

**Seventeenth session**

26 October 2020

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the report of the sixteenth session of the Joint Task Force.

Key outcomes of the 16th session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators



**ENVIRONMENT**

- Objectives
- Decisions and recommendations of the 16th session of the Joint Task Force
- Status of implementation of decisions and recommendations
- Comments and questions

Issues considered during the 16th session of the Joint Task Force

ENVIRONMENT



- Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the fifteenth session of the Joint Task Force (Geneva, 25–26 October 2018);
- Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force
 - Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) finalized assessment framework
 - Pan-European environmental assessment
 - System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
 - Waste statistics
 - European Environment Agency activities
 - Expert Group on Environment Statistics
 - Green growth indicators
 - Climate change indicators
- Review of the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators;
- Ongoing and planned capacity-development activities.

I. Introduction / Organizational matters

- The Joint Task Force elected **Ms. Ekaterina Poleshchuk** (Belarus) as its **Chair** and **Ms. Ševala Korajčević** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and **Ms. Natalia Shashlova** (Russian Federation) as its **Vice-Chairs**.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

- The Joint Task Force adopted the agenda for its sixteenth session, as contained in document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/1.

III. Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the fifteenth session of the Joint Task Force

- The Joint Task Force took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the fifteenth session of the Joint Task Force.
- The Joint Task Force adopted the report of its fifteenth session (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2018/2).



ENVIRONMENT

IV. Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force

A. Progress in establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

- The Joint Task Force took note of the information provided by the secretariat and UNEP on the revised Shared Environmental Information System assessment framework (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/3), an online reporting tool and the draft outline of a progress report on the establishment of the System;
- The Joint Task Force requested the secretariat that an offline (Excel-based) reporting format also be provided for assessing progress in establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System and that it be thoroughly tested by the end of 2019; **[done]**
- The Joint Task Force agreed to provide comments on the draft outline of a progress report of the establishment of the SEIS and the draft of the forthcoming ECE publication by November 2019. **[done]**

ENVIRONMENT



B. Pan-European environmental assessment

- The Joint Task Force agreed to provide comments on a concept note for a pan-European environmental assessment. The first round of comments was due by 12 November 2019, before the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy. The second round of comments might be sent until the end of 2019. [done]

C. System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

- The Joint Task Force welcomed the information provided by the secretariat on international work related to the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. The secretariat should explore how to organize more capacity-building activities on the System. [done]

D. Waste Statistics

- The Joint Task Force also welcomed the information provided by the secretariat and the United Nations University on the waste statistics framework and e-waste statistics;

D. Waste Statistics (continued)

- The Joint Task Force took note of a deadline indicated by the United Nations University for completing the questionnaire on e-waste, which would be mid-December 2019;
- The Joint Task Force noted that countries faced many challenges in gathering official statistics on electronic waste and integrating e-waste estimates into national statistical frameworks.

G. Green growth indicators

- The Joint Task Force welcomed the information provided by the secretariat, the United Nations Statistics Division, the European Environment Agency and OECD on green growth indicators, relevant work of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, outcomes from the Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-related Statistics and other relevant work of those bodies;



ENVIRONMENT

F. Environment statistics

- The Joint Task Force noted the importance of a coordination mechanism between national statistical offices and the environmental authorities when defining environmental statistics;

H. Climate change indicators

- The Joint Task Force encouraged the alignment of the climate change indicators within the set of ECE environmental indicators with other climate change-related indicators developed for major policy processes. **[done]**



ENVIRONMENT

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

- The Joint Task Force welcomed the note prepared by the secretariat on the Amendment of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/4);
- The Joint Task Force welcomed the information provided by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, as presenters, alongside the secretariat, the United Nations University, the United Nations Statistics Division and OECD, addressing indicator metadata, air pollution and ozone depletion, water, waste and environmental financing;
- Joint Task Force welcomed the work undertaken by the secretariat, partner organizations and small technical groups, including member State experts, to review the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators;
- Joint Task Force noted that further work on the Guidelines would be carried out by the secretariat and the small groups. The revised Guidelines would be considered approved if no substantives comments had been submitted within four weeks;



ENVIRONMENT

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

- The Joint Task Force requested the secretariat to present the completed parts of the revised Guidelines as an official document at its next session, given the official publication of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators; [\[on the agenda\]](#)
- The Joint Task Force requested the secretariat to address the comments made when amending the Guidelines, and to report on the progress made at the next meeting. [\[on the agenda\]](#)

VI. Ongoing and planned capacity-development activities

- The Joint Task Force welcomed the information provided by Belarus and Uzbekistan and the capacity-building activities of ECE, UNEP, the European Environment Agency and OECD.



Proposed Decision:

- (a) The Joint Task Force approves the adoption of the report of the sixteenth session of the Joint Task Force (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/2).



Questions & Comments

Thank you!

