

Sharing our vision for the pan-European region

Setting strategic goals and objectives for the
Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment



2030



Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

NOTE

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The present document is the result of a consultation and a meeting organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

Mr. Filip Aggestam, programme manager, and Yulia Bunina, intern, in the ECE secretariat prepared the first draft of the text contained in this document. National experts from Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan participated in the preparation of this document, together with experts from the European Environment Agency (EEA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, National Biodiversity and Biosafety Centre of Tajikistan and the international non-profit organizations Covalence EthicalQuote, International Center for Environmental Research (ICFER) and Zoï Environment Network.

The ECE secretariat served both as content editor and overall project manager.

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Foreword

The Environment for Europe process has – since 1991 – provided a framework for countries in the pan-European region to work together to improve environmental protection and to promote sustainable development throughout the region. In this context, Ministers of the Environment have continuously highlighted the importance of environmental information for policymaking and public awareness.

At the Astana Environment for Europe Conference in 2011, Ministers requested that a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) be developed to underpin a regular environment assessment process across the pan-European region. More recently, at the Batumi Environment for Europe Conference in 2016, Ministers welcomed progress in developing the SEIS, but reiterated the need for countries to continue their efforts and to further develop their national information systems to have SEIS in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021.

As an integral part of this process, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment has been engaged in efforts to make environmental monitoring an effective instrument in policymaking, and in particular, to assist countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central to achieve their commitments. In doing so, the Working Group has cooperated closely with the European Environment Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme – as the three organizations have agreed on a common approach to support national, regional and global reporting on the state of the environment – as well as with other relevant partners.

UNECE member States, with the support of the secretariat, have made significant progress in establishing SEIS, and there is a renewed and strengthened momentum for environmental monitoring and assessment following the Batumi Environment for Europe Conference. As a next step, the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at its eighteenth session in June 2016 launched a collaborative and forward-looking discussion to define a vision and roadmap for its work leading up to 2021 and beyond.

Thinking about the future challenges in the pan-European region is a crucial step to ensure that the secretariat and the Working Group can make substantive contributions to these commitments, such as establishing a pan-European Shared Environmental Information System. It has also been crucial to consider other developments as well, such as demands to assist in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

We are grateful to all of those involved in this effort to shape a new pathway for the Working Group and extend an invitation to all countries in the region to engage with the Working Group in its continued efforts to transform this vision into a reality.

Acknowledgements

The present vision document is the result of a consultation and meeting organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

This publication would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the countries participating in the Working Group. The ECE Secretariat wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the following representatives of these countries: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

A distinctive acknowledgement and debt of gratitude is due to those who have made contributions to the ECE Programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment: the European Union through the European Environment Agency (EEA), Norway, Switzerland and the Russian Federation for providing financial support to facilitate the participation of the Working Group representatives to its meetings. And special thanks go to Ms. Adriana Gheorghe, Ms. Galina Grigoreva and Jean-Nicolas Poussart of the EEA as well as Matt Billot and Tomas Marques of UNEP for their substantive support in the preparation of the present vision document and roadmap.

The work carried out under the ECE monitoring and assessment programme was successful because of the invaluable assistance provided by Ms Yulia Bunina who performed a number of tasks, including assisting with the writing of the vision document, background research and delivery of presentations under the guidance of Mr. Filip Aggestam (Programme Manager, UNECE Environment Division) and the overall leadership of Mr. Marco Keiner (Director, UNECE Environment Division).

Mr. Michael Nagy (Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Statistical Division) and Ms. Tiina Luige (Chief of Section, UNECE Statistical Division) reviewed and contributed to the finalization of the vision document and roadmap.

Lastly, the preparation and servicing of the meeting was provided by the secretariat of the Working Group: Mr. Filip Aggestam, under the overall guidance of Ms. Ivonne Higuero and Ms. Tiina Luige and the support of Ms. Ludmila Boichuk (programme assistant, UNECE Environment Division) and Ms. Caroline Jeunet (programme assistant, UNECE Statistical Division). Ms. Yulia Bunina (intern, UNECE Environment Division) assisted the secretariat during the eighteenth session of the Working Group.

Abbreviations

COP21:	21st Conference of the Parties
EEA:	European Environment Agency
JTF:	Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators
SEIS:	Shared Environmental Information System
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE:	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNSD:	United Nations Statistical Division
WGEMA:	Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MEA:	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
GEO:	Global Environment Outlook
Eionet:	European Environment Information and Observation Network
EC:	European Commission
SEEA:	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
GIS:	Geographic Information System
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CLRTAP:	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
GHG:	Green House Gas

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Our 2030 Mission and Vision

Sharing our Vision for the pan-European Region

We are living in a time of growing unpredictability, accelerated change and unprecedented societal challenges on a global scale, ranging from issues such as biodiversity loss, energy security and natural resources scarcity. These challenges require not only that we adapt and consider innovative solutions but they also offer new opportunities and possibilities for the future.

It is crucial to ask ourselves how we can anticipate these changes and how can we turn future challenges into drivers that encourage social, economic and environmental progress. These types of questions matter more and more, in particular, as our societies and economies increasingly embrace technological change and there is an ever increasing demand for quality, availability, accessibility and understanding of environmental information and data as a basis for policy-making in the environmental sector.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA) was established in 2000 by the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), in part, to address this demand for environmental information and data. More specifically, to serve as an instrument for UNECE Member States that can provide recommendations, propose action plans, and improve coordination of international initiatives concerned with environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting related to global challenges.

In working with environmental data and information, the Working Group has helped to improve its timely flows and adequate assessment, to facilitate informed decision-making processes, both nationally and internationally, in the environmental sector. Even more, UNECE in collaboration with its partner the

European Environment Agency (EEA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and thanks to donors such as the European Union, Norway, Switzerland and the Russian Federation, has been working directly with countries in the pan-European region, to assist in the production and sharing of environmental data in areas such as air, climate change, water, biodiversity and waste.

