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Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

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

Rome, 2-3 October 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

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

The fourteenth session will be held at the FAO Headquarters, Rome, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 2 October 2017.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the thirteenth session of the Joint Task Force.
3. Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS): Training on the SEIS Assessment Framework.
4. Climate change-related statistics and indicators.
5. Other relevant developments:
 - (a) Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force;
 - (b) Revised production tables: biodiversity and energy indicators;
 - (c) Progress of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Task Force on waste statistics;
 - (d) Ongoing and planned capacity building activities.
6. Other business.
7. Workshop on establishing a regional environmental information and assessment network-of-networks.

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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.

The fourteenth session of the Joint Task Force will be a 1.5 day event, held from 2 October morning until 3 October 2017 noon. This includes a half-day workshop on establishing a regional environmental information and assessment network-of-networks. The fourteenth session will be back-to-back with the Conference of European Statisticians' (CES) Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics, starting in the afternoon of 3 October 2017) and finishing in the evening of 5 October 2017. Both events will be hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organisations of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome (Italy). This will allow members of the Joint Task Force to participate in both events without additional costs for travel, and to benefit from the FAO expertise related to environmental statistics and indicators.

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

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

² See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43952#/>

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

At its thirteenth session, the Joint Task Force made several decisions and recommendations for future work in its report (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2017/2). Agenda item 2 will present the status of implementation of these decisions and recommendations.

3. Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS): Training on the SEIS Assessment Framework

Agenda item 3 follows up on the progress made on the SEIS Assessment Framework (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2017/5), as introduced during the Nineteenth Session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 27-28 June 2017). The secretariat will present outcomes of piloting of the assessment framework and the online SEIS reporting application in line with the decisions made during the Thirteenth Session of the Joint Task Force (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2017/2).

This agenda item will have two aims. Firstly, it will provide training on how to use the SEIS Assessment Framework as a self-assessment tool. The members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to test the online SEIS reporting application through an interactive session. Secondly, the Joint Task Force will discuss how the assessment framework could be further improved.

The Joint Task Force will also discuss further practical steps on how to collect information for the SEIS mid-term assessment. It will be decided which of the 18 environmental indicators from the core set will be used for the piloting of the reporting application and assessment framework. A final timeline for the piloting will be agreed upon.

4. Climate change-related statistics and indicators

This agenda item will discuss environmental statistics and indicators needed for different international climate-related policy frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework on Disaster-risk Reduction.

Agenda item 4 will furthermore present the links between the *UNECE Online Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators*³ with the topics which will be discussed at the Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics⁴ that will be held immediately after the session of the Joint Task Force. This concerns in particular climate change-relevant data on agriculture, forestry and land use, the implementation of the initial set of 39 core climate change-related indicators developed by a UNECE Task Force under the auspices of CES, and the measurement of extreme events and disasters.

Experts of FAO and other international organizations will be invited to share their knowledge on indicators related to agriculture, forestry and land use.

³ See <https://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html>

⁴ See concept note and other background documents on <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43954#>

5. Other relevant developments

A. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force

The secretariat will share and present the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Joint Task Force that will be submitted for the 23rd session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 14-17 November 2017). The revised ToR will take into account inputs received during the thirteenth session of the Joint Task Force.

B. Revised production tables: biodiversity and energy indicators

As agreed at the 13th session of the Joint Task Force, the secretariat will present the revised production tables for the following UNECE set of biodiversity-related indicators, and include simple data validation tools for testing⁵:

- D1 – Protected areas,
- D2 – Biosphere reserves and wetlands of international importance,
- D3 – Forests and other wooded land,
- D6 – Invasive alien species.

The Secretariat will furthermore present the final revised production tables for the UNECE set of energy-related indicators.

Members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss and agree on the proposed revisions.

C. Progress of the CES Task Force on waste statistics

As requested by members of the Joint Task Force in earlier sessions, the CES Task Force on waste statistics will report about its progress of work.

D. Ongoing and planned capacity building activities

EEA, UNECE and UNEP will report about ongoing and planned capacity building activities related to environmental statistics, SEIS and sustainable development indicators. 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.

6. Other business

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

7. Workshop on establishing a regional environmental information and assessment network-of-networks

The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) approved the new mandate and terms of reference for the WGEMA at its twenty-second session (Geneva, 25–27 January 2017). The new mandate called for the WGEMA to initiate a consultation on the

⁵ See <http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html>

development of a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks for the ECE region (ECE/CEP/2017/2).

WGEMA discussed the establishment of the regional network of networks during its nineteenth session, including issuing a questionnaire on the working modalities of the regional network of networks.

The workshop follows up on this initial consultation with the purpose of engaging the Joint Task Force members and other interested parties to provide inputs to this process and to address how the regional network of networks could be established and discuss its overall objectives. This will be organised as a half-day workshop on the working modalities of the network of networks in connection with the fourteenth session of the Joint Task Force in Rome.

Inputs received by the Working Group and the Joint Task Force will be included into a report on the possible establishment of a regional network of networks to the Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-third session (Geneva, 14-17 November 2017).

III. Organization of work

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