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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Nineteenth session

Geneva, 22–25 October 2013

## Report of the Committee on Environmental Policy on its nineteenth session

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## I. Introduction

1. The nineteenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) was held from 22 to 25 October 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### A. Attendance

2. Delegations from 40 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) attended the meeting: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United States of America and Uzbekistan. A delegation from Morocco, a non-ECE member State, also participated.

3. From the United Nations system, representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) were present.

4. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was represented at the meeting.

5. From the European Union (EU), representatives of the European Commission, the EU Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) participated.

6. Representatives from the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Republic of Moldova were also in attendance.

7. In addition, representatives of the following environmental civil society associations participated: Eco-Accord; European ECO Forum; the European Environmental Bureau; the Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health; Green Liberty; the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO); and Zoï Environment Network.

### B. Opening of the session and organizational matters

8. In his opening address, the ECE Executive Secretary noted that, at its sixty-fifth session (Geneva, 9–11 April 2013), ECE had adopted the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE.<sup>1</sup> During the review, ECE member States had highly appreciated the work of the Environment subprogramme, and considered that the subprogramme, CEP and its related subsidiary bodies had been working efficiently within their mandate and producing concrete results in a regular and ongoing way that had a clear value added for the region and beyond. The subprogramme and its subsidiary bodies should continue

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<sup>1</sup> See the Biennial Report of the Commission (E/2013/37–E/ECE/1464, para. 34 and annex III). Available from [http://www.unece.org/commission/2013/65th\\_index.html](http://www.unece.org/commission/2013/65th_index.html).

implementing their existing mandates under the overall guidance of CEP and the ECE Executive Committee.

9. The CEP Chair welcomed participants, highlighted the objectives of the session and noted that the meeting was to be a paperless event to the extent possible, with participants encouraged to download meeting documents from the ECE website.<sup>2</sup>

10. Three side events were organized on the margins of the session: “Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in practice and the way forward in the pan-European region” (by EEA on 23 October); and “Briefing on the First Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP” and “UNEP’s contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and update on the implementation of the 10 Years Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production” (both by UNEP, on 23 and 24 October, respectively).

11. The agenda (ECE/CEP/2013/1) was adopted along with the proposed time table (information paper No. 1/Rev.1).

12. CEP elected Ms. Elisabete Quintas da Silva (Portugal) as Chair, and Mr. Michel Amand (Belgium), Mr. Nicolas Fairise (France), Ms. Maria Nagornii (Republic of Moldova), Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard (Switzerland), Mr. Miroslav Tadic (Serbia), Ms. Nino Tkhilava (Georgia) and Mr. Bulat Yessekin (Kazakhstan) as Vice-Chairs. CEP expressed its appreciation to outgoing members of the Bureau, acknowledging their dedicated work in ECE environmental activities.

## **II. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy**

13. The Chair presented the report of the Bureau on the outcomes of its work from April 2012 to June 2013 (ECE/CEP/2013/22), in particular on: (a) the preparation of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) mid-term review of the outcomes of the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana Conference outcomes); (b) the ECE contribution to the Environment and Health process; (c) the elaboration of criteria for providing financial support to participate in CEP meetings and events; and (d) the development of CEP rules of procedure.

14. CEP expressed appreciation to the Bureau for its good work and for efficiently fulfilling its mandates, and to the ECE secretariat for its efficient and high quality support to the Bureau.

## **III. Outcomes of the sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy**

15. The Principal Adviser to the ECE Executive Secretary, in her capacity as ECE focal point for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), presented the follow-up activities to Rio+20 outcomes, in particular the organization of two panel discussions on the topic during the high-level segment of the sixty-fifth session of ECE.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unece.org/env/cep/2013sessionoctober.html>.

16. A first panel discussion, on “The future of sustainability: from transition to transformation”, had focused on how and in which areas ECE could best contribute to the Rio+20 Conference follow-up and the Secretary-General’s five-year action agenda. The second panel, on “Sustainable development governance: regional implications and perspectives for the post-Rio+20 institutional set-up”, had considered the regional ramifications of the establishment of the new global high-level political forum on sustainable development, with a view to providing input to the discussions and the General Assembly negotiation process on it. Two background documents by the secretariat (E/ECE/1465 and E/ECE/1466) facilitated the discussions.

17. The outcomes of the high-level segment, presented in a Chair’s Summary of the discussion (E/ECE/1464, annex II), had been transmitted to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.<sup>3</sup> CEP took note of the information provided.

18. The Director of the Environment Division briefed CEP about the outcomes of the review of the 2005 ECE reform related to resource allocation to the Environment subprogramme. While fully recognizing the obligation of ECE to service its five environmental conventions, in allocating regular budget resources, full account should be taken of the increasing number of instruments so that the subprogramme could continue, without a reduction in its resources and capacities, to service all the subsidiary bodies in an efficient way in the future.

19. CEP took note of the information. Participants appreciated the recognition by ECE of the Environment subprogramme’s work and emphasized the need to increase the regular budget human resources allocation to the subprogramme.

#### **IV. Segment on multilateral environmental agreements**

20. It was agreed to merge the discussions on strengthening national implementation of and compliance with the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) with the review of the Astana Conference outcomes related to MEAs.

21. The Chairs of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) jointly briefed CEP on the outcomes of the third and fourth informal gatherings of representatives of the governing bodies of ECE MEAs and CEP (Geneva, 27 February and 21 October 2013, respectively). Those gatherings had continued the discussion on enhancing cooperation between ECE MEAs, including on exchanging information about priorities and the best ways to strengthen synergies. The issue of sustainable extrabudgetary financial arrangements for ECE MEAs had also been considered. Such gatherings would be convened in the future upon demand.

22. The report by the secretariat on “Assisting countries in joining and implementing the ECE multilateral environmental agreements” (ECE/CEP/2013/8) showed that good progress had been made in joining and implementing ECE MEAs. In a panel discussion, MEA Chairs shared further information on efforts to strengthen national implementation and compliance.

23. In the ensuing discussion, some delegations suggested translating the text of the MEAs into the six official United Nations languages to outreach beyond the ECE region.

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<sup>3</sup> Information and documents are available at [http://www.unece.org/commission/2013/65th\\_index.html](http://www.unece.org/commission/2013/65th_index.html).