Since the inception of the Working Group, and particularly throughout 2015 and 2016, we have seen some significant political progress and change, both nationally and internationally. Strategic developments, such as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit and commitments made at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change characterise some of these changes. There has also been a renewed call by Ministers of the Environment, at the Eight Environment for Europe Conference, for countries to continue their efforts and to further develop their national information systems to have a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021.

The outcomes of these developments have both direct and indirect implications for several areas of work of the Working Group. In an effort to capture these changes and to consider future options for the Working Group, it launched a forward-thinking process to undertake long-term thinking and analysis that address key priorities for the Working Group in the coming years. The aim has been to create a guiding vision, leading up to 2030, and a roadmap for the coming five years.

Preparing for a Changing World

The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) made a request to the Working Group at its twentieth session to submit a proposal on streamlining the work of the Working Group and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators and Statistics (JTF). Following the review of the proposal for the two bodies, it was decided to wait until after the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi in June 2016 to consider how the mandate for the Working Group should look in the future.

Taking this opportunity, and to prepare new terms of reference for consideration at the twenty-second session of the Committee, the Working Group has carried out national consultations and a foresight-oriented workshop at its eighteenth session. The intent was to set the stage for a vision leading up to 2030 and roadmap – covering the coming 5 years – until 2021.

The purpose of engaging our members and partners in this process has been to consider how the Working Group can contribute more effectively to enhance environmental monitoring and assessment in the pan-European region. The foresight-oriented work was set in motion by the Working Group to take into consideration new and future challenges that it should focus on. In particular, to consider recent developments, such as:

- **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 (see A/RES/70/1);
- **Paris Agreement** within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was adopted at the COP21 of the UNFCCC on 12 December 2015 (see FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1);
- **Batumi Declaration** “Greener, cleaner, smarter”, which was adopted at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference by Ministers of the region of the

UNECE on 10 June 2016 (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1).

- **Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy**, including the Batumi Initiative on the Green Economy (BIG-E), adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6)

These recent commitments, coupled with the request for a new terms of reference from the Committee, provided an opportunity for the Working Group to take a step back to reflect on past achievements, consider lessons learnt, and to discuss how all of this can fit into the bigger picture of where the Working Group want to be by 2030.

It was also a moment to reflect on how the Working Group could carry on its present activities and mandate, interlinked with the renewed call for establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021. This also implied considering the request from the Committee to serve as a regional environmental information and assessment “network of networks”, meant to bring together the United Nations Environment Programme’s Global Environment Outlook (GEO) expert team and the European Environment Agency’s European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet), and other interested partners, to consider and oversee the publication of the regular pan-European environmental assessment.

If the Working Group is to succeed in fulfilling these expectations, it is quintessential that it contextualises its on-going work and mandate together with the new targets and commitments set for 2021 and 2030. This provides the baseline from which to build a vision and framework that would allow the Working Group to make better decisions and, more importantly, to have a positive impact on the environmental challenges facing the pan-European region.

Challenges of Constructing a Vision for the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

This publication is based on a great deal of foresight work, underpinned and strengthened by a consultative process that has been held together with all members of the Working Group, including interested parties. The purpose of the consultative process has been to explore how the Working Group should evolve in the coming years leading up to 2030. It defines recommendations made by its members for immediate action, so that the secretariat can take the appropriate steps to realise the vision set out in the following sections.

This vision corresponds to a synthesis of past and current activities of the Working Group, as associated with its mandate and terms of reference (see ECE/EX/2016/L.11), taking into account recent developments.

In short, the process has involved a questionnaire where all member states of the Working group, as part of the regular process of consultation on environmental assessments, were requested to


identify and clarify major institutional drivers and environmental priorities for national institutions concerned with environmental monitoring and assessment for the coming five-year period. The questionnaire also took into account a longer time perspective to be able to consider the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Results from the questionnaire allowed the secretariat to define strategic and thematic priorities that provided the background for round-table discussions, around three specific topics, that took place when the Working Group meet for its eighteenth session in Geneva. Inputs provided at this time were utilised by the secretariat to compose a draft vision document and roadmap that was circulated to the Working Group to allow for feedback and contributions by all members and interested parties.

The next section will present the steps taken and results from questionnaire and round-table discussion in more detail.

Timeline of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

	2000	Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) established the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
First session of the Working Group was held in Makkum (Netherlands) on 21 and 22 September 2001	2001	
Second and Third Session of the Working Group	2002	Declaration of the 5th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: Paragraph 31. We support the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring in its activities, particularly on strengthening environmental information and observation capacity [...]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiev Assessment; • Recommendations on Strengthening National Environmental Monitoring and Information Systems; • Guidelines for the Preparation of Governmental Reports on the State and Protection of the Environment. 	2003	
	2004	Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment For Europe" in Kiev, Ukraine, and the Fourth Session of the Working Group.
	2005	Fifth Session of the Working Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgrade Assessment; • Report on the adaptation of air-quality monitoring networks in EECCA; • Guidelines for the application of environmental indicators. 	2006	Sixth and Seventh Session of the Working Group
	2007	Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment For Europe" in Belgrade, Serbia, and Eight Session of the Working Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of European Commission (EC) Communication "Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)" 	2008	Declaration of the 6th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: Paragraph 7. We stress the need to further improve the indicator-based environmental assessments and reporting in the region. To this end, we, the Ministers and Heads of delegation of States [...]
Ninth Session of the Working Group	2009	
Tenth Session of the Working Group	2010	Eleventh Session of the Working Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for developing national strategies to use air quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool. 	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for developing national strategies to use water quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool
Seventh Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Astana, Kazakhstan and Twelfth Session of the Working Group	2012	Launch of the SEIS Cookbook and the Thirteenth Session of the Working Group
Declaration of the 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: Paragraph 14. To keep the pan-European environment under review, we decide to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop the SEIS across the region [...]	2013	CEP established the Group of Friends of SEIS and the Fourteenth Session of the Working Group
Fifteenth Session of the Working Group and the First meeting of Friends of SEIS	2014	Declaration of the 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: Paragraph 10. While welcoming progress in developing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment, we invite countries to [...]
Sixteenth and Seventeenth of the Working Group as well as the Second meeting of Friends of SEIS	2015	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on performance in establishing and operating SEIS • Data and information of SEIS in the pan-European region • Guidelines for developing national strategies to use biodiversity monitoring as an environmental policy tool. 	2016	Eighth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Batumi, Georgia, and Eighteenth Session of the Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on progress in establishing SEIS in the pan-European region

