

**Sixteenth session**

Geneva, 28-29 October 2019

Palais des Nations

Meeting room XI

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Agenda Item 4: Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force.

New SEIS assessment framework and final SEIS review





ENVIRONMENT

- Changes introduced by the Working Group
- Revised SEIS assessment framework
- Final SEIS review report
- Timeline
- Comments and questions

Changes introduced by the Working Group



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Looking back

At its 21st session, the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment agreed:

- Online reporting tool to be used as primary tool for data collection for final review of progress
- Pillar-based performance score option to be included in assessment framework

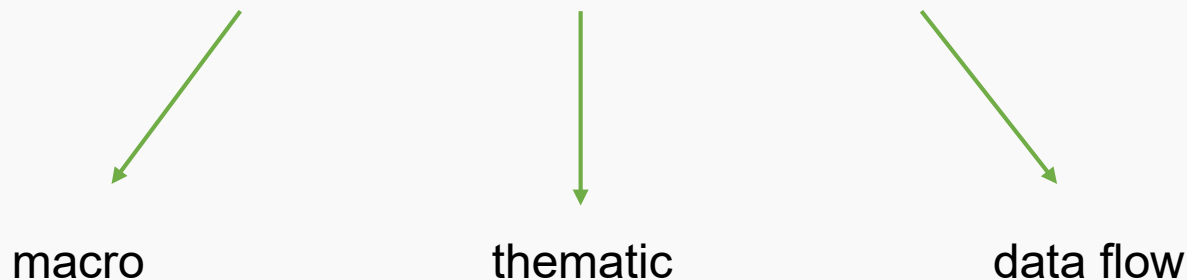
Revised SEIS assessment framework

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- The major change: **introduction of levels**

Different questions would be asked at three levels:



Macro-level questions asked once for a country

Thematic questions asked for each theme (for example, climate change or biodiversity)

Data flow questions asked for each data flow

Changes to the questionnaire



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- New category “General” introduced in questionnaire

Category	Questions	Level	Answers
General	1. Please outline steps that have been taken to further the establishment of a Shared Environmental Information System since the 2018 mid-term assessment.	Macro	Open
	1.1. Please provide links to any supporting information for relevant programmes, projects and/or initiatives.	Macro	Open
	2. How regularly do you produce an indicator-based national state-of-the-environment report? (If your answer is “D” or “E”, please go directly to question 2.2)	Macro	A. Annually B. Every second year C. Every five years D. No regular frequency E. Never
	2.1. Please provide a link to the latest report.	Macro	Open
	2.2. Please explain why reports are not being produced or are not produced with regular frequency based on the associated environmental indicators.	Macro	Open
	3. Do you produce any integrated environmental reports covering several thematic areas? (If your answer is “No”, please go directly to question 3.4)	Macro	Yes or No
	3.1. Please specify the thematic areas covered.	Macro	List all themes
	3.2. Please specify how regularly you produce this/these report(s) (If your answer is “D”, please go directly to question 3.4).	Macro	A. Annually B. Every second year C. Every five years D. No regular frequency
	3.3. Please provide the link(s) to the report(s).	Macro	Open
	3.4. Please explain why no reports are being produced based on the associated environmental indicators.	Macro	Open

- Guidance on questionnaire improved (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/3, section III.A)

A. Guidance on the Shared Environmental Information System assessment framework questionnaire

32. The questionnaire (see table 2 above) and this accompanying guidance have been designed to support the national authorities in reporting on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System by using the assessment framework.

33. All questions that are scored (see table 3 below) will be used to calculate performance scores. All open questions are mandatory as the written responses will provide key inputs to the final review. It should also be noted that some of the open-answer questions are based on the responses provided to the multiple-choice questions (for example, question that can be answered “Yes” or “No”). This implies that the number of mandatory open-answer questions may vary depending on the answers given to the multiple-choice questions. Closed questions 3.2, 6, 11.1 and 19.1 are not scored.

Questions 1 and 1.1. Improvements since the 2018 mid-term assessment

34. The purpose of question 1 is to identify and clearly outline any steps that have been taken to further the establishment of a Shared Environmental Information System since the 2018 mid-term review (ECE/CEP/2019/7). Such developments concern any of the three main pillars of the System (cooperation, common content and infrastructure). This is an open question and an extended response may be provided.