24. CEP took note of the information on efforts to strengthen national implementation and compliance, as well as recent developments under the informal gatherings. Participants praised the work of the MEAs, including the continuation of enhancing synergies to promote and implement them. Countries not yet Parties to ECE MEAs were invited to consider joining. All countries were prompted to continue to actively implement MEAs. CEP requested for its next session a report on the status of and activities relating to the opening of ECE MEAs and other ECE instruments to accession by States outside the region.

25. CEP welcomed the report prepared by the secretariat for the EfE mid-term review, acknowledging that interdepartmental coordination between MEAs and national focal points would enhance both national implementation and multilateral activities. Delegations agreed that more efforts should be made to ensure adequate political support for their implementation. CEP recognized the need to allocate more resources from the United Nations regular budget for strengthening the MEA secretariats.

## **V. “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes**

### **A. Astana Water Action**

26. The secretariat presented the EfE mid-term review report “Implementation of the Astana Water Action: fostering progress towards improved water management” (ECE/CEP/2013/9).

27. Five panellists representing the Astana Water Action (AWA) stakeholders that had responded to the AWA implementation questionnaire<sup>4</sup> (Estonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland and INBO) participated in a panel discussion addressing the questions identified in the mid-term review report. CEP welcomed the information provided by the panellists on the implementation of AWA actions committed by their country or organization.

28. CEP welcomed the report on AWA, and the good overall progress made in its implementation. AWA stakeholders were encouraged to continue to implement the actions still under way. CEP asked for a progress report at its meeting in 2015 or 2016 (the report might be also considered at the next EfE Ministerial Conference, as appropriate) and requested the secretariat to disseminate AWA commitments and results either through a brochure or on the ECE website. AWA stakeholders and other interested countries and organizations were encouraged to continue using that initiative as a useful framework for advancing a sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems.

### **B. Greening the economy**

29. ECE and UNEP presented the mid-term report, “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: progress and future prospects” (ECE/CEP/2013/10).

30. Four panellists (from France, Georgia, Kazakhstan and European ECO Forum) addressed issues related to greening the economy. The panellists and delegates discussed questions identified in the report. CEP welcomed the information provided by the panellists.

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<sup>4</sup> All the responses were posted on the web page for the session.

31. The comprehensive mid-term report prepared jointly by ECE and UNEP, in consultation with the Regional Coordination Mechanism, OECD and EEA, showed that many organizations were carrying out a wide range of activities to green the economies in the region. Kazakhstan and its partners were working on the further development of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, including its procedural and institutional set-up.

32. For its twentieth session CEP requested an updated report on progress and future prospects for greening the economy in the pan-European region, including priorities for greening the economy in the region and possible modalities and options to achieve it. Delegations were encouraged to continue to work towards greening their economies.

### **C. Environmental performance reviews**

33. The secretariat presented key highlights of the report “Environmental performance reviews: progress made in preparation for the third cycle” (ECE/CEP/2013/12).

34. Participants welcomed the report and took note of progress achieved. The third cycle of environmental performance reviews (EPRs) had advanced well. CEP supported the detailed structure proposed by the secretariat for the third cycle, agreeing to revisit it in the light of experience gained in its practical application. In particular, the third cycle would address green economy concerns both in various relevant chapters and in a dedicated chapter (e.g., on economic instruments, environmental expenditure and investments for greening the economy).

35. CEP welcomed the preparedness of Montenegro and Serbia to undergo a third EPR in 2014. ECE countries non-members of OECD were invited to inform the secretariat of their interest in undergoing a third EPR. Delegations were invited to provide in-kind (experts) and financial support to the EPR Programme, in line with the resource needs assessment presented by the secretariat.

36. Delegations welcomed the offers by EEA, UNEP and OECD to make in-kind contributions to EPRs.

### **D. Environmental assessment and reporting**

37. A representative of EEA presented “A review of Shared Environment Information System-related developments with an impact on environmental assessment and reporting since the Seventh ‘Environment for Europe’ Ministerial Conference” (ECE/CEP/2013/18). Participants welcomed that document and the others prepared to support the discussion on environmental assessment and reporting (i.e., ECE/CEP/2013/15, ECE/CEP/2013/13 and ECE/CEP/2013/23).

38. The establishment of a regular process of environmental assessment and reporting and the development of SEIS was progressing rather slowly. Following recommendations by the Bureau, CEP decided to establish a coordination mechanism for developing SEIS in the form of a Group of Friends of SEIS (Friends of SEIS), provided that the necessary resources were available to service the Group’s work. CEP approved the terms of reference for the Friends of SEIS (annex II), pending formal approval by the ECE Executive Committee.

39. For the next CEP session, the Friends of SEIS were requested to look into and provide answers to the following questions:

(a) How should progress be monitored and evaluated: what should be the clear targets and performance indicators for the development of SEIS?;

(b) How should the regular assessment process be organized and shaped, taking into consideration the benefits of SEIS?

40. The Chair of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) declared Parties' intention of applying SEIS to activities under the Convention. CEP invited other MEA governing bodies to consider whether their reporting mechanisms were aligned with SEIS principles and to revise them as necessary. Countries and other SEIS stakeholders were invited to engage more actively in establishing SEIS both at the national and regional levels.

## **E. Work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force and the Regional Environmental Centres**

41. The OECD Environmental Action Programme (EAP) Task Force secretariat presented the report, "Progress since the Seventh 'Environment for Europe' Ministerial Conference within the framework of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force: promoting better policies and tools for water resources management and green growth" (ECE/CEP/2013/19).

42. The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus presented key findings of a joint report by five Regional Environmental Centres on "Promoting green economy and governance for sustainability" (ECE/CEP/2013/14).

43. CEP welcomed the two reports and the information provided. The EAP Task Force work to promote better policies and tools for water resources management and green growth had progressed well. The work of the Regional Environmental Centres to promote green economy and governance for sustainability was progressing, and could be further strengthened.

## **F. Main findings of the review**

44. The secretariat presented the results of the survey carried out to assess how member States participating in the EfE process promoted the process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences. Twenty-nine out of forty-four countries (66 per cent) participating in the Astana Conference had responded to the survey, along with a dozen other EfE stakeholders.

45. The quantitative assessment of responses, "Results of the survey on the promotion of the 'Environment for Europe' process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences" (ECE/CEP/2013/21), was complemented by a compilation of the respondents' comments (information paper No.13/Rev.2). Responses indicated overall wide support for the continuation of the EfE process as a valuable platform to improve environmental governance in the region and promote the mainstreaming of the environment into other sectors.