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, one palm up and the other supporting from below, holding a small, young tree sapling with a clump of dark soil. The sapling has several green leaves and a thin, slightly curved stem. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. A semi-transparent dark grey horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

Setting strategic goals and objectives

Forward-Thinking

Why should we think about the future? Thinking in new ways about the future is an essential part of finding new opportunities, to address emerging challenges and build capacities to respond to change more proactively. It is for this reason that the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, in looking to the future, has adopted a priority-setting approach to develop a vision for itself and its continued work.

Shared forward-thinking, futures-thinking or foresight, is ultimately a key component when considering options for the years to come, in

particular, to focus and realigning efforts on the right questions and problems more clearly. This is all part of an implicit effort by the Working Group to consider its ongoing work and to establish a framework that can catalyse action and change.

Even more, forward-thinking represents a process through which all members of the Working Group can align their efforts and jointly decide on a way forward that can not only guide decision-making but also help to concentrate resources on priority areas as regards to environmental monitoring and assessment.



Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
at its Eighteenth Session at Palais des Nations in Geneva

Outlining the collaborative and consultative process

The foresight-oriented process was structured into four main steps to ensure that all members of the Working Group had the opportunity to be involved and provide substantive contributions to the vision and roadmap:

Step 1: Scoping

Data was collected through a questionnaire that asked all members of the Working Group to specify key priorities to fulfil regular environmental reporting obligations in the coming 5 years; main obstacles and barriers that

may prevent each key priority from being resolved; and what type of solutions, knowledge or capabilities is needed to address these obstacles and barriers. The replies allowed the secretariat to specify regional priorities, focusing on institutional drivers and environmental priorities for national institutions concerned with environmental monitoring and assessment.

Step 2: Round-table discussions

The results from the scoping exercise provided the background content for the round-table discussions, which aimed to characterise and define what the regional priorities meant in more detail for its members and how these could be addressed by the Working Group in the future. More specifically, the round-table discussions were conducted by dividing the participants at the eighteenth session into three groups that were asked to cover three thematic topics that had been identified:

- Reporting and Assessments,
- Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Economy, and
- Environmental Statistics.

Each group was asked to define priority issues under each thematic topic and to break these down into drivers that underlie the priority issue and obstacles that prevent the priority issue from being resolved. The participants were also asked to provide recommendations in a short-term perspective (covering the next 5 years) and in the long-term (up until 2030) as regards to how the Working Group could address each issue. This was done on a rotating basis so that each group was given the opportunity to contribute to the inputs provided by the other groups.

Step 3: Drafting

The draft vision and roadmap was prepared by the secretariat, based on inputs from the preceding steps. The documents were shared with the Working Group and interested parties for additional contributions and comments.

The timeline for each respective step was as follows:

Action	Timeline
• Questionnaire was distributed, collected and analysed.	May 2016
• Eighteenth Session of the Working Group and the facilitated round-table discussions.	June 2016
• Drafting and consultation on the initial version of the vision document and roadmap.	August to October 2016
• "Our 2030 Mission and Vision: Setting strategic goals and objectives for the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment" and the "Roadmap 2021: Defining a strategy for the Working Group" were finalised and published as an advance copy.	November to December 2016

Step 4: Finalisation

The vision document and roadmap was finalised by the secretariat, integrating all final contributions provided by the Working Group.

National experts from Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan participated in the preparation of this document, together with experts from the European Environment Agency (EEA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations

Statistics Division (UNSD), Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, National Biodiversity and Biosafety Centre of Tajikistan and the international non-profit organizations Covalence EthicalQuote, International Center for Environmental Research (ICFER) and Zoï Environment Network.

The questionnaire and a more detailed outline of the steps taken during the round-table discussion can be found online in the background

documentation of the eighteenth session of the Working Group, under Agenda Item 3.

Results from the Questionnaire

Replies from the scoping exercise were translated, organized and grouped according to the most commonly noted priority issues. These were as follows:

Sustainable Development Goals and Green Growth indicators

Measuring and reporting on progress towards the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) and the green economy were noted as crucial given recent commitments towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and taking into account the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) on strategic policy development and targeted priority areas.

Most countries indicated the SDGs and green economy as a priority issue in various forms, some examples included the need to map SDG indicators at national level, based on SDG indicators identified by the UNECE. Member countries also noted the need to develop SDG indicators, which are often not available at national level, as well as the need to look at synergies between SDG indicators and Green Growth indicators.

Environmental Statistics

Environmental statistics was mentioned as a key priority issue by most countries, ranging from land use, water use to biodiversity statistics. Some countries noted the need for assistance to elaborate national programmes for national monitoring systems (e.g. covering air, water, soil, biodiversity and noise) to enable the collection of environmental statistics while others stated that the development and introduction of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) would be a priority as part of the process to

monitor progress towards the SDGs.

Air quality

Air quality can be extracted as a distinct thematic topic as it was mentioned by most respondents as a priority issue, ranging from the need to install automatic stationary stations to improving national monitoring systems to enable the monitoring of additional pollutants requested for reporting under different multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Capacity-building

The importance of building institutional capacities was mentioned as another key priority issue, emphasizing the importance of capacity-building as part of the core activities that the Working Group should expand on in the future.

