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**Mid-term review of the main outcomes of the Eighth
Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:
environmental performance reviews**

Environmental performance reviews: progress made in conducting the third cycle

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers acknowledged the important contribution of the Environmental Performance Review Programme as an effective and practical policy tool and highlighted the role the Programme could play in supporting the achievement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region (see ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/Add.1).

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee on Environmental Policy will hold a mid-term review of the Batumi Conference's main outcomes. As part of the review, the Committee will consider progress in conducting the third cycle of environmental performance reviews, including integration of the Sustainable Development Goals in the reviews. The present document, containing a progress report on the third cycle of reviews, was prepared by the secretariat to facilitate the Committee's discussion on the topic.

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Introduction

1. At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress in the third cycle of environmental performance reviews conducted under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Environmental Performance Review Programme and highlighted the role that the Programme could play in supporting the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1, para. 9).

2. At its twenty-third session (14–17 November 2017), the Committee on Environmental Policy agreed to hold the mid-term review of the Batumi Conference's main outcomes within the framework of its twenty-fourth session. The present document presents an overview of progress in undertaking third cycle environmental performance reviews, and the integration of the consideration of the Sustainable Development Goals in them, in order to facilitate the Committee's discussion on the topic.

I. Overview of main achievements and key findings

A. Main achievements

3. The main achievements in conducting the third cycle of reviews are the completion of third cycle reviews for more than half of the eligible countries; the integration of relevant Sustainable Development Goals into the reviews conducted since 2017; the launch of a new area of activities to assist reviewed countries in the implementation of recommendations emerging from their reviews; and improved communication and outreach activities.

1. Nine third cycle reviews completed

4. Pursuant to the decision of ministers at the Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011), the third cycle of environmental performance reviews began in 2012.

5. In the period 2012–2017, third cycle reviews were conducted in the Republic of Moldova (2013), Montenegro (2014), Serbia (2014), Georgia (2015), Belarus (2015), Tajikistan (2017), Bulgaria (2017), Albania (2017) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017).¹ In addition, environmental performance reviews of Morocco (2013) and Mongolia (2017), States not members of ECE, were prepared using the third cycle methodology. Third cycle reviews have taken 13 months on average to complete.

6. As of October 2018, three third cycle reviews are ongoing. Third cycle reviews are being prepared for Kazakhstan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The third review of Uzbekistan has just started, with a preparatory mission to the country having taken place in September 2018. As these reviews are ongoing, the references to the review of Kazakhstan in the present document are preliminary, and the review of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is generally excluded, as no draft report was available at the time of writing. There is no information as yet for Uzbekistan.

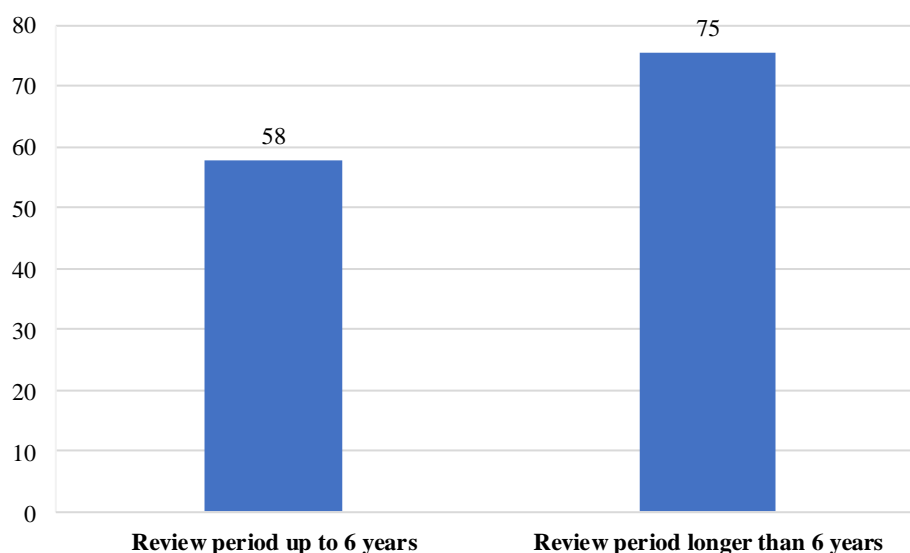
7. The average rate of implementation by countries of the recommendations in their second review by the time of their third review is 67 per cent. The rate differs depending on

¹ All dates of reviews in this document refer to the years of adoption of the review recommendations by the Committee on Environmental Policy, unless otherwise specified.

the duration of the period between the second and third reviews, with a higher rate where the country had more time to implement the recommendations (figure 1).

