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High-level dialogue

Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources: Toolbox of instruments of the Economic Commission for Europe

Note by the secretariat

The high-level segment of the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will be held under the theme “Promoting circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe”. Related issues have been prominent areas of the Commission’s work for many years and have yielded a rich body of instruments and knowledge products in its eight subprogrammes.

This toolbox document lists key instruments developed by ECE that are available to member States and other stakeholders in support of their efforts to transition to a more circular economy and/or embrace related principles in their policy planning and economic practices.

I. Introduction

1. The high-level segment of the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will be held under the theme “Promoting circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe”. Related issues have been prominent areas of the Commission’s work for many years and have yielded a rich body of instruments and knowledge products in all its eight subprogrammes.
2. **Environment:** The Environment subprogramme provides regional support to member States on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Key initiatives with relevance to the high-level theme include the Environment for Europe (EfE) process; Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs); enhanced environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting; ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); Education for Sustainable Development; the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Program; and the European Environment and Health process.
3. **Transport:** Through its normative and policy work, as well as its analytical and capacity-building activities, the subprogramme on Sustainable Transport contributes considerably to key aspects of the regional and global economy by creating the desired “loop” that optimizes the use of resources in a circular economy. All four pillars of the Inland Transport Committee Strategy until 2030, adopted by the Committee at its eighty-second session (ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2), include elements of the circular economy and help to accelerate the transition to sustainable inland transport.
4. **Statistics:** To enable relevant policy decisions related to circular economy and its measurement, it is essential that common concepts and frameworks be developed at the international level. Existing statistical standards, guidelines and country practices provide an important foundation for measuring the circular economy. Countries have started measuring selected aspects of circular economy, and international organizations have initiated important methodological work in this area. Building on its experience in the field, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) is working with other international organizations towards the development of a harmonized approach to measuring circular economy.
5. **Economic cooperation and integration:** To develop the circular economy as a global or cross-regional concept, rather than a locally contained model, the subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration helps, through its normative, analytical and capacity-building work, among others, to harness the power of innovation as a driver for circularity and to benefit from public private partnerships (PPPs), as a way to mobilize public and private investment for a transition to a more circular economy.
6. **Sustainable Energy:** The subprogramme on Sustainable Energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. Key instruments to promote a circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources include the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS); the High Performance Buildings Initiative of ECE and its Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings; Best practice guidance for management of methane in extractive industries; and Recommendations on carbon capture and storage.
7. **Trade:** To harness the contribution of international trade to a transition towards a more circular economy, the subprogramme on Trade of ECE, through its normative, analytical and capacity-building work, helps, among others: to reduce resource use caused by trade and supply chain disruptions (UN/CEFACT); to foster transparency and traceability of supply chains to transform particularly resource intensive sectors (UN/CEFACT); and to address novel policy challenges, such as food-loss/waste in agricultural trade and supply chains (e.g. FeedUP@UN).
8. **Forestry and timber:** The subprogramme on Forestry and Timber addresses questions of circular economy along the entire production chain of forest-derived goods. Forest products constitute a renewable resource that is particularly suitable to circularity approaches: sustainable forest management and conservation are goals aspired to by forest managers around the world; ecosystem services are increasingly recognized as important joint production possibilities in forest product chains; use of waste, particularly in energy

production, is a common and long-standing practice throughout the wood products sector; and reuse and recycling are common, for example, in lumber salvage and paper recycling.

9. **Urban development, housing, land management and population:** Circularity is a concept that can be applied in urban areas, whereby the entire city ecosystem needs to limit its environmental footprint and rely on circular cycles of production and consumption within city boundaries. Resilience implies the strengthening of city infrastructure and capacity to stand natural and human made shocks. Both circularity and resilience require a re-thinking of the urban fabric, with a different approach to policies and well as practice. A recent focus area is the circular city implementation framework that is designed to improve circularity in cities and support stakeholders in implementing circular actions.

II. Toolbox of ECE instruments related to the Circular Economy

10. In the table below, key instruments developed by the Economic Commission are listed that support member States and other stakeholders in their efforts to transition to a more circular economy and/or embrace related principles in their policy planning and economic practices. This “toolbox” is arranged by subprogramme and provides a brief description of the scope and impact of each instrument. To facilitate access to additional information, further materials are hyperlinked. For ease of reference, each tool is categorized either as legal framework, policy analysis document, or good practice guidance.

