

## Concept note

A peer learning discussion:

### COUNTRIES' COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

26 January 2017, 11:40-13:00

Room VII, during the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Environmental Policy

**Introduction:** At the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011) the Ministers and heads of delegation invited ECE to conduct a third cycle of Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) and identified three blocks of issues to be addressed by the third cycle reviews. One of such blocks of issues is countries' cooperation with the international community.

**Objective:** The objective is to discuss the challenges in implementing countries' cooperation with the international community, identified by EPRs, and share experiences on the ways to overcome the difficulties. The discussion will also provide ideas on how to strengthen the role of EPRs in improving countries' cooperation with the international community.

#### **Organisation:**

The moderated discussion will address three core challenges for implementing countries' cooperation with the international community<sup>1</sup>:

1. Accession to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)
2. Coordination and synergies in implementation of MEAs
3. Involving the private sector in international cooperation on the environment

Each core challenge will be introduced by an EPR-reviewed country who will describe its efforts to overcome the challenge. It will then be followed by reaction(s) from other countries, international organisations and NGOs having relevant experience or advice to share.

**Background information:** Commonly, EPRs address the issues of countries' cooperation with the international community in chapters on "Implementation of international agreements and commitments". In some EPRs, in absence of such a chapter, these issues are addressed in dedicated sections of the issue-specific chapters (e.g. water management, waste management, etc.) or sectoral chapters (e.g. transport and environment, or health and environment, etc.). These chapters and sections, together with respective recommendations, will serve as background information for discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> The three core challenges were selected through a survey organised among CEP delegates in advance of the meeting from a list of seven challenges proposed by the EPR Programme secretariat.