Improving quality

Improving the quality, availability and accessibility of environmental information and data was another issues that was commonly highlighted by the respondents, covering the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical environmental information and the harmonisation of environmental data across sectors.

Information dissemination

The respondents also emphasized the need for increased efforts to actively disseminate information, such as the publication of materials on environmental protection, dissemination of environmental information through thematic and inter- thematic reports and regular reporting on trends and policies of the state of environment.

assisting UNECE member States in working with environmental data and information.

"*Environmental Statistics*" was added as a third and final thematic topic since it was a reoccurring priority issue stressed by the respondents. It should however be noted that the Working Group primarily focus on environmental monitoring and assessment while environmental statistics is principally handled by the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (JTF). The JTF is managed jointly by the UNECE Programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Statistical Division and it is as such significantly interconnected with the Working Group (e.g. sessions are held back-to-back) and the two groups provide a forum for

both environmental and statistical agencies to meet and discuss.

It was for this reason decided to highlight environmental statistics as a separate thematic topic and to use the panel-discussion and the formulation of a joint vision as an opportunity to further discuss how these groups can address earlier calls for streamlining the work of the Working Group and the JTF. It also provided the opportunity to consider how the significant body of work on SDG indicators under SEEA, by various statistical agencies, can be considered within the broader framework of the Working Group and the reporting on progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Results from the Round-table Discussions

During the roundtable discussions participants were asked to identify priority issues within each thematic topic; rank the priority issues in terms of importance; characterise drivers and obstacles that underlie the priority issues; and to brainstorm how the Working Group could assist in the addressing these priority issues.

Each thematic topic will now be presented separately together with the main inputs provided by members of the Working Group. These are divided according to the priority issues discussed and associated barriers and solutions presented during the session.

Topic I: Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Economy

Priority issue I. Institutional issues

SDGs are of crucial importance for all the members of the Working Group, however, they are not always reflected in strategic national documents, including those on monitoring. There is a need to either adopt new documents or to revise existing ones. The coordination and

responsibilities related to SDG monitoring is not clearly defined at the national level. Finally, the legislation to address monitoring of SDGs needs to be improved in many countries.

Barriers

- Lack of political will.
- Absence of SDGs in strategic documents.
- Coordination and responsibilities on SDGs monitoring are not clearly defined at the national level.
- Inadequate (or complete absence) of legislation related to the monitoring of SDGs.

Solutions

- Integration of SDGs into national strategic documents - through the adoption of new documents or revision of existing ones - including those on monitoring.
- Clearly define who coordinates, or acts as a focal point, for SDGs monitoring on the national level.
- Legislative improvements to reflect reporting requirement concerning SDGs.

Priority issue II. Indicators and methodologies

In order to measure progress towards the SDGs, indicators and methodologies have to be developed. The work on developing SDG indicators is in progress, however, there is some lack of clarity. Some Working Group members noted that not all green economy indicators are developed at the national level. Moreover, the issue of transboundary pollution was emphasised and questions were raised as regards to how this can be addressed through indicators.



Preparing for the panel-discussion

Barriers

- Some SDG indicators are not yet fully defined nor are associated methodologies fully developed. Problematic indicators include land, soil, desertification, biodiversity, groundwater and social issues.
- Methodological obstacles.
- Procedural obstacles as regards to how information on indicators can be collected.
- Compatibility and comparability.
- Lack of knowledge about international methodologies and standards
- Lack of available data

Solutions

- Workshops and capacity-building focusing on SDG indicator-related methodologies and data collection for national use of SDG indicators.
- Increased engagement of international experts involved in the development of the SEEA, SDG indicators and SEIS.
- Continued collaborative work between UNECE (environmental indicators), OECD (green growth indicators), JTF and member states should be carried out to avoid duplication of work and to ensure that already existing indicators are utilised.
- Increased information exchange between environmental and statistical agencies as facilitated through the Working Group and its role as a network-of-networks.

Priority issue III. Capacity-building

Education and cooperation is the key to address gaps concerning SDG monitoring. Working Group members noted that both human and technical (equipment) capacities need to be enhanced. Development of SDG indicators would benefit from a regional approach, not only on the national level. Moreover, Working Group members mentioned the need to enhance the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Barriers

- Lack of skills and experience in the development of the SEEA and SDG indicators at the national level.
- Lack of knowledge in the use of GIS

Solutions

- Increased capacity-building activities to enhance both human and technical capacities.
- Facilitate increased expert assistance, or twinning, between countries.
- Encourage enhanced and training on the use of GIS.

Topic II: Reporting and Assessment

Priority issue I. Monitoring and data collection

To have a reliable and up-to-date monitoring system requires state-of-the-art monitoring equipment as well as a monitoring system that is structured in a rational and comprehensive way. The lack of national operational expertise and capacities remains a significant impediment to monitor the environment. This would be a prerequisite for enabling informed and evidence-based policy-making.

Barriers

- Lack of integrated national monitoring programmes.
- Lack of sustainable funding.
- Lack of experience and expertise in monitoring.

Solutions

- Improve the financial viability and sustainability of national monitoring systems.
- Define and implement capacity-building strategies at the regional and national level.



Members from the Working Group during the round-table discussions

Priority issue II. Modernised, harmonised and updated environmental information and data

High quality and reliable data requires that data is up-to-date and that data collection is harmonized across the national, regional and local level.

Barriers

- Lack of cross-national and inter-agency mechanisms to exchange experiences and know-how as regards to the collection of environmental information and data.
- Lack of coordination as regards to collection methods, data characteristics and data flows.

Solutions

- Resolve organizational competencies for national agencies and institutions involved in the collection, processing and dissemination of environmental information and data.
- Encourage harmonised national policies as regards to monitoring and enforcement.
- Encourage increased information exchange between environmental and statistical agencies at the national level.

