

The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes



Survey for reporting on promoting the “Environment for Europe” process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences*

I. Introduction

1. At its eighteenth session in April 2012 the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) invited the secretariat to organize consultations (in the form of a survey) with UNECE member States to collect information on how countries have been promoting objectives and priorities of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process and strengthening implementation of outcomes of the Astana Ministerial Conference, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.
2. The secretariat will prepare a summary report on the basis of responses received to the survey. The report will support the discussion during the EfE mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes which is being organized during the nineteenth session of CEP (Geneva, 22–25 October 2013).
3. The survey, contained in section V of the current document, was developed by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau. In addition, an overview of main achievements of the EfE process is provided in section II. Section III focusses on outcomes of Astana Ministerial Conference, and section IV includes background information on the mid-term review of relevance to the survey. For convenience, the Reform Plan of the EfE process is provided in the annex to this document.

II. Overview of the “Environment for Europe” process: main achievements

4. Since its launch in 1991 the EfE process supports countries efforts to advance in environmental governance. The EfE process is a unique partnership of member States within the UNECE region, organizations of the United Nations System represented in the region, other intergovernmental organizations and bodies, Regional Environmental Centres, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other major groups. UNECE, which has been closely associated with the EfE process since its inception, serves as its secretariat.

* This document has not been formally edited.

5. The process and its ministerial conferences provide an effective high-level platform for stakeholders to discuss, decide and join efforts in addressing environmental priorities across the 56 countries of the UNECE region, and is a regional pillar of sustainable development.
6. At the same time, the process focuses on supporting the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and of South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to raise environmental standards and comply with international commitments.
7. The EfE process provided the framework for the development of governance policies and initiatives, legal instruments, policies and practical actions and tools that promote and improve environmental governance and strengthen sustainable development at the regional level, as well as contribute to enhancing the global sustainability. The main achievements of the EfE process include:
 - (a) Four assessments on the state of the environment in the pan-European region (Dobris, Aarhus, Kyiv and Belgrade assessments) and an assessment of environmental assessments (Astana).
 - (b) Setting up institutional mechanisms for cooperation (establishing the Environmental Action Programme Task Force, the Project Preparation Committee and the Regional Environmental Centres).
 - (c) Acting as a driving force for developing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other environmental policy instruments, and promoting their implementation.¹
 - (d) Launching the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme for member countries that are non-OECD members.
 - (e) Promoting cross-sectoral activities and policy integration (energy efficiency, education for sustainable development (ESD) and greening the economy).
 - (f) Enhancing cooperation between Governments and civil society organizations.
8. Following a decision by Ministers in Belgrade in 2007, CEP reformed the EfE process in 2009 to ensure that it remains relevant and valuable, and to strengthen its effectiveness.

III. Main features of and lessons learned from the Astana Ministerial Conference

9. The seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011) was the first EfE Conference organized in accordance with the Reform Plan of the EfE process. The Astana Ministerial Conference gathered more than 1,500 participants from Governments, the international community, civil society, business and the media throughout the UNECE region to discuss two main themes: sustainable management of water and water-related

¹ The UNECE Programme on Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs); the UNECE Programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS); the Aarhus Convention; the Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Air Pollution Convention; the Pan-European Strategy to Phase-out Leaded Petrol; the UNECE Strategy for ESD; the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention; the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention; the Protocol on Civil Liability to the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions; the Environment Strategy for Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries; the Carpathian Convention; and a series of guidelines and recommendations to Governments.

ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development.

10. The event was organized in an interactive format, including nine high-level multi-stakeholder round tables. To support multi-stakeholder discussions during the Conference and to facilitate decision-making, substantive documents on each of the two main themes were prepared by UNECE jointly with EfE partners. For the first time, the EfE Ministerial Conference was a paper-smart event.

11. The EfE partners organized 43 side events on issues related to the two main themes of the Conference. The Conference gathered business and industry representatives, who also participated in a Green Innovations, Technologies and Ecoservices Fair, organized on the margins of the Conference. Representatives of media attended the Conference, preceded by a capacity-building workshop for journalists.

12. The Conference culminated in the adoption of the Astana Ministerial Declaration — a concise and comprehensive document — in which ministers confirmed their commitment to improving environmental protection and promoting sustainable development in the UNECE region through the EfE process, as well as decided on a number of follow up and further actions under the two themes of the Conference.

13. At its eighteenth session in April 2012, CEP assessed the effectiveness of the Astana Ministerial Conference. Delegations highly appreciated the organization and the outcomes of the Conference, structured in a new format according to the EfE Reform Plan. The success of the Conference was attributed to its two main themes, which were of importance for the entire region, its interactive format and its good outcomes, as well as its efficient preparatory process².

14. Meeting participants observed that the Astana Conference had demonstrated once again that the EfE process provided a unique high-level platform for addressing environmental concerns across the region and should be continued. Delegations expressed the wish for the future EfE conferences to be prepared in the same manner, including an even higher interactivity during the conference.

15. At the same time, some delegations observed that the biggest challenge for future conferences was to provide new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, given the ongoing economic crisis that affected all countries in the UNECE region.

16. Future conferences should also be better streamlined, in particular in terms of side events. Concerning identification of themes for the next conferences, delegates stressed the need to find the right balance between established and emerging themes, including enhancing the work related to green economy and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into the economic development.

IV. The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes

17. In accordance with the EfE Reform Plan and following a decision by the Astana Ministerial Conference, CEP is convening a mid-term review in 2013 to assess the progress in implementation of the Conference’s main outcomes. The mid-term review would provide

² The preparatory process for the Astana Ministerial Conference commenced in 2009 and included four meetings of CEP (October 2009, November 2010, May and September 2011), two meetings of CEP Extended Bureau (May 2009 and March 2010), and one joint meeting of the Bureaux of CEP and of the Water Convention (January 2010).

renewed impetus to the process and its findings would be taken into account in the preparatory process for the next conference.

18. The EfE Reform Plan stipulates that particular efforts should be made by all relevant responsible actors to implement the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences. Member States should regularly consider how to promote objectives and priorities of the EfE process and strengthen implementation of the outcomes, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.

19. Furthermore, the Reform Plan stipulates that active participation by and input of all interested UNECE countries, and in particular of interested countries from subregions with specific needs in improving their environmental situation is crucial for the success of the activities under the EfE process. Also, countries taking the lead for one or more issues were encouraged to do so in ways that would contribute significantly to the EfE process’ objectives and priorities.

20. The Astana Conference main outcomes include: (a) ratifying and implementing the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); (b) implementing the Astana Water Action; (c) promoting a green economy in the region and the Green Bridge Partnership Programme; (d) conducting a third cycle of environmental performance reviews (EPRs); (e) establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS); and (f) continuing the work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP Task Force) and strengthening the work of the Regional Environmental Centres (see ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1).³

V. Survey

21. The purpose of the survey is to collect information (in accordance with the request by CEP) from the UNECE member States about the promotion of the EfE objectives and priorities in general, as well as strengthening implementation of the outcomes of the Astana Ministerial Conference in particular, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.

22. Following to the EfE Reform Plan, which stipulates in paragraph 16 that “member States should regularly consider how to promote objectives and priorities of the EfE process”, the survey aims at assessing the progress made by countries in implementing the EfE objectives and priorities as set out in the 2009 EfE Reform Plan (paragraphs 6 and 7). The EfE priorities adopted in 2009 cover most of activities carried out at present by the UNECE Environment subprogramme, as well as a number of activities carried out by the EfE partners. These activities are included in sections 2 and 3 of the survey.

