



Assisting countries in joining and implementing the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe multilateral environmental agreements

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Committee on Environmental Policy

The "Environment for Europe" mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes: multilateral environmental agreements

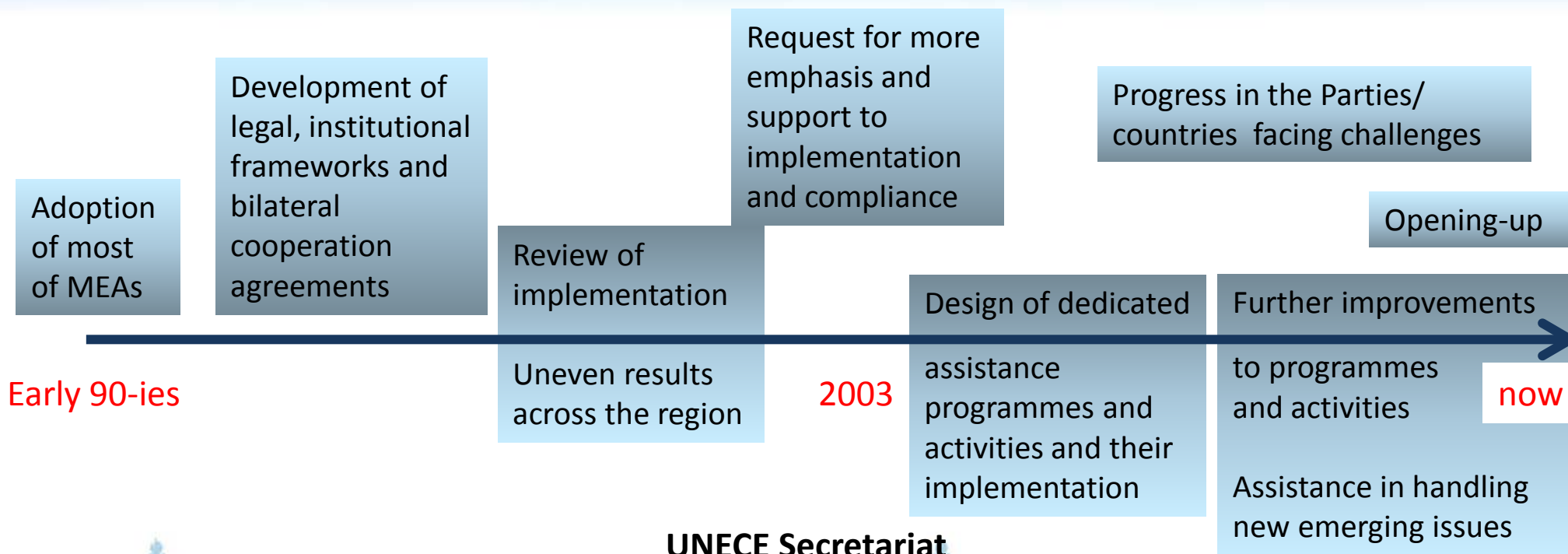
Lukasz Wyrowski
Environment Division





UNECE MEAs – brief overview

Parties/countries



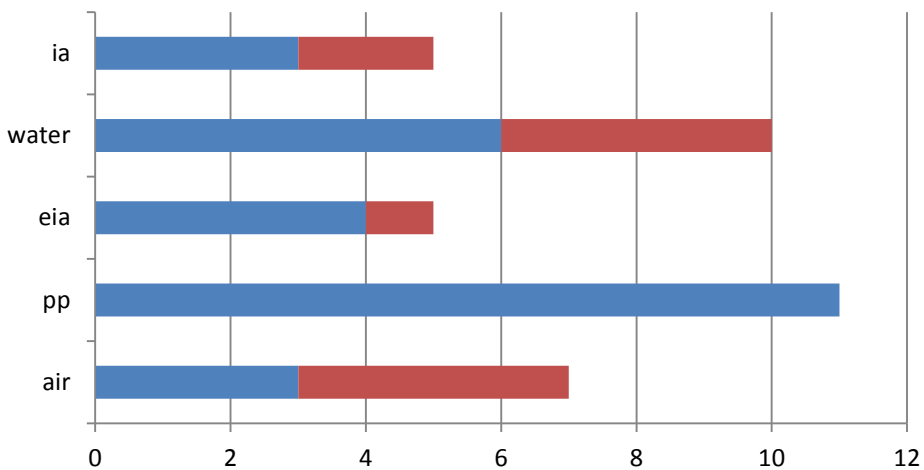
UNECE Secretariat





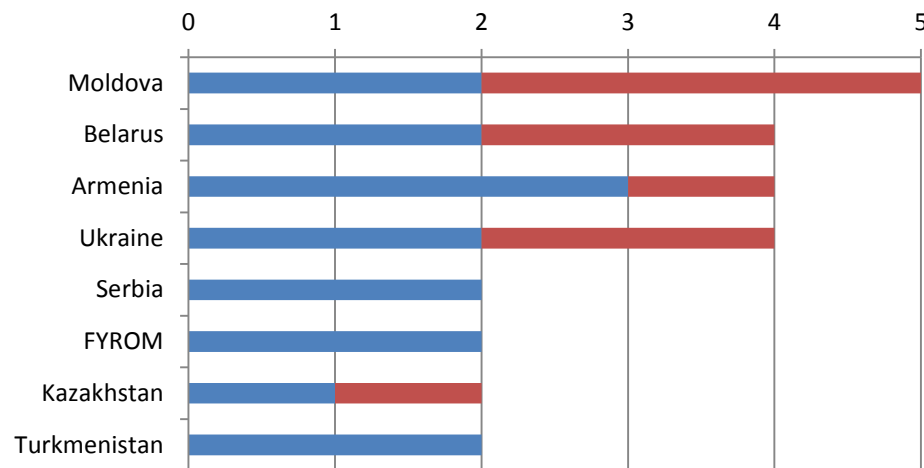
UNECE MEAs – achievements and progress since Astana

Countries having improved/in the process of improving legal and institutional frameworks



