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

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

Agenda Item 3: Progress in establishing a Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment

**Mid-term review report on progress in establishing SEIS**



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**SEIS Mid-term Review**

**Summary**

- 34 out of the 53 ECE Member States (not incl. Canada, Israel and the United States of America) submitted a self-assessment:
  - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- It is based on responses to a self-assessment questionnaire, which is a part of the SEIS Assessment Framework.
- Questionnaire covers 7 categories: relevance; accuracy; timeliness and punctuality; accessibility; clarity; comparability; and institutional and organizational arrangements
- It addresses three SEIS pillars — content, infrastructure and cooperation — and the seven SEIS principles.
- At its twentieth session, 3-4 September 2018, the Working Group decided to revise the draft mid-term review. The revised draft has been finalized by the Secretariat and sent to the meeting participants, copied to the Austrian Presidency of EU and the European Commission.

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Changes introduced by the Working Group

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The Working Group asked the secretariat to introduce the following changes into the draft mid-term review, notably:

- Change a sub regional structure to one based on the three SEIS pillars.
- Add results provided by member States received since 14 June.
- Highlight Working Group recommendations and the way forward in order to show progress.
- Make comparison with the 2016 report on SEIS establishment.

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Revised SEIS Mid-term Review

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**Data flows**

The 7 data flows underlying the environmental indicators from the core set of ECE environmental indicators

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Data flow</i>
A. Air pollution and ozone depletion	A2. Ambient air quality in urban areas	Annual average concentration of PM <sub>10</sub> – validated Annual average concentration of sulphur dioxide – validated Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide – validated Annual average concentration of ground-level ozone – validated
C. Water	C10. BOD and concentration of ammonium in rivers	Mean concentration of BOD <sub>5</sub> in major rivers Mean concentration of ammonium in major rivers
D. Biodiversity	D1. Protected areas	Total protected areas (by International Union for Conservation of Nature categories)

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 **ENVIRONMENT** **Key findings of the mid-term review**

- Countries have continued to **harmonize relevant data flows** and improving the quality of environmental indicators since 2016.
- At the thematic level, the highest score was for **A (on air pollution and ozone depletion)**, followed by D (on biodiversity) and C (on water).
- At the data flow level, the highest score was **air quality** (SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>), followed in descending order by total protected areas, ammonium in major rivers and BOD<sub>5</sub> in major rivers.
- Most of the data flows are used for different **purposes** (e.g., environmental assessments) and converted into different **formats** (e.g., tables and maps).
- Countries highlighted **limitations in comparing** data flows across regions and/or between countries.
- Mid-term review shows the value in **continued monitoring of SEIS progress**.

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 **ENVIRONMENT** **SEIS pillars**

**Content**

- 90% of 7 data flows are produced at the national level
- 89% of countries report that procedures and guidelines for data quality management exist and 92% that metadata is available for the seven data flows
- 69% of countries use the data flows to produce different types of content such as reports and visual representations