11. This ECE toolbox complements the report on “Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources: trends and opportunities in the ECE region”, as contained in document E/ECE/1495.

Toolbox of ECE instruments related to the theme of the high-level segment of the sixty-ninth Commission session: “Promoting circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources”

<i>Tool/Deliverable</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Legal policy framework</i>	<i>Policy analysis</i>	<i>Good practices</i>
Subprogramme 1: Environment					
The pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy; and its Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)	Policy framework, which promotes a green and circular economy approach; voluntary commitments to operationalize the framework.	123 BIG-E commitments from member States and international organizations as of the beginning of 2021 (The status of 96 actions was assessed for a mid-term review in November 2018: 28 – fully implemented, 15 – partially implemented, 49 – in progress, 4 – not implemented.)			X
Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)	Voluntary commitments for improving air quality and protecting public health and ecosystems.	108 BACA commitments from member States and international organizations as of the beginning of 2021. (The status of 84 actions was assessed for a mid-term review in November 2018: 32 – completed, 44 – in progress, 1 – not implemented, 7 – no information.)			X
Environmental Performance Review	Assessment and recommendations for environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, comprising issues related to circular economy.	Improved governance and policy-making: As of November 2020, 15 countries have assessed progress in greening their economies, including, since 2017, achieving 9 SDG targets related to the green economy.		X	
Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators	SEIS aims to organize environmental information based on key principles and to create online systems that make environmental information available for multiple users for improved decision-making.	Improved policymaking, enhanced comparability of information.			X
Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and eight protocols	The Convention lays down general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and provides an institutional framework which brings together research and policy. It covers all major air pollutants and emissions sources.	Air emissions of some harmful substances reduced by 40 to 80 per cent since 1990 in Europe. Acidification halted; ongoing recovery of lakes and forest soils.	X		

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		Decoupling of economic growth and air pollution trends; prevention of 600,000 premature deaths annually; increase in average life expectancy by 12 months.			
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)	The Convention and its soft law tools lay down general principles of transboundary water cooperation and pollution prevention to ensure the sustainable use of transboundary water resources, improve water and intersectoral governance and related climate change adaptation.	Since the Convention's entry into force in 1992, increased resilience to climate change in 5 major basins with a total population of around 35 million persons.	X		
Protocol on Water and Health	The Protocol requires its Parties to set intersectoral targets and develop action plans on water, hygiene and sanitation, including in the areas of reuse of wastewater and reuse of sewage sludge for agricultural purposes. Implementation is periodically reviewed through a mandatory reporting system.	Policy and technical improvement through target setting in 27 Parties and other States. Facilitating policy development on reuse of wastewater and reuse of sewage sludge for agricultural purposes in the context of water scarcity and other climate change impacts.	X	X	X
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)	The Convention requires Parties to guarantee the public the right to access to information, participate in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. It also promotes the right of every person to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, and the duty, both individually and in association with others, to protect and improve the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.	Channelling environmental and human health concerns into decision-making; improved trust in public administration and effective flow and access to environment-related information on products and activities to support the circular economy and effective use of natural resources. Guidance material and good practice collections developed under the Convention support knowledge sharing and capacity building of the countries with regard to access to information using modern digital technologies and public participation in decision-making.	X		
Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers	The Protocol requires the Parties to establish nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers. These facilitate collecting and disseminating data on pollutant releases, resource consumption and other information from production facilities and make information easily available to public,	Improved decision-making processes based on environmental and human health-related information; facilitating policy analysis and policy adaptation; improved trust in production facilities and public administration. Guidance material, good practice	X	X	X

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	consumers and other stakeholders. Modernized PRTR systems can be used to improve monitoring and controlling of input and output parameters from industrial activities, such as energy consumption, pollutant releases and transfer of waste.	collections under the Protocol and sharing of experience in its implementation support knowledge sharing, capacity building and development of modern pollutant release and transfer registers. Using PRTRs for reporting obligations of other national and international instruments can help companies and authorities to save resources and avoid duplication of effort.			
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	Strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment allow incorporation of targets for sustainable use of natural resources and circular economy into plans in relevant economic fields, such as waste management, tourism, town and country planning, agriculture, water management, industry including mining and energy.	Prevention and mitigation of damage to environment and human health, through early assessment of impacts of plans and programmes and consideration of more sustainable alternatives and technologies; Informed and participative planning and decision-making through consultation of environmental and health authorities and the public, including in a transboundary context.	X		
Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	The Convention sets out principles for industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response, and fosters enhanced governance and transboundary cooperation.	Enhanced industrial safety and increased disaster risk management (incl. more circular practices that reduce demand for raw materials). Safety guidelines and good industry practice improve safety and minimize releases from potential accidents (e.g. at tailings management facilities).	X		
Good Practice Collection: Addressing Sustainable Consumption, production and transportation through education for sustainable development	Concrete examples from governments, international organizations, research institutes, academia and NGOs on how to promote sustainable production and consumption through education for sustainable development.	Raised awareness among policy makers, educators and public, promoting a shift towards a more sustainable and circular economy.			X
Subprogramme 2: Sustainable Transport					
AC.1 Regulation on software updates	Regulatory activities dealing with the wear of parts that must be replaced regularly.	Limitation of the premature and aesthetic obsolescence of vehicles.	X		

