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**The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the  
Astana Conference main outcomes: environmental  
assessment and reporting**

## **Input by the “Environment for Europe” partners into the gradual development of a Shared Environment Information System**

**Note by the “Environment for Europe” partners\***

### *Summary*

At the Seventh “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) ministers decided to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the region in order to keep the pan-European environment under review (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1, para. 14). The SEIS should serve multiple policy processes, including the multilateral environmental agreements, and include capacity-building of countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to monitor and assess their environment. Ministers invited the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its partners to develop an outline for how these actions could be performed and to present it to Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) (ibid.).

EEA prepared the “Outline on the establishment of a regular assessment and reporting process underpinned by the gradual development of a Shared Environment Information System” as a response to the request of ministers (ECE/CEP/2013/15).

The present document is a compilation of inputs by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and several other EfE partners into the development of SEIS, which is complementary to the EEA document. A draft of the present document was circulated to CEP in February 2013.

The document aims to support the discussion by CEP on the establishment of SEIS.

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\* This document was submitted late owing to editorial constraints in the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

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## **Introduction**

1. At the Seventh “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) ministers decided to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the region in order to keep the pan-European environment under review (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1, para. 14). The SEIS should serve multiple policy processes, including the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and include capacity-building of countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to monitor and assess their environment. Ministers invited the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its partners to develop an outline for how these actions could be performed (ibid.). Subsequently, EEA prepared an outline on the establishment of a regular assessment and reporting process underpinned by the gradual development of SEIS (ECE/CEP/2013/15).

2. The present document is complementary to the EEA document. It contains an overview of activities related to the regular assessment and reporting process, including the establishment of SEIS, provided by the secretariats of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements, the ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, the ECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, and the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. The document also includes inputs by a number of EfE partners, such as the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP Task Force) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.

### **I. Input into the development of the Shared Environmental Information System by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

#### **A. Input from the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers**

##### **1. Overall objective**

3. The overall objective of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) is to guarantee the right of the public to access to environmental information (the first pillar of the Convention) together with the right to public participation in decision-making (second pillar) and access to justice (third pillar) in environmental matters.

4. The objective of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers is to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs).

## 2. Selected objectives

5. Selected objectives of these MEAs include:

- (a) Implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009–2014 and the current work programmes of the Convention and the Protocol;
- (b) Continuous review of the status of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

## 3. Geographical coverage

- 6. Both the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs are also open for accession by non-ECE States that are members of the United Nations.
- 7. There are 46 Parties to the Aarhus Convention and three Signatories.<sup>1</sup>
- 8. The Protocol on PRTRs has 32 Parties to date.

## 4. Cooperation

9. Cooperation under these MEAs includes:

- (a) Maintenance of a network of national focal points for the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs;
- (b) Regular contact and clear communication on the form, content and timely delivery of national implementation reports;
- (c) At the national level, mandatory public consultations on the draft national implementation reports of the Convention and the Protocol;
- (d) Constant cooperation between States and the Convention's and Protocol's bodies to ensure implementation of the work programmes as adopted by the respective Meetings of the Parties.

## 5. Activities

10. Activities under these MEAs relevant to SEIS development include:

- (a) Meetings of the Convention's bodies, including the Task Force on Access to Information, and the Protocol's bodies aimed at the implementation of the activities under the work programmes;
- (b) Continuous review of the implementation of and compliance with both instruments that is conducted through reporting and compliance mechanisms;
- (c) With regard to reporting:
  - (i) National implementation reports of each reporting cycle, which are made publicly available in the electronic form and in a standardized format on the Convention website, as provided in decision IV/4 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and decision I/5 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. To date there have been three reporting cycles under the Convention, and the fourth one for the Convention and the first one for the Protocol being undertaken in 2013;

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the Parties and Signatories to the Convention and its Protocol is available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html>.

- (ii) Synthesis reports on the status of the implementation of the Convention and of the Protocol are made publicly available in electronic form, containing information on the procedural aspects of reporting, on regional trends of implementation and on thematic review of the implementation of the Convention's and Protocol's provisions, respectively;
- (d) Capacity-building activities at the regional and subregional level to support the implementation of and compliance with both instruments;
- (e) Guidance material to assist in implementing the Convention and the Protocol.

## 6. Infrastructure

11. The infrastructure for these bodies includes:
- (a) The website of the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs;<sup>2</sup>
  - (b) The Aarhus Clearinghouse;<sup>3</sup>
  - (c) The PRTR.net global web portal, an online platform for information on PRTRs and the PRTR activities of countries and organizations around the world.<sup>4</sup>

## 7. Way forward for selected areas

12. The way forward for selected areas includes:
- (a) Bodies under the Convention and Protocol will continue to assist the Parties with the implementation of both instruments; draft strategic plans for the Convention and for the Protocol and draft elements of next work programmes for both instruments are under preparation and subject to adoption by the respective Meetings of the Parties in 2014;
  - (b) Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol are about to embark on the preparation of national implementation reports for the fourth and first reporting cycles, respectively, in 2013.

## B. Input from the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

### 1. Overall objective of the reporting mechanisms

13. The reporting mechanisms under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) are of relevance to the SEIS. The overall objective of these reporting mechanisms is to support Parties and other ECE member States in reporting on their implementation of the Convention and its Protocol.

### 2. Specific objectives

14. The specific objectives of the reporting mechanisms include:
- (a) Providing the basis for Parties to the Espoo Convention to report on their implementation of and compliance with the obligations under the Convention;

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html>.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/>.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.prtr.net/>.