Figure 1

Average rate of implementation of recommendations of the second review (per cent)



Note: Morocco and Mongolia are not included. For Bulgaria the evaluation of implementation of the recommendations of its previous review was not done because of the lengthy period (16 years) between its second and third reviews.

8. Table 1 presents some characteristics of individual third cycle reviews and the reviews of Morocco and Mongolia. As in the previous cycles, all third cycle reviews covered the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for environmental protection and sustainable development; regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; economic instruments for environmental protection; environmental expenditures; environmental monitoring; access to information; public participation; environmental education; and education for sustainable development. Most of them have also addressed air protection; water management; waste management; biodiversity; and protected areas. Six third cycle reviews included dedicated chapters on climate change, while in other reviews climate change issues were integrated in other chapters.

9. Overall, the third cycle reviews have a larger number of chapters covering integration of environmental considerations into sectoral policies than the reviews in the previous cycles. They also result in a larger number of recommendations. Table 2 shows that the sectors most commonly covered have been the energy and forestry sectors, closely followed by the health and industry sectors.

10. Figure 2 reflects the recipients of the environmental performance review recommendations. It shows that the recommendations have been provided not only to the national environmental authorities, but also to sectoral ministries and the Government in general.

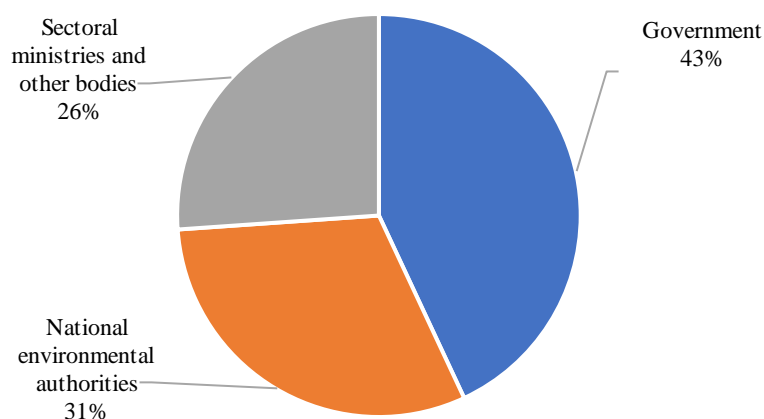
Table 1
Main features of the third cycle environmental performance reviews and the reviews of Mongolia and Morocco, 2013–2018

	<i>Country (in chronological order)</i>	<i>Chapters (number)</i>	<i>Recommendations (number)</i>	<i>Russian or French language version produced</i>	<i>National language version produced</i>
Third cycle reviews	Republic of Moldova	10	41	Russian	
	Montenegro	8	32		
	Serbia	8	33		
	Georgia	14	67		
	Bulgaria	10	49		
	Belarus	14	64	Russian	
	Tajikistan	15	82	Russian	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	12	71		√
	Albania	11	58		
	Kazakhstan	13	-	Russian	
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11	-		
Other reviews	Morocco	13	60	French	
	Mongolia	15	81		√

Table 2
Sectors covered by dedicated chapters in the third cycle environmental performance reviews and the reviews of Mongolia and Morocco, 2013–2018