23. In addition, following up on paragraph 16 of the EfE Reform Plan stipulating that “member States should strengthen the implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences”, the survey aims at assessing the progress in implementation of the main outcome activities of the 2011 Astana EfE Ministerial Conference (refer to paragraph 20 of the present document). These activities are included in section 4 of the survey.

24. Furthermore, the survey seeks to identify country views on environmental priorities and themes that could be addressed at the next ministerial conference, as well as on possible efficient interactive modes for conducting discussions at ministerial level. These issues are included in sections 5 and 6 of the survey.

³ The Astana Ministerial Declaration and other Conference documents are available on the ECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/astana/welcome.html>).

25. It is recognized that countries may engage in a particular issue, treaty or process without the direct attribution of that engagement to the EfE process. Therefore it is recommended that the responses to the survey questions also explain the extent to which the EfE process has influenced the attention and priority given to an issue, process or treaty. If the response to a question is “not applicable”, “disagree” or “not foreseen”, but the particular issue is nonetheless important for the country, it could be explained that the issue is addressed primarily through means other than the EfE process or UNECE activities.

26. The target group of the survey comprises the representatives of national Governments of the UNECE region.

27. The structure of the survey has been developed to be user-friendly, mostly using a “tick box” approach, which is complemented by an explanatory section to allow respondents to elaborate on their choice. Such an approach is expected to facilitate the process of filling in the survey.

28. On the basis of responses received the UNECE secretariat will prepare an analysis for consideration by the nineteenth session of CEP. The analysis along with the responses received from countries will be posted on the CEP website.

29. UNECE member States are invited to complete the survey below and submit it to the secretariat (efe@unece.org) **by Friday, 28 June 2013**, at the latest.

1. Contact information

Please indicate the name, title, organization and country, as well as the contact data of the person who filled in the survey

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Date:	27/6/13

2. Progress in promoting the objectives of the “Environment for Europe” process

In the table below, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate. The boxes can be ticked by double-clicking on the box and choosing “checked” under the “default value” from the popping up window. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

The EfE process continues to serve as a mechanism to:

(a) Improve the environment throughout the region, contributing to sustainable development which may in turn contribute to poverty eradication, to improving quality of life, and to a safer world

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

(b) Enhance the implementation of strengthened national environmental policies

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

(c) Support convergence of environmental policies and approaches, while recognizing the benefits from a diversity of approaches to achieve common goals, and the prioritisation of environmental objectives

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

(d) Encourage the participation of civil society

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

(e) Promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

3. Progress in promoting the political priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process

In the table below, please, provide a brief summary of how your country is progressing in promoting the EfE political priorities, based on commitments already made under the EfE process, including through national policies and relevant partnerships. Please tick the box that best corresponds to the current situation or level of implementation in your country. Provide an explanation, as appropriate. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

The progress (in your country) on EfE political priorities may include:

(a) Improvement of environmental governance, including strengthening environmental institutions and implementation of policy instruments (by your country)

- improvement of environmental governance:

not started / initiated / in progress / accomplished / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

The Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for the formulation of a nationwide, integrated, and inclusive policy for the protection of the environment. The ministry operates on three levels: national, regional, and local. At the *national* level, the ministry is responsible for developing an integrated and comprehensive governmental policy, as well as strategies, standards, and priorities for environmental protection. To this end, the ministry has professional divisions and departments that deal with a myriad of environmental issues, as well as with its administrative mechanisms and public relations. At the *regional* level, the ministry is divided into six districts that operate according to their specific needs: Central, Haifa, Jerusalem, Northern, Tel Aviv, and Southern. The districts' responsibilities include:

- Implementation of national policy
- Involvement in planning processes
- Teaching municipalities about their environmental responsibilities
- Supervision and enforcement of environmental laws in municipalities
- Formulating requirements and environmental conditions for the acquisition of business licenses
- Supervision and direction of environmental units
- Initiating and promoting environmental projects in districts.

At the *local* level, the ministry lends support to 52 environmental units—environmental units are municipal organizations that deal with environmental issues at the local level—and towns associations that have been established in municipalities throughout the country. They are responsible for bringing to fruition, on a local level, the national environmental policy. They also constitute an advisory body for local authorities on environmental issues.

- strengthening environmental institutions:

not started / initiated / in progress / accomplished / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

The MoEP supports and cooperates with environmental units and urban associations within local authorities. These units also act as environmental consultants to local authorities—offering them professional assistance and coordinating activities between those who work with municipalities on environmental matters of all kinds. As of January 2013, there are 52 such environmental units.

The ministry lends financial support to the environmental units, which helps fund both workers' salaries and professional activities. The level of support is dependent upon the size of the unit, the municipality's population, the geographical size of the area, and other factors. Given the ministry's goal of expanding utilization of environmental units, we are working to expand the powers of the units and to train employees and managers in additional related areas.

- implementation of policy instruments:

not started / initiated / in progress / accomplished / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Israel is currently in the process of implementing several measures which will enhance environmental protection, the main measures being:

- **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Mechanism** – The Parliament approved the Environmental Protection Law (Pollutant Release and Transfer - Registering and Reporting Obligation) in March 2012. It requires industries to report the annual quantity of emissions of pollutants and wastes from facilities with the most significant environmental impact. Israel has ratified the UNECE Kiev Protocol, and has requested to publish its PRTR data in the E-PRTR, which will be operational in December 2013.
- **Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)**- MoEP is leading Israel's move toward progressive environmental regulation through the establishment of the IPPC system (under European directive—IED). The will streamline existing permits into one integrated permit, thus creating one unified and simplified approval procedure. A "green license" would serve as a one-stop shop; it would remove obstacles such as bureaucratic and cumbersome licensing procedures, lack of centralized information, and inadequate government support, while providing certainty to the drivers of change in the industrial sector, facilitating high environmental performance and serving as a green track to innovation.
- **Recycling Action Plan**- the MoEP launched this plan in July 2010. It is based on the separation of waste into two streams—compostable and non-compostable—and aims to increase household waste recycling up to 50% in 2020 (as compared to 80% today). The plan addresses large-scale recycling of household waste and reduction of landfilling by simultaneous implementation of a mix of measures: increasing the landfill levy; providing dedicated assistance to local authorities in establishing systems for the separation of household waste into two streams; strengthening existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system and introducing new ones; supporting the construction of recycling plants; and supporting the creation of markets for recovered products.
- **Electronic waste** - The bill has been approved on May 2012 and will come into force in 2014. It proposes that manufacturers and importers of electronic equipment will be responsible for their products throughout the whole lifecycle, even after the consumer will cease to use them. They will be required to recycle half of the equipment sold by them throughout the year. Shops selling all kinds of batteries will be required to accept these products back after use. Local authorities will be responsible for separation of the electronic waste from the domestic one. The bill proposes that starting 2020, landfilling of electronic waste will be prohibited entirely, except for recycling by-products.

(b) Streamlining the implementation by your Government of commitments made to existing UNECE legally-binding and legally non-binding instruments

Overall assessment:

not started / initiated / in progress / accomplished / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Israel has so far not joined most of the UNECE MEA's. Israel does not share a common frontier with any UNECE member country.