46. Delegations welcomed the assessment and expressed appreciation to participants in the EfE survey. The CEP Bureau and the secretariat would follow up and assess the lessons learned from the EfE mid-term review. Delegates expressed their satisfaction with the level of organization, the quality of the documents and the outcomes of the mid-term review of the Astana Conference outcomes.



## **VI. The Eighth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference**

47. The secretariat presented the documents regarding the organization of the Eighth Efe Ministerial Conference: the requirements for hosting the Conference, the proposed framework and a possible high-level segment to address implementation of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (Strategy for ESD) post-2015 (ECE/CEP/2013/16, ECE/CEP/2013/17 and information paper No. 3, respectively). CEP welcomed the documents and agreed with the Bureau’s recommendation to organize the Conference in 2016. The delegation of Georgia announced that the country was considering hosting the Conference, pending further internal Governmental consultations.

48. Delegations supported several possible topics for the Conference: MEAs; water; education for sustainable development (ESD); SEIS; sustainable consumption and production; transport, health and environment; and environment and health. Enhancing the participation of civil society was emphasized. An interactive format similar to that of the Astana Ministerial Conference was supported.

49. CEP mandated its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare for the next session an updated proposal for a possible framework for the Conference, taking into account the comments made by delegations. CEP requested the secretariat to prepare other documents that might be recommended by the CEP Bureau for consideration by CEP at its twentieth session.

## **VII. Environmental performance reviews**

### **A. Second Environmental Performance Review of Croatia**

50. The Secretary to the Expert Group on EPRs said that the Group had reviewed Croatia’s environmental performance on 2 and 3 October 2013 in Geneva. The review comprised nine chapters. Information paper No. 4 presented the EPR recommendations. Germany had provided financial support for the EPR; Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany and EEA had provided in-kind support (experts); and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Croatia had provided local support.

51. The rapporteur (Sweden) summarized the main findings and recommendations of the EPR. Overall, the country had made notable progress during the 14 years since its first EPR in 1999. At the time of the second review, 83 out of the 98 recommendations of the first EPR had been fully or partially implemented or were ongoing. The process of accession to the EU had contributed to achieving those good results.

52. The Deputy Minister of Environmental and Nature Protection of Croatia presented the main achievements in the environment sector. The intense process of accession to the EU had meant developing new legislative and policy frameworks, which in turn had led to improved environmental governance which should ensure high environmental performance standards and an efficient implementation of environmental commitments. The second EPR was useful in identifying strengths and weaknesses in environmental governance, and the recommendations would help to tackle the remaining challenges.

53. Following a discussion, CEP concluded the peer review by adopting the recommendations in the second EPR of Croatia. It expressed appreciation to the Governments and contributing organizations for their financial and in-kind support.

## **B. Third Environmental Performance Review of the Republic of Moldova**

54. The Secretary to the Expert Group on EPRs said that the Republic of Moldova's environmental performance had been reviewed at an Expert Group meeting on 1 and 2 October 2013 in Geneva. The review consisted of 10 chapters. Information paper No. 5 contained the EPR recommendations. Germany and Norway had provided financial support; Germany and EEA had delegated experts; and UNDP Moldova had provided local support.

55. The rapporteur (Estonia) summarized the main findings and recommendations of the EPR, noting that the Republic of Moldova had been the first country to undergo a third review. The country had made some progress during the eight years since the second EPR in 2005. In spite of some positive trends in the country's economy and legislative framework, more efforts were needed to finalize and adopt the relevant laws and ensure their efficient implementation. Other areas requiring improvement included: (a) strengthening the institutional framework, e.g., by establishing a national environmental protection agency; (b) enhancing the practical application of and allocating adequate resources for the implementation of country's international commitments; and (c) developing new and implementing existing policy tools for the water, waste and agriculture sectors. Some progress had been achieved on economic instruments, expenditures and investments, and significant progress had been made in water monitoring. Of the 30 recommendations from the second review, 17 had been implemented fully or partially or were ongoing at the time of the third review.

56. The Deputy Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova presented the key environmental challenges facing the country and progress made, and outlined the activities planned to green the national economy.

57. Following a discussion, CEP concluded the peer review by adopting the recommendations in the third EPR of the Republic of Moldova. It expressed appreciation to the Governments and organizations for their financial and in-kind support.

## **C. Environmental Performance Review of Morocco**

58. The Secretary to the Expert Group on EPRs said that the Group had reviewed Morocco's environmental performance on 11 and 12 September 2013 in Rabat, at a meeting organized in cooperation with ECA. Representatives of Algeria and Libya, which were interested in undergoing an EPR, as well as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) had participated.

59. The first EPR undertaken by ECE outside the region contained 13 chapters. Information paper No. 6 presented the recommendations. France, Portugal, Switzerland, ECA and UNEP had delegated experts for the EPR. UNDP Morocco and the ECA Regional Office for North Africa had provided local support.

60. The rapporteur (Switzerland) summarized the main findings and recommendations of the review, and highlighted the progress achieved since 2003 with the adoption of a number of laws in the environment sector. In particular, the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development adopted in 2011 provided a renewed impetus to environmental activities in the country. However, the process of revising existing and developing new laws and policies to complete environmental legislative and the policy framework needed to be accelerated.

61. The Deputy Director of the Department of Environment of the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment presented the key environmental challenges for

the country and Morocco's expectations from the EPR. The EPR would support Morocco's efforts in advancing its environmental governance. One recent achievement in line with the EPR recommendations had been the appointment on 10 October 2013 of a Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment responsible for the Environment, who would have a seat in the Cabinet, thus enhancing the status and promoting the work of the Department of Environment.

62. Following a discussion, CEP concluded the peer review by adopting the recommendations in Morocco's EPR. It expressed appreciation to the Governments and organizations for providing experts that had made the review possible.

63. CEP took note of the invitation of ESCWA to ECE to undertake in close cooperation an EPR of Tunisia, and invited the ECE secretariat to undertake such a review if the conditions for an ECE review outside the region were met (see ECE/CEP/S/2011/2, annex II).

## **VIII. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting**

64. The Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment reported on progress made during 2012–2013 (see ECE/CEP/AC.10/2012/2). The Working Group, in accordance with its mandate, continued to help strengthen the environmental information and observation capacity in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation, as well as in interested countries of South-Eastern Europe (target countries).