for meeting the provision of a specific MEA

Legal and institutional improvements



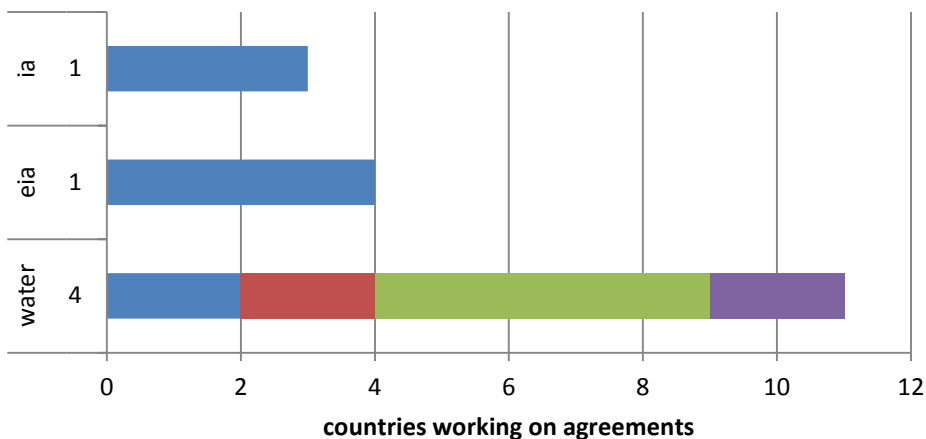
by a specific country





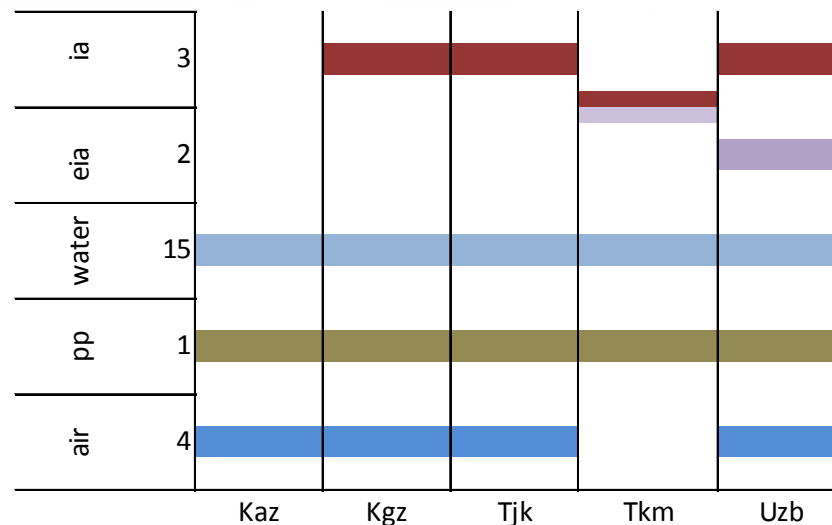
UNECE MEAs – achievements and progress since Astana