	<i>Country (in chronological order)</i>	<i>Agri-culture</i>	<i>Energy</i>	<i>Forestry</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Industry</i>	<i>Tourism</i>	<i>Transport</i>	<i>Disaster management</i>
Third cycle reviews	Republic of Moldova	√								
	Montenegro									
	Serbia									
	Georgia		√	√	√		√	√	√	√
	Belarus		√	√	√	√		√	√	
	Bulgaria		√							
	Tajikistan	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√
	Albania		√	√			√		√	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina			√						
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			√						
	Kazakhstan	√	√		√		√			
Other reviews	Morocco	√	√		√		√			
	Mongolia			√	√					√
Total		4	7	7	6	2	5	2	4	3

Figure 2
Recipients of recommendations of third cycle environmental performance reviews and the reviews of Mongolia and Morocco, 2013–2018



Note: Percentages are averages. The third review of Bosnia and Herzegovina was not considered because the categories used in the figure do not closely correspond to the institutional arrangements in the country.

2. Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals in the reviews

11. All third cycle reviews focus on the three blocks of issues identified by the Astana Ministerial Declaration (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1, para. 13) as key topics for the third cycle:

- (a) Environmental governance and financing in a green economy context;
- (b) Countries' cooperation with the international community;
- (c) Environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors.

12. Since 2017, an additional thematic angle on the Sustainable Development Goals was added to the reviews, in line with the Batumi Ministerial Declaration.

13. In December 2016, the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, with support from the secretariat, prepared a document on the role of environmental performance reviews in supporting the achievement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region. The document (ECE/CEP/2017/11), approved by the Committee on Environmental Policy in 2017, highlights the possible options for incorporating relevant Sustainable Development Goals in the reviews, and the associated data and resource requirements. It serves as the main methodological framework for the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the reviews.

14. The three reviews conducted in 2017 – third reviews of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the review of Mongolia – and the third review of Kazakhstan being conducted in 2018 include an assessment of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets and recommendations linked to those targets (table 3). They also address systemic issues such as the existence of an institutional framework for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the national policy framework, data gaps, national ownership and resources for implementation. The recommendations provide guidance to the Governments

and other stakeholders in designing concrete policies and measures to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. For example, in the third Environmental Performance Review of Albania, 25 recommendations refer to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and 35 “soft” recommendations are included as part of the boxes devoted to Sustainable Development Goals and targets in the text of the report. The third review of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia being conducted in 2018 follows the same approach to integrating the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

Table 3

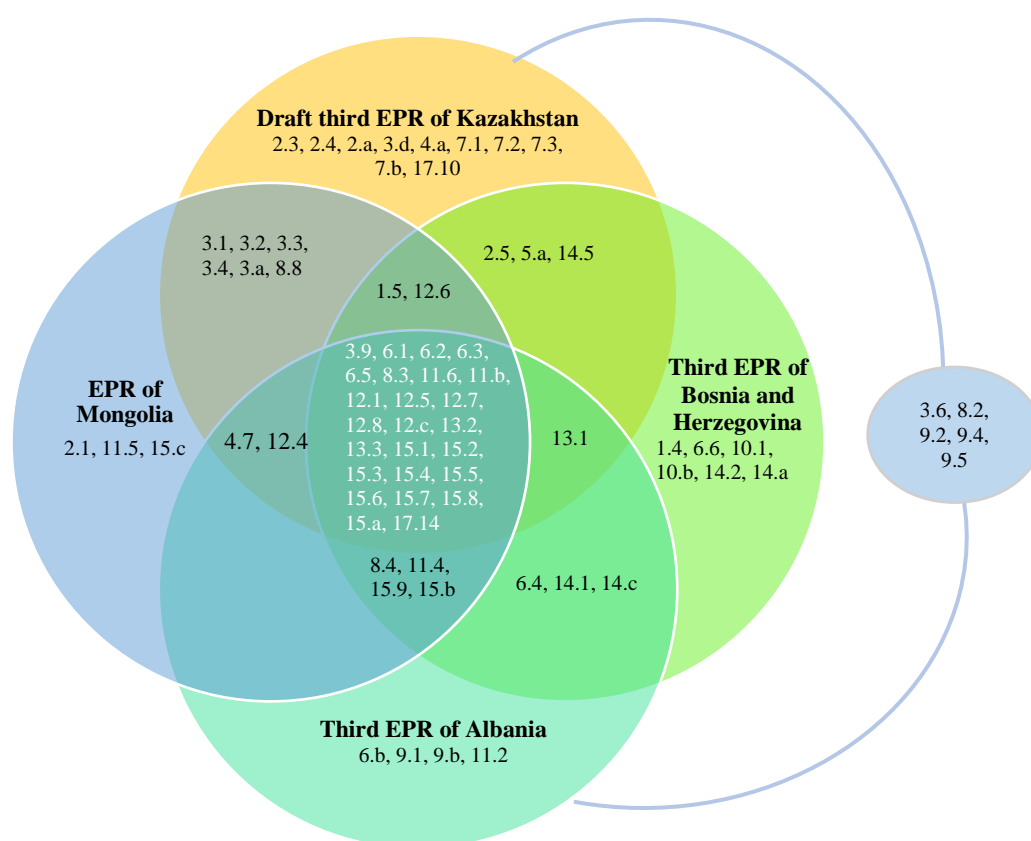
Integration of the targets from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into environmental performance reviews