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UN Regulation No. 133	Regulatory activities to reduce the environmental footprint and life-cycle impact of vehicle production and disposal.	Regulation covers one quarter of all vehicles sold globally in 2019 for which 85 per cent of the vehicle mass should be reusable/recyclable and 95 per cent reusable/recoverable.	X		
UN Regulations Nos.108 and 109	Regulatory activities to reduce environmental footprint and lifecycle impact of tyres for private (Regulation 108) and commercial (Regulation 109) vehicles.	Reuse of the carcass of vehicle tyres that amounts to more than 80 per cent of the whole tyre by renewing the tyre's tread and thus providing for a second (third) life of the tyre.	X		
UN Regulation No. 101 & UN Global Technical Regulation No. 15 & upcoming UN Regulation on World harmonized Light vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP)	These three regulatory instruments constitute a globally harmonized procedure to measure fuel consumption and tailpipe CO ² emissions from cars and vans.	Better use of finite resources and reduced pollution.	X		
ECE infrastructure agreements on - international railway lines (AGC), - inland waterways (AGN), - traffic arteries (AGR), and - combined transport lines and related installations (AGTC)	The agreements harmonize key parameters for the construction, maintenance and upgrade of the infrastructure supporting each of the inland transport modes, including intermodal transport.	Suitable use of infrastructure that prevents augmented wear for extended lifespan and reduced need for repair. Greater resilience due to climate change adaptation measures.	X		
Inland waterway infrastructure agreement (AGN), Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network, European Code for Inland Waterways	The agreement/resolutions promote key elements of circular economy in inland water transport.	Prevention of waste generated on vessels from polluting waterways and harmonization of waste generated on board vessels for separate collection, efficient recycling and reuse.	X		
Policy recommendations by the Transport, Health and	Policy recommendations and studies on the sharing economy and sustainable urban transport, incl. potential green jobs in	Decreased resource demands and environmental impact of urban transport.		X	

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Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) on Mobility-as-a-Service and Urban Public Transport	cycling, the switch to increased public transport and electrification, integrating transport into urban planning, a cycling masterplan, eco-driving guidelines etc.				
Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and by European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)	The agreement addresses the design, construction, use, reuse and repair of containment systems for dangerous goods (boxes, tanks, etc.). Transport of damaged or waste packaging that has contained dangerous goods and of dangerous articles for recycling or disposal are subject to ADR/ADN provisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transition to cleaner mobility systems with the development of provisions that allow the use of battery, electric and hybrid vehicles for the transport of dangerous goods; - Limitation of the production of disposable packagings and other means of containment with provisions to clean, reuse, recondition, remanufacture and repair those used for the transport of dangerous goods; - Development of provisions to regulate the use of packagings manufactured with recycled plastics materials for the transport of dangerous goods; - Provisions for the design, construction, testing and safe transport of electric storage systems such as batteries and fuel cells including provisions for their collection and transport when used or damaged, for recycling or disposal purposes; - Provisions for the transport of dangerous wastes for disposal or recycling and development and revision of provisions to address the new challenges faced by the waste management industry to further facilitate the disposal or recycling of these wastes in a circular economy pattern with the guarantee of a high level of safety during transport. 	X		

