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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Item 6

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Annual report on evaluation 2020

(For information)

Note by the Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for information. EXCOM requested the Secretariat to prepare an annual report on evaluation at the ninety-first Meeting on 24 March 2017¹, beginning with an annual report for 2017. The purpose of the report is to inform the UNECE member States on evaluation efforts conducted during the past year, future evaluation plans, the status and information on completed, ongoing evaluations, and changes generated by the implementation of relevant recommendations.

2. As per the UNECE Evaluation Policy, the Secretariat undertakes evaluations for the purpose of learning, as well as to improve the future work of the organization. The present report consolidates and analyses the outcome of all evaluations conducted in 2020 to support this objective. The Executive Secretary, through the Programme Management Unit (PMU), ensures the consistent application of evaluation norms and standards across UNECE, and ensures the application of the key outcomes of evaluations into the future planning of the UNECE programme of work.

3. The analysis is based on the results of all evaluations conducted and/or commissioned by UNECE, relevant external and/or system-wide evaluations, and the UN System Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) to implement the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women.²

2. BACKGROUND ON EVALUATION IN THE UN SECRETARIAT

4. UNECE is governed by the Secretary-General's instructions for the UN Secretariat³, which outlines the requirements for evaluation for all departments. The purpose of evaluation is to determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Organization's activities in relation to their objectives, and to enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflection, and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives.⁴

5. To this end, all programmes shall be evaluated over a fixed time period, which shall include periodic self-evaluation of activities and the ad hoc in-depth evaluation of selected programme areas or topics.⁵ Evaluations may be conducted by external entities (the Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), at the request of Member States), or by respective departments (so called "self-evaluation"). Self-evaluation shall be independent and assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of subprogrammes and activities. Heads of departments are responsible for ensuring high quality results, rigorous evaluation methodology, transfer of evaluation information, and conduct of ad hoc studies.

¹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2017/92Excom-23_June_17/Item_2-Chair_s_conclusions-24.03.2017.pdf

² <https://undocs.org/CEB/2006/2>

³ [ST/SGB/2018/3](#) Secretary-General's bulletin Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, 1 June 2018

⁴ [ST/SGB/2018/3](#) Reg 7.1

⁵ [ST/SGB/2018/3](#) Reg 7.2 and Rule 107.2

6. Since 1988, OIOS conducts a biennial assessment of the state of evaluation in the Secretariat. Section 4.2.1 of this report presents the conclusions of the OIOS 2018-2019 report⁶, to be introduced in the Committee of Programme and Coordination (CPC) of the General Assembly in its 61st session⁷ of June 2021.

7. In its report A/75/79⁸ on the *Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the United Nations system* (QCPR), the Secretary General outlined the steps to strengthen capacity on System-wide evaluations. An Evaluation Office led by a Director is being established, directly reporting to the Secretary-General, to ensure full independence and credibility. In parallel, the report called for UN development entities to proceed in their efforts to strengthen respective evaluation functions, as the Evaluation Office will help conduct system-wide evaluations designed to complement, not replace, the evaluative work of UN entities.

8. In its resolution 75/233 of 21 December 2020 adopting the 2020 QCPR, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide relevant information to the Economic and Social Council in its 2021 session, about the Evaluation Office's proposed structure, funding modalities and collaboration with other entities in the system with evaluation mandate⁹.

9. In 2020, the General Assembly also adopted resolution 74/271¹⁰ on *Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat*, requesting the Secretary-General to continue to take concrete measures to enhance in-house capacity for self-evaluation, including through the Evaluation Section in the Business Transformation and Accountability Division (BTAD) of the Department of Management, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC). The OIOS report A/76/69, further detailed in Section 4.2.1 of this report, notes in this regard that the draft Secretariat evaluation policy, jointly prepared by DMSPC and OIOS, as an Administrative Instruction, was at the final stages of review and clearance at the end January 2020¹¹.

10. UNECE will carefully review the Administrative Instruction when it is released as it will serve as the overarching framework for self-evaluation activities in the Secretariat. UNECE will further update its own Evaluation Policy to ensure compliance with this framework.

3. EVALUATION RESOURCES

11. In 2020, evaluations were overseen by the P-4 Programme Management Officer in the PMU, reporting to the Chief of the PMU. However, the position of the Chief PMU, became vacant as at 1 February 2020 and the P-4 Programme Management Officer became the Officer-in-Charge of the PMU, in addition to continuing to oversee evaluations. The recruitment of the Chief PMU was subsequently frozen throughout 2020 due to the liquidity situation of the Secretariat.

⁶ A/76/69, *Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives*

⁷ <https://www.un.org/en/ga/cpc/61/main61.shtml>

⁸ A/75/79-E/2020/55, paras. 107 to 116

⁹ [Resolution 75/233](#), para. 82

¹⁰ [Resolution 74/271](#), para. 21

¹¹ A/76/69, para. 63

4. EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2020

4.1 Internal evaluations

12. The Biennial Evaluation Plan for 2020-2021 was approved by EXCOM in December 2017¹². The Biennial Plan was developed based on an assessment of risk, as well as ensuring the widest possible coverage of the UNECE programme of work over successive biennia.

13. As reflected in Table 1 below, a total of four evaluations were completed in 2020: three subprogramme-level evaluations as contained in the Biennial Evaluation Plan (2020-2021) scheduled for 2020, and one evaluation of an extrabudgetary project at the end of his cycle.

Category of Evaluation		Title of Evaluation	Subprogramme
1	Subprogramme	UNECE collaboration with UN and other partners in delivering on energy for Sustainable Development	Sustainable energy
2	Subprogramme	Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments	Population
3	Subprogramme	Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook	Economic cooperation and integration
4	XB Project	Strengthening the capacity of SPECA countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs	Economic cooperation and integration

Table 1: Evaluations Completed in 2020

14. As reflected in Table 2 below, seven projects initially scheduled for completion in 2020 were extended; evaluations were postponed accordingly. The three UNDA projects were extended to enable the secretariat to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, reschedule some activities and repurpose some others to better respond to the impact of the pandemic; the 2021 Annual report on evaluations will reflect these responses. The donor of the project *EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership countries* also informed UNECE of its intention to conduct the evaluation directly.

Project Title		Extended until	Subprogramme
1	Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE countries for evidence-based regulatory and procedural trade policies to achieve the SDGs (UNDA 2016- 2020)	December 2020	Trade
2	Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries (UNDA 2016- 2020)	December 2020	Forests and the forest industry

¹² <https://unece.org/DAM/commission/EXCOM/Agenda/2018/96Excom-30-Jan-18/EXCOM-Conclu-95.pdf>

	Project Title	Extended until	Subprogramme
3	Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in the UNECE region (UNDA 2016- 2020)	December 2020	Housing, Land Management
4	E271 EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership countries (2016- 2020)	May 2021	Environment
5	E287 Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (Phase 3) (2017-2020)	June 2021	Environment
6	E264 Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) (2017-2020)	December 2023	Statistics
7	E293 Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system (2018-2019)	December 2022	Trade

Table 2: Projects extended in 2020

4.2 External evaluation

15. During the year, UNECE participated in three external evaluations of the UN Secretariat, or UN System-Wide as follows:

4.2.1 UN Office of Internal Oversight (OIOS)

Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives A/76/69¹³

16. The report provides a systematic overview of the state of evaluation in 75 Secretariat entities during the biennium 2018–2019 in terms of evaluation structure, capacity, and practice of evaluation functions. Evaluation practice was highly uneven across the Secretariat with less than half entities conducting most evaluations. In 2018-2019, UNECE has continued to strengthen the role of evaluation and is categorized among the 14 leading Secretariat entities in “Group A - Large operational”, despite not having a dedicated evaluation unit. UNECE produced 26 evaluation reports in 2018-2019, second only to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Secretariat entities continues to face shared and unique challenges limiting the function and use of evaluation. UNECE and other Group A entities faced challenges with the uptake of evaluative knowledge in informing programme planning, including effective follow-up of recommendations. Annexes III to VI of this report reflect efforts in ECE to address this challenge.