Agreements



as established/under discussion/preparation and resulting from UNECE MEAs support work

Awareness-raising in Central Asia

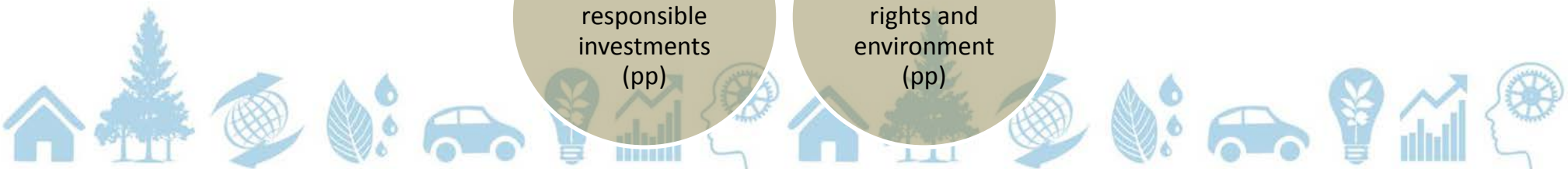
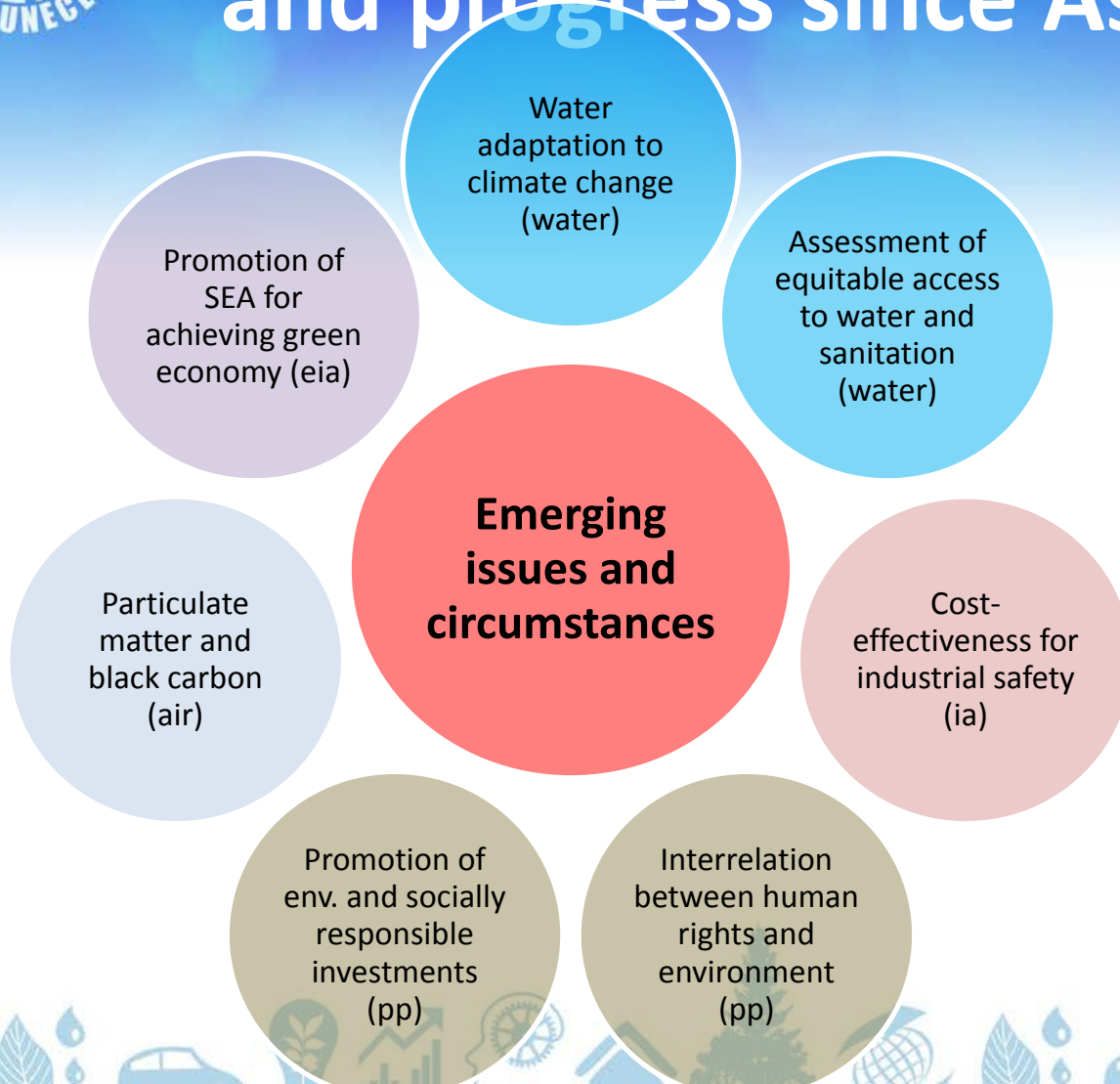


