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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators**Sixth session**

Geneva, 30 October-1 November 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth session****To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 30 October 2012*****I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifth session.
3. Review of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators:
 - (a) Air temperature;
 - (b) Atmospheric precipitation;
 - (c) Drinking water quality;
 - (d) Final energy consumption;
 - (e) Total energy consumption;

* According to the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the website of the Joint Task Force (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.10.environ.html>) and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks prior to the meeting, by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (ludmila.boichuk@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please telephone the secretariat at +41 22 917 2364.

- (f) Average age of road motor vehicle fleet.
- 4. Third reading of the indicator of biodiversity not covered by the Guidelines: catches of fish and other aquatic animals and products.
- 5. Second reading of indicators of agriculture not covered by the Guidelines:
 - (a) Water-use intensity by agriculture;
 - (b) Cropping and livestock patterns;
 - (c) Gross nitrogen balance.
- 6. Discussion of developments and plans for work on indicators under an ongoing project for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation.
- 7. Other business.

II. Annotations

Following the recommendation by the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Bureau of the Conference of the European Statisticians, the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), at its meeting of 4 March 2011, approved the extension of the mandate of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators for the period 2011–2012. According to its terms of reference, the Joint Task Force should assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national state-of-the-environment reports in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. Its objectives are to further improve environmental statistics and produce the agreed indicators, strengthen environmental reporting and promote comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the pan-European region (see ECE/CEP/161, annex II).

The Joint Task Force is open to environmental experts and statisticians from all ECE countries. The European Environment Agency (EEA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Statistics Division, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health, the Inter-State Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other institutions are also invited to designate representatives to the Joint Task Force.

In addition to circulation through the regular channels, meeting documentation, including country contributions, will be posted online on a web page dedicated to the meeting (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.10.enviro.html>).

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda for its sixth session as contained in the present document.

2. Adoption of the report of the fifth session

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the report of its fifth session, contained in document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2012/5.

3. Review of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

- (a) Air temperature
- (b) Atmospheric precipitation
- (c) Drinking water quality
- (d) Final energy consumption
- (e) Total energy consumption
- (f) Average age of road motor vehicle fleet

The Joint Task Force will review selected indicators (sub-items (a)-(f) above) covered by the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia¹ (the Guidelines). The discussion will focus on the use of statistical classifications, data-collection methods and procedures for the production of these indicators.

The indicator evaluation will be supported by written communications by members of the Joint Task Force on their countries' experiences with the production of these indicators covering the points (indicator by indicator) as follows:

- (a) Effective inter-agency cooperation mechanisms to produce indicators;
- (b) Data quality assurance and control procedures for the production of the indicator;
- (c) Evidence of the publication of indicators in statistical compendiums and state-of-the-environment reports, indicator-based reports, web pages, environmental databases and information systems, as appropriate;
- (d) Usage of the indicator and/or related data at the national level and main information holders;
- (e) Time-series data on the indicators for 1990–2011 and glossaries of terms.

Country submissions (in English and/or Russian) should be provided to the secretariat **before 1 October 2012** so as to ensure their distribution to all registered participants and the preparation of a summary report before the meeting.

4. Third reading of the indicator of biodiversity not covered by the Guidelines: catches of fish and other aquatic animals and products

The Joint Task Force, at its fifth session, held a second reading of indicators on biodiversity not covered by the Guidelines. The Joint Task Force agreed on the texts of two of the three selected indicators, "Biosphere reserves and wetlands of international importance" and "Invasive alien species". The Joint Task Force is invited to consider the proposal for inclusion of the third additional selected indicator, "Catches of fish and other aquatic animals and products", as revised according to the discussion held at its fifth session.

¹ See *Environmental Indicators and Indicator-based Assessment Reports: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E 07.II.E.9). Available online at <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2007/ece/ece.belgrade.conf.2007.inf.6.e.pdf>.

5. Second reading of indicators of agriculture not covered by the Guidelines

- (a) Water-use intensity by agriculture
- (b) Cropping and livestock patterns
- (c) Gross nitrogen balance

The Joint Task Force, at its first session, agreed to continue working on three agri-environment indicators (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2010/2, para. 53), not covered by the Guidelines (see ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2010/4). The Joint Task Force is invited to consider the proposal for inclusion of the additional selected indicators (sub-items (a)-(c) above).

6. Discussion of developments and plans for work on indicators under an ongoing project for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation

A session to discuss developments and plans for work on indicators under an ongoing project for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation will be co-chaired by a representative of EEA, and is intended primarily for members of the Joint Task Force from the countries targeted, as well as invited international institutions. EEA is providing co-funding for the Task Force in 2012 under a European Community project on the Shared Environment Information System through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

The Joint Task Force will consider, among other things, the results of the analysis of the metadata survey, distributed after the fifth session of the Joint Task Force, on an initial ECE core set of environmental indicators for sustained data flow reporting and to discuss the possible way forward. This survey is carried out by Zoï Environment Network on behalf of EEA.

7. Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

III. Organization of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item(s) of the agenda</i>
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Tuesday, 30 October 2012

10–10.10 a.m.	1 and 2
10.10–11.30 a.m.	3 (a)
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 (b)
3–4.30 p.m.	3 (c)
4.30–6 p.m.	3 (d)

Wednesday, 31 October 2012

9.30–10.30 a.m	3 (e)
10.30–11.30 a.m.	3 (f)
11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	4
2.30–5.30 p.m.	5 (a) – (c)

Thursday, 1 November 2012

9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	6 and 7
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