17. Four recommendations are formulated by OIOS to CPC through this report to strengthen the role of evaluation on programme design, delivery and policy directives; all proposed measures

¹³ <https://undocs.org/a/76/69>

are already in place in UNECE and reflected in the present report. Nonetheless, in its Management response, UNECE indicated its intention to update its evaluation policy once the Secretariat evaluation policy is released¹⁴.

4.2.2 Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

18. A complete overview of the JIU's activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020 and an outline of its programme of work for 2021 is available in the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 and programme of work for 2021¹⁵; the two external evaluations underneath are reflected in light of their importance to UNECE.

*Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for the landlocked developing countries (JIU/REP/2021/1)*¹⁶

19. The Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) for the Decade 2014–2024¹⁷ targets the support for landlocked developing countries through six priorities areas: transit, infrastructure development, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation.

20. A review of the United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries was included in the programme of work of the JIU for 2020 and the final report should be completed in 2021. UNECE actively participated to the review, to reflect all the actions undertaken by its subprogrammes to contribute to this important mandate. The review is expected to provide insight into the potential causes of stalled progress in the United Nations system entities' support for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and outline remedial actions that can be taken in the short term to more effectively support landlocked developing countries in their implementation of the Programme priorities. The findings of the review will further inform the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme.

21. UNECE will report further on the outcomes for this report in the 2021 Annual report on evaluations.

*Enterprise risk management: approaches and uses in United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2020/5)*¹⁸

22. In its resolution 61/245, the General Assembly endorsed the adoption of enterprise risk management in the United Nations system to enhance governance and oversight. The main objective of the review is to inform legislative/governing bodies and the executive heads of United Nations system organizations about the progress made since the previous review (JIU/REP/2010/4¹⁹) and the status of implementation, utilization and integration of enterprise risk management practices across all 28 participating organizations, as well as to identify good

¹⁴ [A/76/69](#), p. 37

¹⁵ [A/75/34](#)

¹⁶ <https://undocs.org/en/JIU/REP/2021/1> to be published in 2021

¹⁷ <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/137%20#un>

¹⁸ <https://undocs.org/en/JIU/REP/2020/5>

¹⁹ <https://undocs.org/en/JIU/REP/2010/4>

practices and lessons learned to guide ongoing and future initiatives.

23. While UNECE was not directly involved in this review which considered the UN Secretariat as a whole, the analysis provided of great value to update UNECE Risk Register²⁰ and Risk Treatment Plans²¹. UNECE welcomed the recognition of the special needs and related capacities of smaller entities. The JIU will present its report, the four formal recommendations and 21 informal recommendations to the General Assembly in 2021.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS IN 2020

5.1 Implementation of outstanding evaluation recommendations from institutional-level evaluations

5.1.1 External evaluations

24. UNECE reports progress on closing outstanding evaluation recommendations to OIOS every six-months, and through the annual Compact of the Executive Secretary with the Secretary-General. All Progress Reports are available on the Open UNECE website. In 2020, UNECE was not subject to outstanding recommendations from OIOS evaluations, as all were closed at 31 December 2018.

25. The closure and implementation of the recommendations from the (i) the Evaluation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe²² conducted in 2016, and (ii) the Thematic Evaluation of the Regional Commissions²³ conducted in 2017, was further confirmed by OIOS in the Triennial review reports²⁴ presented to the Committee of Programme and Coordination (CPC) of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session in June 2020.

5.1.2 Internal evaluations

Programme-level evaluation of Gender mainstreaming in UNECE²⁵

26. A programme-level evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNECE was undertaken in 2019, further to the mandates given by EXCOM during its 86th meeting in September 2016, and the General Assembly through its resolution 72/261.

27. Thirty recommendations were formulated based upon the evaluation findings and conclusions, with reference to the 17 performance indicators of UN-SWAP 2.0. The management response²⁶ signed on 22 November, was submitted for information to the 108th meeting of EXCOM on 16 December.

²⁰ <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/UNECE%20Risk%20Register%202021.pdf>

²¹ <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/UNECE%20Risk%20Treatment%20Plans%202021.pdf>

²² <https://undocs.org/E/AC.51/2017/5>

²³ <https://undocs.org/E/AC.51/2017/8>

²⁴ [E/AC.51/2020/2](https://undocs.org/E/AC.51/2020/2) and [E/AC.51/2020/5](https://undocs.org/E/AC.51/2020/5)

²⁵ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/Programme-wide_docs/FINAL_UNECE_GENDER_EVALUATION.pdf

²⁶ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/Programme-wide_docs/Management_Response_to_Gender_Evaluation_2019_-_Final_clean.pdf

28. In the management response, the 30 recommendations were merged into 25, in light of some redundancies. Three recommendations were marked as implemented as at 30 June, 11 as at 31 December 2020, and one recommendation was closed without implementation in the absence of sufficient human resources available. The full detail of the closed recommendations is available in Annexes IV and VI. UNECE intends to close the 10 outstanding recommendations in 2021 and report to EXCOM in the 2021 Annual report on evaluations.

Subprogramme-level evaluation of the Environment Performance review (EPR) Process²⁷

29. This evaluation, conducted in 2019, assessed the entire EPR process and the reviews undertaken during 2015-2019. The six recommendations accepted in the management response²⁸ were implemented in 2020; the full detail of the closed recommendations is available in Annexes IV and VI.

Subprogramme-level evaluation of UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)²⁹

30. This evaluation, conducted in 2019, assessed all activities undertaken under the auspices of Working Party 6 from January 2015 to December 2018.

31. Six recommendations were accepted in the management response³⁰. Due to the freeze on recruitment and the COVID-19, activities were delayed and only one recommendation was implemented in 2020, as reflected in Annex VI. UNECE will seek to close the 5 outstanding recommendations in 2021 and report to EXCOM in the 2021 Annual report on evaluations.

Subprogramme-level evaluation of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook³¹

32. The objective of this evaluation, conducted in 2020, was to review the relevance, coherence, sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of the methodology and selection process of, and follow-up to, the UNECE's programme of national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews 2014-2020, and the synergies between the reviews programme and the sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO).

33. The evaluation found that the reviews have been highly relevant to the national priorities and the needs of the five target countries (Armenia, Tajikistan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia), enabling improvement of innovation policies. With a limited budget, the UNECE has produced comprehensive innovation reviews for the five countries, organized preparatory and data collection missions, peer reviews and presentations for each review. The reviews have contributed to the dissemination and application of UNECE good practices and policy recommendations among national policy makers and practitioners, however the long-term sustainability of the results

²⁷ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/01-Environment/Evaluation_of_EPR_2015-2019.pdf

²⁸ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/01-Environment/EPR_MR_signed_15.10.2019_.pdf

²⁹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/06-Trade/UNECE_WP6_Evaluation_-_final.pdf

³⁰ https://unece.org/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/06-Trade/ManagementResponse_WP.6_Final_clean-signed.pdf

³¹ http://staging2.unece.org.net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/04-ECI/Final_evaluation_I4SD_report.pdf

depends on the availability of national budget resources and international donor assistance. The evaluation recommended, inter alia, to enhance the coherence of the collaboration with United Nations entities and other stakeholders through joint activities and to collect peer review comments more systematically in writing.