**Infrastructure**

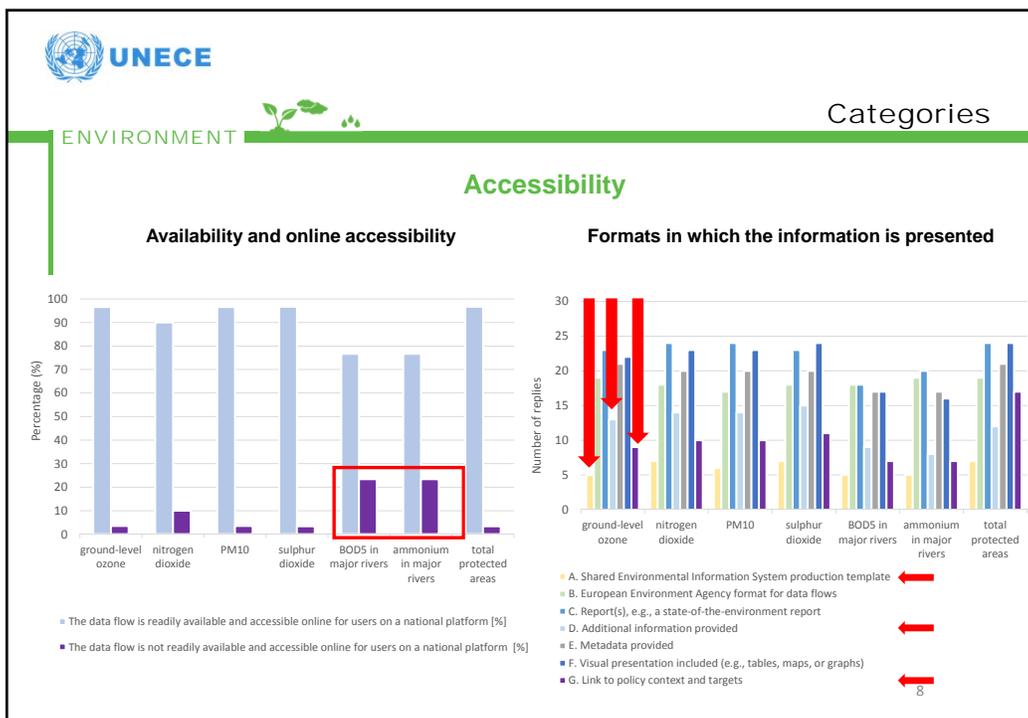
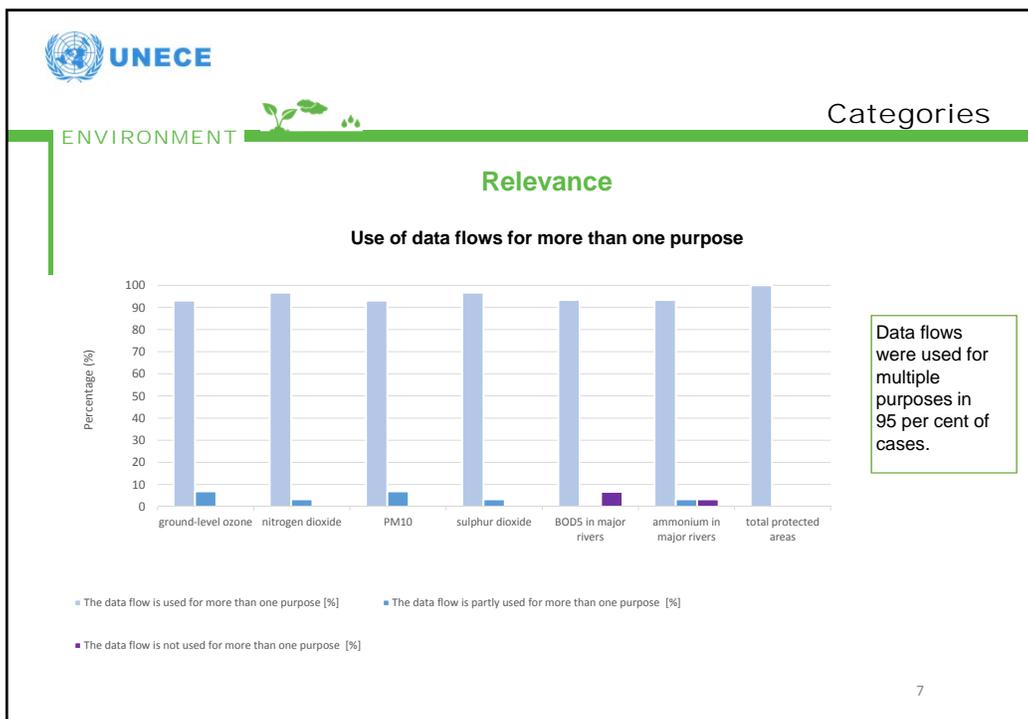
- Almost all of the seven data flows are readily available and accessible online for users on national platforms
- 90% of countries reported that the seven data flows were readily available and accessible on integrated platforms (with limitation for BOD<sub>5</sub> and ammonium in major rivers and total protected areas)
- 79% of countries reported regular data validation and 61% reported the revision of the data for all the seven data flows

