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|  | United Nations | ECE/CEP/2017/9 | |
| _unlogo | **Economic and Social Council** | | Distr.: General  5 September 2017  Original: English |

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Environmental Policy

**Twenty-third session**

Geneva, 14-17 November 2017

Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme**: **performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme  
in 2016-2017 and performance plan for 2018-2019**

Biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2018-2019

Note by the secretariat[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

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| *Summary* |
| At its twentieth session in 2014, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Committee on Environmental Policy agreed to continue with the biennial performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme for another cycle, at least. At its twenty-first session in 2015, the Committee approved the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2016-2017 (ECE/CEP/2015/5).  The biennial performance report of the Environmental subprogramme for 2016-2017 is presented in document ECE/CEP/2017/8. The present document provides the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2018-2019. It is structured in accordance with the clusters grouping the Environment subprogramme’s activities.  The Committee will be invited to consider the performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2018-2019 for prospective approval. In that regard, the Committee will be invited to consider the need to continue with the biennial performance planning and assessment of the Environment subprogramme, given that such assessments were discontinued by the ECE Executive Committee in June 2014 leading to their discontinuation by other ECE sectoral committees. |
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I. Introduction

1. The Environment subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has four overarching expected accomplishments in the strategic framework for 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 17)). It will report on their implementation to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

2. The activities in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2018-2019 are grouped into clusters of activities. It will report on their implementation to the Committee on Environmental Policy.

3. The table below presents expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the biennium 2018-2019 for each of the clusters grouping the subprogramme’s activities. The left column contains the four overarching expected accomplishments as included in the strategic framework for 2018-2019. The middle column contains the clusters of activities. The right column presents the expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures for each of the clusters. The table is structured in such a way as to show the correlation between the ECE strategic framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial performance assessment for 2018-2019. The “actual 2016-2017” performance measures are presented generally as at 15 August 2017, given that this document was prepared before the end of the biennium under reporting.

4. The Committee will be invited to consider the performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2018-2019 for prospective approval. In that regard, the Committee will be invited to consider the need to continue with the biennial performance planning and assessment, given that such assessments were discontinued by the ECE Executive Committee in June 2014 leading to their discontinuation by other ECE sectoral committees.

II. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement   
for 2018-2019

| *Expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) of the strategic framework for 2018-2019* | *Cluster of activities* | *EA and IA of the biennial evaluation for 2018-2019* |
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| EA (a)  Improved response to environmental challenges by ECE constituencies  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: not applicable (N/A)  2014-2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 2 measures  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): 2 measures  Target 2018-2019: 2 measures | 1. Improved response to environmental challenges (This cluster includes outputs/activities from all other clusters, as appropriate. They may relate to the follow up to the follow up of outcomes of major meetings and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) | EA 1  Improved response to environmental challenges by ECE constituencies  IA 1 (a) Number of new measures taken by ECE constituencies in response to existing and emerging environmental challenges  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: N/A  2014-2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 2 measures  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): 2 measures  Target 2018-2019: 2 measures |
| EA (b) Strengthened implementation of ECE multilateral environmental commitments and increased geographical coverage  IA (b) (i) Increased percentage of Contracting Parties reporting on the implementation of ECE multilateral environmental agreements  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: N/A  2014-2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 85 per cent  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): 91 per cent  Target 2018-2019: 87 per cent  IA (b) (ii) Increased number of Contracting Parties to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: N/A  2014-2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 310 Parties  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): 318 Parties  Target 2018-2019: 318 Parties | 2. Activities under the Environment for Europe process | EA 2  Successful implementation of the reform of the Environment for Europe process  IA 2 (a) Consensus reached by member States on the activities under the Environment for Europe process  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: Consensus reached on the organization of the mid-term review  2014-2015: Consensus was reached on the follow-up to the mid-term review and preparing the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8-10 June 2016)  Target 2016-2017: Consensus to be reached on the follow-up to the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2016): Consensus on the follow-up to the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the organization of the mid-term review, is expected to be reached at the twenty-third session of the Committee (Geneva, 14-17 November 2017)  Target 2018-2019: Consensus to be reached on the follow-up to the mid-term review and preparing the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference |
| 3. Education for sustainable development | EA 3 Enhanced implementation of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development at the national level  IA 3 Successful measures to implement the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development at the national level, assessed through the reporting by member States  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: 42 countries  2014-2015: 38 countries*a*  Target 2016-2017: 38 countries  Actual 2016-2017: 16 countries*b*  Target 2018-2019: 30 countries |
| 4. Transport, health and environment | EA 4 Enhanced integration between transport, health and environment policies through exchanging experiences and good practice and capacity-building with a special focus on the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe  IA 4 Number of times that member States, international governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in meetings of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee and relevant workshops undertaken in this framework  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: Participation of 62 countries and 31 IGOs and NGOs in 4 substantive meetings, including 2 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee  2014-2015: Participation of 82 countries and 30 IGOs and NGOs in 5 substantive meetings, including 2 capacity-building workshop, 1 high-level meeting and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee  Target 2016-2017: Participation of 60 countries and 20 IGOs and NGOs in 6 substantive meetings, including 4 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): Participation of 60 countries and 43 IGOs and NGOs in 6 substantive meetings, including 5 capacity-building workshops and 1 session of THE PEP Steering Committee  Target 2018-2019: Member States are engaged 60 times, IGOs and NGOs 20 times in 6 substantive meetings, including 1 high-level meeting, 3 capacity-building workshops and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee |
| 5. Convention on Long-range Transboundary  Air Pollution (Air Convention) | EA 5 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Air Convention and its three most recent protocols (Protocol on Heavy Metals, Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol)) by ECE members States, in particular countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe  IA 5 Indicators of progress in implementing the Air Convention and its three most recent Protocols through:  (a) Number of reports on emission reduction commitments;  (b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Air Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (c) Number of ratifications of the three most recent Protocols to the Air Convention;  (d) Number of training sessions targeting implementation of the Air Convention and its protocols in the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: (a) 37; (b) 27; (c) 91; (d) 6  2014-2015: (a) 45; (b) 28; (c) 92; (d) 6  Target 2016-2017: (a) 45; (b) 28; (c) 93; (d) 6  Actual 2016-2017: (a) 46; (b) 35; (c) 93; (d) 6  Target 2018-2019: (a) 46; (b) 15; (c) 95; (d) 6 |
| 6. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) | EA 6 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs)  IA 6 Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs through:  (a) Intensity of capacity development for non-Parties to the Aarhus Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (b) Intensity of capacity development for non-Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (average participant-days per non-Party);  (c) Number of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention;  (d) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on PRTRs;  (e) Number of countries submitting national implementation reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, indicating progress in implementing key obligations;  (f) Number of countries submitting national implementation reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs, indicating progress in implementing key obligations  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: (a) 4; (b) 3; (c) 46; (d) 33; (e) N/A; (f) N/A  2014-2015: (a) 6 (b) 6; (c) 47; (d) 33; (e) 46; (f) 32  Target 2016-2017: (a) 2; (b) 3; (c) 47; (d) 34; (e) 46; (f) 32  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): (a) 3; (b) 7; (c) 47; (d) 35; (e) 40;*c* (f) 30  Target 2018-2019: (a) 2; (b) 3; (c) 47; (d) 35; (e) N/A;*d* (f) N/A*d* |
| 7. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) | EA 7 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)  IA 7 Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on SEA through:  (a) Number of countries contributing to subregional cooperation under the Convention;  (b) Number of Parties reporting on their implementation of the Convention;  (c) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Espoo Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (d) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Convention’s Protocol on SEA (average participant-days per non-Party);  (e) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on SEA  (f) Number of ratifications, approvals or acceptances of the Espoo Convention  (g) Number of ratifications, approvals or acceptances of the two amendments to the Espoo Convention  (h) Number of Parties reporting on their implementation of the Protocol*e*  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: (a) 16; (b) 38; (c) 11; (d) 10; (e) 25; (f) 45; (g) first amendment 24, second amendment 24; (h) N/A  2014-2015: (a) 30; (b) 41; (c) 37; (d) 71; (e) 26; (f) 45; (g) first amendment 26, second amendment 26; (h) N/A  Target 2016-2017: (a) 35; (b) 45; (c) 18; (d) 35; (e) 31; (f) 47; (g) first amendment 32, second amendment 31; (h) 26  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): (a) 35; (b) 43; (c) 18; (d) 44; (e) 32; (f) 45; (g) first amendment 32, second amendment 31; (h) 24  Target 2018-2019: (a) 36; (b) 45; (c) 10; (d) 30; (e) 34; (f) 46; (g) first amendment 36, second amendment 34; (h) 31 |
| 8. Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes  (Water Convention) | EA 8 Increased ratification and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health  IA 8 Increased number of countries indicating progress in implementing the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health through:  (a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Water Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (average participant-days per non-Party);  (c) Number of ratifications of the Protocol on Water and Health;  (d) Number of accessions to the Water Convention by non-ECE States*f*  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: (a) 66; (b) 25; (c) 26; (d) N/A  2014-2015: (a) 67; (b) 50; (c) 26 (d) 0*g*  Target 2016-2017: (a) 50; (b) 35; (c) 27; (d) 1  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): (a) 35; (b) 31; (c) 26; (d) 0  Target 2018-2019: (a) 40; (b) 40; (c) 27; (d) 1 |
| 9. Convention on the Transboundary Effects  of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) | EA 9 Strengthened implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention  IA 9 Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention in five key areas:  (a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);  (b) Intensity of capacity development in Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per Party);  (c) Identification of hazardous activities through training sessions;  (d) Prevention — application and strengthening of preventive measures for hazardous activities through capacity-building sessions;  (e) Notification of industrial accidents using the Industrial Accidents Notification System implemented through training sessions  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: (a) 26; (b) 32; (c) 32; (d) 39; (e) 16  2014-2015: (a) 26; (b) 30; (c) 33; (d) 40; (e) 14  Target 2016-2017: (a) 17; (b) 15; (c) 34; (d) 40; (e) 15  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 15 August 2017): (a) 30;*h* (b) 12;*i* (c) 33; *j* (d) 40;*k* (e) 25*l*  Target 2018-2019: (a) 17;*m* (b) 6;*n* (c) 34; (d) 41; (e) 15 |
| EA (c) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe  IA (c) Increased percentage of implementation of ECE recommendations on environmental monitoring by member States  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: N/A  2014–2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 50 per cent  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 31 December 2016): 54 per cent  Target 2018-2019: 52 per cent | 10. Environmental monitoring and assessment | EA 10 Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe  IA 10 Increased percentage of implementation of ECE recommendations on environmental monitoring by member States  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: N/A  2014-2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 50 per cent  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 31 December 2016): 54 per cent  Target 2018-2019: 52 per cent |
| EA (d) Improved environmental performance of interested countries  IA (d) Percentage of environmental performance review recommendations implemented by countries reviewed during a biennium  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: N/A  2014-2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 65 per cent  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 31 December 2016): 75 per cent  Target 2018-2019: 65 per cent | 11. Environmental performance reviews | EA 11 Improved environmental performance of interested countries  IA 11  Percentage of environmental performance review recommendations implemented by countries reviewed during a biennium  *Performance measures:*  2012-2013: N/A  2014-2015: N/A  Target 2016-2017: 65 per cent  Actual 2016-2017 (as of 31 December 2016): 75 per cent  Target 2018-2019: 65 per cent |

