been finalized in time for the Task Force's consideration at its ninth session.

3. Implementation of recommendations for production and online sharing of environmental indicators:

- (a) **Emission of pollutants into the atmospheric air**
- (b) **Ambient air quality in urban areas**
- (c) **Consumption of ozone-depleting substances**
- (d) **Greenhouse gas emissions**
- (e) **Biochemical oxygen demand and concentration of ammonium in rivers**
- (f) **Nutrients in freshwater**
- (g) **Protected areas**
- (h) **Waste generation**

The Joint Task Force agreed at its eighth session (Geneva, 14–15 May 2014) on 14 recommendations for the production and sharing of eight selected indicators (corresponding to sub-items (a)–(h)) from the revised Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Indicator Guidelines).³ These recommendations set the way forward, with clear actions to be taken to strengthen the production and sharing of these indicators. Some of the recommended actions were to be completed by the current session, while others were to be continued beyond it, with Parties reporting on progress at the current session.

The Joint Task Force will review the implementation of the recommendations and, hence, the progress achieved in the production and sharing of the eight indicators. The Joint Task Force may wish to provide further recommendations to the target countries in this regard, as necessary.

The review of the production and sharing of the indicators will be supported by an analytical paper to be prepared by the secretariat presenting the status of production and sharing of each of the core indicators in each of the target countries. The paper will be based on the information available on countries' national websites and will be an update of the paper prepared for the eighth session. The information available on the webpages as of 12 September 2014 will be used for the paper.

At the ninth session the target countries will be invited to present additional progress achieved on the production and sharing of the eight indicators in the period from mid-September to end-October 2014.

³ The revised Guidelines, which also include countries in South-Eastern Europe, are available in the form of an online database from <http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html>.

4. Selection of additional indicators from Indicator Guidelines for production and online sharing

The Joint Task Force agreed at its eighth session that, while it was expected that considerable progress would be achieved by the ninth session in the production and sharing of the eight selected indicators, because the ambition is to gradually produce and share all the environmental indicators from the Indicator Guidelines by the target countries, the focus in 2015 for production and sharing should be expanded by a few more indicators.

To this end, the Joint Task Force invited the secretariat to prepare a proposal for its consideration on a few additional indicators from the Indicators Guidelines to supplement the eight indicators already selected. These additional indicators preferably should be well-suited for the analysis of topics such as clean air and green economy, which have been proposed as the themes of the next Environment for Europe (EfE) ministerial conference. Furthermore, the data necessary for the production of the indicators selected should already be available in the majority of countries. In this way, the target countries will be in a position to produce and share a good set of indicators by the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference in 2016.

The expansion of indicator production and sharing should help the target countries to gradually develop and extend their national environmental information system in line with the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles.

EEA and the European Commission, building on past and on-going efforts to support the target countries in the gradual implementation of SEIS — e.g., through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument-SEIS project for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and the Forest and Biodiversity Governance Including Environmental Monitoring (FLERMONECA) project for Central Asian countries — will take stock of the projects supported by the European Union and inform the Task Force about possible cooperation opportunities, among others, aimed at supporting the production and sharing of the additional selected indicators during 2015.

The Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss the proposal and agree upon the additional indicators to be the focus of the review of production and sharing during 2015.

5. Further revision of the Indicator Guidelines

At its seventh session (Geneva, 5–7 November 2013), the Joint Task Force requested the secretariat to incorporate additional changes agreed to the Indicator Guidelines and, where necessary, to verify the consistency of the terms and definitions used so as to ensure that the terms were unified with those used by the United Nations Statistics Division and Eurostat.

The secretariat reviewed the eight selected indicators in time for the eighth session of the Joint Task Force.

The secretariat will inform the Joint Task Force about the status of the revision undertaken between the eighth and ninth sessions on the remaining indicators from the Indicator Guidelines and the exchange of communications with the countries on the revision.

The Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss and subsequently endorse the revised Indicator Guidelines.

6. Other business

The secretariat will inform the Joint Task Force about the progress made by the ECE Transport Statistics Programme in the elaboration of the definitions of energy types for road motor vehicles. In this context, the Joint Task Force will be invited to consider the way

forward with regard to the additional transport indicators discussed initially at its seventh session.

The secretariat will also present a draft online glossary of English and Russian terms in the field of environmental indicators to facilitate the communication in this field between English and Russian speakers. The Joint Task Force will be invited to provide feedback on the glossary.

Furthermore, the secretariat will give an overview of developments in the field of e-waste statistics.

III. Organization of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item(s) of the agenda</i>
Tuesday, 4 November 2014	
9.30–9.40 a.m.	1 and 2
9.40 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	3
2.30–5.30 p.m.	3 (continuation)
Wednesday, 5 November 2014	
9.30–11 a.m.	3 (continuation)
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	4
2.30–4.30 p.m.	5
4.30–5.30 p.m.	6