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Legal instruments which contribute to limiting food loss and waste: TIR and eTIR, ATP	TIR provides for faster, more efficient transit through borders for trucks. eTIR renders the process paperless. ATP regulates the carriage of perishable foodstuff.	Limiting food waste through the highest standards of carriage, efficient customs procedures, priority treatment of perishable foodstuffs and the use of green lanes, diminishing wait times at borders and the use of paper documents.	X		
Subprogramme 3: Statistics					
CES Statistical Framework on Waste Statistics (to be approved by CES in June 2021)	The framework links waste statistics with statistics on product and material flows and waste-related emissions to the environment. It considers waste from a wider perspective, including waste prevention, use of secondary raw materials, and informal and illegal waste-related activities.	The framework provides the foundation for measuring various aspects of a circular economy. It helps to identify measurement gaps and define which existing waste statistics can be used or need to be improved, and which new statistics have to be developed for measuring circularity of the economy.		X	
In-depth review of Measuring Circular Economy	The in-depth review covers definitions, information needs and measurement challenges and provides an overview of international statistical activities in the area, as well as country practices and a listing of issues and challenges. It formulates a set of recommendations to harmonize measuring circular economy and to produce policy-relevant information.	Practical guidelines on producing circular economy-related statistics, exchanging experience and knowledge and coordinating statistical activities in this area will harmonize the approaches, improve comparability of the measurement of circular economy in the ECE region and lead to better evidence-based policies.		X	X
CES Recommendations on Climate Change-related Statistics and its set of core climate change-related statistics and indicators.	The CES Recommendations and the related set of statistics and indicators guide national statistical offices in their regular production of policy-relevant information on the climate change drivers, impacts, mitigation, adaptation and on GHG emissions.	Internationally comparable statistics on climate change are being produced in the ECE region. (Global work under the umbrella of UN Statistical Commission uses the work of ECE as a basis). Important aspects of measuring circularity of the economy, such as energy efficiency or carbon footprint, are part of the recommendations.		X	
System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Central Framework (SEEA-CF)	The SEEA Central Framework is a global statistical standard for measuring the interactions between the economy and the environment. It is a fundamental tool for measuring Circular	- Increased capacity in countries to implement and use SEEA, including for measuring circularity of the economy;		X	X

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	Economy and providing the necessary links between environment statistics and the System of National Accounts.	- Platform for exchange of knowledge and experience (e.g. 2020 and 2021 Joint OECD Seminar on SEEA implementation have sessions on measuring circular economy).			
Online inventory of Satellite Accounts	The online inventory presents international guidance and statistical accounts developed by ECE countries to provide detailed insights into various aspects of economic development and circularity, such as environment, ecosystems and natural resources.	Improved knowledge on compiling of internationally comparable statistics on economic and environmental developments, including for assessing circularity.			X
Subprogramme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration					
Guiding Principles on People-first PPPs	Guidance material and policy recommendations to promote sustainable infrastructure investment which puts people first and is aligned with the SDGs.	Fostering environmental sustainability, including circularity, incl. through - building resilient infrastructure; - attracting investments; - creating renewable energy facilities; and - reducing emissions.			X
People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology	A methodology to evaluate and score infrastructure and PPP projects and to determine the extent to which they meet the People-first PPP designation.	Enhancing circularity in resilient infrastructure and PPPs by fostering the incorporation of circularity considerations in project evaluation and design and by evaluating circularity-enhancing projects such as in the waste-to-energy sector.			X
Guidelines on Promoting People-first PPP in Waste-to-Energy Projects for the Circular Economy	Guidelines that explore how the Waste-to-Energy industry can contribute to a transition towards a circular economy through the use of People-first and SDG-compliant PPPs. The Guidelines provide Governments and stakeholders seven best practice options to make Waste-to-Energy projects compatible with the People-first approach to PPPs.	Reduction of waste (e.g. through incineration of non-recyclable solid waste through energy recovery; recovery of materials from non-recoverable waste).			X
ECE standard on PPPs in renewable energy	Guidance and recommendations for governments using People-first PPPs to mobilize investment in renewable energy infrastructure as a way of achieving the SDGs.	Fostering circularity by encouraging renewable energy projects to be assessed on the basis of the “value for people” approach that address critical			X