	<i>Third review of Albania</i>	<i>Third review of Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	<i>Review of Mongolia</i>	<i>Draft third review of Kazakhstan</i>
Targets covered in the main text (number)	44	44	42	54
Targets addressed in recommendations (number)	38	39	38	—
Sustainable Development Goal-related recommendations (number), of which in:	60	46	76	—
Boxes	35	36	41	—
Recommendations	25	10	35	—

Note: Information for Kazakhstan is preliminary.

15. Figure 3 shows the common targets covered by the third reviews of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kazakhstan and the review of Mongolia, as well as the targets additionally covered by one or more of these four reviews. It demonstrates that the coverage of targets has been tailored on a case-by-case basis to the content of each review, which has in turn been determined in consultation with the Government concerned. The Sustainable Development Goals most covered in these four reviews include 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land).

Figure 3
Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development covered by the environmental performance reviews



Abbreviation: EPR = Environmental Performance Review.

Notes: Information for Kazakhstan is preliminary. The targets in the blue oval on the right were covered in both the reviews of Albania and Kazakhstan but could not be otherwise reflected in the graphic.

16. The first experience of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into environmental performance reviews, and the lessons learned from the reviews of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mongolia, were discussed by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews at an open-ended meeting with participation of the reviewed countries in October 2017. The discussion focused on practical and methodological issues of integrating the Goals and targets into the reviews, progress towards implementation of the Goals and targets in the reviewed countries and the relevance of recommendations provided by the reviews. The Expert Group provided guidance to the Environmental Performance Review Programme on opportunities for improving such integration.

17. In early 2017, the secretariat developed a handout for international expert teams to facilitate the coverage of the Sustainable Development Goals by experts writing individual review chapters. The handout is constantly revised based on the experience gained. During all the preparatory missions in the period 2017–2018, the secretariat consulted with relevant governmental institutions and the United Nations country teams on the needs and practical arrangements for the integration of Sustainable Development Goals in the respective reviews. Furthermore, during all review missions in the period 2017–2018, the secretariat

organized preparatory meetings for the international expert teams to provide guidance on the integration exercise.

3. Assistance provided in the implementation of environmental performance review recommendations

18. In 2017, the Environmental Performance Review Programme began assisting reviewed countries in the implementation of the recommendations from the reviews. Two technical cooperation workshops were organized by the Programme to facilitate the sharing of good practices and the exchange of experience: a workshop (Astana, 29–30 November 2017), organized in cooperation with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division, focused on the implementation of recommendations related to sustainable energy policies and practice; and a workshop (Tbilisi, 14 December 2017), organized in cooperation with the ECE Sustainable Transport Division, focused on implementation of recommendations related to sustainable transport policies. These workshops brought together the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia participating in the Programme and enabled an in-depth exchange of experience.

19. Since mid-2018, the Programme has been implementing a project in five countries of South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) funded by the United Nations Development Account. The project focuses on assisting the countries to implement some of their Environmental Performance Review recommendations related to the Sustainable Development Goals and promotes peer learning at the subregional level. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations country teams in the period 2018–2021.

