

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Twenty-third session, Geneva and online, 4-5 May 2021

Agenda Item 4: Implementing the renewed mandate and terms of reference

Draft timetable of activities for 2022



Annual timetable of activities for 2022

ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/3



- At its 26th session the CEP approved extension of the mandate and ToR (2017–2021) of the Working Group until mid-2023 (ECE/CEP/2020/2, para. 38 (c)).
- The ToR require preparation of annual timetables of activities, taking into account financial and human resources available.
- The timetable is based on the extended mandate & ToR of the Working Group (ECE/CEP/2017/2, annex II and ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/4), & the revised outline of the Working Group's activities leading up to 2021 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/3).
- The Working Group will closely collaborate with national & international governmental, & non-governmental stakeholders, other UN bodies incl. the Joint Task Force to implement its activities
- The Working Group will support the secretariat to mobilize resources & assistance from regional and international organizations & member States

United Nations

ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/3



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Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Twenty-third session
Geneva, 3 and 4 May 2021
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

Draft annual timetable of activities for 2022

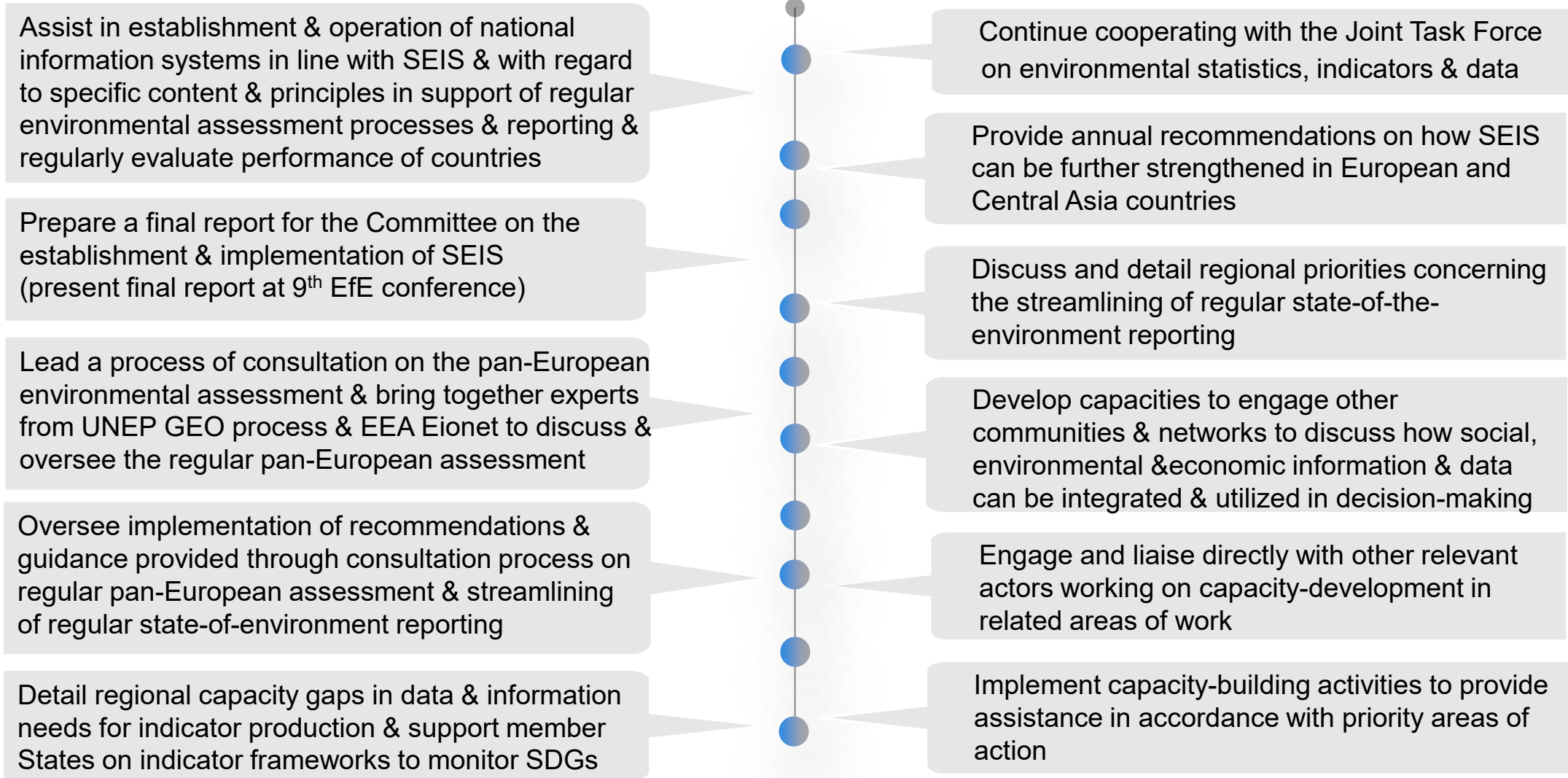
Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its twenty-sixth session (Geneva, 9 and 10 November 2020), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Environmental Policy approved the extension of the mandate and terms of reference (2017–2021) of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment until mid-2023 (ECE/CEP/2020/2, para. 38 (c)). The terms of reference require the preparation of annual timetables of activities, taking into account the financial and human resources available (ECE/CEP/2017/2, para. 32 (b), and annex II, para. 5 and ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/4).