Priority issue III. Quality assurance

Data users need to be assured that the environmental information and data they are using is reliable and of high quality. Scientific principles should be applied to methods and procedures concerned with the collection, processing, storing and presentation of statistical data. Improved indicator-related methodologies and quality assurances are needed for this.

Barriers

- Lack of adequate methodologies.
- Lack of skills and expertise.

Solutions

- Continuous training of personnel at the national and regional level.

- Introduction of environmental registers and databases.
- Development and implementation of approaches to verify data quality.
- Increased exchange of experiences and joint workshops between national agencies and institutions.

Priority issue IV. Industrial Emissions Control

Industrial emissions control was noted as a key priority issue for most countries, in particular, the control of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and Air pollutant emission inventories related to UNFCCC and CLRTAP.

Barriers

- Lack of experience in air monitoring.
- Improvement of the air monitoring system requires significant financial resources.

Solutions

- Increased capacity-building with the support of appropriate secretariats.
- Adoption of international standards.
- Encourage increased financial support at the national level.
- Increased engagement of international donors.

Priority issue V. Mapping international reporting obligations

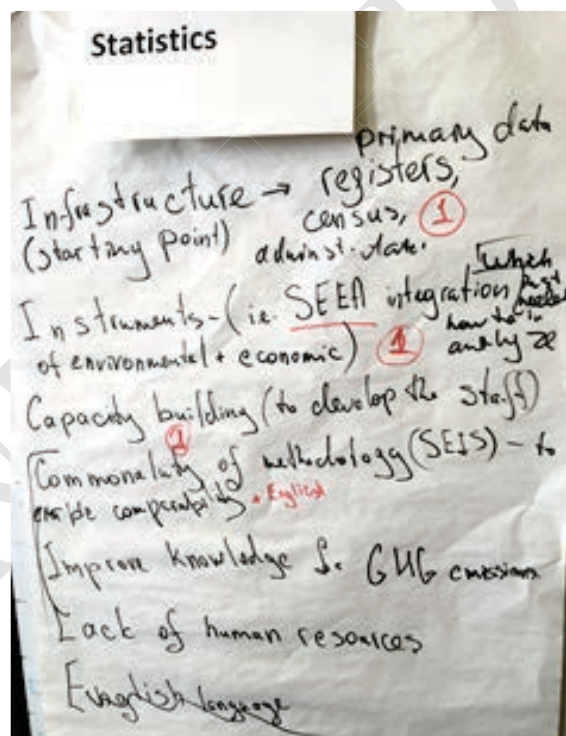
National agencies and institutions need to increase the uptake of international concepts, classifications and methods to ensure consistent and efficient monitoring at all levels.

Barriers

- Lack of knowledge of European and international standards in the field of environmental statistics and experience in their practical application.
- Discrepancies between national, European and international legislation.

Solutions

- Increased capacity-building to improve knowledge and understanding of international and European standards in the field of environment statistics.
- Encourage the development and adoption of regulations that would meet European and international standards.



Results from the discussion on environmental statistics

Topic III: Environmental Statistics

Priority issue I. Statistical infrastructure

The starting point for environmental statistics is the collection of primary data. The collect of high quality and reliable primary data requires good infrastructure (i.e. registers, census and administrative data) and knowledge on how to collect primary data.

Barriers

- Lack of adequate methodologies.
- Lack of skills and expertise.

- Legislative barriers.
- Lack of human and financial resources

Solutions

- Increased involvement of development partners in the context of regional and national programs to improve environmental accounting and statistics.
- Increased capacity-building.
- Encourage legislative improvements.
- Engage in more active information dissemination campaigns.

Priority issue II. Coordination of relevant institutions concerned with environmental statistics

Statistical agencies are, most often, responsible for the coordination and presentation of statistical information. These agencies also have varying competence, mandates and budgets across the pan-European region. Improved coordination between different statistical activities and holders of environmental statistics is needed to ensure reliable and accurate data and that it is made accessible for all stakeholders concerned with environmental statistics.

Barriers

- Lack of methods and/or processes to ensure the validation of statistical data.
- Lack of cross-national and inter-agency mechanisms to exchange experiences and know-how concerning the production of environmental statistics.
- Methodologies in the field of environment statistics vary significantly, which reduce the ability to compare environmental indicators and statistics across the pan-European region.

Solutions

- Facilitate increased coordination and communication between countries, institutions and research centres through the Working Group and the JTF.
- Strengthened methodological support through the Working Group and the JTF as

regards to data collection standards and the production of environmental statistics.

- Promote the sharing and increased accessibility of all environmental statistics coherent with the SEIS principles.
- Explore the integration of economic, social and environmental statistics using SEEA

Priority issue III. Continuous identification of national thematic priorities

There is a demand for continuous revision and identification of new thematic priorities and policy developments and to proactively consider what tools would be needed to address new commitments. The Working Group and JTF need to be regularly informed about the state-of-the-art concerning new information technology and associated tools affecting data collection.

Barriers

- Lack of understanding as regards to national thematic priorities
- Insufficient knowledge amongst professionals in statistical agencies on how to identify national thematic priorities and the state-of-the-art in their respective field of work.

Solutions

- Facilitate the identification of national thematic priorities through the use of foresight-oriented activities.
- Increased capacity-building and training of statisticians.
- Share of information through the Working Group and JTF on the state-of-the-art concerning new information technology and associated tools affecting the collection of environmental statistics.

Priority issue IV. Instruments and methodology

To produce high quality information it is important to know how to analyse data and which instruments and tools to use. Using

common methodologies is also important to make data comparable.

It was noted that the establishment of a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) would be crucial to achieve this objective and that it would be important to consider the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) as part of this effort. It was emphasised that the SEEA is a prospective instrument that integrates environmental, social and economic statistics and that work done in this area should be taken up by jointly by the Working Group and JTF.

