

# **Economic Commission for Europe**

## **Committee on Environmental Policy**

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development**

#### **Virtual consultation meeting**

7 May 2020 (am)

Item 5 (a) and (d) of the provisional agenda

**Preparations for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in 2021:** (a) Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and (d) Resource requirements.

#### *Information note No. 2*

### **Information on the decisions of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy relevant to the preparations of the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) held its twenty-fifth session in Geneva, from 13 to 15 November 2019.

The CEP at its 25<sup>th</sup> session took important decisions regarding the preparation and conduct of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, as follows:<sup>1</sup>

#### **A. Selection of the themes for the Conference<sup>2</sup>**

The CEP agreed on the following two themes for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:

- (i) Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure;
- (ii) Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism.

#### **B. Organizational issues<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Full report of the CEP-25 can be accessed at

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/ece/cep/ece.cep.2019.15.e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Main document: "Proposed framework for preparing the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference" (ECE/CEP/2019/20);

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/ece/cep/ece.cep.2019.20.e.pdf>

The CEP was informed that the Government of Cyprus had formally expressed its readiness to host the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries. The corresponding letter had been sent by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, to the Executive Secretary of ECE, Ms. Olga Algayerova, on 5 September 2019.

The CEP expressed its gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and decided to organize the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, in Nicosia from 3 to 5 November 2021.

The CEP also adopted the document “Organizational Issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference”, which establishes the guidance on such practical matters as the participation, documents, side events and exhibitions, accommodation, etc. The CEP also recommended the maximum size of Government delegations at 8 delegates.

Further, the CEP also considered the document “Requirements for hosting the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference”, which stipulates main practical requirements that the host country should take into consideration. The specific provisions are to be stipulated in a Host Country Agreement (HCA) to be concluded between the host country and the UNECE (zero draft of the HCA is under consideration).

The CEP invited Cyprus to actively participate in the future meetings of the CEP Bureau.

### **C. Resource requirements<sup>4</sup>**

The CEP was informed that information paper No. 19 provided an estimate of extrabudgetary costs for supporting the core services provided by the ECE secretariat in preparing the Conference. The CEP invited interested countries and organizations to make contributions (in cash and in kind) for the preparation of the Conference.

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<sup>3</sup> Main documents: “Organizational Issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference” (ECE/CEP/2019/19; <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/ece/cep/ece.cep.2019.19.e.pdf>); and “Requirements for hosting the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference” (ECE/CEP/2019/21; <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/ece/cep/ece.cep.2019.21.e.pdf>)

<sup>4</sup> Main document: “Estimated resource requirements for preparing the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference” (Information paper No. 19; [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/ece/cep/Resource\\_requirements\\_for\\_EfE\\_9.IP.19.e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/ece/cep/Resource_requirements_for_EfE_9.IP.19.e.pdf))