

# *Streamlining the work on environmental monitoring and assessment*

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# Request from CEP-20

Secretariat to prepare a paper proposing ways for streamlining the work of the Working Group and that of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, including pros and cons for merging the two groups

# Secretariat's paper

- Describes past responsibilities of the Working Group and the Joint Task Force
- Suggest new tasks / mandates for both groups
- Describes pros and cons for a merger
- Makes recommendations

# Past responsibilities of the Working Group

- Established in 2000 for helping improve environmental monitoring and since 2003 environmental assessment
- Targeted all UNECE countries
- Since 2007 focus on supporting countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and interested countries of South-Eastern Europe
- Focus to help establishing SEIS

# Past responsibilities of the Joint Task Force

- Established in 2009 to support the work of the Working Group and to help improving environmental statistics and the production of environmental indicators
- Targeted countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and interested countries of South-Eastern Europe
- Focus to help establishing SEIS

# New tasks for the Working Group serving all UNECE member states

- SEIS management including SEIS performance assessment (2015 mandate already)
- Coordination of the pan-European assessment process (proposed by Friends of SEIS)

# New tasks for the Joint Task Force serving its target countries

- Support the Working Group in assessing SEIS performance on whether or not data production methodologies are correctly applied
- Capacity-building for SEIS data production and sharing
- Communication of environmental data and indicators
- Implementation of SEEA
- Application of environmental indicators in the context of sustainable development and green economy

# Pros and cons for a merger

- No pros identified
- Cons:
  - More-effective (in delivery)
  - More outputs
  - Governance issue



# Recommendations

- To strengthen the Working Group by giving it the task of coordination of the regular pan-European assessment process (as suggested by FoS)
- Joint Task Force to serve its focus countries and with it support the work of the Working Group (no overlap in functions)
- Proposal for the new ToRs for both groups to be valid for 5 years

Thank you