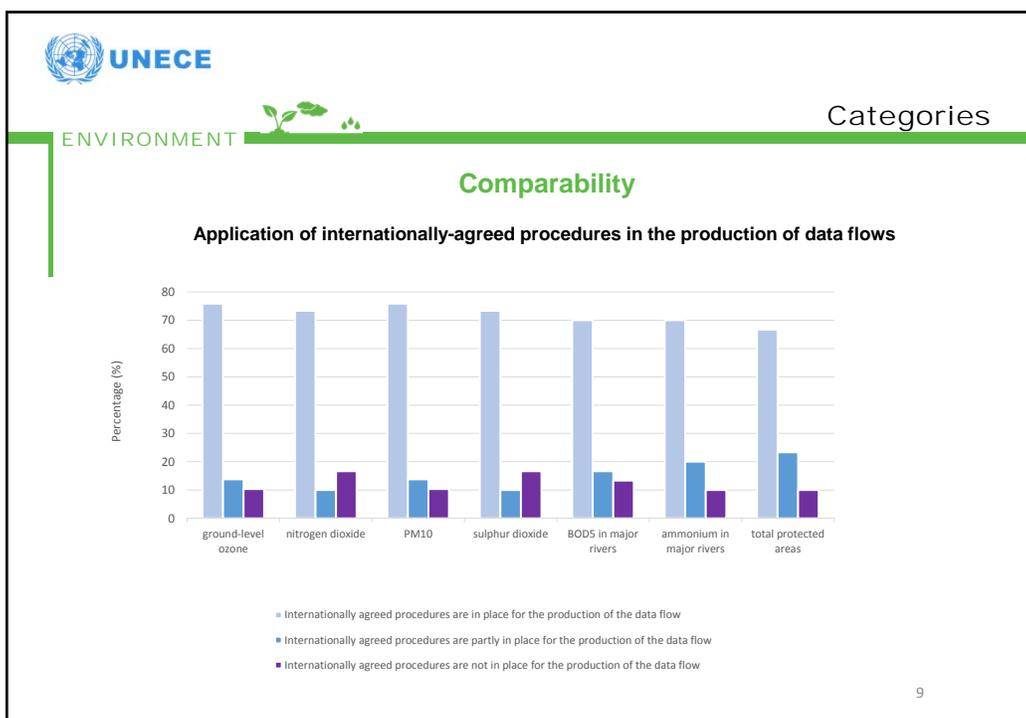
**Institutional cooperation**

- 91% of countries have in place national legislation, plans, programmes or strategies

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### Lessons learned and challenges

- The mid-term review is a milestone in reviewing SEIS progress, however, it is not yet possible to determine whether countries are fully on track to establish SEIS by 2021
- Countries should continue reporting on all data flows associated with the ECE core environmental indicators
- Further steps to achieve higher participation are needed
- The self-assessment questionnaire used in the framework of the SEIS Assessment framework should be easier for countries to respond
- The self-assessment questionnaire should look beyond the data flow to quantitatively and qualitatively assess how countries use the data in policymaking, monitoring progress towards policy targets and the streamlining of reporting processes
- Further steps are needed so that the online reporting tool could be operational.

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## Next steps



- There is a need for assistance with a view to full implementation of the SEIS pillars and principles.
- Results from the mid-term review will serve as a baseline for the next progress report on SEIS.
- Continued review of SEIS establishment will help to address gaps.
- Establishment of SEIS and the production of relevant data flows should be harmonized and aligned with other monitoring and assessment processes at the regional and global levels.
- Next reporting round should include the data flows that underpin the ECE core environmental indicators.
- There is a need identify national contact points for SEIS.

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## SEIS publication

The next phase of the SEIS review will include two elements:

1. **Progress report on SEIS implementation** to the CEP (ECE/CEP/...), leading up to the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (*pending*).
2. **ECE publication** (ECE/CEP/...), covering the SEIS review and additional elements. It will be produced in electronic format and made available in English, French and Russian

**Draft structure (table of contents) for the ECE publication on SEIS establishment:**

1. **Introduction:** Setting the stage
2. **SEIS Assessment Framework:** ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/5.
3. **Progress in SEIS implementation:** ECE/CEP/...
4. **Case studies:** 3-5 sub-chapters, covering stand-alone thematic sections on SEIS implementation and environmental governance (*Call for interest*)
5. **Policy Recommendations:** Main recommendations from the SEIS progress report.
6. **Annex:** Country Profiles (*TBC*)

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Thank you!

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