The present document provides a draft annual timetable of activities for 2022 for consideration by the Working Group at its twenty-third session. The annual timetable of activities for 2022 will be submitted to the Committee on Environmental Policy for consideration at its twenty-seventh session (location and dates to be confirmed).

Main objectives and activities



Tasks and events



Capacity-building activities at annual sessions of the Working Group & Joint Task Force in support of SEIS implementation & regular monitoring and assessment, including on environment-related SDGs

Maintain the SEIS e-learning & knowledge-sharing platform (ECE with UNEP)

Review & amendment of the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

Presentation of the final review report SEIS on establishment at the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Nicosia

Provide annual recommendations on how SEIS can be further strengthened in Europe & Central Asia at annual Working Group & Joint Task Force

Liaise with other actors: ECE secretariat engagement with other actors, for example, EEA, OECD and UNEP

Support the preparation of a pan-European environmental assessment, supported by SEIS, with its nature, scope and leadership to be determined by the CEP & bring together UNEP GEO & EEA Eionet at annual Working Group & Joint Task Force

Implementation of capacity-building & provision of advisory services in order to assist in the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reports

Publication of other guidelines as appropriate

Develop capacities to engage other communities & networks to discuss how social, environmental & economic information & data can be integrated & utilized in decision-making & annual Working Group & Joint Task Force

Capacity development activities during the Working Group and Joint Task Force sessions

Draft timetable of activities for 2022



<i>Main overall objective and activity^a</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Task or event</i>	<i>Timing (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	<i>Other activities^a</i>						
A. Assist in the establishment and operation of national information systems in line with SEIS in Europe and Central Asia											
A.1. Continue supporting the establishment of SEIS with regard to its specific content and principles in support of regular environmental assessment processes and reporting	High	Capacity-building activities at annual sessions of the Working Group and Joint Task Force in support of SEIS implementation and regular monitoring and assessment, including on environment-related SDGs	May and October 2022	Holding of the capacity-building activities	B.3	A.3. Regularly evaluate the performance of ECE countries in establishing and implementing SEIS against the SEIS targets and performance indicators adopted by the Committee	High	Annual sessions of the Working Group and Joint Task Force	May and October 2022	Compilation of completed questionnaires on the establishment of SEIS and report of member States on progress in implementation	A.4
		Maintain the SEIS e-learning and knowledge-sharing platform (ECE with UNEP)	Throughout 2022	SEIS e-learning and knowledge-sharing platform	–	A.5. Prepare a mid-term and a final report for the Committee on the establishment and implementation of SEIS leading up to 2021	High	Presentation of the final review report on the establishment of SEIS at the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Nicosia	October 2022	Welcoming of the final report by ministers	–
A.2. Continue cooperating with the Joint Task Force in its work on environmental statistics and indicators, associated data sets and accompanying environmental information and data necessary to establish SEIS	High	Review and amendment of the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators	Throughout 2022	ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators reviewed and amended as appropriate	–	A.6. Provide annual recommendations on how SEIS can be further strengthened in European and Central Asian countries	Medium	Annual sessions of the Working Group and Joint Task Force	May and October 2022	Recommendations and advice provided to ECE countries in order to improve their SEIS performance	A.1, A.2, A.5

Draft timetable of activities for 2022



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<i>Main overall objective and activity^a</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Task or event</i>	<i>Timing (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	<i>Other activities^a</i>					
B. Lead a process of consultation on the regular pan-European environmental assessment and the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting by 2020						B.2. Discuss and detail regional priorities concerning the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting	High	Annual session of the Working Group	May 2022	Regional priorities described in the report on the Working Group session
B.1. Bring together experts involved in the UNEP Global Environment Outlook process and the EEA European Environment Information and Observation Network to discuss and oversee the regular pan-European environmental assessment	High	Annual sessions of the Working Group and meetings between ECE, EEA and UNEP, as appropriate	First half of 2022	Oversight described in the report on Working Group session		B.3. Oversee the implementation of proposed recommendations and guidance provided through the consultation process on the regular pan-European environmental assessment and the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting	Medium	Annual session of the Working Group and preparation of an overview of recommendations made and how they were addressed	May 2022	Implementation of recommendations supported, including through capacity-development activities and guidance
		Support the preparation of a pan-European environmental assessment, supported by SEIS, with its nature, scope and leadership to be determined by the Committee on Environmental Policy	First half of 2022	Pan-European environment assessment supported by SEIS				Implementation of capacity-building and provision of advisory services in order to assist in the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reports	Throughout 2022	Capacity-building activities implemented, and advisory services provided