Israel has, however, ratified the UNECE Kiev Protocol. Although regulating information on pollution, rather than pollution directly, the Protocol is expected to exert a significant downward pressure on levels of pollution, as companies will not want to be identified as among the biggest polluters.

	<p>The Kiev Protocol is coherent and designed to be user-friendly and publicly accessible. It also allows for public participation in its development and modification, thus serving the mechanism of encouraging the participation of civil society. The Kiev Protocol promotes a broad cooperation of the Government (regulator), the polluting industries, and the public (the people effected by the pollution).</p>
<p>Air Pollution Convention and its Protocols</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Water Convention</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Protocol on Water and Health</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p>

	<p>Israel is currently examining the possible implications of joining the protocol.</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Protocol on Civil Liability</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Espoo Convention</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of</p>

	<p>ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Protocol on SEA</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Aarhus Convention</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>While Israel is not a Party to the Convention, it acceded the PRTR Protocol on January 14, 2013 (Accession has the same legal effect as ratification, but is not preceded by a signature).</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p>

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	<p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Protocol on PRTRs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Israel has ratified the Protocol on PRTRs on 14 January 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The recently enacted PRTR Law is in full coherence with the Kiev Protocol.</p> <p>As per the requirements of the law, reports on the first year of implementation (2012) will be submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection by June 30, 2013, with subsequent reports to be submitted by March 31st of each year. The ministry will then review the reports and publish them on its PRTR website on December 1st, 2013, with subsequent reports to be published on September 1st.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The first report will be submitted until 30 January 2014, as required by the Secretariat.</p>
<p>Strategy for ESD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input type="checkbox"/> adopted / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> actively participating / <input type="checkbox"/> not engaged / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The MoEP and the Ministry of Education have made a significant progress in in promoting environmental education. Environmental education was defined as one of the five major targets of the MoEP during 2008-2010.</p> <p>One of the major initiatives of the past decade is the Green School Project, which encourages schools, with the cooperation of administration, students, parents and community, not just to teach environmental subjects but to act in a sustainable manner, to conserve resources, and to advance eco-efficiency. The project was initiated in 2002 by the MoEP, Ministry of Education and representatives of environmental NGOs, as part of Israel’s preparations for the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development but has grown steadily in the</p>

	<p>following years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The MoEP, Ministry of Education and their partners have developed many strategies to implement ESD. Guidelines were drafted for certifying green campuses (kindergarten, grade schools and universities). The schools that met those guidelines (formal studies, rational use of resources, and contribution to the community) received rebates for expenses. The MoEP invests 3 million NIS (New Israeli Shekels) each year on this project. Additionally, the MoEP created training courses for grade school educators in order to integrate sustainability into the education system. This year the MoEP started a similar program for youth groups and invested 500,000 NIS. Sustainability Introductory courses are available in colleges and are taught by trained professionals. These instructors participate in a variety of training courses provided by the MoEP. The MoEP funds (3,000,000 NIS) and supports municipal authorities in preparing and mapping water and energy efficiency program as well as the Recycling Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>On April of 2010, Israel submitted its National Report to the Eighteenth’s session to the Commission on Sustainable Development. It stated that in Israel, the MoEP, the Ministry of Education, community centers, and non-governmental organizations are continuously developing formal and informal education programs. Targeted at all segments of the population, many of these programs deal with raising awareness for sustainable consumption by means of the three R’s – recycle, reuse and reduce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle: recycling projects have ranked high among school activities, whether composting workshops (utilizing composting bins provided by the MoEP to participating schools), paper recycling competitions or used battery collection campaigns. In addition, students often collect and return used beverage containers and transfers the redeemed deposits to charities throughout the country. • Reuse: plastic bag reuse is high on the agenda for school children. The plastic bags are turned into carpets, handbags, and ornamental statues. • Reduce consumption: The MoEP published an activity book teaching children how to reduce use of different kinds of daily products. The simple understanding of product cycle and the ability to repeat it is considered to be an empowering and an awareness rising experience.
THE PEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input type="checkbox"/> adopted / <input type="checkbox"/> actively participating / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not engaged / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation

	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting (responding to THE PEP survey on progress in the attainment of the Amsterdam Goals) <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>(c) Enhancing efforts in environmental monitoring</p> <p>Overall assessment in your country:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The Israel-Germany Twinning Project was launched on June 11, 2013. It marked the advancement of the previously mentioned “green licensing” law, as well as the start of the project for the establishment of a system of integrated environmental licensing for industry. The twinning project’s goals include, creating an integrated system for permitting and inspecting of industrial operations, ready for adoption and implementation. It will be an improved environmental information system through a functioning PRTR; necessary preoperational work is completion for the establishment of a "green growth" knowledge center (also called an IPPC service center), where stakeholders can network and can collect and distribute knowledge about clean technology and green production. The project is expected to run until December 2014.</p> <p>The MoEP monitors compliance with legal environmental stipulations in relation, inter alia, to air pollution, water pollution, illegal dumping, noise nuisances, vibrations, etc. The Ministry operates two main inspection bodies: the Green Police and the Israel Police Environmental Unit. Another monitoring program is based on environmental indicators including heavy metals in sediments, heavy metals in benthic organisms, organic pollutants in sediments, nutrients in coastal streams and coastal waters and microalgae in coastal waters. The findings of the national monitoring program are complemented by the findings of local monitoring programs, which are routinely carried out by facilities discharging pollutants to sea in accordance with the conditions stipulated in their discharge permits or within the framework of environmental impact assessments or environmental documents.</p>	
<p>Production of indicator-based state-of-the-environment reports</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> never produced / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producing occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> producing regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The document "State of the Environment in Israel - Indicators, Data and Trends 2010", was published by the MoEP in English in 2011 and is available online on the Ministry's website (http://old.sviva.gov.il/Environment/Static/Binaries/index_pirsumim/p0607_2.pdf).</p> <p>It presents selected indicators based on a more comprehensive report in Hebrew (published in 2010), which compiles data on more than one hundred different indicators; most indicators are environmental, but some relate to economic and social fields as well. The report reflects the state of the environment in Israel in a wide range of fields including: a percent of recycled waste of all kinds, air quality, land contamination, quality of water resources, biodiversity, radiation, noise, etc. An updated edition of the document is to be published every several years. Based on this publication, it is the intention of the MoEP to</p>

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	create an online integrated database of the state of environment in Israel. The database will include pressures, conditions, responses, and changes over time; it will also monitor policy implementation.
Enterprise environmental monitoring and reporting	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> The need for an integrated environmental licensing law was highlighted in the wake of a 2011 government decision on the preparation of a national green growth strategy for Israel. Three round tables were set up to implement the government decision – on production, consumption and innovation – and important insights were gleaned in each of them. The Green Licensing Law will streamline existing permits into one integrated permit, thus creating one unified and simplified approval procedure. In view of the multiplicity of enterprises with significant environmental impact, each of these is currently regulated by a different permitting and licensing system, an integrated green licensing system is essential. A green licensing law would serve as a one-stop shop, providing certainty to the operator of change in the industrial sector, facilitating high environmental performance, and serving as a green track to innovation.
(d) Ensuring implementation of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme Overall assessment of your country’s role: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not active / <input type="checkbox"/> active as donor / <input type="checkbox"/> active as reviewed country / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> Israel, as an OECD country, undergoes a review process by this organization. The OECD prepared its first EPR of Israel in 2011. Israel also participates as a reviewing country in reviews carried out in other member countries (Germany 2012).	
Participation in the EPR process as a reviewed country in the future	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not interested / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Participation in the EPR process as a donor country (in-kind and/or providing financial support)	<input type="checkbox"/> not interested / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> on-going / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> This issue has not been deliberated yet.
Implementation of EPR recommendations by the reviewed country	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> accomplished / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
(e) Raising public awareness on environmental issues Overall assessment in your country: <input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