(b) Supporting the work of the Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol in reviewing compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Convention;

(c) Supporting the harmonization of approaches and common understanding of the application of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in the countries within and beyond the ECE region;

(d) Supporting exchange of information and good practice and building capacity of Parties and future Parties wishing to strengthen their implementation of the Convention and the Protocol or to accede to these instruments.

### **3. Geographical coverage**

15. To date there are 45 Parties to the Convention.<sup>5</sup>

16. In 2001 the Convention was amended to open it for accession by all Member States of the United Nations. The amendment will enter into force when all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001 have ratified the amendment.

17. The Protocol on SEA is open for accession by all Member States of the United Nations. To date there are 25 Parties to the Protocol.<sup>6</sup>

### **4. Cooperation**

18. Cooperation under these MEAs includes:

(a) Maintenance of a network of national focal points, points of contact for notification and other stakeholders;

(b) Regular contact and clear communication on the form and content of national implementation reports.

### **5. Activities**

19. Activities under these MEAs relevant to SEIS development include:

(a) Biennial rounds of reporting by Parties to the Espoo Convention, carried out since 2003 by means of a questionnaire that is prepared and regularly revised by the Implementation Committee. The Convention has been amended to introduce a legal obligation for Parties to report, but the amendment is not yet in force. The national implementation reports (responses to the questionnaire) are published on the Convention's website;

(b) The Protocol on SEA provides for mandatory reporting. The first reporting round covers implementation in 2010–2012;

(c) The national reports under the Convention and the Protocol are summarized in Reviews of Implementation, which are adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. The current reporting round under the Convention covers the period 2010–2012 and will lead to the preparation of a Fourth Review of Implementation in 2013 for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties in 2014;

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<sup>5</sup> Information on the Parties and Signatories to the Convention is available from <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/eia.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Information on the Parties and Signatories to the Protocol is available from [http://www.unece.org/env/eia/sea\\_protocol.html](http://www.unece.org/env/eia/sea_protocol.html).

(d) The outcomes of the ongoing reporting under the Protocol on SEA will be made available on the Convention website, published and summarized in a First Review of Implementation, to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2014.

20. In addition, to improve information exchange, Parties decided to maintain a database on transboundary EIA on the Convention website. Parties have been invited to submit information on and, where available, electronic links to: transboundary cases of EIA; the national EIA authorities; national databases on transboundary EIA; bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements and other information related to the implementation of the Convention. Similar practice is encouraged under the Protocol.

## **6. Infrastructure**

21. The website of the Convention and the Protocol<sup>7</sup> is used to support communication in the process and dissemination of review of implementation.

## **7. Way forward**

22. The way forward includes the following:

(a) The secretariat will continue to support the biennial reporting by Parties to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA on the Implementation of their obligations under these instruments. It will also continue to produce Reviews of Implementation to be adopted by the Parties to assist the review of compliance by the Implementation Committee and to serve as awareness-raising and information-sharing tools;

(b) The secretariat will continue to maintain Internet-based databases of national practice in EIA and SEA.

## **C. Input from the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**

### **1. Objective of the reporting mechanisms**

23. The overall objective of the reporting mechanisms under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) and its protocols is to support the Parties and other ECE member States in implementing these agreements. According to article 8 of the Convention, the Parties must exchange available information on air pollutant emissions, major changes in national policies and general industrial development, control technologies for reducing air pollution and the projected costs of emission controls. Protocols to the Convention specify more detailed requirements for reporting relevant for particular chemical pollutants, e.g., nitrogen oxides, or groups of pollutants, like volatile organic compounds, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants.

### **2. Geographical coverage**

24. The Convention now has 51 Parties within the ECE region. There are 44 Parties to the Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP); 25 Parties to the 1985 Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent; 35 Parties to the 1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes; 24 Parties to the 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes; 29

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/env/eia>.

Parties to the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions; 33 Parties to the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals; 33 Parties to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants; and 25 Parties to the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol).

### 3. Cooperation

25. Cooperation includes:

- (a) Support to member States through elaboration of relevant guidance materials on emission reporting and capacity-building of experts through national, subregional and regional workshops and specifically on the reporting processes and requirements;
- (b) Use of the network of national focal points for communication;
- (c) International support for national actions, including projects on emission target setting in a number of Parties.

### 4. Activities

26. The Parties to the Protocols to the Convention collect and maintain information on the actual levels of emissions of the corresponding pollutants (national totals and spatially disaggregated), ambient concentrations and depositions, including their effects on human health, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and materials. They report on a periodic basis in accordance with the obligations under the particular protocol on measures taken to implement it. Parties within the geographic scope of EMEP provide information on the level of current emissions and emissions in the reference year for each substance, data on projected emissions and reduction plans. Parties outside the geographic scope of EMEP, provide this information, if requested to do so by the Executive Body. EMEP provides to the Executive Body the information on ambient concentrations, depositions and long-range transport of pollutants. The Working Group on Effects arranges for the preparation of information on adverse effects of pollutant depositions.

27. Other activities under these MEAs include the development of and sharing information on cost-effective measures and best available techniques applied or to be applied to reduce emissions, as well as on strategies and policies to abate air pollution including air quality management systems.

### 5. Infrastructure

28. The infrastructure of the Air Convention and its protocols includes:

(a) EMEP, which provides scientific support on atmospheric monitoring and modelling, emission inventories and emission projections, as well as integrated assessment modelling. Five programme centres (the Chemical Coordinating Centre, the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West, the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East, the Centre for Emissions Inventories and Projections and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling) and four task forces coordinate the work of the EMEP. The EMEP Centre for Emissions Inventories and Projections<sup>8</sup> maintains and develops an emission database;

(b) The Working Group on Effects under the Convention provides information on the degree and geographic extent of the impacts on human health and the environment of major air pollutants, such as sulphur and nitrogen oxides, ozone and heavy metals. Its six International Cooperative Programmes, the Coordination Centre for Effects and the Task

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<sup>8</sup> See [www.ceip.at](http://www.ceip.at).