*a* The number reflects only the formal national implementation reports submitted by the member States in the framework of the third national implementation reporting cycle. In addition, 20 countries submitted their reports for the ninth meeting of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development in April 2014.

*b* The Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development has not conducted a formal national implementation reporting during the biennium 2016-2017. The lower number includes countries that responded to the informal reporting questionnaire prepared for the twelfth meeting of the Steering Committee (20-21 April 2017, Geneva).

*c* The total number of national implementation reports might still change as more reports are being submitted by Parties to the Aarhus Convention or the Protocol on PRTRs.

*d* In 2018-2019 no national implementation reports are due. The next reporting cycle is in 2021 for both the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs.

*e* New indicator proposed for 2016-2017 onwards.

*f* The delay in the ratification by all Parties that had adopted the amendment opening the Convention prevented accession by countries outside the ECE region until March 2016.

*g* Ibid.

*h* During the biennium 2016-17, there was a focus on capacity-building activities in non-Parties, which explains the increase of (a) and the decrease of (b).

*i* Ibid.

*j* This is based on data from the national implementation reports for the reporting round 2014-2015 submitted in 2016.

*k* Ibid.

*l* Training on the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Notification system was implemented through an online consultation.

*m* In 2018, capacity-building activities under an ongoing project will focus on Central Asian States that are not party to the Industrial Accidents Convention. The 2019-2020 programme of work of the Industrial Accidents Convention will be determined by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018).

*n* Ibid.

1. \* This document was not formally edited. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)