34. UNECE's management response for this evaluation was finalized in December 2020³². Progress will be reported in the 2021 Annual Report on Evaluation.

Subprogramme-level evaluation of UNECE collaboration with United Nations and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development³³

35. This evaluation, conducted in 2020, assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, impact, and sustainability of the partnership and collaboration practices of the UNECE's subprogramme 5 (Sustainable Energy) with the UN and external partners from 2016 to 2019, and the extent to which this was delivered with respect to the sustainable energy agenda.

36. The evaluation found that the cooperation and partnership practices of the Sustainable Energy Division (SED) of the UNECE with internal or external entities were coherent with resolution 67/215 ("Decade of Sustainable Energy for All") and highly relevant to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, as well as for delivering on the expected accomplishments and outputs. The evaluation recommended, inter alia, to continue efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources for enduring technical assistance and advisory interventions to support development of policy and legal frameworks, strengthen institutions, and build capacity.

37. UNECE's management response for this evaluation was finalized in December 2020³⁴. Progress will be reported in the 2021 Annual Report on Evaluation.

Subprogramme-level evaluation of Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments³⁵

38. This evaluation, conducted in 2020, assessed the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of UNECE work in advancing intergovernmental efforts towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration on 'Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer' and the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS, 2002)". Specifically, the evaluation explored the activities of the Population Unit during the period from September 2016 to September 2020 that support the programme of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) aimed at implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments.

39. The evaluation found that the work performed by the SWGA and the Population Unit is highly relevant, effective, needed and in line with the demographic priorities in the region. The evaluation found significant evidence that national governments find relevant the opportunity to

³² <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/I4SDRE~1.PDF>

³³ http://staging2.unece.org/net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/05-SustainableEnergy/SP5_2020_Eval_Report.pdf

³⁴ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/MR_SEE~1.PDF

³⁵ <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/FINALE~1.PDF>

meet in the framework of the SWGA, exchange information and good practices and learn from experiences of other countries, and to receive a direct technical and capacity enhancement support from the SWGA and the Population Unit. Three main deliverables of the Population Unit were signaled out as highly relevant and effective: Policy Briefs, Active Ageing Index, and the Roadmaps for mainstreaming ageing in national policies. The evaluation recommended, inter alia, to ensure greater coherence on ageing issues at national and regional levels by strengthening the linkages between 2030 Agenda and the SDG's reporting frameworks with MIPAA/RIS commitments.

40. UNECE's management response for this evaluation was finalized in December 2020³⁶. Progress will be reported in the 2021 Annual Report on Evaluation.

5.2 Implementation of outstanding evaluation recommendations from internal evaluations

41. Since December 2018, progress reports from self-evaluations are prepared twice a year in June and December to inform on the actions taken to close the outstanding recommendations. Seventy-seven recommendations (63%) were closed in 2020: 73 (59.5%) were implemented and 4 (3.5%) were closed without implementation. Forty-six recommendations (37%) were outstanding as of 31 December 2020. Summary tables as of 30 June and 31 December 2019 are presented in Annexes III and V and the details of the actions taken can be found in progress reports as of 31 December 2020, available on Open UNECE³⁷ for each evaluation.

6. LESSONS LEARNT FROM 2020 EVALUATIONS

42. As reflected in section 4.1 of this report, three evaluations of UNDA projects scheduled in 2020 were postponed to 2021, because the activities were extended or repurposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from these extensions, the impact of COVID-19 on UNECE evaluations was limited, as the majority of UNECE evaluations were already planned to be conducted remotely for efficiency reasons. In 2020, UNECE contributed actively to the discussions with UN Secretariat entities and UNEG how to best adapt evaluation to assess early responses from the Secretariat to the COVID-19 pandemic and capture best practices. The COVID-19 Response Evaluation Protocol³⁸ released by OIOS in October 2020 has been systematically applied.

43. On 26 February 2021, the Programme Management Unit organized an *Annual Exchange of Experience on Evaluations* with participation from 4 subprogrammes of UNECE who had conducted evaluations in 2020. In alignment with the UNECE Evaluation Policy, the purpose of this exercise was to: (i) to promote organizational learning, by identifying lessons learned and best practices; (ii) to contribute to improvement of programme performance; and (iii) to ensure the accountability of the Secretariat to evaluation results.

44. The 23 recommendations from the four evaluation reports released in 2020 were grouped into eight focus areas. During the *Annual Exchange*, the discussion focused on the following five focus areas, reflected in the paragraphs underneath. These five focus areas represent 19

³⁶ <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/EVALUA-1.PDF>

³⁷ <https://unece.org/evaluation-reports>

³⁸ <http://www.unevaluation.org/evaluation/reports/detail/15890>

recommendations made in 2020.

45. **Organizational structure and resource allocation.** The four evaluations conducted in 2020 recommended to a certain extent to mitigate the negative staffing situation in the divisions or sections evaluated. While evaluators were mindful of the regular budget (RB) constraints, recommendations proposed to increase fundraising efforts or redeploy RB staff towards priority areas. During the *Annual Exchange*, it was concluded that while there is no one-size-fits-all solution, and donors can be reluctant to fund staff costs, big projects are more viable to manage, whereas multiple small projects tend overstretch project management and administrative capacities; in this regard nexus projects pooling resources with other divisions should continue to be explored.

46. **Programme and project management.** In 2020, four recommendations were made to streamline projects organization (rationalize travel time, optimize meeting format, increase online platforms options), widen pools of experts (by encouraging female experts and experts with experience in gender equality or disability inclusion) and strengthen private sector engagement. This last point will be the focus of the 2021 programme-level evaluation.

47. **Gender equality, human rights, and disability inclusion.** As noted in the OIOS biennial report referred to in Sect. 4.2.1 of this report, integration of human rights and gender into evaluation practice is a continued challenge, both at Secretariat and ECE levels. In 2020, four recommendations invited divisions and project managers to include gender and vulnerability issues in the programming cycle in a more systematic manner using specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART) indicators. During the *Annual Exchange*, it was concluded that there would be value to better define the concept of “vulnerable groups” in ECE context to be able to further assess the impact of ECE activities on these groups and “leave no one behind”³⁹.

48. **Collaboration and partnerships.** While successful synergies with UNCTAD, UN Agencies, national and regional institutions have been highlighted in the 2020 evaluations, three recommendations called for more joint activities to be organized with these partners. Consultation and coordination with the Resident Coordinators and the UN Country Teams have become mandatory for all new projects and continue to be highlighted as key to success in evaluation reports.

49. **Capacity building.** Two recommendations finally invited the Secretariat to strengthen projects and programmes follow-up mechanisms, including through online platforms. During the *Annual Exchange*, it was noted that the number of online platforms options has increased following the COVID-19 pandemic; UNECE Programme managers are closely following this development.

7. EVALUATION PARTNERSHIPS

50. UNECE leverages partnerships with other relevant organizations to enhance its evaluative function and activities, and coordinates with the other Regional Commissions through the Chiefs of Programme Planning, and the Evaluation Focal Point Network. UNECE collaborates actively with the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on evaluation of UN Development Account (UNDA) projects. UNECE also engages with the JIU and OIOS on a regular basis.