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		challenges, including lowering CO2 emissions; and taking on practices for a circular economy.			
Good practices on Innovation for the Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production	Policy recommendations and good practices	Acceleration of a transition to a circular economy by promoting innovation for sustainable consumption and production.			X
Good practices on Innovation-enhancing Procurement for Sustainable Development	Collection of good practices in ECE region on the use of public procurement to boost innovation with policy recommendations for innovation-enhancing procurement.	Promoting innovation-enhancing procurement to help foster circularity.			X
National Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (pilot)	Country-level and sub-regional policy advice and capacity building guidance to foster innovation, e.g. in the area of sustainable public procurement practices.	Strengthened scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.		X	
Subprogramme 5: Sustainable Energy					
UN Framework Classification for Resources	A system for classifying and reporting resources considering technical, social, environmental, and economic challenges and opportunities.	Integrated optimization across all resources and direction of investments to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (The application to anthropogenic resources is particularly relevant to a circular economy.)			X
UN Resource Management System	Comprehensive system for integrated, sustainable management of resources under fundamental sustainability principles including circularity.	A toolkit to aid development of resources with zero wastes and no harm.			X
Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings	Principles improving sustainability of buildings at all stages of design, use and disposal	Reduced emissions from buildings.			X
Best practice guidelines for management of methane in operating coal mines, from abandoned coal mines, and the oil and gas sector	Guidelines for the sustainable and profitable recovery and use of methane from extractive activities.	Conversion of recovered methane to usable energy, reducing emissions and use of polluting fossil fuels, improved mine safety and productivity, increased revenues and cost savings.			X

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Recommendations on carbon capture and storage	Guidance on enhancing uptake of carbon capture and storage technologies.	Reduction of emissions in areas still dependent on fossil fuels.			X
Subprogramme 6: Trade					
Framework of indicators (*under development) and studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade	Evidence-based analysis on end-to-end supply chain activities associated with trade in goods, aimed at localizing SDGs and guiding non-tariff measures reforms. Best practices, recommendations, for building a system of laws and institutions for speeding up customs clearance, fostering regulatory cooperation and supporting industrial upgrading.	Support industrial upgrades as pre-requisites for a sustained transition to a circular economy.		X	
FeedUP@UN (by ECE) – digital tool	Food loss/waste tracking and measuring application that encompasses the entire supply chain.	Fostering the establishment of a circular economy food eco-system and the reduction of food loss and waste; Provision of tools for data collection, monitoring and analysis that can inform the design of policy interventions.			X
Reference page on food loss and waste FeedUP@UN online portal	Web-based information to connect and build expertise among stakeholders. Online portal with comprehensive information and access to FeedUP@UN.				X
Code of Good Practice – Reducing food loss in handling fruit and vegetables	Training tool aimed to reduce fresh food losses.				X
Simply Measuring	UNECE food loss and waste measuring methodology for fresh produce supply chain.				X
ECE Portal on Standards for the SDGs	Mapping tool to identify standards relevant to achieving certain SDGs. Of particular relevance to a circular economy transition are SDGs 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).	Awareness-raising of standards that promote the implementation of the SDGs to support policymakers.			X

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ECE – UN/CEFACT Policy Recommendation No. 46 on Transparency and Traceability for Sustainable and Circular Value Chains in Garment and Footwear (*under development)	Policy recommendation promoting a harmonized framework on transparency and traceability (includes implementation guidelines, a model action plan and call for action).	Supports policymakers and decision makers in the public and private sectors in the adoption of laws, regulations and business models for transparency and traceability, which can help consumers and producers to make informed purchasing choices in support of circularity.			X
UN/CEFACT Standards for traceability of sustainable and circular value chains: 1. Standards for sustainable and circular garment and footwear products and processes (*under development) 2. Standards for traceability of animal and plant based processes and products	E-business standards that support public authorities, industry and consumers in the identification and collection of information about the composition and attributes of products, compliance with sustainability and circularity, legal requirements and standards, including on the use of hazardous substances.	Supports industry actors in improved eco-design, planning and managing of reuse and recycling processes, more effective and efficient waste prevention and management. Promotes harmonized information exchange in compliance with global and regional policies, regulations and standards for sustainable and circular value chains.			X
ECE Pilot on Blockchain for Sustainable and Circular Value Chains in Cotton Value Chains (ongoing)	Capacity-building project to test the application of the transparency and traceability approach in a blockchain environment, support transparency and traceability.	Harnessing new technologies to make value chains more circular; Definition of value chain, data model and technology model for the traceability of cotton value chains; Analysis of legal aspects of blockchain implementation (data security and privacy); Integration test for partner certification and necessary KPI's stored on blockchains.			X
ECE Policy Paper on Accelerating Action for a Sustainable and Circular Garment and Footwear Sector	Analysis of sustainability impacts and risks in the sector and recommendations for remedial action. It offers policy guidance to help create an environment conducive to circular practices and articulates key requirements for and components of a robust transparency and traceability framework at industry level.	Fosters an environment conducive to circular practices and in support of robust transparency and traceability frameworks at industry level.		X	

