

# Committee on Environmental Policy

Agenda item 6. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

**Overview on recent work of the Joint Task Force and main outcomes of its 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> sessions**

**Twenty-eighth session**

1–3 November 2023

Palais des Nations, Geneva



# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Content



- Recent work of the Joint Task Force includes:
  - Revision of the Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators
  - Capacity development activities, including to enhance integration of data and statistics and support methodological work
  - Support of follow-up to Nicosia outcomes
  - Drafting of new mandate and terms of reference and outline of activities
  - Regular holding of sessions of Joint Task Force
- Main outcomes of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> sessions
- Next steps

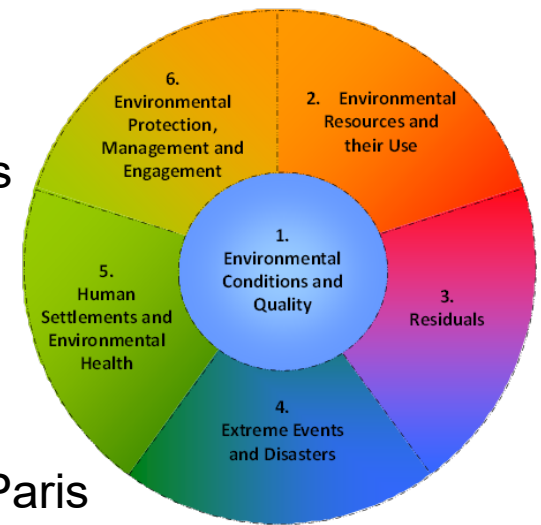
# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent work - Revision of the Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators



### Status of the Review of ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

- Revised Guidelines - 2023 Edition presented as official document during 20<sup>th</sup> session together with metadata sheets (finalized ones) - <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/2315296E.pdf>
- Aligned to UN Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES)
- Inform better recent global policies (such as 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction)
- Aim to improve data availability for regular pan-European environmental assessments and reporting
- Increase user-friendliness of the metadata
- Highlight the importance of data disaggregation



# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Proposed Outline of Indicator Guidelines – Edition 2023 publication



### Proposed table of contents

1. Introduction
2. List of acronyms
3. Structure of the guidelines
  - Short explanation of the FDES
  - Clarification of terminology used in the document
  - Links with previous Guidelines
4. How to use the Guidelines in the national context
  - Identification of national priorities and additional statistics and indicators
  - Data disaggregation
5. List of indicators
  - Components and sub-components (according to FDES) with explanations
  - List of indicators
  - Metadata of priority indicators
6. Annexes (gradually developed and published online)
  - Metadata sheets of all indicators
  - List of statistics (and other data) needed to produce the indicators (with reference to FDES)



### Next steps:

- Finalization of publication and online metadata sheets
- Promotion of revised Guidelines to ensure comparability of statistics and indicators across the region as well as integration of statistics
- Capacity development
- Regular revision of Guidelines to take into account policy developments

# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent work – Capacity Development



### Support to countries in addressing methodological challenges related to environmental indicators and statistics

- Support to correct application of statistical standards and promotion of the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting
- Support to integration of data and statistics (e.g., environment and health data and statistics)
- Enhancing data disaggregation
- Support to SDG implementation

# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent work - Capacity development



### Regional training on air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators - *Producing, sharing and using high-quality information for Cleaner Air* 4–5 May 2023 in Geneva and online

- **Organized by ECE Environment and Statistics Divisions in cooperation with UNEP, Environment Agency Austria, Statistics Luxembourg and with financial support of EU**
- **Main objectives:**
  - Technical overview of different steps for production, sharing and use of UNECE air-related indicators through good practices and experiences from national and international experts
  - Discuss challenges that could result in delays and gaps in indicator production procedures and identify possible solutions
- **Participating national experts:** NSOs, MoEs, meteorological institutes and organizations from Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan



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<https://unece.org/info/Statistics/events/375048>

# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent (and future) work – Support to Nicosia Outcomes



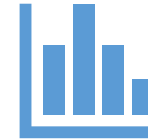
**Make information available, findable etc. and encourage collection of citizen science & crowdsourced data...**

Sharing of good practice examples at Joint Task Force sessions on environmental & SDG portals, citizen science & crowd-sourced data

Dedicated capacity development activities?



**Rely on open data, big data and state-of-the-art digital technologies**



**Employ revised UNECE Indicator Guidelines & adopt indicators for emerging themes**

Training

Sharing of good practices in Joint Task Force

Regular review of Indicator Guidelines

# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent (and future) work – Support to Nicosia Outcomes



**Include selected key impact tourism indicators in UNECE statistical databases**

To address in the future



**Common understanding of sustainable and safe infrastructure & transboundary cooperation**

Review existing work  
Discussion during 20<sup>th</sup> session



**Access to diverse information sources and reliable, up-to-date, quality data and statistics**

Training  
Sharing of good practices in Joint Task Force & Working Group  
Projects



**Partnerships among national statistical offices and related agencies**

Joint Task Force



# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent work – Drafting of New Mandate and ToR & Outline of activities



- Current Joint Task Force mandate and terms of reference expire at the end of 2023
- Proposal to replace the Joint Task Force with a **Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators**

Draft mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2023/3)