³⁹ In this regard, para.23 of [resolution 70/1](#), provides an expansive list of groups to be given special focus

51. UNECE is an active member of the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG), which establishes the norms and standards for evaluation for all UN agencies, funds and programmes. UNEG is an interagency professional network that brings together the evaluation units of the UN system, including UN departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and affiliated organizations.

52. In 2020, UNECE was also invited by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to contribute to the translation of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria for evaluation⁴⁰ into Russian. The outcome of this work is expected in 2021.

8. UN-SWAP EVALUATION SCORECARD (GENDER) 2020

53. In 2018, UN-WOMEN rolled out the UN-SWAP 2.0, which represents an update of the previous framework, building into its lessons learnt from the first 5 years of implementation.

54. As part of the annual reporting requirements, each department conducts an annual meta-evaluation of all evaluations completed in the prior year. The UN-SWAP Evaluation Scorecard is a reporting tool organized around four criteria that capture the overall elements related to mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women as reflected in the evaluation reports conducted by the entities in a given year.

55. UNECE achieved a rating of *Exceeds Requirements* in UN SWAP 2.0 indicator 4 (evaluation) for the inclusion of gender in evaluations in 2020, based on a review of the four evaluation reports, maintaining the 2019 level. The key drivers for this rating are (a) a systematic inclusion of the UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations during all phases of the evaluation in UNECE since the end of 2018; and (b) the release of the evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in UNECE in June 2019, referred to in Section 5.1.2 of this report.

9. FUTURE EVALUATIONS

56. The Biennial Evaluation Plan for 2020-2021 as approved by EXCOM in its 95th meeting, is contained in Annex I. In addition, the projects scheduled to close in 2021 and which will undergo an evaluation are attached in Annex II.

57. The 2022 Evaluation plan⁴¹ was approved by EXCOM in its 112th Meeting on 14 December 2020⁴²; it is referred in the 2022 Proposed programme budget for Section 20, Economic Commission for Europe⁴³, to be approved by the General Assembly in its 76th session.

⁴⁰ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/revised-evaluation-criteria-dec-2019.pdf>

⁴¹ [Informal Document 2020/55](#)

⁴² [Chair's Conclusions from the 112th Meeting](#), para. 44

⁴³ [A/76/6/Sect.20](#), to be published during the second quarter of 2021

Annex I: Approved Biennial Evaluation Plan 2020-2021

Evaluation Title		Purpose	By Whom	Resources (Financial & Human)	Schedule (Q/Y)	Type
No.	Internal Evaluations					
1	<i>Review of UNECE engagement with the private sector</i>	The Evaluation will consider the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of UNECE engagement with the private sector from 2017-2021	Consultant (PMU)	\$18,000 (external consultant) P4 – 2 months G6 – 0.5 month	Q2 / 2021	Programme –level
2	<i>Review of UNECE collaboration with UN and other partners in delivering on energy for sustainable development</i>	The Evaluation will review the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of UNECE collaboration with UN and external partners from 2016-2020	Consultant (Sustainable Energy Division)	\$10,000 (external consultant) P5 – 1.5 month G5 – 0.5 month	Q2 / 2020	Subprogramme – level
3	<i>Review of the Innovation Performance Reviews & Regional Index</i>	The Evaluation will review the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the methodology, selection process and follow up to the regional index from 2017-2020	Consultant (Economic Cooperation & Integration)	\$10,000 (external consultant) P5 – 1.5 months G5 – 0.5 month	Q4 / 2020	Subprogramme – level
4	<i>Review of the UNECE Active Ageing Index</i>	The evaluation will review the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of UNECE policy and statistical aspects of the Active Ageing Index	Consultant (Population)	\$10,000 (external consultant) P5 – 1 month GS – 0.5 month	Q3 / 2020	Subprogramme – level
				Unit Monthly Cost⁴⁴	Total	
				Consultancy	\$48,000	
				P5 - 6 months	\$19,791	\$118,750
				P4 - 2 months	\$17,016	\$34,033
				G5/6 – 2 months	\$11,200	\$22,400
				Total:		\$ 223,183

⁴⁴ Based on Standard Salary Costs Version 9 Year 2016

Annex II: Tentative Schedule of UNDA and XB Project Evaluations for 2021

	Evaluation Title	Funding Source/ Project Budget	Evaluation Budget ⁴⁵	Responsible Staff / & Subprogramme	Schedule (Q/Y)
1.	1617AN Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE countries for evidence-based regulatory and procedural trade policies to achieve the SDGs (2016- 2020)	UNDA \$620,000	\$12,400	H. Daoudi, Trade	Q1/ 2021
2.	1617V Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries (2016- 2020)	UNDA \$591,000	\$11,800	R. Michalak, Forestry and Timber	Q1/ 2021
3.	1617W Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in the UNECE region (2016- 2020)	UNDA \$589,000	\$11,800	G. Roll, Housing, land management and population	Q1/ 2021
4.	E316 Secretariat to the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund	XB 2,180,500	\$40,000	M. Bajwa, Executive direction and management	Q1/ 2021
5.	E287 Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (Phase 3)	XB \$302,400	\$6,000	B. Hajiyev, Environment	Q2/ 2021
6.	E340 Improved sustainable urban development in 17 Norwegian cities	XB \$252,000	\$5,000	G. Roll, Housing, land management and population	Q2/ 2021
7.	1819BA Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries	UNDA \$550,200	\$11,000	R. Janssens, Transport	Q4/ 2021
8.	1819AB Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East	UNDA \$490,000	\$9,800	V. Badaker, Sustainable energy	Q4/ 2021
9.	1819AE Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe	UNDA \$470,000	\$9,400	A. Nunes, Environment	Q4/ 2021
10.	E365 Road Safety Phase VI	XB 827,000	\$16,500	P. Gautam, Executive direction and management	Q4/ 2021
11.	E369 Secretariat to the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund - Phase II	XB \$827,000	\$10,000	M. Bajwa, Executive direction and management	Q4/ 2021
			Total	\$143,700	

⁴⁵ In line with UNECE Evaluation policy, internal evaluations are conducted by consultants

Annex III: Summary of Evaluation Recommendations as at 30 June 2020

Div.	Project	Recs outstanding as at 31.12.2019	New recs since 01.01.2020	Recs closed as at 30.06.2020	Recs closed but not implemented as at 30.06.2020	Outstanding recs as at 30.06.2020
ED	Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia Phase 2	1	-	1	-	-
ED	Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin (Pyanj River)	2	-	-	2	-
ED	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	6	-	-	-	6
ED	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	8	-	3	-	5
ED	Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins	8	-	3	-	5
ED	Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues	6	-	-	-	6
ED	Environment Performance Review process in the period 2015–2019	6	-	1	-	5
STD	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	1	-	-	-	1
STD	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	1	-	1	-	-
STD	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	2	-	1	-	1
STD	ITC support to governments in climate change mitigation: lessons from the use of ForFITS tool that links policy choices and CO2 emission scenarios for inland transport	9	-	2	-	7
STD	Road Safety project Phase I to IV	-	8	4	-	4
SD	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	8	-	2	-	6
SD	Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE	-	4	-	-	4

Div.	Project	Recs outstanding as at 31.12.2019	New recs since 01.01.2020	Recs closed as at 30.06.2020	Recs closed but not implemented as at 30.06.2020	Outstanding recs as at 30.06.2020
SED	Review of the case studies of the application of best practices guidance for coal mine methane management	2	-	1	-	1
SED	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	7	-	6	-	1
SED	Strengthening capacity of the member States to achieve the energy related Sustainable Development Goals - Pathways to Sustainable Energy	-	5	1	-	4
SED	Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	-	6	1	-	5
ECTD	PPP Initiative: PPP Toolkit and International PPP Centre of Excellence	1	-	-	-	1
ECTD	Competitiveness, innovative policies and public-private partnerships: capacity building for civil servants and business associations	1	-	-	-	1
ECTD	UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)	-	6	-	-	6
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	-	25	3	-	22
		69	54	30	2	91
		<i>56%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>74%</i>