Draft timetable of activities for 2022



<i>Main overall objective and activity^a</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Task or event</i>	<i>Timing (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	<i>Other activities^a</i>
C. Initiate a process of consultation on the development of a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks					C.4. Operationalize proposed recommendations and guidance provided through the consultative process to ensure the sustainable implementation of a regional network of networks (optional)
C.2. Cooperate with the Joint Task Force to ensure that all planned and future activities are synergetic and streamlined	High	Annual sessions of the Working Group and Joint Task Force	May 2022 and October 2022	Progress on environment statistics and indicators described in the reports of Working Group and Joint Task Force sessions	Low Annual session of the Working Group May 2022 Participation by other communities and networks described in the reports on Working Group sessions
C.3. Develop capacities to engage other communities and networks to discuss how environmental, social and economic information and data can be integrated and utilized in decision-making	Medium	Annual session of the Working Group	May 2022	Participation by other communities and networks described in the reports of Working Group sessions	Low Publication of other guidelines as appropriate 2022 Guidelines, lessons learned

Draft timetable of activities for 2022



<i>Main overall objective and activity^a</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Task or event</i>	<i>Timing (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	<i>Other activities^a</i>
D. Engage in capacity-building assistance addressing specific challenges related to environmental monitoring and assessment					
D.1. Detail regional and national capacity gaps in information and data needed for producing the ECE set of environmental indicators, the EEA core set of indicators, the OECD green growth indicators and the SDG indicators	Medium	Annual sessions of the Working Group and Joint Task Force	May and October 2022	Progress described in the reports on Working Group and Joint Task Force sessions	–
D.2. Support countries in the development of regional and national indicator frameworks to monitor the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and activities to support its implementation	Medium	Capacity-building and advisory services in support of SEIS implementation and regular monitoring and assessment, including on environment-related SDGs	Throughout 2022	Holding of the workshops or sessions	B.3
		Annual sessions of the Working Group and Joint Task Force	May and October 2022	Progress described in the reports on Working Group and Joint Task Force sessions	
D.3. Engage and liaise directly with other relevant actors working on capacity-building in related areas of work	Medium	Annual sessions of the Working Group and Joint Task Force	May and October 2022	Progress described in the reports on Working Group and Joint Task Force sessions: participation of the ECE secretariat in meetings of other actors and vice versa.	–
		ECE secretariat engagement with other actors, for example, EEA, OECD and UNEP	Throughout 2022	Reports on joint activities, for example, capacity-building workshops	

Draft timetable of activities for 2022



<i>Main overall objective and activity^a</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Task or event</i>	<i>Timing (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	<i>Other activities^a</i>
D.4. Implement capacity-building activities to provide assistance in accordance with priority areas of action	High	Capacity development activities during the Working Group and Joint Task Force sessions	May and October 2022	Holding of the sessions	– Annual session of the Working Group, including capacity-building and support for the development of regional and national indicator frameworks
Cross-cutting		Presentation of the terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for mid-2023–2029 and the annual workplan for 2023 at the first special session of the Committee on Environmental Policy in 2022	May 2022	Expressions of support for the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group for mid-2023–2029 by the Committee	– Drafting of an annual timetable of activities for 2023
		Presentation of the terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for mid-2023–2029 and the annual workplan for 2023 at the second special session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (back-to-back with the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference)	October 2022	Renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group for mid-2023–2029 by the Committee	– Second half of 2022 Approval of the timetable by the Working Group

Abbreviations: EEA, European Environment Agency; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal; SEIS, Shared Environmental Information System; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme.

^a These are listed in the draft revised outline of activities of the Working Group leading up to 2021 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/3), which is based on the objectives and activities set out in the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/CEP/2017/2, annex II).

Thank you!



Draft timetable of activities for 2022



The secretariat shared the draft timetable of activities for 2022 with members of the Working Group for written feedback in April 2021.

No amendments were requested by the members of the Working Group.

Proposed Decision:

The Working Group:

Adopts the timetable of activities for 2022 as set out in document
ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/3