<p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>In January 2011 the MoEP launched a "Let's Think Green" information campaign. The campaign aims to create a conceptual and behavioural change to the public of Israel. It is targeted at individuals, businesses and society, highlights the economic and environmental profit that goes hand in hand with environmental conduct. As part of the campaign, the public is presented with action steps that can save a family more than 500 NIS a month and 6,000 NIS a year. The campaign's focal topics include paper saving, green driving, responsible food purchasing, cleanliness in public areas, electricity savings, and green building. It raises the environmental problems associated with each of these fields, while providing simple environmental solutions to be implemented by the private individual. (http://www.greenlife.co.il/english)</p> <p>The campaign of separating waste that was mentioned earlier is definitely a process of awareness rising. Along with that campaign, the MoEP is committed to campaigning against the burning of waste—which is aimed at the Arab sector due to their traditions. We also had a 2,500,000 NIS auction that supported 17 conferences and events that were carried out by local authorities and were aimed at raising awareness of our issues. During the auction and events tens of thousands of people were exposed to environmental and sustainability issues. The MoEP, in cooperation with the New Foundation for Cinema and Television, also initiated the makings of two documentaries on consumer consumption.</p>	
<p>Ensuring public access to environmental information</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>New Regulations under the Freedom of Information Law 1988 (Public Access to Environmental Information 2009) came into force in September 2010. The regulations were prepared pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law 1998, which determines that every public authority, as defined by the law (including all government ministries, local authorities and dozens of public bodies) must make available information on environmental quality accessible for public review. The Regulations require public authorities to make a wide range of environmental information on pollution, emissions and wastes, accessible to the public, without request or payment. The new regulations specify 22 clauses for which information has to be available on the internet, including air, water and marine pollution, waste, noise, hazardous waste, radiation, and soil contamination.</p>
<p>Ensuring public participation in environmental-decision making</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The Planning and Building Law of 1965 regulates all building and land use in Israel and establishes both an institutional and substantive framework for environmental planning. The law provides for a public notification and participation process with respect to land use planning. The public is informed of schemes presented to regional and local planning authorities through public notices appearing in the legal gazette, in offices of the local authority, or in daily newspapers. The public is entitled to inspect land use plans and submit objections during the deposition period. The law also provides for an appeal process if an objection is rejected.</p> <p>On May 14, 2003, an important landmark on the path toward sustainable development occurred in the form of a government decision, which determined, inter alia, that the policy of the Government of Israel will be based on the principles of sustainable development and that each government ministry will draft a strategic plan for sustainable development. The government decision includes both specific sections, which relate to the tasks of the different ministries in drafting their strategic plans for sustainable development, and general provisions. The Strategic Plan for sustainable development will be presented to the</p>

	<p>public during the preparation to participate in the decision making process. At the end of the program a plan shall be submitted to the parliament by the minister and brought to the attention of the public.</p>
<p>Ensuring public access to environmental justice</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>See freedom of information and public participation.</p>
<p>(f) Promoting linkages between environmental policy, economic and social well-being and competitiveness</p> <p>Overall assessment in your country:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>In May 2009, Israel's finance minister joined ministers from OECD countries in signing a Green Growth Declaration, which tasks these countries with developing a strategy that brings together economic, environmental, technological, financial, and developmental aspects into one comprehensive framework. In October 2011, the government approved a decision to formulate a national green growth strategy.</p> <p>In February 2012, Israeli stakeholders gathered at the country's first National Green Growth Conference, where discussion focused on how Israel's economy could be based on green growth that does not deplete Israel's natural resources for future generations. The conference was organized by the MoEP and by "Calcalist"- Israel's financial daily newspaper; it highlighted the link between economy and environment. About 1,000 people from all sectors participated, as did government representatives. The conference helped broaden the public discourse on green growth and highlighted its inherent economic, social and environmental advantages.</p> <p>The MoEP and Israel Central Bureau of Statistics has prepared a publication of well being in Israel which present data for the years 2000-2010 on a wide range of indicators. The publication was released at the end of 2012. The CBS and the MoEP are working together along with the Prime Minister's Office on updating these indicators and on selecting new indicators relevant for Israel for the following years. These "beyond GDP" indicators will serve as input to policy making processes.</p>	
<p>Mainstreaming the environment into economic development</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The National green growth action plan was presented to the Government in September 2012. It assesses the economic potential of a transition to a green economy and recommends measures for implementation, expected to add billions of shekels to the Israeli economy in addition to saving billions more, which are currently invested in preventing environmental and health hazards (at the cost of 580 million NIS over 5 years). The recommendations relate to the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing obstacles to green growth: mapping and removing environmentally harmful subsidies; dealing with regulatory failures. • Encouraging cleantech industries: developing new industry and creating markets for green products and services; accelerating green innovation; developing the cleantech industry including professional training; Increasing Israel's competitiveness and promotion of export. • Green employment • Transition to sustainable industry: promotion of clean production; implementation of efficiency surveys in production, energy and water processes and in environmental industrial design for small and medium businesses; promotion of

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	<p>green industrial zones; increased use of eco-efficiency indicators and environmental management systems and integrating environmental legislation and licensing procedures (IPPC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to a more environmentally friendly business sector. • Transition to green consumption, including a boost to green public procurement; green taxation of products and anti-greenwash measures.
<p>Implementing environmental policies through economic/market instruments (e.g. phasing out subsidies, introducing environmental taxation, payment for ecosystems services, etc.)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Economic instruments that are used in Israel include taxes, fees and charges; deposit-refund systems; environmental subsidies and tax benefits and convenient loan schemes, investments and supports. Fines, fees and taxes are used to penalize organizations which misuse or pollute natural resources and to impose the costs of use on the user while tax benefits and financial support mechanisms are used as incentives for the adoption of environmentally friendly activity and the promotion of clean production programs. Existing fees that are already in place in Israel include landfill levies and water extraction levies. Different means of promoting research and development on innovative environment friendly products, processes and technologies are also being examined. Several economic instruments for financing environmental projects and activities are in operation, such as the marine pollution prevention fund, the cleanliness maintenance fund, the quarry restoration fund and a deposit-return scheme for beverage containers. Based on strict criteria, the MoEP also finances environmental projects such as minimization of hazardous waste and establishment of waste recovery infrastructure. Philanthropic foundations have also been set up in Israel, which provide essential funds for environmental projects implemented by non-governmental organizations. In recent years, foundations have supported such priorities as landscape protection, sustainable transportation, environmental education, air pollution abatement and public participation.</p> <p>To encourage the reduction of air pollution from vehicles, the Government imposes a differential vehicle sales tax that is linked to the pollution level emitted from the vehicle (air pollutants + GHG). The sales tax on hybrid cars was reduced from 90% in 2004 to 30% in 2005 until the end of 2013, 45% in 2014, 60% in 2015 and thereafter like regular cars, while the sales tax on electric cars was set on 8% until the end of 2013, 10% until the end of 2014 and 30% between 2015 and 2019.</p> <p>Deposit Law on Beverage Containers Amendment 2010: An Amendment to the Deposit Law came into effect on February 9, 2010. It aimed at facilitating compliance with more ambitious collection targets like an increase of the deposit sum on small beverage containers from 0.25 to 0.30 NIS per container, prohibiting the sale of beverage containers, which are not duly marked, and more.</p>
<p>Implementing environmental policies through regulatory/normative instruments (e.g. norms, standards, bans, etc.)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>There are several laws and dozens of regulations that are created under the authority of those laws, which relate to general environmental protection. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Provisions of the Montreal Protocol, Regulation, 2009: the purpose of these regulations, promulgated in January 2004, is to implement the provisions of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The regulations set restrictions on production, consumption, import and export of substances that deplete or are likely to deplete the ozone layer and establish means of inspection and control mechanisms. • Effluent Quality Standards and Rules for Sewage Treatment, Regulations, 2010: The objective of these regulations, which fall under the authority of the Public Health Ordinance, the Licensing of Businesses Law, and the Water Law is "to protect public health, to prevent pollution of water sources from sewage and effluents, to facilitate the recovery of effluents as a water source, to protect the