It was also noted that there was a demand for having more English speaking professionals within statistical agencies throughout the region, to ensure that new guidelines are taken up. This is coupled with the need to produce data in the national language as well as in English.

Barriers

- Inadequate statistical base for the development of some SEEA modules and groups of SDG indicators.
- Lack of skills and experience in the development of the SEEA and SDG indicators at the regional and national level.
- Lack of English knowledge.

Solutions

- Engage international experts in the field of development of the SEEA and SDG indicators.
- Approve the full set of the UNECE indicators for SEIS.

- Organise national, regional or international discussions on the choice of the best instruments for data analysis through the Working Group.
- Increased training to increase national capacities to work in English.

Priority issue V. Capacity building

The quality of environmental statistics is dependant on the degree of expertise and motivation of the people in charge of data collection. Assisting national statistical agencies in building their capacity to carry out data collection, analysis and management would be crucial to ensure that statistical agencies can improve their performance.

Barriers

- Lack of human resources
- Lack of knowledge on GHG emissions
- Lack of English knowledge
- Lack of guidance in national languages.

Solutions

- Increased capacity-building activities to enhance both human and technical capacities, including training in English.
- Involve development partners in the context of regional and national programs, as well as the Working Group and the JTF, to improve environmental accounting and statistics.
- Facilitate the translation of appropriate guidance documents into requested languages.



Choosing a pathway for the future

Changing to Meet the Future

The foresight-oriented work set out in this document has been organised with the interest of our members at heart. Throughout this exercise and continued dialogue it has been encouraging to hear stories about the real and enduring impact that the Working Group has had on our members and to understand that there is true value and strength in the work that we are doing.

The Working Group has, since its inception in 2001, provided a joint and collaborative platform through which our members have been able to learn, find new opportunities and bring home new capacities and experiences. It has created interconnections, spanning different policy areas and institutions, through the organisation of regular sessions and capacity-building, and it has created a common space through which our members have been able to operationalise joint activities and set targets for the region.

To lead the way for our continued work together, this document is meant as a framework to set long term strategic goals and objectives, to define where we want to be by 2030, including

the type of activities that the Working Group want to focus on in the years to come. So the question set before us is how we can build on the strengths of the Working Group to address new challenges to our common advantage.

This takes into consideration that it is ultimately the collection, production, analysis, sharing and dissemination of high-quality and robust environmental information and data that represents the core function and driver behind the activities of the Working Group. Whether these activities concern support towards improving national SDG indicators to ensure successful progress reporting on the 2030 Agenda, or the continued streamlining of activities under the Working Group and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators and Statistics, or the integration of environmental, social and economic data under the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), it is the provision of environmental information and data for monitoring and assessment that takes the centre stage for our 2030 vision and mission.

From Vision to Practice

Many people may think that 2030 is a date far into the future, but we should not deceive ourselves. The world is experiencing rapid and far-reaching changes that will continue to have significant effects on our natural environment. The next fifteen years will most certainly see these trends continue. Thinking long-term, but acting now, is the key message here.

The Working Group will need to pursue an ambitious agenda in the coming years. It will need to reach out to bring in new members and expertise, engage other sectors and countries to ensure continued integration and cooperation, nurture ongoing collaborations and define a clear pathway that can help our members reach the ambitious targets set out in the 2030 Agenda.

Our vision needs to strike the right balance between what is attainable and what we see as a best-case-scenario. It also needs to ensure that our work contributes towards the priority issues set out by our members and take into account the mandate provided to us by the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP).

Finding this balance requires a shared understanding of what our strategic goals should be and to acknowledge common objectives, such as the establishment of a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) by 2021, streamlining of regular reporting by 2020, and building capacities for assessing progress towards SDGs and targets as well as other reporting obligations under multilateral environmental agreements.

It is clear from the preceding sections that several priority issues have been highlighted by our members. From these it can be noted that there are some commonalities across the range

of barriers and solutions that were emphasised during the panel-discussion. Next the aim will be to consider these cross-cutting issues before addressing the thematic topics.

Cross-cutting goals and objectives

Capacity-building

The need for continued and enhanced capacity-building is a reoccurring concern that spanned all the thematic topics and priority issues, ranging from organisational fragmentation, low institutional capacity and weak interlinkages between data providers. It is clear that there is an enduring lack of capacities, both in terms of human and financial resources, to ensure that countries can reliably carry out all monitoring and assessment activities under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other reporting obligations.

The Working Group recognise the significant gap with reference to the availability of state-of-the-art infrastructure, such as for air quality monitoring, but that it would not be in a position to provide direct support to resolve this specific challenge, other than facilitating the increased engagement of international donors in the short and long term. This objective will be addressed as part of the Working Groups outreach activities.

The goal for the Working Group will be to focus on strengthening human capacities needed to address key challenges as regards to specific regional and national capacity gaps. This includes guidance on the production of regionally and internationally agreed environmental data flows and indicators in a manner coherent with the principles of SEIS for indicator-based assessments and reporting obligations, such as for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, sustainable development data issues must be dealt with, including the capacity to

collect and analyse, taking into consideration new data demands.

It can be noted that the Working Group has already played an important role in establishing SEIS on many levels, e.g. by building capacity, gathering and assessing data, and by advocating for the implementation of SEIS in the pan-European region. The range of actions for the future should build on this expertise when considering the type of capacity-building support that can be provided by the Working Group. To increase the capacity of its member countries to monitor and report on the environment it is thus foreseen that the Working Group continues to produce guidelines and (scalable) methodologies that help explain and illustrate ways in which to address capacity-related challenges and gaps unique to the region.

The goal would also be to focus on scaling up activities, as regards to technical assistance, in the form of training national stakeholders on how to improve the production of and access to environmental information and data for monitoring and assessment as part of building organizational capacity. This should entail continuous dialogue – as part of the regular consultation with the Working Group – to characterise specific capacity gaps that should be prioritised. This will ensure that the Working Group address the most pressing challenges facing the region.