Force on Health identify the most endangered areas, ecosystems and other receptors by considering damage to human health, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and materials;

(c) The Implementation Committee reviews compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Protocols to the Convention.

## **6. Way forward**

29. The way forward includes the following:

(a) According to the Convention's Long-term Strategy, the current strategic priorities and goals of the Convention include the increased ratification of the revised Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Gothenburg Protocol, in particular by the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and full compliance by Parties with their obligations;

(b) A science-based decision-making and an effects-oriented approach, an essential component of the Convention;

(c) Links to addressing the impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity will be further developed, especially by addressing short-lived climate pollutants (e.g., black carbon) and reactive nitrogen.

## **D. Input from the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**

### **1. Overall objective of the reporting, in particular assessments of transboundary waters**

30. The ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) does not foresee a mandatory reporting mechanism. However, in 2003, Parties to the Convention decided to prepare periodic assessments on the pressures, status and trends of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters in the region to evaluate progress achieved, to assess the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact under the Water Convention, also in response to the obligation to carry out joint or coordinated assessments at regular intervals. The next assessment of transboundary waters, which will be on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and is to be prepared by 2015, aims improving the preparedness of national sector ministries and authorities and of joint bodies (especially river commissions) for assessing the interactions between water, food, energy and water-related ecosystems in transboundary basins, to support the reduction of conflicts, the enhancement of sustainability and the promotion of a transition to a green economy.

### **2. Specific objectives**

31. Specific objectives of the reporting mechanism and the assessments include:

(a) To assess implementation of the Water Convention;

(b) To carry out an interactive process for the identification of key transboundary water issues and to support the search for a common understanding of the issues between the countries;

(c) To support the harmonization of approaches;

(d) To build the capacities of water authorities in the countries.

### 3. Geographical coverage

32. Currently the Convention has 39 Parties from the ECE region,<sup>9</sup> but States from outside the region have also long participated in Convention activities.

33. In 2003 the Convention was amended to open it for accession to all Member States of the United Nations. The amendments enter into force in February 2013. Therefore, activities will increasingly include participation of countries from outside the ECE region; this also applies to the upcoming nexus assessment.

### 4. Cooperation

34. Cooperation under the Convention includes:

(a) Use of a network of national focal points, and relevant authorities for communication;

(b) Regular contact with the countries participating in the assessment commissions to assess the status of and pressures on transboundary waters and participating in projects on the ground;

(c) Collaboration with river basin commissions to assess the status of and pressures on transboundary waters.

### 5. Activities

35. Activities under the Convention relevant to SEIS development include:

(a) Regular regional and thematic assessments, which involve an interactive process between countries sharing transboundary waters to identify the relevant issues and impacts and agree on the assessment. The nexus assessment will involve a basin-level process;

(b) Experts/consultants advise the participating countries in the course of the assessment process on the tools and methods used;

(c) As part of outreach work a number of projects are partly or fully devoted to information management issues, mainly with a transboundary perspective. These projects, as well as various publications, have been produced under the Convention on issues such as monitoring, assessment, or information management that apply the SEIS principles.

### 6. Infrastructure

36. The infrastructure of the reporting and assessment process includes:

(a) A governing body for the assessment, which reviews the information and endorses the method of the assessment; in the case of the special edition assessment to be published in 2015, this will be the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus;

(b) The website of the Convention,<sup>10</sup> which will be used to support communication in the process and dissemination of draft assessments for review.

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<sup>9</sup> For more information on the status of ratification of the Convention, see <http://www.unece.org/env/water/status/legal1.html>.

<sup>10</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/env/water>.

## 7. Way forward

37. The way forward includes:

- (a) Possible elements of the methodology of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessment were reviewed and discussed in an expert workshop (8–9 April 2013);
- (b) In 2013–2014, the Task Force on the on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus will review the approach to the assessment and adjust it as needed;
- (e) In the course of the process, the Water Convention secretariat will evaluate the possibilities of cooperation in implementing the SEIS to support assessing waters at transboundary level.

## E. Input from the Protocol on Water and Health

### 1. Overall objective of the reporting mechanism

38. According to article 6 of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention, within two years of becoming a Party a State must set targets and target dates in several areas related to the management of drinking water, sanitation and water resources. Article 7 requires Parties to collect and evaluate data on their progress vis-à-vis achievement of the targets and on indicators designed to show how that progress has contributed towards preventing, controlling or reducing water-related disease. Thus, the reporting mechanism intends to support Parties and other ECE member States in reporting on the overall implementation of the ECE-WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) Protocol on Water and Health.

### 2. Specific objectives

39. The specific objectives of the reporting mechanism include:

- (a) To assess progress with the implementation on the Protocol through self-assessment by Parties and the overall regional assessment by the Meeting of the Parties;
- (b) To exchange experience and share lessons learned in different areas covered by the provisions of the Protocol;
- (c) To demonstrate the main challenges/obstacles in implementing the Protocol, thereby informing activities under the Protocol's programme of work;
- (d) To provide a basis for the harmonized information system on water and sanitation in the pan-European region.

### 3. Geographical coverage

40. There are 26 Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health as of June 2013 coming from the ECE-WHO/Europe region, but other States from the region also participate in activities in its framework.

41. In the course of the first reporting exercise under the Protocol, conducted in 2009–2010, 22 Parties and three other States submitted their national reports.