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UN/CEFACT standards for control of food quality and safety and soil contamination (eLab, eCrop, eCERT)	E-business standards to digitize food safety and quality control certificates.	Expedites the exchange of documents in the supply chain, thereby avoiding unnecessary degradation of produce, transmission of pests and diseases and food loss. In this way, the standards can contribute to waste prevention and increase resource efficiency.			X
ECE - UN/CEFACT Policy Recommendation No. 43 on Sustainable Procurement	Good practices for the purchase of sustainable and circular products and services.	Enhanced market share of sustainable and circular products and services; incentivizing innovation for the transition to sustainable and circular production and consumption, and promotion of greater international harmonization of circular purchasing practices.			X
ECE UN/CEFACT Policy Recommendation No. 41 on PPPs in Trade Facilitation	Policy guidance on governance; supporting information technology and infrastructure design.	Strengthening of effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships when exploring new regulatory models and coordinating economic approaches for information technology and infrastructure design, including in priority sectors for the circular economy transition (e.g. transport and logistics).			X
UN/CEFACT standards for connectivity and semantic interoperability: - Core Component Library - Reference Data Models - Code Lists - UN/EDIFACT	E-business standards for harmonized and interoperable communication methods covering the entire supply chain.	Prevention of value chain disruptions due to ineffective e-communication, reducing the cost and time of doing trade, avoiding perishable goods loss, lowering the carbon footprint of cross-border transactions. In this way, the standards can advance sustainable trade facilitation for the circular economy.			X
UN/CEFACT Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX)	E-business standard allowing fisheries management organizations to access electronic data from fishing vessels for better stock management.	Promotion of more efficient management of resources and conservation/preservation of biodiversity (Assists public authorities in preventing overfishing and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities).			X

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UN/CEFACT Standard for Transboundary Movement of Waste	E-business standard for tracking/tracing of waste-management-related data in compliance with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal.	Promotion of more effective and efficient waste analysis/classification and, subsequently, waste management through appropriate treatment processes.			X
UN/CEFACT White Papers on Blockchain for Trade and the SDGs	White Papers discussing the role of blockchain technology in the reliability and security of data exchange for trade facilitation, and effective and efficient management of sustainable value chains.	Advancement of the implementation and monitoring of many SDGs, e.g. related to reducing food waste, supporting sustainable production or providing legal identities and financial services in a cost-efficient manner. Increased levels of confidence among supply chain actors, regulators and consumers through use of blockchain technology.		X	
Subprogramme 7: Forestry and Timber					
Joint Reporting on Forests and Sustainable Forest Management	Comprehensive data collection on forests and sustainable forest management, including on volume, growth, mortality and use of wood resources	Data collection and evaluation for informed policy making and management of the whole process of the production and use of forest resources and products.		X	
Joint Forest Sector questionnaire	Data collection on recovered post-consumer wood			X	
Joint Wood Energy Enquiry	Data collection on volumes of wood energy produced from recovered wood			X	
Study on “Forest and the Circular Economy” (upcoming)	Stock-take on information related to forests and the circular economy, wood-based value chains in a circular economy, and the social dimension of the circular and bioeconomy	Informed policymaking		X	
Forest Products Annual Market Review	Annual assessment that provides general and statistical information on the forest products markets in the ECE Region.	Informed policymaking that measures the contribution made by forest products in achieving SDG targets 7.1, 7.2, 12.2, 15.1 and 12.2 and 15.2.		X	
Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy	Document that outlines how the forest sector in the ECE region could lead the way towards the emerging green economy at the global level. It provides an overall vision, objectives and	Support to policy and decision-makers, improved cooperation and coordination among member States and global and regional organization. Facilitation of		X	X

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	specific activities, and identifies potential actors who might contribute to achieving the stated objectives.	dissemination of related information.			
The Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (2018–2021): The work plan of the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Provides a comprehensive plan for member States and the secretariat on the variety of activities related to forests and forest sector, contributing to reaching general and sectorial goals and targets, primarily the UN 2030 Agenda, with strong focus on supporting a circular and green economy in the sector.			X	X
Subprogramme 8: Urban Development, Housing, Land Management and Population					
Guide to Circular Cities	Implementation framework and a compendium of best practices developed jointly with ITU and other UN agencies.	Promotion of circular economy policies at local level and capacity-building for implementation.			X