	<p>environment, including ecological systems and biological diversity, soil and agricultural crops, inter alia, through the imposition of obligations and setting of instructions in accordance with the provisions of these regulations."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration on National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites (Protected Natural Assets), Proclamation, 2005: Israel's National Parks, Nature Reserves, Memorial Sites and National Sites Law of 1992 relates, inter alia, to the declaration of "protected natural assets," defined as flora, fauna or minerals, which, are valuable for protection and are at risk of extinction. The law prohibits destroying, possessing or trading in these protected natural assets. <p>More legislations could be found on our website: http://www.sviva.gov.il/English/Legislation/Pages/Legislation.aspx</p> <p>Standards relate to energy efficiency, green building, green product etc.</p> <p>Bans relate inter alia to import/export of waste, use of certain chemicals, leaded fuel, driving on beaches, building regulations etc.</p>
<p>Implementing environmental policies through information based/voluntary instruments (e.g. labelling, etc.)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p><u>There are several environmental policies that are implemented through information-based instruments. The following are a few examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of Cleanliness Regulations (Marking of Beverage Containers), 1987: these regulations relate to the requirement in the Maintenance of Cleanliness Law to print or impress on beverage containers, or on a label affixed to them, a conspicuous notice as to the prohibition to discard waste. The public discard of big beverage bottles in special cages (the recycling corporation calls for this through adds in the media). • Household waste recycling: more and more households separate domestic waste into two streams – wet and dry. The process is fostered through intensive information campaigns. • Water conservation: Water scarcity and deterioration of water quality dictate the need for greater water efficiency and conservation in Israel. This is achieved through a wide variety of measures including education and information, water-sensitive planning and water-wise gardening. • Green labeling on several kinds of products • The current Green Building standard is voluntary

4. Progress in strengthening the implementation of outcomes of the Astana Efe Ministerial Conference

In the table below, please, provide a brief summary of how your country is progressing in implementing the commitments made at the Astana Conference. Please tick the box that best corresponds to the current situation or level of implementation in your country. Provide an explanation, as appropriate. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

The main outcomes of the Astana Conference include:

(a) Ratifying and implementing the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) (by your country)

Please provide additional information, as relevant, that was not provided under section 3(b) (up to 250 words):

(b) Implementing the Astana Water Action (*by your country*)

not started / initiated / in progress / well-implemented/ not foreseen

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

(c) Promoting a green economy (*by your country*)

not started / initiated / in progress / well-implemented/ not foreseen

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

A major factor in Israel’s decision to pursue a strategy of green growth was its accession to the OECD in 2010. Israel responded to the OECD message that green growth can open up new sources of growth by enhancing productivity and improving resource management, providing opportunities for innovation, and creating new markets. It was determined to implement the June 2009 OECD Declaration on Green Growth in which ministers from 34 countries resolved to “strengthen their efforts to pursue green growth strategies as part of their responses to the crisis and beyond.” It resolved to demonstrate that “green” and “growth” could go hand in hand.

In a landmark decision taken by Israel’s parliament on October 23, 2011, the government approved the proposal of the MoEP and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor to prepare a national green growth strategy for the years 2013-2020. The decision focuses on separating economic growth from environmental deterioration based on the recognition that the environment can serve as an engine for increasing efficiency, resource savings and economic growth, for developing new cleantech industries, for creating new jobs, for strengthening the social infrastructure and for increasing competitiveness on the global market.

A set of indicators for measuring the progress toward green growth was developed by a special inter-ministerial committee appointed during the first green growth round table process of the “National Green Growth Plan” that was previously mentioned. These indicators are meant to help shape Israel’s future decision making on the subject and to contribute to information-based public discourse.

Outcome indicators of the green growth plan, which aim to assess the economic outcomes that directly result from the implementation of the plan’s policy tools in the short and medium range, and allow for quick adaptation of the implementation policy. (Examples include: green jobs, gross domestic product in environmental sectors, export of environmental technologies, rate of integration of environmental technologies, rate of green public procurement, and rate of raw material recycling in industry and rate of green building.)

Benchmark indicators for green growth, which aim to reflect the overall, long-range progress of the State of Israel toward green growth from a wide perspective. (Examples include: “Green GDP” - domestic product minus environmental costs, resource use intensity and resource productivity - water, energy and raw materials, carbon footprint and ecological footprint, intensity of carbon emissions, level of environmental pollution (soil, air, water), and level of environmental morbidity.)

Dashboard indicators, which provide a more segmented and detailed picture of different aspects of the green growth plan and are designated for professionals. (Examples include: environmental efficiency of production and consumption, environmental quality of life, state of natural resources, and scope and impact of environmental policy tools.)

Promoting the Green Bridge Partnership Programme (*by your country*)

not started / initiated / in progress / well-implemented/ not foreseen

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

(d) Ensuring implementation of the third cycle of environmental performance reviews (EPRs) (*by your country*)

not foreseen / active as donor / active as reviewed country / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Israel, as an OECD country, undergoes a review process by this organization. The OECD prepared its first EPR of Israel in 2011. Israel also participates as a reviewing country in reviews carried out in other member countries (Germany 2012).

(e) Establishing a regular process of environmental assessment (RPEA), including developing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) (by your country)

not started / initiated / in progress / SEIS developed / RPEA established

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Israel is part of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument - Shared Environmental Information System project (ENPI-SEIS), which is funded by the EU. On April 29 and 30 of 2013, four representatives of the Europe Environment Agency visited the MoEP for discussions focused on the environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea region. The meetings took place within the framework of the EU's European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument - Shared Environmental Information Systems (ENPI-SEIS) project, aimed at improving collection and exchange of data regarding environmental policy. The project is connected to the Review, Monitoring, and Research subgroup of the Horizon 2020 Initiative, the goal of which is to tackle most of the Mediterranean's pollution sources by the year 2020. The SEIS members met with representatives from the ministry's Chief Scientist's Office and ministry professionals, as well as with representatives from the Central Bureau of Statistics. (The MoEP and the CBS are the entities responsible for SEIS in Israel.) One of the main goals of the meetings was to formulate objective indicators to measure the environmental status of the southern and eastern region of the Mediterranean Sea. Specifically, the indicators relate to waste, water, and industrial emissions - the core subjects of the Horizon 2020 Initiative. This information will be the scientific and professional basis for the formulation of policy and for decision-making related to the depollution of the Mediterranean. See <http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/country-report/country-report> for the report about Israel.