It should also be recognised that capacity-building is not only about human resource development, but an integral part of the approach to be taken in the future is to be integrative and to consider the sustainability of capacity-building efforts, national ownership and policy-level impacts. Perhaps even more

important will be to help create a systemic and enabling environment through the development of tools, guidelines and mechanisms. The long-term goal would be to focus not only on outputs but also to harness the processes that lead to these outputs, which is one key strength of the Working Group.

Communication and Cooperation

Increased communication and cooperation was highlighted consistently by the Working Group, referencing the need for various mechanisms that would allow the exchange of experiences and know-how, horizontally and vertically, across institutions, sectors and countries. The need for effective regional cooperation and communication is particularly important provided the number of challenges the pan-European region is facing with regards to environmental monitoring and reporting.

The Working Group recognises the importance of cooperation as well as the strategic value in addressing the lack of thereof, in particular, as this may help to streamline activities and improve the efficiency of environmental monitoring and assessment. It is important that the Working Group finds new momentum to revitalize the forum as a first step to address this concern. This would be a prerequisite to having a clear vision - and the Working Group is uniquely positioned to drive the formulation and realization of this vision.

The overarching goal would be to deepen the collective effort to promote the sharing of knowledge, experiences and technology to support capacity building and human resource development in the pan-European region leading up to 2021 and beyond. This would require that the Working Group consolidates its regional profile and that it establishes a distinct position in which it can play a constructive and complementary role together with other international, regional and sub-regional forums.

The key element to reach this goal would be to enhance the Working Groups role as an active forum for dialogue and collective action on regional issues of common concern and to promote the groups engagement with relevant stakeholders, including international organisations. Also, it would be important to consider how the Working Group could improve its continued cooperation with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEA), such as the MEAs that UNECE have negotiated and which are now in force. It would in this regards be crucial to enhance the Working Groups capacity to support cooperation through review and restructuring of existing areas of cooperation to promote focused, activity-driven and result-oriented cooperation.

In the short-term, this process would need to address how the Working Group can serve as a regional environmental information and assessment network-of-networks, as part of its present mandate, to engage relevant actors in a constructive dialogue that would allow the group to turn a shared vision into concrete goals with a fixed timespan as well as to foster ownership and commitment from all relevant actors and interested parties in the long-term.

Mobilising more and better resources in support of the Working Group

One key goal for the Working Group, which underpins all of its activities, will include improved access and deepening of financial resources to support the range of actions that will be carried out. This will, first, focus on improving efficiency in terms of the organisation of activities to ensure that costs are reduced and that the range and type of activities can be expanded. Secondly, entail proactive steps to ensure that the Working Group mobilise direct support from prospective contributors, leading up to the establishment of SEIS by 2021 and monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals leading up to 2030.

It will be quintessential to enhance the long-term stability of the Working Group to guarantee that it can carry out all the activities set out in this vision document – with all the costs this would

imply – and to provide it with the capability to increase the scale and impact of its activities. This would be fundamental to translate our vision and mission into reality.

Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Economy

Monitoring and reporting mechanisms for tracking progress towards the SDGs provide an enormous opportunity for learning and to build on existing efforts carried out by the Working Group. On-going and planned reporting activities provide opportunities to identify shortcomings and find solutions, and there is a clear call from our members to provide assistance on how to define, collect and analyse environmental information and data to measure progress towards the SDGs and the Green Economy. Results from both the questionnaire and panel-discussion stress the complex set of challenges underlying the obligation to report on progress towards the SDGs and highlights that traditional approaches and tools are not fit for this purpose. It requires integration.

Challenges emphasized by the Working Group included the absence of SDGs in strategic national documents, methodological and procedural obstacles, lack of available data and knowledge about international methodologies and standards. Among some of the key challenges amplified in the panel-discussion were the considerable data requirements and analysis needed to track progress, and for countries who have started integrating SDGs into their national development plans, the customization of indicators. A host of solutions were also noted by our members, ranging from efforts to promote legislative improvements, increased information exchange and engagement of international experts and capacity-building focusing on SDG and Green Economy indicator-related methodologies and data collection for national use.

The goal for support in the area of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the

Economy would be to build on past achievements and lessons learnt in connection with the establishment of SEIS and the sharing of environmental indicators, both through the WGEMA and JTF. The objective would be to complement planned activities in developing a reporting mechanism for the member countries to self-monitor and self-evaluate progress on SEIS establishment, contributing to the implementation of 2030 Agenda by ensuring that priority data flows for international exchange are properly managed as part of a regular reporting process on the SDGs and to improve monitoring capabilities for the Green Economy. The overarching goal would be to strengthen capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies so that the member countries of the Working Group are able to prepare indicator-based and regularly reports on progress towards the SDGs and the Green Economy.

In the short-term, this would require that the Working Group reviews the environmental data and information needed to cover the production of regional and international environmental indicators, such as the UNECE set of environmental indicators, European Environment Agency (EEA) core set of indicators, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) green growth indicators, and indicators for the SDGs. Collecting this information would enable the Working Group to design targeted capacity-building to improve the institutional knowledge base for data collection standards and the use of monitoring and assessment tools for regular indicator-based assessments to measure progress towards the SDGs and the Green Economy. The medium term objective would be to provide technical assistance to support the establishment of

indicator frameworks to monitor the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy at the national level, and activities to support its implementation,

including the establishment of reporting mechanisms and procedures for methodological review.

Reporting and Assessment

Environmental reporting and assessments set the stage for the compilation of robust information or an evidence base as an essential component for better policy-making. This embodies the core purpose of the Working Group, namely, to help improve national capacities to monitor and evaluate the environment. It is the central driver behind all our activities and it is the umbrella under which all our members meet to discuss, both through the Working Group and the JTF. In fact, the Working Group has, since its inception, aimed to assist its members in working with environmental data and information to enable their timely flows and adequate assessment.