### 4. Cooperation

42. Cooperation includes:

- (a) Support to member States through elaboration and provision of relevant guidance materials on reporting and capacity-building of experts through national,

subregional and regional workshops on the Protocol and specifically on the reporting process and requirements;

(b) Use of a network of national focal points, and relevant authorities for communication;

(c) International support to national actions, including through tailored field projects on target setting in a number of Parties and other States;

(d) Promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation, especially between authorities responsible for environment and public health.

## **5. Activities**

43. Activities relevant to SEIS development include:

(a) The national summary reports, which are structured into five parts providing an overall assessment of the current situation with the provision of drinking water and sanitation and management of water resources through a set of common indicators, measure the progress towards achievement of national targets and target dates, and provide a snapshot of the overall implementation of the Protocol in member States. The summary reports are submitted to the Meeting of the Parties and are available to the public on the Protocol's website;<sup>11</sup>

(b) The Protocol also obliges Parties to involve the public widely in the process of target setting. In addition, Parties are encouraged to consult the public in the process of preparation of national reports;

(c) Based on the national reports, the joint secretariat prepares a regional implementation report to the Meeting of the Parties that summarizes the substantive aspects. In addition, the Compliance Committee under the Protocol elaborates on each reporting cycle in its report to the Meeting of the Parties.

## **6. Infrastructure**

44. The infrastructure for reporting includes:

(a) The Working Group on Water and Health initiates and guides each reporting cycle, while the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting provides practical advice to member States on various aspects of reporting. These bodies also elaborate, endorse and revise the guidance documents and templates for reporting as necessary;

(b) A dedicated web page on the Protocol website to facilitate the management of information within the second reporting exercise (2012–2013), and through which national summary reports are made available.<sup>12</sup>

## **7. Way forward**

45. The way forward includes the following:

(a) The deadline for submission of reports under the current reporting cycle was 29 April 2013. The national reports will be submitted to the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Oslo, 25–27 November 2013);

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<sup>11</sup> See [http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol\\_implementation\\_reports.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_implementation_reports.html).

<sup>12</sup> See [http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol\\_second\\_reporting\\_cycle.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_second_reporting_cycle.html).

(b) The contents of the reports will be analysed in the regional implementation report and the report of the Compliance Committee to draw lessons on the effectiveness of the current reporting tools and the overall compliance with the provisions of the Protocol;

(c) In the course of the process, the Protocol secretariat will evaluate the possibilities of cooperation for implementing the SEIS to support assessing the situation with water and sanitation in the pan-European region.

## **F. Input from the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**

### **1. Overall objective of the reporting mechanisms**

46. The overall objective of the reporting mechanisms of the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) is to support Parties and other ECE member States in reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

### **2. Specific objectives**

47. Specific objectives include to support:

(a) The seventh (2012–2013) and subsequent biennial rounds of reporting, further to the obligation of Parties to report on their implementation of the Convention and the commitments made by other ECE member States benefitting from the Convention's Assistance Programme;

(b) ECE member States benefitting from the Convention's Assistance Programme in carrying out self-assessments and preparing action plans for the strengthening of their implementation of the Convention. These documents are submitted to bodies under the Convention to enable the delivery of appropriate capacity-development projects, subject to the availability of funding;

(c) Parties and other ECE member States in reporting all industrial accidents with transboundary effects;

(d) ECE member States, as requested and subject to the availability of funding, in the exchange of information on and mapping of hazardous industrial activities.

### **3. Geographical coverage**

48. As of January 2013 there are 40 Parties to the Convention from the ECE region.<sup>13</sup>

49. In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided in November 2012 to evaluate the possibility of opening of the Convention to all Member States of the United Nations.

### **4. Cooperation**

50. Cooperation includes:

(a) Maintenance of a network of national focal points, competent authorities and points of contact for notification/assistance in each country;

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<sup>13</sup> Information on the Parties to the Convention is available on the Convention website (<http://www.unece.org/env/teia.html>).

(b) Regular contact and clear communication on the form and content of national implementation reports; regular contact and clear guidance and support to countries in the carrying out of self-assessments and the preparation of action plans;

(c) Regular contact and clear guidance to countries on the reporting of industrial accidents. This is to be carried out in cooperation with the European Commission, as decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, specifically working with the European Commission Joint Research Centre to provide access to the EU Major Accident Reporting System;

(d) Country visits and regional or subregional workshops, if necessary, to support countries in fulfilling their reporting requirements;

(e) Projects, such as the ongoing project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta (between the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine), to build trust and to foster the exchange of information on industrial hazards with possible transboundary effects, which may also be mapped.

## 5. Activities

51. Activities relevant to SEIS development include:

(a) Reporting on national implementation. The individual implementation reports are confidential at present; however, the overall synthesis report is a public document and the Conference of the Parties decided in November 2012 to evaluate the possibility of amending the Convention to create an obligation to report implementation publicly. To date, there have been six biennial reporting rounds, with six synthesis reports on the implementation of the Convention submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Countries' self-assessments and action plans under the Convention's Assistance Programme are treated as confidential. Nonetheless, countries could be encouraged to agree to their being publicly available;

(c) Despite a decision taken in 2000 that all industrial accidents with transboundary effects be reported, this has not been implemented within the framework of the Convention. (EU member States, for example, have similar obligations under EU legislation.) The comprehensive reporting mechanism provided by the European Commission includes public access to much of the information submitted regarding industrial accidents, as well as a mechanism for learning lessons from the accidents;

(d) Information on individual hazardous industrial activities is often subject to regulations on industrial or commercial secrecy or national security. Within these constraints, the sharing of inventories between neighbouring States is important in building trust, as well as to be able to develop measures, such as contingency plans, to prepare for and respond to industrial accidents with transboundary effects. In this context, mapping of hazardous activities close to watercourses has begun in the Danube Delta and a similar approach might be applied elsewhere in the region.