Annex IV: List of recommendations from internal evaluations closed as of 30 June 2020

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Sustainable Energy	Review of the case studies of the application of best practice guidance for coal mine methane management	Dec-17	5	<p>(Optional:) Strengthen internally the Secretariat to enable constant and predictable support services to the GoE. This would require a multi-level approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staffing: Ensure the senior staff is able to focus on substantial/political work, and the junior staff is sufficient and constantly employed. Ideally, one regular staff should be allocated entirely for the GoE support, to enable work continuity; - Resourcing: secure sufficient regular budget for the normal functioning of the GoE (e.g. some experts are not able to participate in meetings as their organizations do not have enough resources to finance travel), and for the most significant activities agreed in the bi-annual Work Plans; - Build strategic partnerships with potential donors (governmental / public agencies, mining companies, other private sector representatives) and agree multi-annual budget for the planned activities, in order to increase predictability and planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Bureau of the Group and the secretariat will explore available opportunities to increase regular budget resources. Upon agreeing on a strategy, the matter will be brought to the attention of CSE. - SED will discuss organizational (including staff matters) and budget-related issues internally, awaiting the announcement of the Secretary General's (SG) strategy for Economic Commissions. The first of such debates took place at the SED's retreat on 4-5 December 2017. Others are to follow. Upon being informed about the SG's strategy and the ensuing decisions taken by the UNECE Executive Secretary (ES), SED will decide on steps that it is to undertake in order to improve efficiency and financial condition of the Division and its Groups of Experts (including on CMM). - The Bureau of the Group and the secretariat will continue its efforts to build robust relationships with potential donors. The already commenced attempts will be pursued. In December 2017 representatives of the Group and the secretariat will attend an inauguration of the EC's Coal Platform. As the scope of the Platform overlaps to a large extent with the project on Modernization of the Energy Sector, EC is hoped to join the rank of the Group's important partners. Similarly, a follow up discussion of the potential engagement of EBRD in the above-mentioned project is scheduled to take place in December 2017. 	<p>Implemented in January 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size of the regular budget remains a major challenge. The demand for the Group's services continues to grow, but the available RB resources either remain the same, or even decline. • In the absence of new resources being associated with new mandates, new demands are dependent on extra-budgetary resources. • Partnerships with potential donors are being developed. ICE-CMM in Poland agreed to sponsor a project on coordination of activities of the Centres and provided UNECE with a USD 75,000 donation. The funds which were received by UNECE in January 2020 will allow the Group to efficiently manage and oversee activities of both ICE-CMMs (in Poland and in China) until the end of October 2020. Work continues to identify and receive funds from other donors.

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Environment	Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia Phase 2	May-17	5	Continuation of the Project beyond 2017 would be highly desirable. Implementing pilot activities on specific dams demonstrating technical solutions for transboundary safety monitoring on a dam in each country may significantly increase the impact of the Project. The Russian Federation may wish to continue supporting the efforts of UNECE, and fund the fourth phase of the Project. The Central Asia countries will benefit from further support by the experts from the Russian Federation, who have expressed their interest in providing further advice and training on dam safety to the experts and officials from Central Asia. Experience from other countries and regions are also of value in future efforts.	The Russian Federation has made US \$302,840 available for implementation of the project “Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)” for the period 2017 – 2020. In the new project work on specific dams and efforts to demonstrate safety monitoring in several countries is included. The funding from the Russian Federation for the next phase of the project will be considered in 2019. Funding from other sources are also sought (see management response to Recommendation 4 above). The use of Russian expertise and experts from other countries is planned.	<p>Implemented in June 2020</p> <p>The project with the recommended activities launched in 2017. Pilot initiatives on the management of dams located on transboundary rivers between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are under consideration that will include: capacity building activities, joint declaration of the selected site; support in revision of national legislation on dam safety.</p> <p>A meeting between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to discuss the bilateral cooperation took place on 9 June 2020.</p> <p>The expert from the Hydroproject Agency, RF, presented experience of RF in introducing the safety monitoring system at the Sangduda power plant in Tajikistan.</p> <p>20 Central Asian officials representing the state agencies on dam management, water management authorities and foreign ministries attended a week-long study tour and a workshop held 7-11 October 2019, Slovakia. The study tour demonstrated the participants practical experience in the safe management of dams in Slovakia, transboundary dams conflict resolution and discussed cooperation opportunities with the Slovak Dam Management Agency.</p>
Transport	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	Jul-18	3	Regional Commission/s with stakeholders: draft communication plan/tools, which adequately address internal and external communication at each level	Requirement for UNECE to develop draft Project Communication Strategy and agree it with all project stakeholders will be defined in the Project Stakeholders ToR	<p>Implemented as of February 2020</p> <p>Project communication strategy has been completed and the information is included in the Stakeholder Terms of Reference. A SITCIN webpage has, since September 2019, been made available on the UNECE website.</p>
Transport	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	Jul-18	4	Regional Commission/s: develop a comprehensive approach towards capacity building based on the capacity building development framework	On its 81st session ITC will adopt Inland Transport Committee Strategy until 2030 which will include requirements to develop Comprehensive Plan on capacity building by 2020. Based on adopted framework, Sustainable Transport Division will develop the Plan during 2019	<p>Implemented in February 2020</p> <p>The ITC adopted “Inland Transport Committee Strategy until 2030” during 81st ITC session in February 2019. Capacity development is recognized as one the strategic actions (under theme The UN Platform for inland transport conventions). ITC Capacity Development Action Plan was discussed at ITC Bureau meeting held on 29-30 November 2019 in Geneva. In February 2020, during its 82nd session, the ITC adopted the ITC Capacity Development Action Plan (2020–2025), as contained in ECE/TRANS/2020/18 (ECE/TRANS/294, para 118).</p>

