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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators**Thirteenth session**

Geneva, 29-30 June 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth session**

The thirteenth session will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 29 June 2017.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the twelfth session of the Joint Task Force
3. Data quality in Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) reporting: methodological considerations
4. Revision of biodiversity indicators
5. Implementation of recommendations on energy indicators
6. Waste statistics
7. Other relevant developments:
 - (a) Environment-related international policy frameworks;
 - (b) Environment statistics activities of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD);
 - (c) Modernisation of statistics;
 - (d) Green Economy;
 - (e) System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA);
 - (f) Capacity building;

- (g) Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force.
- 8. Other business.

II. Annotations

According to its terms of reference (ECE/CEP/2015/12, Annex II)¹ the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators assists the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their efforts to:

- (a) Correctly apply the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) data methodologies in line with statistical standards;
- (b) Analyse and communicate environmental data;
- (c) Implement the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA); and
- (d) Apply environmental indicators in the context of sustainable development and green economy initiatives.

The Joint Task Force also assists the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA) in evaluating the application of internationally accepted methodologies and statistical standards in SEIS data production.

The Joint Task Force is open to environmental experts and statisticians from all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

The work is supported by the European Environment Agency, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Representatives of other international organizations dealing with environment statistics are welcome to participate in the meetings of the Joint Task Force.

The meeting documentation, including country contributions, will be posted online on a webpage dedicated to the meeting².

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda for its thirteenth session as set out in the present document.

2. Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the twelfth session of the Joint Task Force

At its twelfth session, the Joint Task Force made several decisions and recommendations for future work. Agenda item 2 will present and discuss the status of implementation of these decisions and recommendations.

¹ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38470#>

² See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43950#>

3. Data quality in Shared Environmental Information System reporting: methodological considerations

Following up on the discussions on Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) reporting, data quality, comparability and self-assessment (agenda item 5) in the 19th session of the WGEMA (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2017/1), the secretariat will present the proposal for considering data quality in the evaluation of producing and sharing of indicators as part of the updated SEIS assessment framework (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2017/5).

The Joint Task Force will discuss further practical steps to consider quality issues of the UNECE set of environmental statistics and indicators.

Agenda item 3 will also discuss a proposal of the secretariat to integrate simple validation tools into the UNECE production tables.

4. Revision of biodiversity indicators

As agreed at the 11th and 12th session of the Joint Task Force, the secretariat will present a proposal for revised production tables for the biodiversity indicators (D1 – Protected areas, D2 – Biosphere reserves and wetlands of international importance, D3 – Forests and other wooded land, D4 – Threatened and protected species, D5 – Trends in the number and distribution of selected species and D6 – Invasive alien species). Members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss and agree on the proposed revisions.

5. Implementation of recommendations on energy indicators

As agreed at the 12th session of the Joint Task Force, the secretariat will present a proposal for revised production tables for the energy indicators (G1 – Final energy consumption, G2 – Total primary energy supply, G3 – Energy intensity and G4 – Renewable energy supply). Members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss and agree on the proposed revisions.

Members of the Joint Task Force will also be invited to present national examples on coordination and sharing of energy data among relevant government agencies.

In addition, the session will initiate a discussion on the nexus approach where energy issues will be considered in conjunction with other policies, such as climate change, agriculture, forestry and water.

6. Waste statistics

The secretariat will inform about the progress of work of the Task Force on Waste Statistics, which has recently been established under the auspices of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians. Members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to comment on the interim results and planned activities of the Task Force on Waste Statistics.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) will inform about the UNSD/UN Environment Pilot Questionnaire 2017 on Electronic Waste which was sent to selected countries in March 2017. UNSD will also present interim results of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire 2016 on Environment Statistics (Section: Waste). UNSD will inform the Joint Task Force about the chapter on waste statistics in the *Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics*, which will contribute to developing technical capacity in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE).

7. Other relevant developments

(a) Environment-related international policy frameworks

The secretariat and other international organisations will inform about progress on the statistical work related to important related international policy frameworks such Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework on Disaster-risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

(b) Environment statistics activities of United Nations Statistical Division

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) will give an overview on recent data collections other than waste. This includes the UNSD/UNEP Pilot Questionnaire 2017 on Water Quality and the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire 2016 on Environment Statistics (Section: Water).

UNSD will also inform about the ongoing work on the *Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics* in areas which will contribute to technical material and capacity building to support the development of environment statistics in EECCA and SEE countries.

(c) Modernisation of statistics

The secretariat will give an overview on the work of the UNECE High-level Group on Modernization of official Statistics. The presentation will discuss the possible role of non-official data sources for production of environmental statistics and indicators.

(d) Green Economy

OECD will be invited to present the latest developments related to Green Economy.

(e) System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

The secretariat will inform about recent activities related to the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) implementation in the UNECE region and will report about the outcomes of the 12th meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA).

(f) Capacity building

The European Environment Agency (EEA), UNECE and UNEP are carrying out capacity building activities related to the SEIS implementation, environment statistics and SEEA in the region.

This session will also inform how the international organisations coordinate these activities in the region.

Members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to inform about concrete capacity building needs that may be addressed by EEA, UNECE and UNEP.

(g) Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force

The secretariat will present the draft revised Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force, which will have to be submitted to the forthcoming 23rd session of the Committee on Environmental Policy in November 2017.

8. Other business

Delegates may bring up other relevant information to be shared with the Joint Task Force at this time.

III. Organization of work

A detailed timetable will be released closer to the meeting time.