## 6. Infrastructure

52. The infrastructure includes the website of the Convention, which allows access to public information,<sup>14</sup> and the EU Major Accident Reporting System.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/env/teia>.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://emars.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>.

## **7. Way forward**

53. The way forward includes the following:

(a) The Convention's Working Group on Development will evaluate making publicly available the individual national implementation reports. The evaluation will be considered by the Conference of the Parties when it meets next in autumn 2014. Meanwhile, the seventh round of reporting, leading to a seventh synthesis report in 2014, will proceed under the guidance of the Convention's Working Group on Implementation;

(b) The Convention's Bureau, Working Group on Implementation, secretariat and others will continue to support countries in preparing their self-assessments and action plans;

(c) The secretariat and the European Commission will support countries in accessing the EU Major Accident Reporting System, as decided by the Conference of the Parties, to enable the reporting of industrial accidents with transboundary effects. This should be operational by the end of 2013;

(d) The secretariat and others will continue to support countries, subject to the availability of funds, in the sharing of information on identified hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary effects between neighbouring States, the development of contingency plans and the mapping of hazardous installations.

## **G. Input by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment**

### **1. Overall objective**

54. The ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment contributes to establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and the development of SEIS in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation, as well as in interested countries of South-Eastern Europe, jointly with EEA and other partners. Working Group activities aim to strengthen environmental information and observation capacity, including monitoring networks, across the region to make monitoring and assessment an effective instrument in environmental policymaking, and to improve international environmental reporting.

### **2. Specific objectives**

55. Specific objectives of the Working Group include:

(a) Promoting the modernization, upgrading and setting up of national monitoring networks and environmental information systems in line with SEIS principles;

(b) Promoting improvement of data collection, transfer and use, and the application of modelling;

(c) Strengthening monitoring of specific environmental media;

(d) Promoting the use of indicator-based mechanisms for periodic environmental assessments and evaluation of the effectiveness of environmental policies and decision-making;

(e) Improving environmental assessments, including the use of the methodology of the “Europe’s Environment: An Assessment of Assessments” (EE-AoA) report.<sup>16</sup>

### **3. Geographical coverage**

56. Working Group members include the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the Russian Federation, as well as interested South-Eastern European countries.

### **4. Cooperation**

57. Cooperation under the Working Group includes:

(a) Maintaining a network of environmental experts (National Focal Points) in Government agencies dealing with environmental assessments to broaden the exchange of experiences and approaches;

(b) Cooperation with EEA and other partners to make monitoring and assessment an effective instrument in environmental policymaking, and to improve international environmental reporting, which will contribute to establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and the development of SEIS across the region.

### **5. Activities**

58. Relevant activities include annual meetings of the Working Group, as well as training workshops and/or other events, organized under its auspices, jointly with major partners in the agreed priority areas, to build countries’ environmental observation capacities and harmonize their approaches with those applied in EEA member countries, including the development of SEIS across the region. The Working Group also makes regular reports on its activities to meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP).

### **6. Infrastructure**

59. The infrastructure of the Working Group includes the website of the ECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment programme, which provides information on the Working Group and its meetings.<sup>17</sup>

### **7. Way forward**

60. The Working Group will further contribute to establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing SEIS by providing support to the following activities:

(a) Elaborating the conceptual and institutional framework for further development of SEIS with EEA and other partners;

(b) Regular reporting on the latest developments in environmental monitoring at the national and subnational levels;

(c) Regular reporting on the progress made in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the Russian Federation in regular environmental assessments;

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<sup>16</sup> For further information and the latest report, see <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/europes-environment-aoa>.

<sup>17</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/index.html>.



(d) Regular reporting on the progress made in implementing the Guidelines for the Preparation of Indicator-based Environment Assessment Reports in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;<sup>18</sup>

(e) Supporting pilot projects on assessments of assessments on a wide variety of environmental themes using the methodology of the EE-AoA reports at the national level;

(f) Promoting the use of modern technologies for better dissemination of environmental data, indicators and assessments.

## **H. Input by the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators**

### **1. Overall objective and geographical coverage**

61. The ECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators contributes to establishing a regular process of environmental data collection and reporting in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and promoting comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the ECE region, as well as the development of the SEIS jointly with EEA and other partners.

### **2. Specific objectives**

62. Specific objectives include:

(a) To assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national state-of-the-environment (SoE) reports in the target countries to further improve environmental statistics and produce the agreed indicators;

(b) To contribute to strengthening environmental reporting at the national level;

(c) To promote comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the pan-European region.

### **3. Cooperation**

63. Cooperation under the Joint Task Force includes:

(a) Maintaining a network of environmental experts in statistical offices and Government agencies in each country;

(b) Helping countries producing internationally agreed environmental indicators underpinning regular environmental assessments at the national level.

### **4. Activities and infrastructure**

64. The Task Force was established by CEP and the Conference of European Statisticians in 2009. It meets twice a year as a rule and reports regularly on its activities and achievements to its two parent bodies. Information on the Task Force's activities is available on its website.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> See *Environmental Indicators and Indicator-based Assessment Reports: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*, part two (United Nations publication, Sales No. E 07.II.E.9). Available from <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2007/ece/ece.belgrade.conf.2007.inf.6.e.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> See [http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/iandr\\_en.html](http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/iandr_en.html).