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) system in Israel incorporates environmental considerations in earlier stages of the planning and decision-making processes and incorporates sustainable development principles. The regulations, which were drafted by the MoEP in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior (and in consultation with the National Planning and Building Board), are based on the experience gained in Israel over the past two decades and on a review of EIA systems in other countries.

(f) Participation in the continued work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP Task Force), including on the sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, and on greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (by your country)

not foreseen / active as donor / active as beneficiary / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

Participation in strengthening the contribution of Regional Environmental Centres (RECs) in both promoting green economy and better environmental governance at the local, national, subregional and regional levels (by your country)

not foreseen / active as donor / active as beneficiary / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

5. Thematic priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process for the Eighth Ministerial Conference

In the table below, please indicate thematic priorities that might be addressed at the Eighth Efe Ministerial Conference, including a brief justification note for each proposed priorities. Please also indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the proposed several themes, as well as organising a high-level segment on MEAs and the proposed theme. Please kindly note that the idea to organize a high-level segment on MEAs emerged from the discussion at the informal meeting of representatives of governing bodies of MEAs and CEP (Geneva, 27 February 2013).

First thematic priority (an “established” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g. the Astana Conference addressed the “established” theme sustainable management of water and water related ecosystems)

Please propose a theme: Adaptation to climate change

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Climate change is widely considered to be one of the most potentially serious environmental problems facing the world community. Countries worldwide have placed climate change high on their list of environmental priorities; Israel is no different. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the scientific intergovernmental body established to provide decision makers and others with an objective source of information about climate change, global greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times, with an increase of 70% between 1970 and 2004. The IPCC assesses with very high confidence that the globally averaged net effect of human activities since 1750 has been one of warming. The "best case" climate models estimate that the average global temperature will rise by 1.8° C to 4.0° C by the year 2100. A temperature increase of 0.74° C occurred last century and for the next two decades, a warming of about 0.2° C per decade is projected should greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at their current pace and are allowed to double from their pre-industrial level. This will have an immense negative impact worldwide; hence, climate change should be the **first** thematic priority.

Second thematic priority (an “emerging” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g. the Astana Conference addresses the “emerging” theme greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development)

Please propose a theme: ... Sustainable consumption and production

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

It is widely recognized today that the transition to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production is necessary. The SWITCH-Med sustainable consumption and production program aims to promote a switch of the Mediterranean economies toward sustainable consumption and production patterns and green economies. It also seeks to minimize the environmental impacts associated with the life cycle of products and services, and when relevant, to promote renewable energy. The program has three components. The *first* being: A policy component works to further integrate sustainable production and consumption into the regional Mediterranean policy and governance framework; The *second* being: demonstration component uses national or regional projects to promote more sustainable production and consumption methods. These projects will promote environmental technologies and be environmentally beneficial, while also empowering civil society and promoting green entrepreneurs; and the *third* being the networking component that allows for information exchanges, lesson learning, and replication of successful initiatives. This initiative is necessary on both the local and global level.

<p>Enhancing the work on greening the economy and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into the economic development</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Astana EfE and Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>The key message of the Greening the Economy with Agriculture concept note submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to Rio+20 states: “As the single largest sector using 60 percent of the world’s ecosystems and providing livelihoods for 40 percent of today’s global population, the food and agriculture sector is critical to greening the economy. There will be no green economy without agriculture.” Israel’s breakthrough agricultural technologies are globally recognized. They have led to more efficient water and fertilizer use per unit of output and they have earned Israel the reputation of a world leader in the reclamation of effluents for agricultural irrigation. However, Israel’s high rate of population and economic growth has increased the competition for scarce land and water resources among all sectors. Moreover, the impact of the intensive agriculture on the environment remains a challenge and major efforts are now being directed toward reducing the impacts – decreasing the pollution of water and air, the degradation of the land and the pressure on biodiversity. The challenge today is to better integrate the country’s agricultural, environmental, water and energy policies so as to continue to guarantee Israel’s population food security while minimizing the use of natural resources and safeguarding the health of the environment. Based on past performance, this challenge too will be met.</p>
<p>Promoting a sustainable consumption and production</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Delegates at Rio+20 concluded that coming up with a 10-year Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) program was a priority. As a result, Israel is currently focusing efforts on creating a SCP program.</p> <p><i>Green Production:</i> There is no contradiction between industrial development and environmental performance. However, new directions are needed to remove such obstacles as bureaucratic and inconvenient licensing procedures, changing regulatory requirements, lack of centralized information, and inadequate government support. Industry expressed its readiness to improve its environmental performance based on pollution prevention at source, implementation of best available technology and efficient use of resources in return for greater regulatory certainty. Based on the understanding that industry is the regulator’s client, not its enemy, means were sought to improve the provision of services and information to industry by such means as a green growth knowledge center, simplification of complex licensing procedures and financial support for a transition to improved environmental performance and technological innovation. Innovation was identified as a major engine for sustainable industrial growth.</p> <p><i>Green Consumption:</i> Changes in consumption patterns impact the market as a whole, bringing in their wake changes in producer behavior, greener products and services, green standards, green public procurement and more. There is lack of clarity as to what constitutes a green product and that reliable information is needed in order to impact on consumption patterns. There is a focus on consumption patterns of all sectors—industry, local authorities, government and households—based on the recognition that we are all consumers.</p>
<p>“Greening” International Financial Institutions (IFIs)</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p>

policies	<i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i>
Resilience and Change	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to encompass the need for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness and contingency planning to be ready for both environmental and demographic change in the coming years, i.e., the expected increase in extreme weather events due to global warming, but also to the foreseen changes in demographics (aging populations and south-north migration), in particular in urban areas)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Integrated risk management and resilience building is a strategy that seeks to identify risks and tackle them. It is anticipated that risks of every kind—political, economic, social, or environmental—will intensify in the future and measures will have to be taken to anticipate and prepare for these risks while building up resilience.</p> <p>The project–titled Sustainability Outlook 2030–aims to grapple with major questions concerning past and present trends in Israel in order to prepare long-term strategies and policy packages for a sustainable future. It aims to build a vision of sustainability, which would enable Israel’s decision makers to understand the implications of existing trends, recognize disparities in pursuit of the vision, and identify routes by which Israel could progress towards achieving the vision. The goal is that in 2030 the population of Israel will have a high quality of life but one that preserves environmental resources for future generations and maintains ecosystem services of high resilience. To promote and enhance implementation, Outlook 2030 identified three basic policy packages, risk reduction and management, coordinated governance aimed at promoting sustainability, and environmental management at the community, local and business level.</p>

<p>Organizing a high-level segment on assessing the progress in establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing the SEIS across the region</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p>	
<p>Organizing a high-level segment on UNECE MEAs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Such a step might act to promote political commitment and enhance cooperation between countries.</p>	
<p>Role of public participation in effective implementation of MEAs</p>	<p>A possible theme for a possible high-level segment on UNECE MEAs (of relevance to all UNECE MEAs)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Multilateral Environmental Agreements provide a framework for the exchange of information and expertise in a myriad of environmental fields, including general environmental protection, nature conservation, combating desertification, and climate change. Implementation of these agreements takes different forms including exchange visits of professionals, workshops, research studies and joint projects on environmental problems of common interest.</p> <p>Is it recognized that public participation is important element in the context of environment and health issues. The public can be used as an additional tool to tackle environmental and health issues that could not be solved by the government alone. Since the public/stakeholders can both be the cause and solution of environmental issues, involving them in policy-making helps achieve a less biased and more efficient policy.</p>
<p>Need to develop new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, giving the on-going crisis that affected all countries in the UNECE region</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>We believe there are already adequate structures created by various organizations, such as UNEP, OECD etc.</p>	
<p>Greening the economies</p>	<p>Elaboration of subregional roadmaps (e.g. EU, SEE, Central Asia, Caucasus, Eastern Europe)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Elaboration/harmonization of regional eco-standards for products and production processes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Standards—documents that contain technical specifications that apply to a product or technical procedures for production processes—are being amended in Israel, such that</p>

