

# **Economic Commission for Europe**

## **Committee on Environmental Policy**

### **Twenty-fifth session**

Geneva, 13–15 November 2019

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

### **Environmental performance reviews**

Information paper No. 25

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## **Environmental Performance Reviews beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

### **Note by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

At its special session (Geneva, 24–27 May 2011), the Committee on Environmental Policy approved the procedure for conducting environmental performance reviews (EPRs) in countries beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region (ECE/CEP/S/2011/2, para.71 and annex II). To date, two such EPRs have been carried out: Morocco in 2014 and Mongolia in 2018. The present document provides an updated text with a view to guide the process of carrying out further EPRs in non-ECE member States in the light of the experience gained. The Committee is invited to consider the document for its prospective approval and subsequent processing in annex to the report of the current session.

### **General considerations**

1. An Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of a State not member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is a cooperative activity involving the member State, ECE, the respective regional commission and possibly other partners, with the following main goals:
  - (a) Countries outside the ECE region benefit from an EPR;
  - (b) Other regional commissions acquire experience in, and knowledge of, EPR methodology from ECE.
2. A non-ECE member State wishing to undergo an EPR with ECE should inform its regional commission.
3. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy will consider and decide on any requests to carry out EPRs in non-ECE member States on a case-by-case basis.
4. Sufficient resources must be available to carry out the whole review process. In case of limited availability of human and financial resources to carry out an EPR, an ECE member State requesting an EPR will have priority over a non-ECE member State.

## Procedure

5. ECE would be fully responsible for the EPR of a non-ECE member State.
  6. The non-ECE member State should discuss with ECE its interest to have its environmental performance reviewed by ECE and inform its regional commission accordingly. Then the member State should submit a request for the review to the ECE EPR secretariat and to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, which is the governing body of the ECE EPR Programme.
  7. Following the agreement by the Committee on Environmental Policy, ECE would be responsible for and would carry out all operations related to the review, which include a preparatory mission, a main review mission, an expert group review, a peer review and a launch event.
  8. ECE would be responsible for choosing the experts for the mission. However, the respective regional commission, ECE member States and international partner organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, might recommend or provide experts in specific fields.
  9. ECE would liaise with the national authorities of the non-ECE member State undergoing the EPR.
  10. The regional commission of the non-ECE member State could:
    - (a) Acquire expertise through training provided by the ECE EPR secretariat and through participation in the review mission and process;
    - (b) Assume the responsibility for handling the formatting, translation into a local language and publication of the EPR report and the launch event.
  11. The expert group review would be carried out by the ECE Expert Group on EPRs and the peer review would be carried out by the Committee on Environmental Policy with representatives of the respective regional commission in attendance or participating by virtual means, if possible and as appropriate, as well as representatives of the non-ECE member State undergoing review.
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