## 5. Way forward

65. The Joint Task Force will:

(a) Continue strengthening the capacity of the countries concerned to produce environmental data, including statistical data, and indicators through providing guidance and recommendations and training, in coherence with SEIS principles, to ensure comprehensive and consistent assessment and reporting across countries and subregions;

(b) Review further and revise, when necessary, the indicators covered by the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia<sup>20</sup> (Indicator Guidelines) to better explain the methodologies, clarify concepts and definitions and develop detailed guidance, possibly in the form of data tables, on the production of indicators;

(c) Provide guidance on primary data collection, including statistical data, as a basis for indicators in the Indicator Guidelines through data exchange on indicators and the subsequent evaluation of gaps and opportunities to fill them;

(d) Propose additional environmental indicators to be included in the Indicator Guidelines;

(e) Provide and adapt to the needs of the countries concerned relevant guidance materials available at the international level.

## I. Input by the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

### 1. Overall objective

66. In 2005, environment and education ministers of ECE member States adopted the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, an operational tool to implement education for sustainable Development (ESD). Governments committed to incorporating sustainable development themes into their formal educational systems, in all relevant subjects, and in non-formal and informal education.

67. To carry out a comprehensive review of the Strategy's implementation, the Steering Committee on ESD set up a region-wide reporting mechanism to periodically assess the implementation of the Strategy, based on a unified reporting format and a clear set of indicators developed by the Expert Group on Indicators.<sup>21</sup>

### 2. Specific objectives

68. The specific objectives for reviewing the Strategy's implementation include:

(a) To collect information about countries' performance in implementing ESD and about the economic, environmental, and social impacts of ESD;

(b) To facilitate and evaluate the Strategy's implementation;

(c) To identify the main challenges/obstacles in implementing the Strategy;

(d) To raise awareness at the national level;

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<sup>20</sup> See *Environmental Indicators and Indicator-based Assessment Reports*, part one.

<sup>21</sup> The ECE Expert Group on Indicators was established in the framework of the ECE Strategy for ESD, following a decision adopted at the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17-18 March 2005).

- (e) To share experience within the region;
- (f) To set priorities and make recommendations for implementing the Strategy.

### 3. Geographical coverage

69. To date, the Strategy for ESD has 55 participating countries from the ECE region, which include, besides the EU 28 member States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

### 4. Cooperation

70. Cooperation under the Strategy includes:

- (a) Support to member States through elaboration of guidance for reporting and capacity-building of experts through subregional and national workshops specifically on the reporting processes and requirements;
- (b) Regular contact and clear communication on the form and content of national implementation reports;
- (c) Maintenance of and communication through the network of national focal points for ESD;
- (d) Annual Steering Committee meetings, which bring together the focal points of the region and also facilitate the reporting process.

### 5. Activities

71. Activities and reporting relevant to SEIS development include:

(a) *National implementation reports*. These include eight main chapters that focus on how ESD is promoted through: (1) policy, regulatory and operational frameworks; (2) formal, non-formal and informal learning; (3) equipping educators with ESD competences; (4) adequate and accessible tools and materials; (5) research and development; (6) strengthened cooperation on ESD at all levels within the ECE region; (7) conservation, use and promotion of knowledge of indigenous peoples as well as local and traditional knowledge. Chapters eight and nine focus on challenges and obstacles encountered in implementing ESD, as well as on assistance needed. Member states of the Strategy are expected to prepare the reports in an inclusive manner, consulting the relevant public authorities and stakeholders. National implementation reports are submitted to the ECE secretariat for ESD and are available to the public online;<sup>22</sup>

(b) *Synthesis report*. Based on the national reports, the secretariat prepares a synthesis report that presents the substantive aspects of the reports. This synthesis report is presented to the Steering Committee meeting and made available on the ESD website;

(c) *Assessments of implementation*. Progress over time in implementing ESD is mapped by assessing the progress following the reporting for each of the three implementation phases of the Strategy (2007, 2010 and 2015). The National Focal Points prepared national implementation reports for the pilot voluntary reporting in phase I (2007),

<sup>22</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/?id=24447>.

and for the mandatory reporting in phase II (2010). The next round of mandatory national implementation reporting is foreseen to be carried out at the end of phase III (2015).

## **6. Infrastructure**

72. The infrastructure includes:

(a) The Steering Committee for ESD, the governing body of the Strategy, provides the overall support to the reporting mechanism and adopts the synthesis reports prepared after each national reporting round;

(b) The Expert Group on Indicators revises the guidance documents and templates for reporting, as necessary;

(c) The website of the Strategy is used to support communication in the process and dissemination of review of implementation.<sup>23</sup>

## **7. Way forward**

73. The Strategy secretariat will continue to support national reporting on ESD. The next mandatory national reporting round will be carried out in 2015.

# **II. Input by the United Nations Environmental Programme**

## **1. Overall objective and geographical scope**

74. UNEP seeks to achieve improved and more transparent access to environmental data and information for decision makers and policymakers, as well as other stakeholders in the pan-European region, through collaboration between the UNEP-Live platform for environmental information sharing, and the EEA Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET)/SEIS system.

## **2. Specific objectives**

75. Specific objectives include:

(a) Building partnerships allowing access to a broader range of (national/subregional) data and improving both data quantity and quality, along with capabilities to regularly update and exchange these data;

(b) Harmonizing data among countries of a given subregion according to established international standards (e.g., INSPIRE,<sup>24</sup> the Open Geospatial Consortium), compliant with SEIS principles and linked to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, and building on methodologies developed in several recent EU/Seventh Framework Programme projects involving the UNEP Division for Environmental Warning and Assessment Global Research Information Database (GRID-Geneva);

(c) Capacity-building to prepare relevant national institutions and their staff to continue such tasks on an ongoing basis; linking them with international and regional data programmes and standards (for improved data sharing); and preparing interactive national SoE reports as needed;

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<sup>23</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/env/esd>.

