

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: draft provisional agenda

Information paper No. 9

19 February 2016

20 years of Environmental Performance Reviews: impacts, lessons learned and the potential to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals

Note by the secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme

Summary

The Reform Plan of the Environment for Europe process (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1) adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy in 2009, and subsequently endorsed by ECE, mandated the Committee to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences.

At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015), the Committee invited its Bureau to continue with its preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). Regarding the Conference agenda item related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee requests the secretariat to develop and publish reviews of lessons learned in implementation of Environmental Performance Reviews recommendations and to analyse the impact of the implementation of recommended national policies, strategies and initiatives on the state of the environment in the countries reviewed, and welcomes the cooperation with UNEP in this regard to prepare such a document for the Batumi Conference (see ECE/CEP/2015/2, forthcoming).

The present document was prepared by the secretariat and United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with the above mandate. It contains an annotated outline of the Batumi information document presenting 20 years of Environmental Performance Reviews: impacts, lessons learned and the potential to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals.

I. Introduction

1. The paper will (1) present main impacts of Environmental Performance Reviews and lessons learned in implementation of Environmental Performance Reviews' recommendations, and (2) review progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals based on the Environmental Performance Review methodology.

II. Preparatory process

2. At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015), the Committee invited its Bureau to continue with its preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). Regarding the Conference agenda item related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee requests the secretariat to develop and publish reviews of lessons learned in implementation of Environmental Performance Reviews recommendations and to analyse the impact of the implementation of recommended national policies, strategies and initiatives on the state of the environment in the countries reviewed, and welcomes the cooperation with UNEP in this regard to prepare such a document for the Batumi Conference (see ECE/CEP/2015/2, forthcoming).

3. The present document was prepared by the secretariat and United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with the above mandate.

4. The EPR Expert Group and some members of the CEP were contacted to provide inputs on the document.

5. The EPR Expert Group will be invited to provide comments on the document.

III. Draft outline of the 20 years of Environmental Performance Reviews: impacts, lessons learned and the potential to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals

Foreword

Executive summary

Introduction

Environmental Performance Reviews

Overview

Main impacts of Environmental Performance Reviews

Lessons learned in implementation of Environmental Performance Reviews' recommendations

Reviewing progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals: Consideration of a Sustainable Development Goal review mechanism based on the Environmental Performance Review methodology

Follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Data needs

Environmental Performance Review methodology

Considering a Sustainable Development Goal review mechanism based on the Environmental Performance Review methodology

Short-term approach: formally embedding a Sustainable Development Goals review into the Environmental Performance Review process

Long-term approach: establishing a Sustainable Development Goals Review Programme in the Economic Commission for Europe

Other prospective processes to support the follow up and review of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

Looking back, moving forward

Acknowledging two decades of collaboration on Environmental Performance Reviews

