



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 August 2020

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Twenty-second session

Geneva, 27 October 2020

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System
to support a regular process of environmental assessment**

Revised outline of the final review report on the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 13–15 November 2019), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy invited the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to oversee the preparation of a final review report on the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System in Europe and Central Asia for consideration by the Committee, with a view to its subsequent forwarding to the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference as an information document (ECE/CEP/2019/15, para. 37 (j)).

At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 6 and 7 May 2019), the Working Group had already asked the secretariat to prepare a draft outline of the final review of progress, to be considered by the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators at its sixteenth session (Geneva, 28 and 29 October 2019) (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/2, para. 29 (c)). The present document aims to facilitate the Working Group's agreement on the outline and subsequent oversight of the preparation of the final review report. The outline was prepared based on the mid-term review report on the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (ECE/CEP/2019/7), the updated assessment framework of the Shared Environmental Information System (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/3), the draft outline presented to the Joint Task Force in October 2019 (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/2, para. 40) and written feedback received from member States in May 2020.



I. Background

1. At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers invited countries to continue their efforts and to further develop their national information systems to have the Shared Environmental Information System in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021 (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1, para. 10).
2. At its twenty-fourth session (Geneva, 29–31 January 2019), the Committee on Environmental Policy requested the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to lead a further review of progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in Europe and Central Asia in advance of the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2019/2, para. 27 (f)). At its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 13–15 November 2019), the Committee invited the Working Group to oversee the preparation of a final review report on the establishment of the System in Europe and Central Asia for consideration by the Committee, with a view to its subsequent forwarding to the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference as an information document (ECE/CEP/2019/15, para. 37 (j)).
3. At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 6 and 7 May 2019), the Working Group asked the secretariat to prepare a draft outline of the final review of progress, to be considered by the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators at its sixteenth session (Geneva, 28 and 29 October 2019). The Working Group agreed that a written silence procedure would be applied for the approval of the outline of the final review of progress, in November 2019 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/2, paras. 29 (c) and 30 (b)).
4. The present document aims to facilitate the Working Group's agreement on the outline and subsequent oversight of the preparation of the final review report. The outline below was prepared based on the mid-term review report on the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (ECE/CEP/2019/7) and using the updated assessment framework of the Shared Environmental Information System (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/3), the draft outline presented to the Joint Task Force in October 2019 (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/2, para. 40), the earlier template for preparing reports for the mid-term review (ECE/CEP/2017/16, annex II) and written feedback from member States in May 2020. The outline includes a possible supplement, issued as an informal document, which would provide additional and more detailed information to support the work of the Working Group.

II. Outline of the final review report on the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System

A. Table of contents of the report

I. Introduction to the Shared Environmental Information System and the final progress review

II. Overview of main achievements and key findings (up to three pages)

A. Working Group recommendations

B. Key findings

C. The pillars of the Shared Environmental Information System

1. Content

2. Infrastructure

3. Institutional cooperation

III. Lessons learned and challenges (up to one page)

IV. Further steps (up to one page)

A. Relevance

B. Accessibility

C. Comparability

V. Fact sheets on key findings and messages (up to three pages)

B. Table of contents of the annex

Background information

I. Assessment framework

II. Data collection

III. Indicator and national performance scores

C. Table of contents of possible supplement

This would echo the table of contents of the main report.