



Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Environmental Policy****Twenty-fifth session**

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Review of subprogramme performance
and programme planning****Draft annual programme of work of the Environment
subprogramme for 2020****Note by the Secretariat****Introduction**

1. The present document sets out the draft annual programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2020. The Committee on Environmental Policy is invited to adopt the draft annual programme of work and recommend that it be approved by the Executive Committee. Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried over outputs will be reflected in Umoja, as used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft annual programme of work applies a results-based management approach that establishes a logical relationship between the following elements: the hierarchical results (deliverables – objectives – impact), known as the “results chain”; the resources (human and financial), known as “inputs”; and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational and financial), which can prevent the achievement of the objective.
3. The objective, the most significant planned result and the deliverables in the draft annual programme of work correspond to those contained in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2020. The objective of the Environment subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple Sustainable Development Goals converge.¹ This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries in implementing Sustainable Development Goals. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert groups; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge,

¹ The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe nexus areas are as follows: (a) sustainable use of natural resources; (b) sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (c) sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (d) measuring and monitoring Sustainable Development Goals.



including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables; and (d) communication deliverables.

4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in annex I to the present document. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific to the subprogramme are listed in annex II to the present document.

I. Objective and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

5. The objective – to which the subprogramme contributes – is to improve environmental governance and performance throughout the ECE region for safeguarding the environment and human health.

6. Responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment Division.

7. The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

8. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within that framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 3 above.

II. Highlighted planned result for 2020

A. Extension of the life of nuclear power plants

9. In 2018, despite its Parties having recognized the valuable contribution of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, challenges remained in the application of the Convention, both in specific subregions and in addressing key types of economic development. One area where agreement has yet to be reached is on the applicability of the Convention to decisions on the extension of the life of nuclear power plants. The next decade is expected to see many such decisions being taken each year in the ECE region, as a number of European reactors will reach the end of their original technical design life.

B. Challenge and response

10. The challenge was that there is no agreed guidance for member States on the application of the Convention to their decisions on extending the life of nuclear plants. That procedure includes the notification of parties that might be affected by the decision and consultation of their authorities and the public. The workplan adopted by the Parties to the Convention for 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1) addresses this challenge.

11. In response, for 2020, the subprogramme facilitates the preparation of guidance that will specify the criteria and conditions under which the Parties to the Convention should apply the Convention to decisions on extending the life of nuclear power plants. In December 2020, at their next regular meeting, the Parties will be expected to consider and adopt the guidance.

C. Result and evidence

12. The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result, which is the strengthened application of the Convention to the extension of the life of nuclear power plants, thus more closely aligning economic development with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

13. Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the adoption by consensus of the guidance materials by the Parties to the Convention, as shown in table 1 below.

14. The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Table 1

Performance measures: guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants

2018	2019	2020
Absence of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Development of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Adoption of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants

III. External factors

15. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that:

(a) Member States continue to support the work of ECE;

(b) All relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will and sufficient capacity to integrate the environmental dimension in policy formulation and to implement national legislation in accordance with the ECE multilateral environmental agreements;

(c) All relevant stakeholders at the national level have sufficient awareness of environmental issues and the active support of the public in the implementation of national and regional policies;

(d) Voluntary resources continue to be available;

(e) At the country level, there is no critical impact on resource availability owing to global, regional or national economic developments.

IV. Deliverables to be implemented in 2020

16. Table 2 below lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, that would contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 2

Deliverables that would contribute to the attainment of the objective: listed by category and subcategory

Deliverables	2020 plan
Quantified deliverables	
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies:	
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	211
Parliamentary documentation for Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	82

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2020 plan</i>
Parliamentary documentation for Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	8
Parliamentary documentation for Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	18
Parliamentary documentation for Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	34
Parliamentary documentation for Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and subsidiary bodies	24
Parliamentary documentation for Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and subsidiary bodies	38
Parliamentary documentation for High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	7
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	251
Meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	40
Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	47
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	30
Meetings of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	30
Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Espoo Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and subsidiary bodies	33
Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and subsidiary bodies	67
Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge:	
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	48

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2020 plan</i>
Workshops on environmental issues, including on air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, environmental assessment, monitoring and performance and education for sustainable development, for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region to improve environmental governance and performance	48
Publications (number of publications)	11
Guidance, policy briefs, good practices publications relating to environmental issues and multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	6
Progress reports and performance reviews on environmental issues	2
Reprint of the multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme, after amendments enter into force	1
Publications on the multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	2
Non-quantified deliverables	
C. Substantive deliverables:	
Consultation, advice and advocacy: Advisory services for government officials and other stakeholders of countries members of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on water, energy and other environmental issues	
D. Communication deliverables:	
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Environmental performance review (synopsis and highlights); Electronic newsletter of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment	
External and media relations: Press releases on environmental issues	
Digital platforms and multimedia content: Update and maintenance of a website of the subprogramme	

Annex I

Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2020

Table A.1

Recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Environmental performance review of specific member country	ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1 (para. 13) ECE/CEP/S/2011/2 (paras. 72 and 73 and 84 (v))	Print and electronic	A4	500	E	R (RB)	800E, 500R
2	Environmental performance review of specific member country	ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1 (para. 13) ECE/CEP/S/2011/2 (paras. 72 and 73 and 84 (v))	Print and electronic	A4	500	E	R (RB)	800E, 500R