65. Regular environmental assessment remained a challenge for target countries, with development of indicator-based assessments being the main bottleneck. Regular data flows and the use of data for effective production of indicators posed particular problems. To address those challenges the Working Group worked closely with the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators.

66. Following the successful production of guidelines related to air and water, the Working Group had developed a third set of Guidelines for developing national strategies to use biodiversity monitoring as an environmental policy tool for the target countries (ECE/CEP/2013/7). Guidelines to support informed policymaking to protect soil from chemical contamination were under development.

67. The Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators had held its fifth and sixth sessions on 4 and 6 July and on 30 October and 1 November 2012, respectively (see ECE/CEP-CES.GE.1/2012/5 and ECE/CEP-CES.GE.1/2012/10). The work of the Task Force had progressed well. It had continued to build and improve the capacity of environmental and statistical authorities in the target countries to produce environmental statistics and indicators.

68. Donor support, in particular by Norway, the Russian Federation and EEA, had facilitated successful delivery of outputs of the Working Group and the Joint Task Force. Also, efficient cooperation on substantive matters with relevant international organizations and programmes had been crucial for delivering good results.

69. CEP highly appreciated the work on environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting and requested the two bodies to also support the activities of the Friends of SEIS in pursuing the implementation of their mandates. CEP adopted the Guidelines for developing national strategies to use biodiversity monitoring as an environmental policy tool for target countries, and prompted those countries to implement them.

## **IX. Cross-sectoral activities**

70. CEP was informed about recent developments under a number of ongoing cross-sectoral activities undertaken under the leadership of ECE, or in partnership with other organizations.

### **A. Education for sustainable development**

71. The secretariat, presenting progress in implementing the Strategy for ESD, said that in 2013 the Steering Committee on ESD had been focusing on advancing the implementation of the three priority action areas, to: (a) ensure that there was an ESD school plan in every school by 2015; (b) promote the introduction of ESD into teacher education; and (c) reorient technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy.

72. A regional consultation on the assessment of and follow-up to the United Nations Decade of ESD (2005–2014) had been co-organized by ECE with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. During the consultation, the Steering Committee had strongly reaffirmed its dedication to continue implementing the Strategy beyond the end of the Decade. A capacity-building tool-kit, “Empowering educators for a sustainable future”, promoting educator competences for ESD, had been launched in 2013.

73. At the request of the Steering Committee, the secretariat presented the proposal to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the next Efe conference, as appropriate, in order to assess 10 years of implementation of the Strategy for ESD and the way forward.

74. The secretariat noted that Strategy continued to be managed through voluntary contributions by member States. A continuing flow of contributions was required to implement activities. From October 2010–October 2013 the work on the Strategy had been supported by a Junior Professional Officer provided by the Government of Germany.

75. CEP took note of the information and welcomed the progress achieved under the Strategy. The proposal to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the next Efe Conference was widely supported.

### **B. Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme**

76. The Chair of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) said that in 2013 THE PEP “Staffette” (a relay race to transfer good practices from city to city) had continued to spread knowledge through a series of workshops on integrated policy approaches to mitigate the negative effects of transport on the environment and human health. At the subregional workshop, “Green and health-friendly Sustainable Mobility: Focus on Urban Central Asia”, (Almaty, Kazakhstan, September 2013) participants had agreed to reduce emissions of air pollution, greenhouse gases and noise and to invest in efficient and accessible public transport and safe infrastructure, signs and signalling to encourage human-powered (active) mobility, like walking and cycling.

77. The focus of the eleventh meeting of THE PEP Steering Committee (Geneva, 27–28 November 2013) would be to prepare for the upcoming Fourth High-Level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Paris, 14–16 April 2014). The Steering Committee would finalize negotiations on the forthcoming Paris Declaration, under the slogan “Cities in Motion: People First”, emphasizing the importance of the individual citizen and the quest

for green and health-friendly urban mobility. THE PEP 2013 Symposium would address “Safe and Healthy Walking and Cycling in Cities: Active Mobility for All.”

78. CEP took note of the information and welcomed the progress of work under THE PEP, inviting delegations to actively participate in the upcoming Fourth High-level Meeting.

### **C. Environment and security**

79. The Director of the Environment Division gave an overview of recent developments under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) (information paper No. 7/Rev.1). The ECE contribution to ENVSEC focused on advancing the implementation of the ECE MEAs — an important pillar of ENVSEC. Recent ECE activities under ENVSEC included work on development of transboundary cooperation in the Kura, Dniester and Aral Sea Basins; activities regarding water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins; and capacity development within the Industrial Accidents Convention’s Assistance Programme and for application of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, as well as the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs. A climate change impact and vulnerability assessment to 2050 had been finalized under the project “Reducing vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change in the Dniester”. Those results would form the basis of effective decision-making to address the environmental challenges ahead.

80. CEP took note of and welcomed the information provided.

### **D. European Environment and Health Process**

81. At its eighteenth session, CEP had mandated its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to appoint four members from the environment sector to the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (EHMB) for the second term, 2013–2014. Accordingly, the secretariat had sent out official letters to the 53 ECE member States also members of WHO/Europe, inviting ministers of environment to inform the secretariat of their interest in serving on EHMB. Four ministers of environment had expressed interest in serving on the second term of EHMB.

82. Four members were appointed to EHMB (2013–2014), as follows:

- (a) Mr. Philippe Henry, Minister of Environment, Land-use Planning and Mobility for the Walloon Region, Belgium;
- (b) Mr. Amir Peretz, Minister of Environmental Protection, Israel;
- (c) Mr. Gheorghe Şalaru, Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova;
- (d) Mr. Oleg Proskuryakov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine.

83. CEP was informed about the progress achieved in the work of EHMB. The representative of WHO/Europe presented an overview of major developments and future plans under the Environment and Health process. The delegation of Israel delivered a statement highlighting the main actions undertaken at the national level. The delegation of Germany made a statement emphasizing Germany’s active engagement in the process. CEP stressed that the process needed to enhance its visibility in the international arena and explore synergies with relevant processes and activities.

84. CEP took note of the report of EHMB to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and CEP (EUR/RC63/10), the *Report on the European Environment and Health Process (2010–2013)*,<sup>5</sup> and of the information provided on the progress of work of EHMB.

85. CEP requested the ECE secretariat to follow up with the necessary actions with a view to appointing four ministers from the environment sector to the third term of EHMB (2015–2016). Furthermore, CEP agreed to hold a panel discussion on the Environment and Health process at its next session and to invite the Chairs of EHMB and the Environment and Health Task Force. CEP also requested its Bureau and the secretariat to explore the WHO proposal to hold a joint CEP Bureau and EHMB alternates' meeting to discuss issues of common interest.