It is clear from the preceding section that the challenges in monitoring progress towards the SDGs and the Green Economy is inherently interlinked with the overall work being carried out by the Working Group, to enable informed decision-making processes, both nationally and regionally, in the environmental sector. However, the inputs provide by our members demonstrate the continued lack of general national operational expertise and capacities to monitor the environment, emphasising the continued demand for having a Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

Even though it should not be forgotten that much progress have been made, challenges emphasized by the Working Group included the lack of integrated national monitoring programmes and methodologies as well as the lack of cross-national and inter-agency mechanisms to exchange knowledge. It was also noted that the financial viability and sustainability of national monitoring systems needed to be improved and that there was a continued demand for capacity-building

strategies and activities, both at the regional and national level. Complimentary to the consultative process, the recent performance review on the establishment of SEIS in the pan-European region (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/8) also demonstrate national capacity gaps in a number of areas and have raised the Working Groups concerns about the reliability of existing environmental data and knowledge producing processes that support regular environmental reporting and accountability, in particular for meeting the goals

of the 2030 Agenda. This background implies that environmental information and data is not being used consistently in policy-relevant and evidence-based assessments and, if it is used, it is not interconnected, integrated or made available for multiple uses. This would be a key concern for the Working Group to address in coming years.

The overarching goal for support in the area of reporting and assessment would thus be continued efforts to deliver guidance to help make national monitoring programmes an efficient and practical tool for environmental policy. This would include increased targeted efforts to provide capacity-building on how to use and harmonize indicator-related methodologies, data collection and quality assurance and quality control aspects of environmental data and indicators for national and international reporting obligation, taking into account the call for increased cooperation and communication. The short to long-term objective would be to facilitate the establishment of SEIS by 2021 – as called for through the Batumi declaration (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1) – and to

assist in the streamlining of regular reporting by 2020.

The objective would also be to assist in common activities being carried out by UNECE, EEA and UNEP – as characterised by the common approach laid out by the three organisations – to

achieve these objectives and to support the countries in the pan-European region. These objectives should be operationalized in tandem with efforts to provide guidance on how to monitor progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Green Economy.

Environmental Statistics

Even though it principally falls under the mandate of the JTF, environmental statistics was picked up as a thematic topic for a number of reasons. First and foremost among these are earlier calls by the CEP to streamline activities of the two bodies, in particular, it had been suggested that the two bodies should be merged. The main outcome from this discussion was that the Working Group and the JTF have different geographical coverage and targets different agencies, one servicing environmental authorities and the other statistical agencies (see ECE/CEP/2015/12). It was recommended that merging the two bodies would not be desirable but that the Working Group and JTF should ensure that activities were streamlined to reduce costs and increase the relevance of their work.

The consultative process was seen as an opportunity to tackle this concern and to address the inherent and significant interlinkages between the Working Group and the JTF. More specifically, the JTF deals explicitly with the production of environmental statistics while the Working Group focus on systemic aspects concerned with access to environmental information and data as well as regular environmental reporting and national assessments. It should be noted that the Working Group and JTF address specific challenges, whether referencing to data production methodologies, data analysis or data communication. Attempts to merge the two bodies would risk making them less relevant for some UNECE countries, and it would make it difficult to offer capacity-building assistance in the context of either sustainable development, green economy or SEEA as the demands for

capacity building vary depending on the target country. For this reason, having dedicated platforms to address these issues separately still make sense.

The overarching goal for support in the area of environmental statistics would be to ensure that the Working Group and JTF continue to work closely together in setting priority areas for action and that any activities carried out by the two bodies are done in a collaborative manner. This would entail continued cooperation between the UNECE Environment Division and the Statistical Division in charge of the respective bodies.

The sessions of the Working Group and JTF provides the perfect platform through which cross-national and inter-agency communication on experiences and know-how concerning the production of environmental statistics can be stimulated. This should include addressing concerns about methodologies in the field of environment statistics and the ability to compare environmental indicators and statistics across the pan-European region.

The Working Group should address the demand for the integration of economic, social and environmental information and data and the call for capacity development in this regard. The work being carried out through SEEA should be considered by the Working Group more extensively in the years to come, and in particular the relevance this will have for monitoring progress towards the SDGs. The Working Group recognise that sustainable development will not be possible without taking

into account information and data from economic, social and environmental sources, and the formidable challenge that underlies this task. It would be of relevance to ensure that the

sharing and increased accessibility of all environmental statistics is coherent with the SEIS principles and to build linkages that help to facilitate integration.

Setting the Stage for 2030

The Working Group need to review and consider the overarching objectives set out in this vision. It is meant to provide an impetus for more focused and results-oriented cooperation as well as reflect our shared aspirations and ensure that we make better use of our diverse strengths, taking into account different national priorities.

It is important to stress that this should not be a static vision but rather seen as a living document

that can be adopted to address the demands of the future. What we prioritise today is a fixed perspective interlinked with the challenges we face at present. There a need for continuous revision and identification of new thematic priorities and policy developments and to proactively consider what action and/or tools would be needed to address new commitments.

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Publications by the Working Group



Report on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in support of regular reporting in the pan-European region

See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42166#/>



Sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) Assessment for the Pan-European region

See <http://web.unep.org/geo/assessments/regional>



Guidelines for developing national strategies to use biodiversity monitoring as an environmental policy tool for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as Interested South-Eastern European countries

See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42078>



Progress in the production and sharing of core environmental indicators in countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38894>



Guidelines for Developing National Strategies to Use Air and Water Quality Monitoring as Environmental Policy Tools

See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30339>



Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises

See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30343>



Environmental Indicators and Indicators-based Assessment Reports

See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30331>



Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30346>

Sharing our vision for the pan-European region

Setting strategic goals and objectives for the
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