<sup>24</sup> See Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE).

(d) Putting in place the basic infrastructure to make state-of-the-art technology readily available for all of the above tasks, as well as for conducting environmental analyses and research;

(e) Linking these mandated institutions and their data/information management activities with the existing legal and institutional frameworks in Europe.

### **3. Way forward**

76. Synergies between the development of UNEP-live and the existing EIONET/SEIS of the EEA are evident. Both EEA and UNEP have similar goals in terms of network development, environmental data and information access and utilization, and bringing these assets to bear in reporting on the state and trends of the environment in Europe and neighbouring regions. Cooperation with the European Commission and, specifically, the European Neighbourhood Partnership Initiative would be highly desirable, with UNEP working in close collaboration with the EEA and its EIONET/SEIS, in a fully synergistic fashion.

## **III. Input by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe**

### **1. Overall objective**

77. WHO/Europe will input to SEIS development via the European Environment and Health Information System (ENHIS), which seeks to provide a one-stop access point for information and data on priority issues in environment and health.

### **2. Specific objectives**

78. Specific objectives of ENHIS include:

(a) To monitor progress of its 53 member States towards environment and health objectives identified by the Fifth European Ministerial Conference of Environment and Health (Parma, Italy, 2010);

(b) To develop and periodically update standardized country-level indicators of exposure, health effects and policy actions on environmental health determinants, in order to enable cross-sectional assessments, inter-country comparisons and analysis of temporal trends;

(c) To develop and periodically update standardized fact sheets to provide information on priority environment and health issues and interpretation of indicator data for policymakers, public health specialists and the general public;

(d) To support its member States in the preparation of summary reports, such as the Progress Assessment Report for the European Environment and Health Process;

(e) To assist member States to develop national environment and health information systems based on ENHIS indicators and to promote the use of harmonized data collection and analysis approaches in order to ensure consistency and comparability of environment and health data in the WHO European Region.

### **3. Geographical coverage**

79. ENHIS includes country-level data from the 53 member States of the WHO European Region. Geographic coverage varies for specific indicators depending on the availability of data.

#### **4. Cooperation**

80. The development of ENHIS has depended on cooperation with partner institution from member States and an informal network of partner institutions and experts. EEA has provided input to the development of ENHIS and serves as a source of data for several ENHIS indicators. Since the establishment of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF), ENHIS activities are conducted in coordination with National Environment and Health Focal Points (EHTF members).

#### **5. Content**

81. ENHIS currently includes 23 indicators, grouped according to the Regional Priority Goals addressing: (1) water and sanitation; (2) physical activity and injuries; (3) outdoor and indoor air quality; and (4) diseases arising from chemical, biological and physical environments.

#### **6. Infrastructure**

82. The content of ENHIS is developed by the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany.

83. Data for exposure and health indicators are acquired from existing international databases, including those of WHO and the WHO-United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water and Sanitation; EEA data on ambient air pollutants and noise; the EUROSTAT Survey of Income and Living Conditions; international surveys, such as the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children survey and the WHO/UNEP Survey of Human Milk for Persistent Organic Pollutants; existing national data sources; and new ENHIS-specific data collection programmes. The data are processed and analysed using a standardized methodology and presented in interactive graphs and maps.

#### **7. Way forward**

84. At a series of technical meetings, specialists from ENHIS member States have proposed new indicators and identified data collection methodologies. In June 2012, EHTF approved the proposed indicators and new data collection activities. EHTF agreed that new surveys using standardized WHO methodologies were necessary to close critical data gaps in volunteer countries. The ENHIS team is currently coordinating the development of new data collection programmes, providing training and technical support to national specialists, and leading data analysis and interpretation efforts.

85. The ENHIS team is also implementing a set of new indicators of exposure and health effects, such as exposure to allergenic pollen and access to green spaces in cities, which require statistical analysis of data from existing national and international sources.

86. A new cross-sectional randomized exposure assessment survey in schools has been developed in order to evaluate pupils' exposure to selected chemical indoor air pollutants, poor ventilation, mould/dampness and tobacco smoke, and assess access to sanitation facilities, hygiene and mode of transportation to school. The data will be used in seven new ENHIS indicators. WHO has organized a training workshop and provided technical assistance to pilot surveys in five member States; the first nationwide survey in more than 150 schools has been initiated in Croatia.

87. A human biomonitoring survey in maternity wards to assess prenatal exposures to selected environmental pollutants is currently under development. It is envisioned that the survey will include two arms to assess exposures in the general population and in exposure hotspots, such as areas contaminated by industries or population with high consumption of

contaminated food products, such as mercury-contaminated fish. The first pilot survey is planned in 2013.

88. A new policy action survey addressed to national environment and health focal points covers selected priority areas, such as indoor air quality in schools and sanitation in children's facilities. The data on national policies will be interpreted along with data on exposure and health effects in order to identify policy deficiencies and priorities for action.

89. Data collection activities for all new indicators will be conducted in 2013–2015 to provide critical information for a progress assessment report to be prepared for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, tentatively planned for 2016, and to provide information in support of targeted interventions and policy initiatives. Data for new indicators will be incorporated in the ENHIS database supporting standardized data analysis and interpretation. It is envisioned that exposure assessment and policy surveys will be repeated at regular intervals (e.g., every five years) to evaluate temporal trends and assess effects of policy actions.

## **IV. Input by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia**

### **A. Promotion of the Shared Environmental Information System in Central Asia**

#### **1. Objective and geographical scope**

90. Under the umbrella of a project on Targeted Awareness Raising for Enhanced European Union-Central Asia Partnership, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, with funding from the EU and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), is implementing a project to provide information about SEIS to Central Asian countries with a view to developing a regular reporting process and promote understanding of the importance of the quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information.