4. Communication and outreach improved

20. Several steps have been taken to improve communication and outreach for the third cycle reviews. The third cycle reviews benefit from a new cover template that allows natural, social and cultural features of reviewed countries to be reflected. For all third cycle reviews but one, the launch events were organized in cooperation with the Governments of the reviewed countries. Since 2015, *Highlights* brochures, which illustrate key messages of a review, have been printed along with the main environmental performance review publication to facilitate dissemination of the results of the review.

21. The environmental performance reviews are increasingly used in other forums and by other organizations and this increases their outreach. For example, in Tajikistan, a UNEP project assisted the country to produce a national state-of-environment report and its online visual version based on the information and data contained in the third review of the country. In Mongolia, the Environmental Performance Review contributed to the Sustainability Outlook for Mongolia, led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and is now feeding into the Government's "Pathways for Implementation of the Internationally Agreed Commitments of Mongolia" – a road map for the country's efforts to achieve sustainable development. In Albania, the third review was used to help prepare for a United Nations development system mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy mission to the country, undertaken with a view to integrating the 2030 agenda into the national development framework.

B. Key findings

1. Environmental governance and financing in a green economy context

22. With some exceptions, countries reviewed in the third cycle lack legal and policy frameworks for green economy and face a shortage of specific green economy initiatives, except for a few green economy projects supported by international donors. Even where a strong policy framework for green economy is in place, for example, in Kazakhstan and Mongolia, the institutional capacity for implementation of green economy approaches is insufficient. Green economy indicators are little used. No information on investments in greening the economy is collected separately from the information on general environmental expenditures. In some countries that have gone through a third cycle review, the policy framework on green economy has since been enhanced: for example, Belarus has approved a national action plan to introduce green economy principles for the period until 2020, while the Republic of Moldova adopted a programme to support green economy for the period 2018–2020, accompanied by an action plan.

23. The operations of national financing systems for environmental protection have improved in all of the reviewed countries. However, in most of these countries, the rates of both environmental pollution charges and fees for the use of natural resources are often still too low to promote the reduction of pollution and the sustainable use of natural resources. In some countries, the low rates of fines for environmental offences, together with the failure to adjust such rates to inflation, have eroded any potential behavioural effects. Tariffs are also low in some countries and do not create incentives for rational use of water and electricity, or for generating less waste. Persistent financial losses of service providers result in a lack of funds for adequate investments in maintenance and modernization of infrastructure.

24. Domestic environmental protection expenditure remains low in most countries reviewed in the third cycle. There is a general lack of regular review of environmental expenditures and such expenditures are not always aligned with priorities in environmental and sectoral strategic documents. In many countries, incentive measures for the use of renewable energy sources, improvements in energy efficiency, sustainable production and consumption, and development of cleaner transport systems are still at an early or trial stage of development.

2. Countries' cooperation with the international community

25. The third cycle reviews revealed that most of the challenges with regard to cooperation with the international community in the reviewed countries are related to capacity, the availability of resources and political commitment. All reviewed countries now have a system of focal points appointed for each multilateral environmental agreement, but there are issues with proper training of the focal points, the clear delineation of their responsibilities, their workload and their ability to allocate sufficient time for agreement-related activities. The issue of national reporting under multilateral environmental agreements is another capacity-related problem: delayed reporting or a persistent lack of reporting by a country on certain agreements is often flagged in the third cycle reviews.

26. Countries reviewed in the third cycle are often unable to allocate sufficient resources to enable regular participation in international cooperation activities on the environment. Few reviewed countries host large international meetings, again for financial reasons. Another important issue identified in the third cycle has been countries' dependence on international assistance for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

27. Other findings include the need for countries to establish clear priorities for their international cooperation on the environment, since clear priorities help to target scarce

resources. In addition, the reviews provide recommendations related to the functioning of the institutional mechanisms, for example, ways to increase the effectiveness of the focal points system, strengthen coordination with sectoral ministries for implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and increase synergies in the implementation of those agreements.