## **E. Green building**

86. At its special session in May 2011, CEP had agreed to participate in a task force on green building to be composed also of experts from the Timber Committee (recently renamed the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry), the Housing and Land Management Committee and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, together with partner organizations.

87. At its eighteenth session, CEP had been informed that the establishment of the task force had been delayed due to the review of the 2005 ECE reform. CEP was informed that, following to the review finalization, the green building task force would be established in 2014. The task force would mostly work via e-mail and carry out analytical studies in the field of green building.

88. CEP took note of the information on the progress of work on green building, and requested the secretariat to circulate the draft Green Economy Action Plan under development by the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.

## **X. Programme of work**

### **A. Review of programme performance in the biennium 2012–2013**

89. The Chair drew attention to the review of performance of the Environment subprogramme in the biennium 2012–2013 (ECE/CEP/2013/5) prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the requirements for review of programme performance established within ECE. CEP approved the programme performance in the biennium 2012–2013 with one revision made upon Lithuania's proposal on behalf of EU and its member States: i.e., that in the second sentence of paragraph 42 under the Aarhus Convention cluster it should be understood that the challenge to implement the decisions on compliance matters more effectively only related to the Parties concerned.

90. Delegates also commented on the rigidity of the format for reviewing programme performance, which did not include activities in which the Environment subprogramme was involved as a partner organization but for which the main secretariat was provided by other organizations of the United Nations system (e.g. under the Environment and Health process and ENVSEC). It was suggested in future to include an overview of progress achieved in such activities in an annex to the document.

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<sup>5</sup> WHO (Copenhagen, 2013). Available from <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/report-on-the-european-environment-and-health-process-2010-2013>.

## **B. Work for the biennium 2014–2015**

91. The Chair informed participants that the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015 (ECE/CEP/2013/3) had been prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the template for the programme of work established by the ECE Executive Committee. CEP adopted the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015, which would subsequently be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

92. Furthermore, the Chair informed delegates that the biennial evaluation plan for the assessment of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015 was set out in document ECE/CEP/2013/4. CEP approved the biennial evaluation plan for 2014–2015, with two revisions proposed by Lithuania on behalf of EU and its member States, and requested the secretariat to reissue the amended document presenting the biennial performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme (2014–2015) for the twentieth session of CEP in October 2014.

93. The two revisions concerned the Espoo Convention cluster of activities, namely to include two additional indicators of achievement with a view to measuring: (a) the number of Parties that had ratified/approved/accepted the Espoo Convention; and (b) the number of Parties that had ratified/approved/accepted the two amendments to the Espoo Convention.

94. The Chair introduced information paper No. 12/Rev.1 containing the draft Strategic Framework 2016–2017 for the Environment subprogramme. The Bureau had considered the draft document at its meeting on 21 October 2013 and recommended its approval. CEP approved the draft Strategic Framework 2016–2017 for the Environment subprogramme.

## **C. Publications for the biennium 2014–2015**

95. The Chair introduced document ECE/CEP/2013/6 containing the list of publications for the biennium 2014–2015. CEP approved the list of publications for 2014–2015 proposed by the Environment subprogramme.

## **D. Resource requirements and criteria for financial support**

96. The CEP Chair introduced document ECE/CEP/2013/20 containing the assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events. The Bureau had finalized the assessment at its meeting in April 2013 with support from the secretariat and recommended that CEP adopt the decision contained therein. The Secretary to CEP presented the main findings of the assessment. CEP took note of the assessment and approved the recommendations contained in paragraphs 20 and 21 of that document.

97. The Chair presented the revised criteria for country eligibility for financial support to participate in meetings and events (information paper No.9). It was noted that the statistical data for gross domestic product (GDP) per capita at current prices, converted to United States dollars using current exchange rates, were for 2012 (data for 2013 was expected to be available only in 2014).

98. The delegation of Belarus informed CEP about the country's continuing difficulties following the 2011 devaluation of the national currency, and asked CEP to consider the inclusion of Belarus in the list of eligible countries.

99. CEP approved the list of countries eligible for financial support (see annex I), which would enter into force after the conclusion of the nineteenth session. CEP asked the Bureau

to consider the request from Belarus and mandated the Bureau to take a decision on that request.

100. Information paper No.8 presented the status of resources, including financial resources available in the various trust funds, and estimated financial resources required for the respective programmes of work for the biennium 2014–2015. In accordance with the wishes expressed at the sixteenth and eighteenth CEP sessions (October 2009 and April 2012, respectively) an overview of the trust funds, including the contributions by countries, had been provided in a separate addendum to the paper (circulated at the meeting).

101. CEP welcomed the information on the status of resources in the biennium 2012–2013 and requested the secretariat to provide similar information on the status of resources in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015 at the CEP session in two years' time.

102. Participants reiterated the message of the MEA Chairs, stressing that resources in the MEA secretariats were overstretched, and that there was a concrete risk that the decisions of Parties to the Protocols to those MEAs could not be fully implemented due to the lack of resources in the ECE secretariat. The CEP Chair invited delegations to continue supporting the activities carried out under the Environment subprogramme by providing financial and in-kind contributions to the respective trust funds.

103. The secretariat briefed CEP on the introduction by ECE of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Standard 23 on Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers) (information paper No.8).

104. CEP took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the introduction by ECE of IPSAS Standard 23 on Taxes and Transfers. The General Assembly, by its resolution 60/283, had approved the adoption of IPSAS by the United Nations. In line with that decision, ECE was proceeding to manage the changeover from the United Nations System Accounting Standards to IPSAS and all related standards by 1 January 2014.

105. In that regard, CEP decided that all contributions made to the relevant trust funds of the Environment subprogramme, unless otherwise agreed by the donor and the recipient, would be directed exclusively to support the work of the programme, body or MEA for which that trust fund had been established, in accordance with its programme of work. Such contributions would be considered by default non-conditional and their future economic benefit was not required to be returned to the donor, with the understanding that it would be used for carrying out activities to support the work of the Environment subprogramme in the areas for which it was donated.<sup>6</sup>

## **E Mainstreaming a gender perspective in environmental activities**

106. The ECE secretariat presented information related to mainstreaming a gender perspective in environmental activities. Activities related to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment were carried out in the framework of the ECE Gender Action Plan as a contribution to the implementation of the United Nations system-wide Action Plan.