#### **2. Outcomes**

91. The Regional Environmental Centre carried out national SEIS seminars in each country of Central Asia, involving experts, officials and NGO activists. These seminars became a platform for the identification of gaps and opportunities for SEIS implementation at the State and regional levels. Two official SEIS working groups, consisting of SEIS experts from relevant national authorities in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, undertake research and provide advice on how to improve the environmental data flow between users and information holders.

92. Based on the seminars and research, the Regional Environmental Centre developed five country profiles describing the needs, gaps and solutions for environmental information management. All of the above served as a good basis for two publications: an information brochure, *Promoting SEIS in Central Asia*, which gives a brief overview of SEIS and major SEIS related activities in Central Asia; and *Towards SEIS Implementation in Central Asia*, a detailed report looking at the current stage of environmental data gathering and sharing in each country and analysing possible ways to improve the accessibility of environmental information in Central Asia in the form of a coherent and integrated SEIS (to be published in June 2013).

### **3. Partners**

93. Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia partners include the Centre's Country Offices, the Digital Information Network on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Russian Federation (CARNet), the Ecological Initiatives Development Agency (EcoIDEA), the EcoIS environmental information network, EEA, UNEP, State agencies responsible for environmental protection and statistics, FOEN and the Finnish Environment Institute.

## **B. Assessment of Assessments on air, wastes, biodiversity and climate change for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**

### **1. Objective and geographical scope**

94. The Regional Environmental Centre also developed an Assessment of Assessments (AoA) report for Central Asian countries on four topics — air, wastes, biodiversity and climate change — with the extended involvement of relevant governmental agencies and national experts. The project, which was funded by FOEN, provided an opportunity to identify and test the availability and accessibility of data in these four focus areas.

### **2. Outcomes**

95. A working group of national experts developed country profiles, analysed the role, function and capacity of the participants in the environmental information exchange process and uploaded the information sources to the EEA portal.

96. The project helped to build capacity the Working Group members to implement the EE-AoA methodology and tools. The AoA report will be presented at the fourteenth session of the ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 7–8 November 2013).

### **3. Way forward**

97. The way forward includes:

(a) Providing further support to countries in developing and improving environmental indicators and statistics, in particular the development of SoE report systems in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan;

(b) Based on the existing platform, supporting the EU Environmental Monitoring in Central Asia project to improve capacities and inter-institutional cooperation of governmental organizations of Central Asia, and taking further steps to develop AoA projects on other thematic topics in Central Asian countries as a possible way to analyse country's specific needs for improving their environmental data and reporting system.

## **V. Input by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development**

### **A. Development and use of a conceptual framework for measuring green growth**

#### **1. Objective**

98. OECD is the lead organization for a project on the development and use of a conceptual framework for measuring green growth.



## 2. Geographical and temporal scope

99. The project includes the OECD member countries and interested partners. The project started in 2011 and is ongoing.

## 3. Activities

100. Project activities include:

(a) As part of its Green Growth Strategy, development of a conceptual framework and indicators to help Governments monitor progress towards green growth. There are about 25 proposed indicators, although not all of them are measurable today;

(b) Identification of a small set of “headline” indicators;

(c) Publication of two editions of the book, *Towards Green Growth: Monitoring Progress — OECD Indicators*, in 2011 and 2013;

(d) The joint report, *Moving towards a Common Approach on Green Growth Indicators*,<sup>25</sup> launched in April 2013, marking the first step towards an internationally agreed approach to monitor progress towards green growth;

(e) The green growth measurement framework, which gives countries flexibility to incorporate the green growth agenda into their national development plans and to monitor progress on tackling their main environmental, economic and social concerns.

## 4. Impact

101. OECD member countries like the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea have already applied and adjusted the OECD green growth measurement framework and indicators to their specific national contexts to assess their state of green growth. In the ECE region, since 2012 OECD has been supporting the pilot testing of the set of green growth indicators in Kyrgyzstan (together with UNDP and UNEP), and will extend its support to at least three other countries.

## B. Green growth indicators database

### 1. Objective

102. OECD has developed a green growth indicators database to help support policymaking and inform the public at large.<sup>26</sup>

### 2. Geographical and temporal scope area

103. The database, which was started in 2012, includes the OECD member countries and interested partners. The project is ongoing.

### 3. Content

104. The database contains selected green growth indicators. The data set covers OECD countries as well as BRIICS economies (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, Indonesia, China

<sup>25</sup> Global Green Growth Institute, OECD, UNEP and the World Bank. A Green Growth Knowledge Platform Scoping Paper. Available from <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/greengrowthindicators.htm>.

<sup>26</sup> See [http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=GREEN\\_GROWTH](http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=GREEN_GROWTH).

and South Africa), Argentina and Saudi Arabia for a time period from 1990 to the most recent years available.

## **C. Green Growth Knowledge Platform**

### **1. Objective**

105. A Green Growth Knowledge Platform was set up by OECD with three other partners: the Global Green Growth Institute, UNEP and the World Bank. Through widespread consultation and research, the Platform provides practitioners and policymakers with better tools to foster economic growth and implement sustainable development.

### **2. Geographical and temporal scope**

106. The global Platform, which started in 2012, is ongoing.

### **3. Activities**

107. Platform activities include:

(a) Through the Platform, a global network of researchers and development experts identify and address major knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice, to help countries design and implement green growth policy;

(b) The Platform's website will roll out new green growth-related programmes, report activities from around the world, link to organizers' flagship reports and create a collaborative online community for green growth stakeholders.

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