28. While the countries reviewed in the third cycle have joined many multilateral environmental agreements, for some countries significant gaps in participation in key agreements still exist. Therefore, the environmental performance reviews contain recommendations on accession to such agreements, often outlining steps on the way to accession (for example, the use of assistance and pre-accession mechanisms, or undertaking a cost-benefit analysis) and on the use of non-binding mechanisms and processes.

29. In addition, specific problems in the implementation of individual multilateral environmental agreements by the reviewed countries are pinpointed in the reviews and advice is provided on priority steps to address inadequate implementation, such as to assign adequate national protection status to Ramsar sites and to develop and adopt their management plans, or to develop the legal framework on biosafety to enable implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

30. Finally, the reviews include an analysis of the efforts of the reviewed countries to develop and implement national climate change policies in line with their global commitments. They provide advice to the Governments on enhancing the mitigation and adaptation efforts at national and local level, strengthening the inventory preparation processes and awareness-raising.

31. The coverage of countries' cooperation with the international community in the third cycle reviews has evolved together with international cooperation itself. While in the beginning of the third cycle the reviews covered systemic problems with the implementation and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, currently they have a strong focus on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda. Also, the third cycle reviews cover a wider range of international agreements, often including multilateral agreements that have an environmental aspect, even if their main target is not the environment. For example, the third reviews of Georgia and Belarus and the review of Mongolia cover the conventions of the International Labour Organization related to environmental health, whereas the third review of Bulgaria covers the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

3. Environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors

32. Sectoral chapters in the third cycle reviews address efforts made towards the integration of environmental requirements into sectoral policy documents and primary and subsidiary legislation. They also present an analysis of practical implementation and the effectiveness of legal and policy requirements and an evaluation of the level of cooperation and coordination among relevant authorities.

33. All third cycle reviews look into the use of a strategic environmental assessment instrument as a tool for the integration of environmental requirements into sectoral policies. In many countries reviewed in the third cycle, there is no strategic environmental assessment tool or it is in an early stage of development. Where strategic environmental assessment is already operational, sectoral authorities still need to be convinced of the benefits of such assessments and quality assurance mechanisms for effective implementation are not in place.

34. In some countries, the national environmental authorities reported having established stronger cooperation with sectoral ministries as a result of the joint work during the review process.

4. Integration of relevant Sustainable Development Goals

35. In the four countries for which the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets were integrated into their reviews (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Mongolia) the national environmental authorities are neither the leading nor the coordinating authorities for monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the entire exercise of integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the reviews raised the profile of the national environmental authorities within the national setting for monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

36. The four countries are at various stages of defining institutional and policy frameworks for monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In some countries, these frameworks are already in place and functional. In others, the process is only beginning, and the Environmental Performance Review exercise helped draw attention to the importance of setting such frameworks.

37. In all four countries, the process of evaluating the data availability and gaps for indicators from the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was ongoing, but the process of setting the national targets and indicators had not or had only just started, making the related advice in the environmental performance reviews timely and relevant.

38. The level of ownership and awareness on Sustainable Development Goals is different in each of the four countries. Mongolia achieved high ownership of and impressive awareness about the Goals not only among the central government authorities, but also among local government officials and citizens. This was not the case for the other three countries, where the national environmental authorities and the line ministries had insufficient awareness of the Goals, with even lesser awareness at the local level, among the public and in the business community. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, an innovative consultation tool² has been developed to raise awareness on the 2030 Agenda, which might be replicated in other countries.

39. In those reviewed countries where accession to the European Union is an overarching priority and is already absorbing considerable efforts and resources, it is important that efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with the accession process, in terms of both content and process. Both Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina have gained useful experience in this regard.

II. Lessons learned and challenges

A. Conducting the third cycle

40. In terms of process, it has generally been easier for the Environmental Performance Review Programme to organize third cycle reviews because, in many countries, the institutional memory from the second and sometimes first reviews was in place.