107. Approaches to address gender mainstreaming were reflected in activities both at the programme and project levels. Applying a gender-sensitive approach to water management,

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<sup>6</sup> Owing to a lack of time, CEP mandated its Bureau to consider the exact wording of the decision to be included in the present report with a view to streamlining the procedures for receiving financial contributions. The Bureau held consultations by e-mail and agreed on the wording in paragraphs 104–105 of the present report.



water supply, sanitation and health was a good example at the project level. That included promoting the integration of a gender perspective in policy development, water and health services, programme and project planning, monitoring and implementation, as well as women's participation in decision-making and the integration of a gender dimension, as appropriate, into project output.

108. The following options were suggested for consideration to further mainstream gender in environmental activities: (a) promoting a gender balance in environmental governance in the region; (b) promoting integration of gender issues in the sustainable development process by hearing the voices of the Women Major Group; (c) promoting, where possible and appropriate, the integration of a gender perspective in policies, recommendations and other meeting outputs; (d) and incorporating a gender perspective in meeting agendas and presentations delivered by speakers, as appropriate.

109. CEP took note of the information provided, recognized the importance of taking into consideration a gender perspective in the preparation of activities and policy discussions within the ECE environmental governance framework, and welcomed the gender mainstreaming efforts already being made by the ECE Environment subprogramme.

## **XI. Rules of procedure**

110. The CEP Secretary presented the draft rules of procedure contained in document ECE/CEP/2013/L.1, which had been prepared by the Bureau with support from the secretariat, as mandated by CEP at its previous session.

111. CEP took note of the draft rules of procedure and the comments circulated to CEP by the EU and its member States, as well as other comments made by delegations during the session. The Committee requested the Bureau and the secretariat to continue working on the rules, with a view to providing recommendations to CEP at its twentieth session.

## **XII. Calendar of meetings**

112. The CEP Chair presented information paper No. 10 containing the schedule of meetings of CEP and its Bureau for the period 2014–2016.

113. Delegations approved the proposed schedule with one revision, regarding the CEP Bureau meeting in 2014, and agreed to organize the twentieth session of the Committee from 28 to 31 October 2014.

114. The Bureau, via consultations by e-mail, agreed to organize its meeting as well as a possible joint CEP Bureau and EHMB alternates' meeting to discuss issues of the common interest (see para. 85 above), on 26 and 27 May 2014.

## **XIII. Other business**

115. The delegation of Sweden informed the meeting about the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)<sup>7</sup> — an initiative of Sweden, together with Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, the United States and UNEP, which was open to other countries and non-State actors wishing to join that global effort. CEP took note of the information provided.

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<sup>7</sup> For more information see <http://www.unep.org/ccac/>.

## XIV. Summary of decisions

116. At its nineteenth session, CEP:

- (a) Adopted the agenda of the nineteenth session;
- (b) Elected, by acclamation, the Chair and other members of its Bureau and expressed its appreciation to the work done by the Bureau members who stepped down;
- (c) Expressed appreciation to the Bureau for its good work and for efficiently fulfilling the mandates assigned to it by CEP and expressed appreciation to the ECE secretariat for the efficient and high quality support provided to the Bureau;
- (d) Took note of the information provided regarding developments in ECE activities in follow-up to the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference;
- (e) Took note of the information provided about the outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform;
- (f) Took note of the information on strengthening national implementation and compliance provided by the chairs of ECE MEAs, and:
  - (i) Welcomed the progress achieved with regard to further ratifications of the MEAs and their implementation, and praised the work of the MEAs;
  - (ii) Invited those countries that were not yet Parties to ECE MEAs to consider joining, and expressed the wish for all countries to continue to actively implement MEAs;
  - (iii) Took note of the information on the recent developments under the informal joint meetings between the representatives of the governing bodies of ECE MEAs and CEP;
  - (iv) Welcomed the activities to continue enhancing synergies to promote and implement MEAs;
  - (v) Invited the secretariat to prepare for the CEP session in 2014 a report on the status of and activities relating to the opening of ECE MEAs and other instruments under ECE to accession by States outside the ECE region;
- (g) Carried out the EfE mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes, and:
  - (i) Welcomed the report by the ECE secretariat on “Assisting countries in joining and implementing the ECE multilateral environmental agreements”, and:
    - a. Acknowledged that interdepartmental coordination between MEAs and national focal points in countries would enhance both national implementation and multilateral activities;
    - b. Agreed that more efforts should be made to ensure adequate political support to implementation of MEAs;
    - c. Recognized the need to strengthen the secretariats of MEAs, and underlined in that regard that more resources should be allocated from the United Nations regular budget for that purpose;
  - (ii) Welcomed the report by the ECE secretariat on “Implementation of the Astana Water Action: fostering progress towards improved water management”, appreciated overall progress achieved in implementing AWA, and:

a. Welcomed the information provided by panellists on the implementation of AWA actions to which their country or organization had committed;

b. Invited AWA stakeholders to continue with the implementation of those actions which were still ongoing, with a view to reporting to CEP on their progress in implementing them at its session in 2015 or 2016. The report might also be considered at the next Efe ministerial conference, as appropriate;

c. Underlined the importance of promoting AWA and requested the secretariat to disseminate AWA commitments and results, e.g., through a brochure or on the ECE website;

d. Encouraged AWA stakeholders and other interested countries and organizations to continue using AWA as a useful framework for advancing a sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems;

(iii) Welcomed the report prepared by the ECE and UNEP secretariats on “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: progress and future prospects”, in particular the comprehensive overview of numerous activities on greening the economies that had been carried out in ECE region, and:

a. Welcomed the information provided by panellists on developments in greening economies, including the Green Bridge Partnership Programme;

b. Invited the ECE and UNEP secretariats, in close consultation with relevant stakeholders, including ministries, business and civil society, to prepare for the CEP session in 2014 an updated report on progress and future prospects in greening the economy in the pan-European region and to include in the report additional chapters on identification of priorities for greening the economy in the region and possible modalities and options to achieve that;

c. Encouraged delegations to continue the work towards greening their economies;