as delivered under UNECE MEAs





UNECE MEAs – achievements and progress since Astana





UNECE MEAs – lessons learned, challenges and way forward

Lessons learned

- Long-term approach to capacity-building delivers sustainable results
- Benchmarks are very useful to track progress but some countries do not have the capacity to apply them

Challenges

- Difficulties with long-term commitments due to short-term financial planning

Way forward

- Steps undertaken to make financing of activities more predictable and sustainable, among others by establishment of partnerships or working out joint approach by MEAs chairs





UNECE MEAs – lessons learned, challenges and way forward

Lessons learned

- Awareness and commitment at political level are important prerequisites for implementation and compliance

Challenges

- Insufficient political support in a number of countries

Way forward

- Joint missions to foster awareness at political level
- Promotion of MEAs as tools assisting transition to green economy
- Opening up of the MEAs





UNECE MEAs – lessons learned, challenges and way forward

Lessons learned

- Cooperation between relevant line ministries is key to effective and efficient implementation

Challenges

- Lack of cooperation and coordination at both national and international levels in a number of/between some countries

Way forward

- Expansion of sectoral and subject-related partnerships and cooperation to increase coherence in delivery





UNECE MEAs – lessons learned, challenges and way forward

Lessons learned

- Regular reporting is important for assessing progress in implementation and compliance

Challenges

- Insufficient follow-up to and reporting on decision of governing bodies or on capacity-building or assistance activities

Way forward

- Reporting practices are reviewed to be simpler
- Use of EPRS to assess progress is explored
- Synergies under SEIS are searched





UNECE MEAs – lessons learned, challenges and way forward

Lessons learned

- Lack of participation in activities decreases the potential for exchange of knowledge and good practice and weakens the recommendation for the way forward

Challenges

- Lack of participation in some MEAs activities, including from Western, South-Eastern and Central European countries

Way forward

- Expansion of sectoral and subject-related partnerships to increase the impact of work and prevent duplication of efforts





Thank you for attention