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Transport	ITC support to governments in climate change mitigation: lessons from the use of ForFITS tool that links policy choices and CO2 emission scenarios for inland transport	Jul-18	1	Revisit the desired roles of ForFITS within the purview of UNECE and define its targeted users.	<p>UNECE fully accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will continuously inform the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its forthcoming sessions on the potential evolution of ForFITS and how the work programme will be adapted to better fit the resources available. UNECE will prepare a vision for the future linking ForFITS activities to the ITC strategy.</p> <p>Prepare ITC feedback (draft decisions) in terms of intended targeted users of ForFITS to guide the follow-up actions for Recommendations 9 and 10.</p>	<p>Implemented in June 2020</p> <p>UNECE produced a report setting a vision of different possibilities for ForFITS, depending on the resources available and the interests from stakeholders.</p> <p>The paper proposes a 2-string approach:</p> <p>1- ForFITS 1.0 where no extra resources are identified to expand the development and where the use of ForFITS is mainly internal and /or specialized audience with selected collaboration on specific topics with other interested parties.</p> <p>2- ForFITS 2.0 where a new model is developed as a webtool for a broad audience proposing a policy tool and visual interactions.</p>
Transport	ITC support to governments in climate change mitigation: lessons from the use of ForFITS tool that links policy choices and CO2 emission scenarios for inland transport	Jul-18	2	Develop targeted “ForFITS activities” according to allocated resources for a more sustainable ForFITS programme.	<p>Even if attempts to increase the ForFITS team resources have so far not been successful, they will be pursued and intensified in the future to maintain, update and develop ForFITS and to broaden its use and attractiveness. To have a higher chance of success, fund raising will be focused on targeted activities where there is today high interest from funding institutions such as development agencies or banks, philanthropies or foundations.</p> <p>For example, targeted activities on specific topics such as emission factors, trade of used vehicles and life cycle would today offer a more adequate balance of required tasks versus available resources, with a higher added value where other transport modelling framework are lacking knowledge and expertise. AS a first step, activities are being developed with GIZ on the harmonization of emission factors for the transport sector, to convert traffic activity into emissions.</p>	<p>Implemented in June 2020.</p> <p>COVID-19 has slowed down the internal and external discussions to have specific and targeted collaboration with other stakeholders.</p> <p>Discussions are on-going with the following stakeholders to build up activities on specific issues where high added value could be delivered:</p> <p>1- GIZ on the development of a global emission factor database for transport.</p> <p>2- IEA for ForFTIS to join the IEA MoMo partnership;</p>
Environment	Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the upper Amu Darya River Basin (Pyanj River)	Dec-18	5	Approval of the environmental MoU may significantly increase the impact of the Project, though this factor is currently beyond the direct control of the UNECE and can be subject to monitoring only.	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>Approval of the MoU by countries is beyond UNECE control. However, the Environment Division of ECE will follow up with the governments on the status of MoU clearance and signing.</p>	<p>Closed without implementation in June 2020</p> <p>The Director of the Environment Division sent a follow-up letter to the Chairman Committee on Environmental Protection of Tajikistan on February 2019 to inquire about the status of the MoU. No response was received as of July 2020. The recommendation is marked closed as at June 2020</p>

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Environment	Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the upper Amu Darya River Basin (Pyanj River)	Dec-18	6	It is recommended to the UNECE to continue exploring cooperation opportunities with the WB, USAID and other international development banks, agencies and governments for increased synergetic impact.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation</p> <p>UNECE will hold discussions with the WB and ADB and other organizations to explore collaboration opportunities for an increased synergy.</p>	<p>Closed without implementation in June 2020</p> <p>Tajikistan did not include any bilateral cooperation on transboundary rivers as the area for discussion under the NPD processes.</p> <p>The recommendation is marked as closed as at June 2020 but UNECE will continue to explore collaboration opportunities under the framework of the NPD process.</p>
Statistics	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	Jun-19	1	To provide support [to the national statistical systems of the beneficiary's countries] in revising their statistical legislation in line with the Generic Law of official statistics (for the countries which didn't revise the statistical legislation) and to provide support for implementing the new legislation where needed.	Support will be provided to countries on request, and within the limits of available budgets and resources. To be coordinated by the UNECE Regional Adviser on Statistics.	<p>Implemented in June 2020</p> <p>Support has been provided to Belarus and Georgia, in the form of recommendations for revisions to statistical legislation, in the Global Assessments of their national statistical systems, conducted during 2019.</p> <p>Support regarding the revision of statistical legislation was requested by Uzbekistan, but the proposed advisory mission had to be cancelled due to the UN cash-flow crisis.</p>
Statistics	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	Jun-19	2	To provide advices and support [to the national statistical systems of the beneficiary's countries] for further implementation of Global Assessments' recommendations from the first round of GAs and to follow up the implementation activities.	Advice and support to implement recommendations will be provided to countries on request, and within the limits of available budgets and resources. To be coordinated by the UNECE Regional Adviser on Statistics.	<p>Implemented in June 2020</p> <p>Support has been provided to Armenia and Georgia in the form of expert reviews of their statistical information technology systems, in response to recommendations made in the Global Assessments for those countries.</p>
Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	4	UNECE should consider opportunities to enhance and strengthen accountability mechanisms to expedite ratification of protocols under the Convention in the countries where protocols have not been ratified. In the situation of frequent change of relevant public officials, the establishment of such mechanisms, including international standards and procedures, could ensure sustainability and the continuity of efforts and facilitate the development of the national road map.	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) could develop further awareness-raising materials, such as brochures and translation of documents, and will ensure that complementary actions, such as development of national action plans, will be organized, e.g. in the framework of the EU co-funded project, by the end of 2021.	<p>Implemented in June 2020</p> <p>In June 2020, a project for the development of a national action plan for ratification and implementation of the key protocols to the Convention has started. The project is to strengthen Kazakhstan's capacity to ratify and implement the protocols to the Convention by developing ratification scenarios, its economic assessment and drafting a National Action Plan for implementation of key protocols.</p> <p>The project is financed by Switzerland as co-funding to the EU project "Implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) – Phase II" (2019-2021))</p>

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	5	Both UNECE and national partners should continue and encourage regular interaction between experts to share experiences, facilitate cross-learning and identify solutions, by using innovative communication mechanisms and platforms. In their interaction with the beneficiaries and subsequent projects, UNECE could encourage use of various communication channels and platforms (teleconferences, Skype, social media groups, etc.) for sharing experiences and problems and seeking answers, to complement traditional channels as sub-regional and regional meetings, and some email communication. These mechanisms could be envisaged and integrated into new projects.	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will inquire with beneficiaries about their preferred modes of communication and exchange of experiences, by December 2019.	<p>Implemented in May 2020</p> <p>UNECE is using teleconferences and skype as communications channels with beneficiaries.</p> <p>UNECE recently also organized a webinar as part of its outreach activities, which could be replicated also in the context of the capacity-building programme.</p> <p>In May 2020, UNECE organized an online meeting of the EECCA Coordinating Group to engage representatives of Ministries and share progress on ratification and implementation of the Convention. Online meetings will be used for further meetings with the group in the future.</p>
Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	8	At the stage of the project proposal preparation extra analysis is recommended to better anticipate related costs, based on comparable projects and industry standards. Sufficient attention and resources should be put to cover expenditures for staff needed to manage and implement the project throughout its cycle.	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will more clearly communicate to donors the need for staff resources for future projects.	<p>Implemented as of June 2020</p> <p>For a short-term project funded by Sweden to support the organization of the 40th anniversary session for the Convention, the majority of the project funding is earmarked for staff resources as a result of a thorough analysis of secretariat needs.</p> <p>In recent draft project proposals discussed with the main donors, secretariat staff made it clear what the true costs of projects staff are.</p>
Environment	Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins	Jun-19	1	The UNECE should consider continuing to pay particular attention to the interests of both countries and to the region as a whole as well as to support transboundary cooperation in the basin. It is also necessary to promote intersectoral nature of the water issues showing that working on water-related problems countries can solve other important problems in such areas as e.g. energy, security and agriculture.	The UNECE continues to support transboundary water management and intersectoral approach in integrated water resource management in Central Asia as well as in the Chu-Talas basin through providing guidance and expertise in development and financing of the river basin organisations, data sharing, climate change adaptation and water allocation through its global events, publication of the relevant guidance, EUWI+ programme as well as at the regional and bilateral events in Central Asia.	<p>Implemented as of June 2020</p> <p>The UNECE contributed to the 27th meeting of the Chu-Talas Commission organised on 21st May 2020 virtually and to bilateral discussions with the representatives of the relevant authorities from both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on 14, 19 and 20 May and 18 June aiming to support transboundary water dialogue in the region. UNECE also facilitated contribution of both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to the global events and activities under the Water Convention and preparations to them, for example, to the World Water Day (23 March 2020) and World Water Week At Home (24-28 August 2020) focused on water and climate change, Second Meeting of the Expert Group on the Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook (30 - 31 March 2020), the webinar on SDG indicator 6.5.2: supporting countries in preparing national reports for the 2nd reporting exercise (28 May 2020) and Virtual Workshop on designing legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation (28 - 29 July 2020).</p> <p>The UNECE continues to lead the process of the National Policy</p>