→ Details on the proposed replacement with a Joint Working Group will be provided in next presentation



Draft five-year outline of activities (workplan) for the period 2024–2028 (Environmental Statistics and Indicators) (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2023/5)

# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent work – Convening regular Joint Task Force sessions



### Sessions held since the 27<sup>th</sup> session of CEP:

- **19<sup>th</sup> session, 3–4 November 2022**
- **Main substantive topics:**
  - National, UNECE and international developments in implementing and sharing environmental indicators and statistics including on biodiversity monitoring, circular economy, disasters, sustainable tourism and SDGs (with practices and experiences shared by EEA, OECD, UNEP, UNITAR, WHO, UNSD)
  - Review of the ECE Indicator Guidelines
  - Data needs, statistics and indicators to manage environment-related human health issues (on air pollution and disasters)
  - Main outcomes of Nicosia Ministerial Conference

- **20<sup>th</sup> session, 16–17 October 2023**
- **Main substantive topics:**
  - National, UNECE and international developments in implementing and sharing environmental indicator and statistics including on plastics, e-waste, chemicals and waste, sustainable infrastructure, green finance and climate change taxes, and biotrade (with practices and experiences shared by EEA, OECD, UNEP, UNITAR, WHO, UNSD, UNCTAD)
  - Review of the ECE Indicator Guidelines
  - Data needs, statistics and indicators to manage environment-related human health issues (on chemicals and waste and disasters)
  - Main outcomes of Nicosia Ministerial Conference

# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent work – Convening regular Joint Task Force sessions



### 19<sup>th</sup> session (hybrid)

80 registered persons (approx. half online)

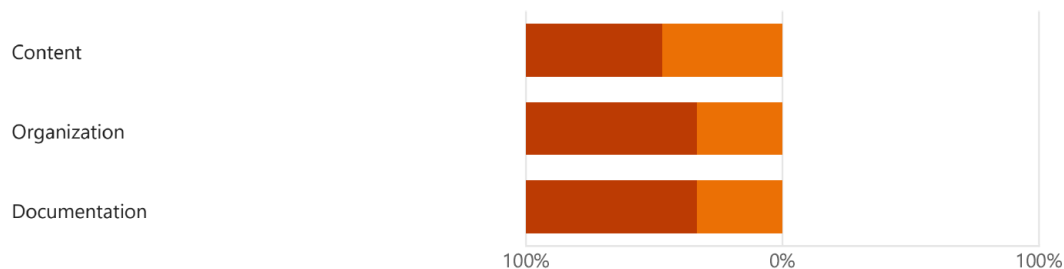
20<sup>th</sup> session (in-person but with possibility to follow online through UN TV – no interaction possible, webex for some online speakers)

60 registered persons



5. How would you evaluate the quality of the 20th session of the JTF on ESI in the following aspects?

Very good    Good    Fairly good    Unsatisfactory    Not applicable





### The Joint Task Force among others

- Supported the conversion of the Joint Task Force into a standing body with a broadened mandate, scope and geographical coverage, named the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators and requested the secretariat to inform CEP and CES of the outcomes of the agenda item
- Took note of the limited resources currently available for servicing the Joint Task Force and for supporting countries in addressing challenges related to environmental statistics and indicators to inform existing and emerging policies holistically
- Took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and decided to integrate those outcomes, as appropriate, into its work
- Requested the secretariat to present an updated version of the *Revised Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators* as an official document, as well as completed metadata sheets, to the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators at its twentieth session



### The Joint Task Force

- Re-elected Ms. Ševala Korajčević (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as its Chair, and elected Mr. Irakli Apkhaidze (Georgia) as its Vice-chair, both for a period of up to two years.
- Approved the proposed outline of activities (workplan) for 2024–2028 of the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators
- Invited its members, international organizations and partners to support the activities of the new body and the mobilization of funds for implementation of its workplan.
- Took note of the information provided on the priority areas of sustainable infrastructure, an e-waste management partnership, plastic waste and green finance and will consider these areas with priority in its work programme.



### The Joint Task Force

- Requested the secretariat to continue work on the final version of the *Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators – Edition 2023*, and requested the secretariat to prepare the final version as an official publication in English, French & Russian in electronic and paper editions.
- Asked international organizations to take into account specific capacity development needs identified during the discussions at the session in the planning of future activities.
- Took note of country experience provided by United Kingdom (on environment and health indicators) and the ongoing indicator-related work of the WHO Regional Office for Europe further to the Global Framework for Chemicals.
- Will consider future work on health and chemicals as well as on disaster-related statistics in its future work programme.
- Requested the secretariat to inform the CEP and CES about relevant outcomes of the session

**Next session on 17–18 October 2024**



## Next steps:

- Proposed replacement of Joint Task Force with a Joint Working Group
- Follow-up on new mandate and terms of reference and 5-years outline of activities, subject to the availability of resources

→ Further details be provided in the following presentation by Ms. Tiina Luige

**Thank you for your attention!**

# Proposed Decisions



## The Committee on Environmental Policy:

- Takes note of the information provided and welcomes the activities of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, especially in support of the outcomes of the Nicosia Ministerial Conference;
- Welcomes the revision of the guidelines on the application of environmental indicators and requests the publication of the 2023 edition in English, French and Russian.