(iv) Welcomed the report prepared by the ECE secretariat on “Environmental performance reviews: progress made in preparation for the third cycle”, took note of progress achieved thus far since the Astana Conference, and:

a. Supported the detailed structure proposed by the ECE secretariat for the third cycle of EPRs, and agreed to revisit it in the future in the light of experience gained in its practical application;

b. Welcomed the preparedness of Montenegro and Serbia to undergo a third EPR in 2014;

c. Took note of the invitation of ESCWA to ECE to undertake in close cooperation an EPR of Tunisia, and invited the ECE secretariat to undertake such a review if the conditions for an ECE review outside the ECE region were met;

d. Invited ECE countries that were not members of OECD to inform the secretariat of their interest in undergoing a third EPR;

e. Invited delegations to provide in-kind (experts) and financial support, to the EPR Programme, in line with the resources assessment needs presented by the ECE secretariat;

f. Welcomed the offer of EEA, UNEP and OECD to contribute their in-kind support or expertise to the EPR Programme;

(v) Welcomed the report by EEA, “A review of Shared Environment Information System-related developments with an impact on environmental assessment and reporting since the Seventh ‘Environment for Europe’ Ministerial Conference”, as well as other documents relating to the Astana outcomes on environmental assessment and reporting, took note of progress achieved thus far in the implementation of SEIS in the region, and:

a. Following recommendations by the CEP Bureau, decided to establish a coordination mechanism for the development of SEIS in the form of a Group of Friends of SEIS, and approved the terms of reference for such a group as presented in annex II to the current report, pending formal approval by the ECE Executive Committee and provided that there were necessary resources in the ECE secretariat to service the work of the Friends of SEIS;

b. Welcomed the information provided by the Chair of the Water Convention regarding the plans to apply SEIS principles to the future assessments to be prepared within the framework of the Water Convention, beginning with a pilot application to an ongoing thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, as well as regarding the ongoing examination of a possible reporting mechanism under the Water Convention, which should also incorporate the SEIS principles;

c. Encouraged other MEAs to consider whether their reporting mechanisms were aligned with SEIS principles and to revise them as necessary to incorporate SEIS principles, and to provide information in that regard to CEP at its next session;

d. Invited countries and other SEIS stakeholders to engage more actively in the establishment of SEIS both at the national and regional levels;

(vi) Welcomed the report prepared by the OECD EAP Task Force secretariat on “Progress since the Seventh ‘Environment for Europe’ Ministerial Conference within the framework of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force: promoting better policies and tools for water resources management and green growth”, as well as the joint report prepared by Regional Environmental Centres on “Promoting green economy and governance for sustainability”, and:

a. Appreciated progress achieved in the work of EAP Task Force;

b. Welcomed the information on progress achieved in the work of the Regional Environmental Centres;

(vii) Welcomed the document prepared by the ECE secretariat on “Results of the survey on the promotion of the ‘Environment for Europe’ process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences”, and:

a. Expressed its appreciation to those countries that actively participated in the EfE survey;

b. Requested the Bureau and the ECE secretariat to follow up and assess the lessons learned;

c. Expressed satisfaction with the level of organization, the quality of documents and the outcomes of the EfE mid-term review of the Astana Conference outcomes;

(h) Welcomed documents prepared by the ECE secretariat regarding the organization of the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference, and:

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- (i) Agreed with the CEP Bureau recommendation to organize the Eighth EfE Conference in 2016;
  - (ii) Mandated the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare for the CEP session in 2014 an updated proposal for a possible framework for the next conference, taking into account the comments made by delegations at the nineteenth session;
  - (iii) Requested the secretariat to prepare other documents that might be recommended by the Bureau for consideration by CEP at its twentieth session;
  - (iv) Welcomed the information provided by the delegation of Georgia regarding the possibility of Georgia's hosting the next EfE conference, pending further internal Governmental consultations;
  - (v) Invited the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to explore possible synergies between the EfE and the Environment and Health Ministerial Conferences;
  - (i) Adopted the recommendations in the Second EPR of Croatia;
  - (j) Adopted the recommendations in the Third EPR of the Republic of Moldova;
  - (k) Adopted the recommendations in the EPR of Morocco;
  - (l) Appreciated highly the work of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, and requested them to also support the activities of the Friends of SEIS in pursuing the implementation of their mandates;
  - (m) Adopted the Guidelines for developing national strategies to use biodiversity monitoring as an environmental policy tool for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as interested South-Eastern European countries, and invited the target countries to implement the Guidelines;
  - (n) Took note of information provided and welcomed progress in the work under the Strategy for ESD, and supported the proposal presented by the secretariat to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the next EfE conference, as appropriate, in order to assess 10 years of ESD implementation and to consider the future implementation of the Strategy;
  - (o) Took note of information provided and welcomed the progress of work under THE PEP, and invited countries to consider an active participation in the upcoming Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment;
  - (p) Took note of and welcomed information provided with regard to ENVSEC;
  - (q) Took note of the report of EHMB to WHO/Europe and CEP, the *Report on the European Environment and Health Process (2010–2013)*, and:
    - (i) Took note of information provided on the progress of work of EHMB;
    - (ii) Requested the secretariat to follow up with the necessary actions with a view to appointing the four ministers from the environment sector to the third term of EHMB (2015–2016);
    - (iii) Agreed to hold a panel discussion on the Environment and Health process at the next CEP session and to invite the Chairs of the EHMB and the Environment and Health Task Force;

- (iv) Requested the Bureau and the secretariat to explore the WHO proposal to hold a joint CEP Bureau and EHMB alternates' meeting to discuss issues of common interest;
- (r) Took note of information provided on activities of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, in particular on the progress of work on green building, and requested the secretariat to circulate information on the Green Economy Action Plan under development by the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry;
- (s) Approved the programme performance in the biennium 2012–2013, with one revision made upon the proposal of Lithuania on behalf of EU and its member States, which had been reflected in the text of the present report (see para. 89 above);
- (t) Adopted the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015;
- (u) Approved the biennial evaluation plan for the assessment of the Environment subprogramme (2014–2015), with the two amendments proposed by Lithuania on behalf of the EU and its member States, and requested the secretariat to reissue the amended document presenting the biennial performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme (2014–2015) for the twentieth session of CEP (see paras. 92–93 above);
- (v) Approved the draft Strategic Framework 2016–2017 for the Environment subprogramme;
- (w) Approved the list of publications for 2014–2015 proposed by the Environment subprogramme;
- (x) Took note of the assessment of criteria for providing financial support for participation in meetings and events, and approved the recommendations contained therein;
- (y) Approved the list of countries eligible for financial support, which would enter into force immediately after the conclusion of the nineteenth session of CEP, as included in annex I to the current report;
- (z) Requested the CEP Bureau to consider the request from Belarus to be included on the list of countries eligible for financial support, and mandated the Bureau to take a decision on that request;
- (aa) Welcomed the information provided by the secretariat on the status of resources in the biennium 2012–2013, and requested the secretariat to provide similar information on the status of resources in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015 at the next relevant session of CEP (i.e., in two years' time);
- (bb) Took note of information provided by secretariat on the introduction by ECE of IPSAS Standard 23 on Taxes and Transfers and mandated the Bureau to consider the wording of a relevant decision by CEP to be included in the present report with a view to streamlining the procedures for financial contributions by donors (see paras. 104–105 above);
- (cc) Took note of information provided on mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental activities, and:
  - (i) Recognized the importance of including a gender perspective in the preparation for activities/events and policy discussions within the ECE environmental governance framework, in line with the ECE gender action plan;
  - (ii) Welcomed the gender mainstreaming efforts already being made in the framework of several activities carried out under the auspices of the ECE Environment subprogramme;