	<p>specifications and conditions for licensing of a particular industry will soon be found in one document. This will increase ease and efficiency for business owners. A similar approach will be effective for the harmonization of regional eco-standards for product and production processes, which will be beneficial for the environment and trade worldwide.</p> <p>Other (<i>please suggest demand-driven frameworks/structures</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Strengthening implementation of ESD</p>	<p>Mainstreaming ESD into technical and vocational training to meet future labour market demand</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>A vital part of the education toward sustainability program is training.</p> <p>Mainstreaming ESD into teachers/educators’ training</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Over the past three years the number of kindergarten teachers participating in training sessions on the environment and sustainability increased to 1000; about 380 grade school teachers participated in these sessions as well. These training sessions are taught by trained professionals and provided by the MoEP. They have proven very effective.</p> <p>Implementing an ESD school plan in every school (i.e. addressing campus management, curricula and community interaction)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>A comprehensive program for integrating sustainable development into the educational system was formulated by the MoEP and the Ministry of Education in 2009, based on a number of components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of school and kindergarten teachers: 150 schools and 330 kindergartens joined the program in the 2010-2011 academic year, encompassing 5,000 schoolteachers and 500 kindergarten teachers. • Guiding schools with the help of trained instructors who will aid the school in training sessions and in developing a school program, which will include a practical project. • Training student teachers in teacher seminars. • Training of youth movement counselors, encompassing 15 youth movements and 30,000 counselors. • Preparation of curriculums and production of enrichment material for elementary schools: educational kits for three age groups – kindergarten – 2nd grade, 3rd grade-6th grade, 7th grade-9th grade have been prepared in Hebrew and will be translated into Arabic; a textbook on environmental education was published which presents principles for sustainability education and proposed different models for integration of sustainability in schools; and a guide on the preparation of a school program on the environment is nearing publication. • Accelerated certification of green educational institutions and operation of control

	<p>systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial prizes to excelling schools and kindergartens for exceptional environmental activity. • A joint steering committee has been set up to implement the program.
Strengthening environmental considerations in other social and economic sectors	<p>Sustainable urban development (e.g. bringing together the relevant activities under THE PEP, Environment and Health process, and green building)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p>

6. Format of the Eighth Efe Ministerial Conference

In the table below, please, indicate/propose an interactive format for the next Conference. Provide an explanation, as appropriate.

<p>Interactive format for the Conference (for a more productive ministerial participation)</p> <p><i>Please propose an interactive format(s) to stimulate the work of the Conference:</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>	
Parallel thematic round-tables	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>From our experience at other international events, this might encourage broader multi-stakeholder participation throughout the event (for example, from several government ministries).</p>
Interactive discussions e.g. similar to “BBC Question Time”	<p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>...</p>
[please propose an interactive format]	<p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>...</p>

7. Any other issues you consider important

[please include any issues relevant to the scope of this survey that you may wish to address ...]

Please elaborate:

Prevention of Soil Contamination and Rehabilitation of Land: Contaminated land poses a major risk to public health, groundwater quality, and flora and fauna. In Israel, as elsewhere in the world, contaminated land has been discovered in industrial zones, in the vicinity of gas stations and at landfill and hazardous waste sites. Over the past decade, the MoEP has identified some 1,325 contaminated sites throughout the country and has initiated remediation in several of them. In a recent survey, some 3,300 suspected contaminated sites were identified, which include some 23,000 potential sources for the contamination. In order to address the problem of land contamination, most of it caused in the past by industrial activity and faulty infrastructure, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has formulated a comprehensive policy on the treatment and cleaning of contaminated land.

Annex

Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process: Reform Plan

Excerpt from the report of the Committee on Environmental Policy on its special session (Geneva, 27–29 January 2009)

I. Background

1. The Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007) recognized the important value of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process as a unique pan-European forum for tackling environmental challenges and promoting broad horizontal environmental cooperation, and as a pillar of sustainable development in the UNECE region. The EfE process was considered to be an important framework for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region. The added value of the EfE process was recognized in its close links with other regional and subregional initiatives and processes, which help to integrate environmental and sectoral policies.

2. The ministers in Belgrade agreed that the EfE process, initiated in 1991, needed to be reformed. They committed themselves to continuing a focused and needs-based EfE process concentrated on results-based, action-oriented activities that improve the environment and advance sustainable development in the region and to actively seeking partnerships with civil society, including the private sector. The purpose of the reform was to strengthen its effectiveness and to ensure that it remained appropriate for, and fully aligned with, the growing needs of the UNECE region and the evolving political and economic landscape, as well as the environmental priorities of the region.

3. The Belgrade Ministerial Declaration stated that the reform should focus on, although may not be limited to, the following aspects:

- (a) The format, focus and priorities of the process and Ministerial Conferences;
- (b) Evaluating the performance and impact of the process;
- (c) Attracting the broader interest and more active engagement of all stakeholders, in particular the private sector;
- (d) Expanding the use of partnerships as vehicles for improving implementation;
- (e) Leveraging external contributions of expertise, manpower and resources;
- (f) Assessing ways and means to promote more effectively the UNECE region-wide dimension of environmental cooperation;
- (g) The full cost of the process and the effective allocation of available resources;
- (g) Future secretariat arrangements.

4. In order to address the above issues in depth and with due consideration, the ministers invited the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) to develop, in consultation with EfE partners a plan for EfE reform so that it could be endorsed at the political level by UNECE in spring 2009.

5. The ministers further decided that the next EfE Ministerial Conference would be organized on the basis of the agreed reform.

II. Objectives and priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process

6. The EfE process should continue to serve as a mechanism to:
 - (a) Improve the environment throughout the region, contributing to sustainable development which may in turn contribute to poverty eradication, to improving quality of life, and to a safer world;
 - (b) Enhance the implementation of strengthened national environmental policies;
 - (c) Support convergence of environmental policies and approaches, while recognizing the benefits from a diversity of approaches to achieve common goals, and the prioritisation of environmental objectives;
 - (d) Encourage the participation of civil society;
 - (e) Promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation.
7. The political priorities should be based on commitments already taken under the EfE process. These priorities may include:
 - (a) Improvement of environmental governance, including strengthening environmental institutions and implementation of policy instruments;
 - (b) Streamlining the implementation by Governments of commitments they have made to existing UNECE legally binding and legally non-binding instruments;
 - (c) Enhancing efforts in environmental monitoring;
 - (d) Ensuring implementation of the Environmental Performance Review programme;
 - (e) Raising public awareness of environmental issues;
 - (f) Promoting linkages between environmental policy, economic and social well-being and competitiveness.
8. Furthermore, thematic priorities of the EfE process would be identified in line with current needs, national circumstances and in respect to future emerging issues.
9. In the future, the EfE process will be based on general principles and agreements on the operational modalities, as described below.

