

**Twenty-second session**

Geneva, 27 October 2020

Switzerland

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the report of the twenty-first session

Key outcomes of the 21st session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment



**ENVIRONMENT**

- Objectives
- Decisions taken
- Status of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations

Objectives of the 21st session of the Working Group



ENVIRONMENT

- To discuss and adopt the annual timetable of activities for 2020
- To discuss the revised outline of activities leading up to 2021
- To review the progress in SEIS
- To discuss the next pan-European environmental assessment
- To develop an inclusive platform to discuss integration of economic, social and environmental data
- To consult on streamlining of regular state-of-the environment reporting



Recommendations and Decisions taken by the Working Group and their status of implementation

ENVIRONMENT

III. Implementing the renewed mandate and terms of reference

- Working Group took note of the revised outline of activities leading up to 2021 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/3). [done]
- The representative of Switzerland requested that item B.1. in the annual timetable of activities for 2020 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/4) be reclassified as high priority. Working Group then adopted the timetable. [CEP information paper no. 23 in November 2019, done]

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

- Working Group decided the pillar-based performance score option would be included in the assessment framework for use in the final review of progress in establishing SEIS in Europe and Central Asia. [ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/3, done]
- Working Group decided on following timeline for finalization of assessment framework: [done]
 - a) Members of Working Group could send comments on assessment framework by email until 31 May 2019
 - b) In June 2019, a small group comprised of representatives of countries would review comments, revise questionnaire and agree on data flows to be assessed
 - c) Secretariat would prepare a draft outline of final review of progress, to be considered by Joint Task Force in October 2019
 - d) Data collection for the final assessment of progress might begin in December 2019.



Recommendations and Decisions taken by the Working Group and their status of implementation

ENVIRONMENT

IV. Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment - continued

- Working Group agreed a written silence procedure would be applied for approval of the following: **[done]**
 - a) Finalized assessment framework, including questions to be posed, indicators and data flows to be reviewed and application of the chosen scoring system, in July 2019
 - b) Outline of the final review of progress, in November 2019.
- Working Group requested UNEP, in close coordination with secretariat, to finalize the online reporting tool in time for 16th session of Joint Task Force. **[done, with delay]**
- Working Group agreed the online reporting tool would be used as primary tool for data collection for the final review of progress. The tool would need to be able to upload content from a file, such as an Excel or PDF file. **[partially done]**
- Working Group approved proposed outline for a publication on progress in establishing SEIS in Central Asia and Europe and requested the secretariat to circulate draft publication for review and to allow time for comments prior to its finalization. **[done]**



Recommendations and Decisions taken by the Working Group and their status of implementation

ENVIRONMENT

V. Regular pan-European environmental assessment and streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting supported by SEIS

- Working Group decided to recommend that option 2 of the draft concept for the next pan-European environmental assessment (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/6), an indicator-based and thematic assessment, be used as a basis for preparing a detailed proposal on the pan-European assessment. The proposal would need to include annotated table of contents, timeline for the assessment, costs for the elements of the assessment and foreseen outputs. The proposal should be presented in such a way that it would make it clear how the assessment would be affected if inadequate financial resources were to be made available. **[done]**
- Working Group requested secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy, at its 25th (November 2019), of the outcome of the agenda item and of the recommendation made regarding the pan-European assessment. **[done]**
- Working Group requested secretariat to share the detailed proposal with potential donors leading up to the session of the Committee on Environmental Policy. **[done]**



Recommendations and Decisions taken by the Working Group and their status of implementation

ENVIRONMENT

VI. Sharing and integration of economic, social and environmental data with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Working Group decided that green growth indicators would be considered during its next session. [written feedback being collected due to COVID-19 implications on timeframe]

VII. Guidance and information on environmental statistics and indicators

- Working Group decided that no further action would be taken for establishment of a web-based portal and existing resources would be used to update content on the UNECE website when possible. [done]
- Working Group took note of progress made in revising the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators* and approved suggested changes to the metadata sheets; agreed to use the presented database to produce the metadata sheets. [done]
- Working Group agreed to stop using environmental indicator production templates once revision of guidelines completed and proposed that the Joint Task Force discuss process of phasing out during its next session. [done, on agenda 17th session of Joint Task Force]



Questions & Comments?

Thank you!





Proposed Decision:

The Working Group:

Adopts the report of the 21st session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment as set out in document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/2