(dd) Approved the proposed schedule of CEP and CEP Bureau meetings for the period 2014–2016, with one revision regarding the CEP Bureau meeting in 2014, and agreed to organize the twentieth session of CEP from 28 to 31 October 2014;

(ee) Took note of the draft rules of procedure prepared by the CEP Bureau, with support from the secretariat, and comments received from EU and its member States, which had been circulated to CEP, as well as other comments made by delegations during the nineteenth session, and requested the Bureau and the secretariat to continue working on the rules, with a view to providing recommendations to CEP at its twentieth session;

(ff) Requested the Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the CEP decisions, including by preparing documents and reports necessary for the work of CEP at its 2014 session;

(gg) Expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for an excellent organization of the meeting.

## **XV. Closure of the meeting**

117. The CEP Chair with support from the secretariat compiled a summary of the outcomes of the work of and decisions made by CEP at its nineteenth session, which was projected on the screen in the meeting room. Following discussion, the draft summary was finalized and approved. The approved summary was circulated to CEP by e-mail on Monday, 28 October 2013.

118. The Chair informed CEP that the report of the present meeting and the list of participants would be posted on ECE website after the meeting. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

## Annex I

### Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events<sup>a</sup>

For the purposes of this annex, “partial financial support” includes daily subsistence allowance (DSA) only and “full financial support” includes DSA and travel expenses. The lower threshold for financial support equals US\$ 4,500. Representatives of member States with annual GDP per capita below the lower threshold are entitled to full financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies. The upper threshold for financial support equals US\$ 5,500. Representatives of member States with annual GDP per capita between the lower and upper thresholds are entitled to partial financial support to participate in meetings and events to which the CEP decision applies.

#### List of countries eligible for financial support, showing category of assistance, and GDP

<i>Country</i>	<i>GDP per capita, 2012 (US\$)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Number of countries</i>
<i>Travel expenses and DSA</i>		
Tajikistan	872	
Kyrgyzstan	1 160	
Uzbekistan	1 717	
Republic of Moldova	2 038	
Armenia	3 338	
Georgia	3 508	
Ukraine	3 867	
Albania	4 149	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4 447	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>9</b>
<i>DSA only</i>		
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4 589	
Serbia	5 190	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>

*Note:* Countries are listed above in ascending order of GDP, by category.

<sup>a</sup> Data source: World Bank

(<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD/countries/1W?display=default> as at 26 September 2013). As the ECE Statistical Database did not contain official 2011–2012 data relevant for the present paper for most of the countries in the table, it is proposed to use data from the World Bank (an institution of the United Nations system).

<sup>a</sup> As approved by CEP at its nineteenth session. Other approaches may be applied for the projects where donors earmark their contributions with particular conditions.



## Annex II

### Terms of reference for the Group of Friends of the Shared Environmental Information System

1. Ministers decided at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop a Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) across the region in order to keep the pan-European environment under review. These terms of reference define the modalities of a coordination mechanism, in the form of a Group of Friends of the Shared Environmental Information System (Friends of SEIS).

2. The main purpose of this mechanism is to provide a platform for the exchange of information about ongoing and planned activities relevant to SEIS development, and to build synergies among and join the efforts of the main interested stakeholders.

3. Friends of SEIS will be led by the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP). The following bodies and organizations are invited to nominate members to the Group:

- (a) The CEP Bureau;
- (b) The Bureau of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;
- (c) Governing or subsidiary bodies of relevant United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements;
- (d) The European Commission;
- (e) The European Environment Agency;
- (f) The United Nations Environment Programme;
- (g) The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe;
- (h) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;
- (i) The Regional Environmental Centres;
- (j) European ECO Forum.

ECE member States are invited to nominate their members to the Group, based on a balanced geographical representation. All countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are strongly encouraged to nominate their members to the Group. The CEP Chair may decide to invite representatives of other bodies and organizations, as necessary.

4. Friends of SEIS will meet when necessary (once a year on average). Preferably, the Group’s meetings will be organized back to back with meetings of other bodies (e.g., CEP, the CEP Bureau, the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment). The Group shall keep its meetings to the minimum necessary and shall work as much as possible by electronic means (e.g., e-mail, teleconference).

5. At its first meeting, Friends of SEIS will agree on a plan of their concrete activities. Such a plan shall take into account SEIS-related developments, including, among others, the SEIS-related documents submitted to the nineteenth session of CEP (ECE/CEP/2013/13, ECE/CEP/2013/15 and ECE/CEP/2013/18). Specifically, Friends of SEIS should aim to provide answers to the following two questions to the twentieth session of CEP in 2014:

(a) How should progress be monitored and evaluated: what should be the clear targets and performance indicators for the development of SEIS?;

(b) How should the regular assessment process be organized and shaped, taking into consideration the benefits of SEIS?

6. Friends of SEIS will be serviced by the ECE secretariat. Conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Geneva will be provided for the meetings of Friends of SEIS. The working language will be English.

7. Donors will be invited to support the work of Friends of SEIS, including the travel of eligible members, as well as, in case of need, the travel of ECE staff to participate in and support the organization of meetings held outside of Geneva.

8. These terms of reference will cover the biennium 2014–2015. CEP may decide to extend them at its session in late 2015.

9. The Group of Friends of SEIS will regularly inform CEP on the implementation of its mandate.

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