III. General principles

10. The ministers in Belgrade agreed that the EfE process should:
 - (a) Keep its UNECE region-wide dimension and be open for all interested countries of the region;
 - (b) Engage all stakeholders, including the private sector, to strengthen the work in partnership;
 - (c) Maintain close links with other regional and subregional initiatives, and focus on specific needs that are not entirely addressed by other cooperative frameworks, instruments or processes in the region and its subregions;
 - (d) Concentrate on results-based, action-oriented activities;
 - (e) Be kept open to issues on which the process can provide added value;
 - (f) Use delivery as a major criterion of its effectiveness. CEP should regularly consider and assess progress achieved under the process.

11. To complement the above principles, a consensus emerged from CEP in relation to the EfE process and the Conference:

- (a) On the one hand, the EfE process-related principles are as follows:
 - (i) Broader engagement from the Governments to achieve long-term policy integration of environmental considerations into other sectors;
 - (ii) Stronger focus on implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences by relevant responsible actors in the period between Conferences;
 - (iii) Encouragement of and support to subregional activities including stronger involvement of relevant subregional structures in the implementation process, including RECs;
 - (iv) Enhanced cooperation between the regional and subregional partners in the region;
 - (v) Identification of ways to strengthen linkages between the activities under the EfE process and those of relevant international processes.
 - (vi) Enhancement of relevant Governments’ implementation and compliance with their commitments under multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (vii) Utilization of the Environmental Performance Reviews as an important instrument for protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development.
- (b) On the other hand, the Conference-related principles are:
 - (i) The ministerial level of the Conferences should be maintained;
 - (ii) Specific mechanisms for attracting high-level participation, including those from the private sector, should be developed;
 - (iii) A limited number of themes, not more than two, to be identified in advance and addressed by each Conference;
 - (iv) Within the identified themes there should be a focus on specific needs of the subregions, in order to contribute to better cooperation and more substantive and action-oriented outcomes of the Conference;
 - (v) An effective communication strategy, including broad mass-media coverage, as appropriate, should be further developed, comprising, inter alia, special events for journalists, circulation of electronic newsletters and maintaining a dedicated website;
 - (vi) The outcome documents, in all forms, should be focused and action-oriented;
 - (vii) Carbon neutrality of the Conferences based on the voluntary contributions available.

IV. The “Environment for Europe” Conference

Preparatory process

12. Materializing the above-mentioned principles calls for streamlining and improving the preparatory process for the Conferences. In this spirit, the following measures should be taken:

(a) Not later than 18 months before the Conference the CEP at its regular session will decide on not more than two themes and discuss the outline of the agenda of the Conference. When deciding on the themes preliminary findings of available assessments and statistical reports on environment should be taken into consideration. A decision on the agenda of the Conference should be taken at the regular meeting of the CEP approximately 12 months prior to the Conference and further preparatory work would commence. Documents on substantial themes of the Conference should be released 6 weeks before the Conference;

(b) CEP would act as the convening body for the preparatory process. To maintain the open nature of the preparatory process and the engagement of all stakeholders, representatives of major groups will be invited to participate in meetings of the CEP in preparation of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the existing UN rules and procedures. Furthermore, CEP would consider and approve the official documents for submission to the Conference. Special sessions of the CEP could be scheduled, if needed, in the year prior to the Conference;

(c) Particular efforts would be made to involve private-sector representatives in the preparatory process and the Conference;

(d) To reduce the amount of documents produced for the Conference, only one official document per selected theme would be prepared by the UNECE or another EfE partner, in close cooperation with other EfE partners. The official substantive documentation would thus comprise the pan-European assessment and theme-specific reports;

(e) Interested UNECE member States, EfE partners and other stakeholders could produce other documents featuring their activities and initiatives related to the EfE process, which would be circulated as information documents;

(f) The preparatory process would be serviced by the UNECE secretariat;

(g) For the preparatory process of the Conference and the Conference itself, the necessary extrabudgetary financial resources would have to continue to be provided to UNECE to supplement the United Nations core budget resources;

(h) The host country should assume relevant financial commitments.

Format

13. The periodicity, duration and the organization of discussions at the Conference should be as follows:

(a) The Conferences should be held every four to five years, with each Conference lasting two-and-a-half to three days maximum;

(b) Based on the previous experience, the Conference should start with a short opening event. The host country would be given an opportunity to organize events highlighting its special features in addition to the official Conference agenda;

(c) The discussions at the Conference should be arranged in an interactive manner and combine various types of sessions, e.g. plenary sessions, roundtables and moderated panel discussions, with a limited number of main speakers from different stakeholders (e.g. UNECE member States, EfE partners and major groups). When possible, interactive sessions, such as roundtables, could be run in parallel;

(d) The Conference could be structured around the following main clusters (all of them focusing on the agreed priorities):

(i) Plenary sessions for the presentation and discussion of the priority topics;

- (ii) Sessions on ongoing cooperation and partnerships in the UNECE region and its subregions with different stakeholders, including the private sector;
 - (iii) A session of environmental NGOs and ministers in the roundtable format as an integral part of the conference;
 - (iv) A session of private sector representatives and ministers in the roundtable format as an integral part of the conference;
 - (v) Sessions dedicated to announcing new partnerships and initiatives by stakeholders;
 - (vi) A brief concluding session with the presentation (and adoption, if appropriate) of the main outcomes of the Conference;
- (e) To address issues relevant to the agenda of the Conference in more detail, side-events should be organized by interested UNECE member States, EfE partners and relevant stakeholders;
- (f) To attract the attention of the private sector, opportunities should be provided for the organization of promotional events such as poster exhibitions, trade fairs, roundtables and environmental award initiatives.

Outcomes

14. Conference outcomes might include:
- (a) A chairperson’s summary;
 - (b) Statements, initiatives, agreements, pledges by interested ministers and stakeholders on specific subjects and/or for specific subregions;
 - (c) An agreed outcome of two pages on follow up and further actions strictly limited, in terms of scope, to the themes of the Conference;
 - (d) Policy tools, including strategies, action plans with time frames, guidelines, recommendations, best practices and lessons learned that are presented to the Conference by interested countries of the UNECE region and/or organizations taking the lead for these issues, and that were not negotiated within the preparatory process for the Conference;
 - (e) Assessment reports used in preparation of or presented to the Conference that are important for the implementation of the Conference’s outcomes.

V. Implementation

15. Particular efforts should be made by all relevant responsible actors to implement the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences.
16. Member States should regularly consider how to promote objectives and priorities of the EfE process and strengthen implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.
17. A mid-term review to be convened by the CEP to assess progress of the implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences and provide renewed impetus to the process. The review should be based on existing information. The findings of the review should be taken into account in the preparatory process of the next conference.
18. Active participation by and input of all interested countries of the UNECE, and in particular of interested countries from subregions with specific needs in improving their environmental situation is crucial for the success of the activities under the EfE process.

19. The RECs network should continue to play a role in the preparatory process for the Conference and should be encouraged to play a greater role in the achievement of the overall EfE process’ objectives and priorities.
 20. Other EfE partners should continue to be actively involved in the preparatory process and implementation of the EfE process.
 21. Countries and/or organizations taking the lead for one or more issues are encouraged to do so in ways that would contribute significantly to the EfE process’ objectives and priorities.
-