Table A.2

Non-recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Guidelines	ECE/CEP/AC.10/20 18/3, table, Objective D	Print and electronic	A4	80	E	R (RB)	300
2	Outcome of the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	Will be provided by the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Vienna, 22–24 October 2019) and included in its report.	Print and electronic	A5	25	E	F R (RB)	300
3	Reprint of the Aarhus Convention (once genetically modified organism amendment enters into force)	ECE/MP.PP/2014/2, para. 22	Print and electronic	A4	180	E F R	A C S (only about five pages will need to be translated for each language) (RB)	2000 (trilingual - E F R); 1000 A; 1000 S, 1000 C
4	Children's version of the Aarhus Convention	Will be provided by the Working Group of the Parties in 2019 and included in its report.	Print and electronic	A4	80	E	A C F R S (RB)	1000E, 500A, 800C, 1000F, 1000R, 800S
5	Guide to Implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention	ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/ 7, table 3	Print and electronic	A4	300	E	F R (RB)	800E, 200F, 600R

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
6	Guidance on the assessment of health impacts within strategic environmental assessment	ECE/MP.EIA/23/Ad d.1– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/3–III/3, annex II, item IV.1	Print and electronic	A4	50	E	F R (RB)	800E, 100F, 500R
7	Guidance on the application of the Espoo Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants	ECE/MP.EIA/27–E CE/MP.EIA/SEA/11	Print and electronic	A4	50	E	F R (RB)	800E, 100F, 500R
8	Guide on reporting under the Water Convention	ECE/MP.WAT/54	Print and electronic	A4	80	E	F R (RB) S (XB)	250E, 200F, 50R, 100S
9	Financing cooperation and development in transboundary basins	ECE/MP.WAT/54	Print and electronic	A4	60	E	F R (RB) S (XB)	250E, 200F, 50R, 100S

Abbreviations: A, Arabic; C, Chinese; E, English; F, French; R, Russian; S, Spanish; RB, regular budget; XB, extrabudgetary.

Table A.3

Promotional material

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language(s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) (XB-funded only)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Environmental performance review of specific member country- Highlights	ECE/ASTANA.C ONF/2011/2/Add. 1 (para. 13) ECE/CEP/S/2011/ 2 (paras. 72 and 73 and 84 (v)	Print and electronic	A4	32	E	-	100E
2	Environmental performance review of specific member country- Synopsis	ECE/ASTANA.C ONF/2011/2/Add. 1 (para. 13) ECE/CEP/S/2011/ 2 (paras. 72 and 73 and 84 (v)	Electronic	A4	100	E	-	-

Annex II

Legislative mandates

Table B.1

Overall Economic Commission for Europe legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Resolution No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
72/230	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
72/234	Women in development
72/237	South-South Cooperation
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

<i>Resolution No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
73/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
73/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM
73/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
73/227	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
73/231	Disaster risk reduction
73/236	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Resolution No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Decision No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (68)	High-level statement
B (68)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Table B.2

Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Resolution No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
27/2994	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (observance of the World Environment Day)
47/193	Observance of World Day for Water
62/68	Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm
64/200	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
67/291	Sanitation for All
69/172	Human rights in the administration of justice
69/215	International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources
69/235	Industrial development cooperation
70/169	The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
70/209	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014)
71/222	International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028
71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
72/222	Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
73/226	Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

2. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CEP/AC.13/ 2005/3/Rev.1	UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development adopted at the High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, 2005
ECE/BEL GRADE.CONF/ 2007/4/Add.1	Statement on Education for Sustainable Development by the Ministers of Education and of the Environment of the UNECE region adopted at the joint session on education for development of the Sixth Ministerial Conference entitled “Environment for Europe”, 2007

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ECE/AC.21/ 2014/2– EUDCE1408105/1.6/HLM/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, 2014
ECE/ASTANA. CONF/2011/2/Add.1	Declaration: “Save water, grow green!” by Ministers of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, report of the Seventh Ministerial Conference entitled “Environment for Europe”, 2011
ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add. 1	Declaration: “Greener, cleaner, smarter!” by Ministers of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, report of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016
ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add. 2	Batumi Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development adopted by the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, report of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016
ECE/AC.21/2019/2	Report of the fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, 2019

3. Relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements of the Economic Commission for Europe

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ECE/EB.AIR/140 and Add.1	Report of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on its thirty-seventh session.
ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/6 and Add.1	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters on its third session
ECE/MP.PP/2017/2 and Add.1	Report of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
ECE/MP.PP/2017/16– ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/2 and Add.1	Report of the joint High-level Segment of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters on its sixth session and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers on its third session, and the Budva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Our Sustainable Future adopted by the two Meetings of the Parties

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ECE/MP.EIA/23– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context on its seventh session and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment on its third session.
ECE/CP.TEIA/38 and Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on its tenth meeting
ECE/MP.WAT/49 and Add.1 and Add.2	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its seventh session
ECE/MP.WAT/54 and Add.1 and Add.2	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its eighth session
ECE/MP.WH/13- EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP- 4/06 and Add.1 and Add.2	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its fourth session
