UNECE

ENVIRONMENT

Fifteenth session
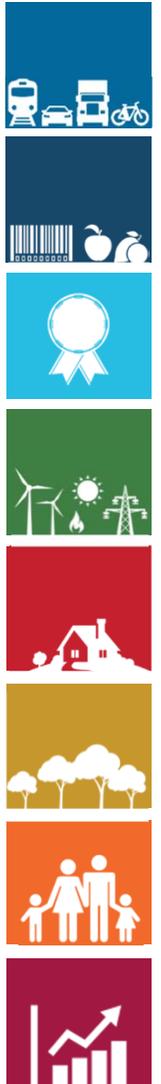Geneva, 25-26 October 2018
Palais des Nations
Meeting room VIII

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 14th session of the Joint Task Force.

Key outcomes of the 14th session of Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

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- Questions raised during the 14th session

- Recalling decisions and recommendations of the 14th session of the JTF

- Status of implementation of decisions and recommendations

- Comments and questions

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The following questions were discussed during the 14th session:

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- Request the ECE CEP at its 23rd session to renew the mandate of the JTF

- Inclusion of a glossary in the SEIS assessment framework

- Piloting of the SEIS assessment framework

- Revision of the production tables for biodiversity indicators and energy indicators and the integration of simple validation rules for testing purposes

- Requests for national capacity-building workshops and subregional capacity- building activities

On establishing a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks

- Asked that an eventual regional environmental information and assessment network of networks to facilitate coordination at both these levels and engage subregional organizations;

- Requested the secretariat to consider establishing a web-based portal through which users could seek guidance and information on environmental statistics and indicators, while recognizing the secretariat's resource constraints;

- Emphasized the importance of availability of information in Russian as well as English;

On Climate change-related statistics and indicators

- Asked UNFCCC to inform it regularly about the developments in the process of defining the reporting requirements of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;

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On other relevant developments

- Took note of the planned reduction in the frequency of its meetings;

- Agreed with the submission of its terms of reference to the Committee on Environmental Policy with a view to the extension of the mandate to 2021, but emphasized the need to:

  - ✓ Keep the guidelines on environmental statistics and indicators under review and work towards the alignment of the guidelines with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

  - ✓ Support countries in the production and use of environmental indicators;

  - ✓ Apply the SEIS principles with regard to both the production and sharing of environmental information.

- Expressed satisfaction with the progress made regarding the drafts of revised energy and biodiversity templates and decided to take more time to review and test the templates by the time of the next session of the JTF;

- Agreed to review in future sessions the current practice of using Excel-based templates in the data production and sharing process;

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On the SEIS assessment framework:

- Requested the secretariat to circulate for a short consultation the complete package of revised SEIS assessment framework documents, including the questionnaires, guidance, glossary, scoring and weightings and a timetable containing the next steps;

- Agreed to provide timely comments to the secretariat;

- Stressed the need to focus primarily on the indicators of quality of the environment and environmental conditions, such as air quality or water;

- Requested the secretariat to solicit feedback on a limited number of themes and indicators to inform a final selection;

2Oth session of WGEMA:

- WGEMA requested the secretariat to ensure that Working Group members would continue to be invited to meetings of the Joint Task Force, and vice versa;

- WGEMA requested the secretariat to develop further the idea of a possible web-based portal taking into account financial restrains and sustainability of the portal;

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On establishing a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks

- Asked that an eventual regional environmental information and assessment network of networks … [Background document submitted to CEP, which took note]

- Requested the secretariat to consider establishing a web-based portal through which users could seek guidance and information on environmental statistics and indicators … [Discussed during the 20th session of WGEMA. Secretariat was invited to explore further possibilities in this regard and to report back to the next session of the Working Group]

On Climate change-related statistics and indicators

- From 2-4 October UNECE organised the 5*th Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-related Statistics*. UNFCCC informed that at the COP 24 (Katowice, December 2018) information requirements for the Paris Agreement will be discussed.

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On other relevant developments

- Took note of the planned reduction in the frequency of its meetings [Done]

- Agreed with the submission of its terms of reference to the Committee on Environmental Policy with a view to the extension of the mandate to 2021 … [CEP adopted for 2018-2021]

- Proposals for further amendments of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicars were prepared and will be discussed with the JTF

- Expressed satisfaction with the progress made regarding the drafts of revised energy and biodiversity templates and decided to take more time to review and test … [Done]

- Agreed to review in future sessions the current practice of using Excel-based templates in the data production and sharin … [On the agenda]

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On the SEIS Assessment Framework:

- Requested the secretariat to circulate for a short consultation the complete package of revised SEIS assessment framework documents … [Done]

- Agreed to provide timely comments to the Secretariat [Done]

- Stressed the need to focus primarily on the indicators of quality of the environment and environmental conditions … [Done, ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/5, on the agenda]

- Requested the secretariat to solicit feedback on a limited number of themes and indicators to inform … [Done, ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/6, on the agenda]

Questions & Comments

Thank you!