² See United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sustainable Development Goals consultation tool <https://youtu.be/2zq891WnQ2c>.

Nevertheless, the review methodology is constantly adjusted to address problematic areas and better respond to the specific needs of reviewed countries.

41. A particular challenge for the third cycle reviews has been to remain relevant and useful in the context of different pathways taken by the reviewed countries, while accommodating their specific preferences. For example, Kazakhstan has requested that its third review make reference to the practice of countries members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), while Albania saw its third review as an instrument to assist the country in the process of European Union accession.

B. Integration of relevant Sustainable Development Goals

42. The key challenge for the integration of relevant Sustainable Development Goals into the environmental performance reviews is that little data and information are available yet to undertake a detailed target-by-target assessment. Some targets that the reviews attempted to address had to be dropped in the process of drafting the review report due to the lack of information. This challenge, however, made the entire exercise and the final product valuable and appreciated by the reviewed countries.

43. Incorporating Sustainable Development Goals into the reviews requires efforts from the reviewed countries to provide additional data and information on the relevant Goals and targets. It also requires efforts from the international expert teams to access and analyse such data and information. Nevertheless, as demonstrated by the third cycle reviews of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kazakhstan and the review of Mongolia, these efforts are not a “mission impossible”. The search for relevant data and information has been useful in strengthening cooperation between the national environmental authorities, the statistical offices and the authorities responsible for coordination of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the reviewed countries. For the international expert teams, the new challenging task of looking at the Goals and targets has strengthened the exchange of information and communication between the team members.

44. The choice by all countries in the period 2017–2018 of the same option for the integration of Sustainable Development Goals in their reviews³ allowed the methodological aspects of such integration to be improved from one review to the next. Nevertheless, from the methodological point of view, difficulties have been encountered in looking beyond globally agreed indicators when addressing specific targets in the chapters. Another challenge encountered is linked to the cross-sectoral nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, which has been difficult to reflect because the targets are presented in boxes scattered across various thematic chapters of the reviews.

45. The integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the third cycle reviews of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kazakhstan and the review of Mongolia has been accomplished at no additional financial cost.

III. Further steps

46. As of September 2018, more than half of the eligible countries have hosted or are in the process of hosting their third environmental performance reviews. The third review of

³ All the countries chose the fourth option from the list of options described in document ECE/CEP/2017/11: providing a general review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the chapter on the legal and policy framework and including the review of relevant Goals and/or targets in the contents of the other chapters.

Uzbekistan will continue in 2019. Further steps include the continuation of the third cycle in response to requests from eligible countries. Requests to undertake a third review have been received from Romania and Ukraine. In addition, other countries in the region that are not OECD members could benefit from undertaking an environmental performance review in response to the call by ministers in Batumi.

47. In the future, Sustainable Development Goals may be more deeply integrated into the environmental performance reviews, as more data and information become available, and the cross-sectoral nature of Goals may be better addressed when sufficient experience is gained. Strengthening links between the environmental performance review process and the overall national processes and platforms for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda in the reviewed countries is an important direction for development, which could increase the relevance of integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the reviews. Furthermore, the reviews will continue to cover the environmental challenges and opportunities arising from big infrastructure developments, such as the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline or the Belt and Road Initiative, when relevant for the countries reviewed, and provide recommendations in this respect.

48. As part of the project funded by the United Nations Development Account, five countries of South-Eastern Europe will be assisted in the development of national action plans and/or policy packages (policy documents, laws and subsidiary legislation) to implement the recommendations from their reviews in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. With the implementation of the project, the Environmental Performance Review Programme will gain practical experience in assisting the reviewed countries in the implementation of the recommendations. That experience may also provide ideas for improving the methodology of the reviews in the future.

49. Furthermore, substantial opportunities exist for peer learning, networking and capacity development based on the environmental performance reviews. A peer-learning workshop entitled, “Policies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: exchange of best practices on the basis of ECE Environmental Performance Reviews”, is planned to be held in Minsk in November 2018. Similar capacity development activities may be organized in the future, subject to the availability of staff resources at the secretariat to undertake this work.