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
						Dialogues in Central Asia which helps to support inter-sectoral dialogue in the region and better identify both national and regional priorities.
Environment	Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins	Jun-19	4	It is important for UNECE to help to develop local human potential in the Chu-Talas basin (experts, technicians, politicians) interested in the further development of transboundary cooperation between the countries.	UNECE is providing capacity building support and shares knowledge and expertise with representatives of the national and local authorities as well as expert community from the Chu-Talas basin through global and regional events of the Water Convention, publication of the relevant guidance and EUWI+ programme. The areas of cooperation include climate change adaptation, monitoring and data sharing, water allocation, financing transboundary cooperation and application of intersectoral approach in integrated water resource management. UNECE remains ready to provide additional support to the Chu-Talas basin community in transboundary river basin management if there is a political commitment from both countries and funding available. Intergovernmental approval of SAP is a prerequisite for further fundraising because SAP, when approved, will serve as the main document in planning and implementing transboundary river basin management in the Chu-Talas.	Implemented as of June 2020 The UNECE involved representatives of both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan into various capacity building activities under the Convention including such areas as climate change adaptation, development of agreements, water allocation and reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2. The activities included such events as World Water Day (23 March 2020), the webinar on SDG indicator 6.5.2: supporting countries in preparing national reports for the 2nd reporting exercise (28 May 2020), Virtual Workshop on designing legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation (28 - 29 July 2020).and World Water Week At Home (24-28 August 2020), More information is available at https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/meetings-and-events.html#/ .
Environment	Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins	Jun-19	7	It is crucial to promote the results of the projects among senior leadership from the countries to increase project impact and visibility.	UNECE is promoting the project results among the senior management of the water and international affairs authorities of both countries as well as through the current Kazakh Chairmanship of the Water Convention.	Implemented as of June 2020 The UNECE discussed the importance of the project results with the senior management of the environment and water authorities of both countries during the visit to Kyrgyzstan to participate in the 26th and 27th meetings of the Chu-Talas Commission on 19 December 2019 and 21 May 2020 accordingly as well as during bilateral consultations on SAP on 14, 19 and 20 May 2020.
Environment	Evaluation of EPR process in the period 2015–2019	Sep-19	2	The EPR unit should increase the role of EPRs in supporting the achievement and monitoring of EPR-relevant SDGs.	The EPR unit has organized capacity-building activities to support the achievement and monitoring of EPR-relevant SDGs. Several events supporting these efforts were organized in the framework of EPR Programme (e.g. 4 peer-learning workshops in Minsk, Astana, Tbilisi and Budva) and the UNDA Project 1819AE “Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe”, which supports five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) in formulating actions on the basis of their EPRs in order to achieve relevant SDGs. The EPR unit will work with the ECE Expert Group on EPRs at the 31st meeting of the EPR Expert Group on EPRs to start revising the structure of the chapters in order to integrate the SDGs more deeply and coherently and, based on the availability of funds including from RPTC, to design capacity-development activities and materials to support countries in their implementation of the relevant recommendations.	Implemented, January 2020 New guidance has been given to experts drafting the EPR of Romania in December 2019–January 2020 to further integrate SDGs into the text of the review, including directly into recommendations, instead of reflecting relevant SDG targets in separate boxes in the text.

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Sustainable Energy	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	Aug-19	1	Continue building the capacity and expertise of member States in EESB in a way that would ensure multiplier effects and system changes on a large-scale. This could be done through delivering multilevel workshops and seminars which would incorporate: generic information-sharing on certain research topics (at the first level); and more advanced technical workshops on a selected topic (e.g. energy auditing, monitoring energy performance, model situations in a specific country context, etc.)	In 2019-2020, SED will continue building the capacity and expertise of member States in Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (EESB) by organizing workshops funded from RPTC budget; developing project proposals for funding of the second phase of the project; cooperating with Forests, Housing and Land Management Division on activities under the Joint Task Force on EESB.	Implemented as of 1 July 2020 Training Workshop on High Performance Buildings was organized in Yerevan on 21-22 November 2019, see: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52433 . Joint event with UNDP Armenia in partnership with International Passive House Association (iPHA) and Passive House Institute at the request of the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia. Target countries: Armenia and Georgia. Also participants from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Capacity-building workshops on data solutions for evidence-based policy and stakeholder collaboration were organized on-line (because of the Covid-19 pandemic) on 12 and 14 May 2020: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53669 (jointly with UNDP Armenia and the Urban Development Committee) and http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53671 (jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the National Statistical Office of Georgia). Target countries: Armenia and Georgia. Also participants from Belarus, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, and Tunisia. Project proposal for funding of the second phase of the project has been approved by the donor (Russian Federation) and the EXCOM. The project's implementation will start on 1 July.
Sustainable Energy	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	Aug-19	2	Assist the UNECE member States in taking practical steps toward addressing EESB through introducing an interactive format of workshops and seminars, incorporating group work practices on specific cases/assignments, and encouraging the participants to assess their national situations and developing country roadmaps along with S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators and targets to improve EESB	Please refer to the actions proposed under recommendation 1 and 4	Implemented as of 1 July 2020 See response to #1 (Training workshops)
Sustainable Energy	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	Aug-19	3	Continue cooperation with other UN agencies to organize workshops and share their real-case experience in implementing projects on EESB in UNECE countries (e.g. the projects implemented by UNDP/GEF) which would serve as a practical guide for attendees	Please refer to the actions proposed under recommendation 1	Implemented as of 1 July 2020 See response to #1 (Training workshops)

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Sustainable Energy	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	Aug-19	4	Develop the results framework for each planned new project, along with S.M.A.R.T. indicators and targets, to measure and monitor the intermediate results and long-term impact of the UNECE project in relation to the accomplishments of the member States	In 2020, SED will seek the support of the Programme Management Unit and will develop new projects with S.M.A.R.T. indicators and targets, to better measure and monitor the intermediate results and long-term impact.	Implemented as of 1 July 2020 New project proposals include the approach recommended. Specifically, recently approved XB project funded by the Russian Federation “Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region” and UNDA project “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector.” There are several other project proposals in the pipeline.
Sustainable Energy	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	Aug-19	5	Introduce gender-responsive indicators and targets to measure and report the progress made regarding the gender mainstreaming agenda and continue to encourage active participation of female subject-matter experts in relevant activities	In 2020, SED will seek the support of UNECE Gender Focal Point to introduce gender-responsive indicators and targets in relevant projects and continue to encourage active participation of female subject-matter experts in relevant activities	Implemented as of 1 July 2020 Active participation of female experts in the Training workshops (see response to #1) has been encouraged and monitored. The share of female experts increased from 28 percent to 43 percent from the first to the third workshop. Under the UNDA project “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector,” the studies should include, to the extent possible, special considerations for MSMEs owned and/or operated by women, as well as the role of women in post-crisis recovery.
Sustainable Energy	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	Aug-19	6	Raise the awareness of the member States on the human rights dimension of the energy-efficient buildings and particularly emphasize this correlation through presentations and analytical papers (a linkage to relevant SDGs could also be useful in this regard)	SED takes note of the recommendation and will seek to increase references to the right to access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy (SDG 7) in future project proposal documents. Such projects are subject to approval by UNECE member States	Implemented as of 1 July 2020 SED increased references to the right to access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy (SDG 7) in the project proposal documents submitted and under development (see response to #4).
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Jul-19	4	Regarding results-based management, require gender-disaggregated data, indicators, and gender analysis at project design, implementation, and monitoring stages through results-based management tools such as checklists and templates. This would need to be both mandatory and enforced. These actions earlier in the project cycle would in turn support gender-disaggregated data use and gender analysis at the evaluation stage.	UNECE partially accepts the recommendation. Through the ‘Assessment of Gender Mainstreaming in UNECE Projects’, Divisions will continue to include gender analysis at project design, implementation, and monitoring stages of a project. However, additional resources would be needed to drill further down to the level of gender-disaggregated data, indicators, and gender analysis. For extrabudgetary projects a checklist and template have been developed and SDGU review at the project design stage. Divisions ensure the implementation, monitoring and reporting on projects.	Implemented as of 30 June 2020. All XB projects continue to be reviewed at the project design stage by the Gender Focal Point; this is an ongoing practice for all subprogrammes. All ECE subprogrammes ensure that gender analysis is performed at all stages of a project (project design, implementation and monitoring), in conformity with the ECE GAP, with concrete strategies designed to achieve equal participation of women in all activities. In the XB projects run by the Environment subprogramme, the grantees are expected to endeavour to strengthen the participation of women in conformity with the ECE GAP, with concrete strategies designed to achieve equal participation of women in the activities. The Terms of Reference for grants also include a performance indicator to ensure equal gender participation in the activities, or a statement explaining why the target was not met,