35. If applicable, the follow-up question (1.1) requests that supporting information be provided to substantiate the response provided, such as references to any new legislation or links to new online platforms.

Changes to the questionnaire



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■ New possible answers to questions

Continuously/live = 1
 Monthly = 1
 Annually = 1
 Over one year = 1
 According to the legal provisions on the frequency of dissemination = 1
 No regular frequency = 0

European Environment Agency format for data flows = 0.2
 Reports (for example, a state-of-the-environment report) = 0.2
 Visual presentations (for example, tables, maps or graphs) = 0.2
 Links to legislative documents provided = 0.2
 Connection to policy targets demonstrated = 0.2

Information on data quality = 0.1
 Information on methodology = 0.1
 Information on data sources = 0.1
 Temporal coverage = 0.1
 Geographic coverage = 0.1
 Contact information for the data = 0.1
 Information on rights = 0.1
 Information on ownership = 0.1
 Information on processor = 0.1
 Data flow made available in English and/or Russian = 0.1

Annually = 1
 Every second year = 1
 Every five years = 1
 No regular frequency = 0
 Never = 0

Complete factsheet = 1
 Only data = 0.25

■ Questions improved and more precise

Accessibility

12. Is the data flow readily available and accessible online for users on a national platform?

12.1. Please provide a link to the data flow.

12.2 Have you taken any other steps to improve the accessibility of the data flows within the thematic area?

12.3. Is there an integrated portal in place for environmental information and data?

13. In what formats is the data flow presented?

13.1. Please describe the factsheet by selecting as many options as apply.

Changes to the score

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SEIS performance score

- Pillar-based performance score
- Score for each question calculated in same way as done for mid-term review
- No distinction between categories in terms of weighting
- One performance score per pillar (each pillar weighted equally) and one aggregated national performance score
- Question scores summed separately at each level: macro, thematic and data flow levels
- Each of sums divided by the maximum score for that level to give a percentage score
- Interim percentage scores, for individual pillars and the three pillars together, will be reported alongside overall performance scores



Better balance between levels, as questions answered different numbers of times at the three levels

Weighting between the levels of questions in the assessment framework

<i>Category</i>	<i>Weighting (Percentage)</i>
1. Macro: Only asked once	20
2. Thematic: Asked for each thematic area	30
3. Data flow: Asked for each data flow	50

Final SEIS assessment review report



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- At its 24th session (Geneva, 29–31 January 2019), Committee on Environmental Policy welcomed mid-term review report on establishment of SEIS (ECE/CEP/2019/7) prepared by Working Group
- Committee also requested Working Group to lead further review of progress in establishing SEIS in Europe & Central Asia in advance of next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference
- Final report to include 22 data flows, covering all 18 core indicators (including A1, A2, A3, B3, C1, C2, C10, C11, D1, D4, E1, F2, G1, G2, G3, G4, H1 and I1)
- 4 of the 7 data flows used for mid-term review included; others are not, in order to minimize total number of data flows to report on

Structure of the final SEIS review report



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Possible table of contents of report:

- I. Overview of main achievements and key findings
 - A. Working Group recommendations
 - B. Key findings
 - C. The pillars of SEIS
 1. Content
 2. Infrastructure
 3. Institutional cooperation
- II. Lessons learned and challenges
- III. Further steps
 - A. Relevance
 - B. Accessibility
 - C. Comparability
- IV. Fact sheets on key findings and messages

Possible table of contents of annex:

- I. Assessment framework
- II. Data collection
- III. Indicator and national performance scores

Possible table of contents of supplement:

Would echo structure of main report



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Working Group decided on following timeline for finalization of the assessment framework:

- Members of Working Group to send comments on assessment framework until 31 May 2019
- In June 2019, a small group comprised of representatives of countries to review comments, revise the questionnaire and agree on data flows to be assessed in final review of progress
- Secretariat to prepare draft outline of final review of progress, to be considered by Joint Task Force at its 16th session
- Data collection for final assessment of progress might begin in December 2019

Working Group agreed a written silence procedure be applied for approval of:

- Finalized assessment framework to be used for the final review of progress, including questions to be posed, indicators and data flows to be reviewed and application of chosen scoring system, in July 2019
- Outline of final review of progress, in November 2019
- Working Group requested UNEP, in close coordination with secretariat, to finalize online reporting tool in time for 16th session of the Joint Task Force



Questions & comments

Thank you!

