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Draft Strategic Framework 2016-2017
Subprogramme 01: Environment

Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: To improve environmental governance and performance throughout the region for safeguarding the environment and health.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved response to environmental challenges by ECE constituencies	(a) Number of measures taken by ECE constituencies in response to existing and emerging environmental challenges ¹ <i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: 2 measures Estimate 2014-2015: 4 measures Target 2016-2017: 4 measures
(b) Strengthened implementation of ECE multilateral environmental commitments	(b) (i) Increased percentage of parties reporting on the implementation of ECE multilateral environmental agreements ² <i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: 80 per cent Estimate 2014-2015: 83 per cent Target 2016-2017: 85 per cent
	(ii) Increased number of parties to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements ³ 2012-2013: 306 parties Estimated 2014-2015: 308 parties Target 2016-2017: 310 parties

¹ **Methodology:** Number of measures/initiatives, including development of capacity, (e.g. globalization of the Water Convention; adoption of amendments, including to address black carbon, to the Gothenburg Protocol under the Air Convention; EPR beyond ECE region e.g. of Morocco) taken by ECE constituencies (including countries, bodies, and the secretariat) in response to existing and emerging environmental challenges.

² **Methodology:** Reporting rate is calculated as follows: $P_{\text{average}} = \frac{P_1 + P_2 + \dots + P_n}{N}$, Where:

P_{average} means averaged rate of reporting across all of MEAs with reporting obligations; N means the number of the MEAs with reporting obligations for the given biennium;

P_n is the individual rate of reporting for the given MEA: $P_n = \frac{\text{Number of reports received} \times 100\%}{\text{Number of Parties with obligation to report}}$

Departmental remarks: The target for this performance indicator should be 100% in theory. At the same time, in 2012-2013 the average across all MEAs with reporting obligations is 80%. Therefore, the aim of this indicator is to measure the reporting rate with a baseline in 2012-2013 with a view to continuously increase it until reaching 100%.

³ **Methodology:** Cumulative number of parties (including non-ECE United Nations Member States) to the ECE MEAs.

(c) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe	(c) Increased percentage of implementation of ECE guidelines on environmental monitoring by beneficiary countries ⁴ <i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: N/A Estimate 2014-2015: N/A Target 2016-2017: 50 per cent
(d) Improved environmental performance of non-OECD member countries	(d) Percentage of EPR recommendations implemented by countries reviewed during a biennium ⁵ <i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: 65 per cent Estimate 2014-2015: 65 per cent Target 2016-2017: 65 per cent

Strategy

The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment Division. To achieve, the objective, the subprogramme strengthens a country needs-based approach in its work. To this end, it will focus on strengthening the capacity of the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in environmental policy making and management, including for the effective implementation of environmental legislation. Through the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) serviced by ECE, effective environmental governance will be promoted in the ECE region and beyond.

The subprogramme will promote sound environmental governance and will further strengthen integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies through the implementation of ECE policy tools, legal frameworks, sharing national experiences and best practices in the ECE region and beyond, in response to interest expressed by non-ECE countries particularly in several MEAs which have been opened by their Parties for accession by all United Nations Member States.

The subprogramme will continue to conduct environmental performance reviews and assist countries in the implementation of the recommendations resulting from their national environmental performance reviews. Furthermore, it will monitor the impact of such recommendations on policy formulation and implementation of the beneficiary countries. The subprogramme will also strengthen their national capacity for providing timely and accurate environmental data which will contribute to improved environmental monitoring and reporting on the environmental performance. The subprogramme will further promote the use of the ECE guidelines by member States for environmental monitoring and assessment.

The subprogramme will contribute to sustainable development in the ECE region as well as to the integrated and coordinated follow-up and the implementation of the outcomes of the regional and global summits and conferences on environment and sustainable development, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) and to the post-2015 development agenda.

⁴ **Methodology:** The performance indicator measures the percentage of implementation of selected ECE guidelines on environmental monitoring in 17 countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. **Variable:** Averaged percentage of application of the selected recommendations contained in the four ECE guidelines on environmental monitoring (calculated on the basis of country responses to the annual questionnaire). The calculation formula is as follows:

$$P_{\text{average}} = \frac{P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + \dots + P_{17}}{17}, \text{ where } P_n \text{ means the rate of implementation (average percentage across all 4 guidelines - } g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4) \text{ by the country } N \text{ as follows: } P_n = \frac{P_{g1} + P_{g2} + P_{g3} + P_{g4}}{4}.$$

⁵ **Methodology:** **Variable:** After a review, an assessment of the implementation of recommendations addressed in the previous Environmental Performance Review is performed; performance indicated as a percentage of implemented recommendations. **Departmental remarks:** This performance indicator measures the implementation by countries of recommendations made through the Environmental Performance Reviews. As such, it should be noted that the non-implementation of recommendations does not fall under the direct responsibility of the secretariat.

Actions will be taken to further integrate environment into other sectoral policies through intersectoral programmes and projects, including education for sustainable development; transport, health and environment; as well as water and health. Cross-sectoral work will also include the promotion of synergies between the ECE legally binding instruments and the cooperation between their secretariats. The subprogramme, in partnership with other regional and international stakeholders and players, will also promote and facilitate cross-border cooperation between countries, particularly through the relevant ECE MEAs.

Emphasis will be placed on supporting the implementation of ECE multilateral environmental agreements and regional and subregional action programmes, as well as multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships resulting from, inter alia, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Rio+20 Conference, and the work of the High-Level Political Forum, as appropriate.

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that, at the country level, there is: (a) political will and sufficient capacity to integrate environmental concerns in policy formulation and to implement national legislation taking into account the ECE environmental legal agreements; and (b) sufficient awareness of environmental issues and active support of the public in the implementation of national and regional policies.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 1 Environment

General Assembly resolutions

58/217	International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005-2015
58/219	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014
64/292	The human right to water and sanitation
67/291	Sanitation for All
66/288	“The Future We Want”

Economic and Social Council resolution

2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008
2013/37	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/ 2002/8	Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, 2002
ECE/AC.21/ 2009/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its third session, 2009
CEP/AC.13/2005/3/Rev.1	UNECE Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development adopted by the High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, 2005
ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/20 07/4/Add.1	Statement on Education for Sustainable Development by the Ministers of Education and of the Environment of the UNECE region adopted at the Sixth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, 2007
ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/20 07/8	Ministerial Declaration “Building Bridges to the Future”, 2007

ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/ Ministerial Declaration “Save water, grow green!”, 2011
2/Add.1

Recent decisions of the Governing Bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

ECE/EB.AIR/113 and addenda	Report of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on its thirty-first session
ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2 and Add.1	Report of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
ECE/MP.PP/2011/2 and addenda	Report of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention
ECE/MP.EIA/15	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context on its fifth session
ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2	Report 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 first session
ECE/CP.TEIA/24	Report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
ECE/MP.WAT/37 and addenda	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its sixth session
ECE/MP.WH/4 and addenda	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on its second session