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
						<p>including the efforts undertaken.</p> <p>The Statistical Division is leading the gender statistics stream in the Development Account project “Data and statistics” of 10 UN agencies. The project is designed to build statistical capacity on measuring gender issues and fill data gaps for SDG 5 on gender equality. The Statistical Division is also engaged in a project on measuring the gender issues related to trade. In these gender-oriented projects as well as throughout the work on statistical methodology and capacity development, gender implications and needs for gender data are considered in designing the activities.</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Jul-19	9	Update the UNECE Gender Action Plan for 2019 and draft the GAP for 2020-2021 in alignment with recommendations in this independent gender evaluation and with SWAP 2.0 indicators. Update the Gender Action Plans annually, based on results of previous year’s SWAP report, targeting the top priorities to address areas of weakness with a view to increasing SWAP indicator achievements in those areas by the end of that year.	<p>UNECE accepts these recommendations.</p> <p>In 2020, UNECE will update the GEP starting in 2021. The GAP will continue to be updated biennially. The GAP 2020-2021 will be aligned with SWAP 2.0 indicators by 31 December 2020. Divisional focal points will continue to support the update of the GAP, as annexed to the GEP. Divisional focal points will continue to support and monitor the subprogramme-level Gender Action Plans.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2020</p> <p>The UNECE GAP for 2020 has been updated following the UNECE Policy for Gender equality 2016-2020 and the requirements of UN-SWAP.2.0:</p> <p>http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/UNECE_GAP_20_final.pdf</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	22	While there is no right to flexible working arrangements, and certain options may not be possible for some jobs or at certain periods of time, for many colleagues the revised policy offers an opportunity for increased flexibility and a better work-life balance. Require managers to provide in writing the reasonable basis for any non-approval of flexible working arrangements for non-managerial staff. Flexible working arrangements are important to support female and male career implementation and development and to contribute to breaking “glass ceilings”. Flexible working arrangements can be tied to deliverables for accountability.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>All divisions are already implementing the flexible working arrangements policy outlined in this recommendation. The Executive Office intranet and Flexible Working Arrangements (FWA) database will be updated to allow:</p> <p>a) Managers to upload the detailed basis for any non-approval of FWA for non-managerial staff to the EO intranet;</p> <p>b) Staff requesting FWA to indicate deliverables in their respective agreements with managers; and</p> <p>c) Revised guidance on both (a) and (b) will be circulated to all UNECE staff and the EO intranet will be updated accordingly, by 31 December 2019.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 30 June 2020.</p> <p>The Flexible Working Arrangements (FWA) database was updated to allow:</p> <p>a) Managers to upload the detailed basis for any non-approval of FWA for non-managerial staff to the EO intranet;</p> <p>b) Staff requesting FWA to indicate deliverables in their respective agreements with managers; and</p> <p>Revised guidance on both (a) and (b) was circulated to all UNECE staff and the EO intranet will be updated accordingly by 31 December 2019.</p> <p>Further flexibility has been exerted since 15 March 2020 in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, with all staff working from home during the period 15 March – 7 June 2020, and experiencing a gradual return since.</p>

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Transport	Evaluation of the Road Safety project Phase I to IV		1	Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety to refine the project proposal and logical framework, and draft risks management plans.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety will refine future project proposal and logical framework to ensure inclusion of the following: overall objective at the impact level (potentially linked with the Decade of Action), indicators at the specific objective level, sources of verification (as set in the phase III); and specifically, gender-responsive indicators. Further, the Secretariat will safeguard the project logical framework vertical and horizontal coherence. Moreover, the Secretariat will consult with the UN agencies and define risks management plan, ensuring identification of assumptions and risks at each expected accomplishment level.</p>	<p>Implemented in July 2020</p> <p>The Project Document for Phase VI includes reference to strengthening national road safety legal framework, through the accession to and implementation of the UN Road Safety legal instruments – this is in line with Pillar one of the Decade of Action for Road Safety: Improving road safety management.</p> <p>The Phase VI project plan indicates that consultations with UN agencies will take place to determine priority countries and efforts for the next phase of the Special Envoy work plan.</p> <p>The Phase VI program document also includes a risk management plan in line with each of the expected accomplishments. Future reporting on activities will be done as per logical framework and specified indicators in project plan for Phase VI.</p>
Transport	Evaluation of the Road Safety project Phase I to IV		3	Secretariat of the Special Envoy to consider a structural engagement (communication) of stakeholders at the UN system, including UNECE and jointly with the UN agencies define short/long/annual priorities and annual indicative timeline.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety will consider a structural engagement (communication) of stakeholders at the UN system, including UNECE, and jointly with UN agencies define short/long/annual priorities of the Special Envoy to ensure a better impact through adequate UN agencies coordination. Secretariat will also define an annual indicative timeline and guarantee equality in utilizing the Special Envoy impact at the overall UN system level.</p>	<p>Implemented in July 2020</p> <p>Phase VI project plan indicates that consultations with UN agencies will take place to determine priority countries and efforts for the next phase of the Special Envoy work plan.</p>
Transport	Evaluation of the Road Safety project Phase I to IV		6	Auxiliary recommendation to project design to advance phase V project proposal and include the human rights and gender-responsive indicators.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety will advance phase V project proposal and include as far as possible the human rights and gender-responsive indicators, that allow proper measurement of the human rights and gender-related achievement progress e.g. taking into account the basic form of gender-responsiveness - sex-disaggregation and/or indicate increased percentage of female staff/ workshop participants</p>	<p>Implemented in July 2020</p> <p>The Phase VI project document includes human rights and gender-responsive indicators, mainly to actively seek meetings, through the UNCTs, with human rights and gender equality groups during the visits of the Special Envoy.</p>

Sub-Programme	Evaluation Title	Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report as of 30 June 2020
Transport	Evaluation of the Road Safety project Phase I to IV		7	Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety to consider drafting a Gender-inclusive road safety policy and strategy/action plan.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety will consider to develop a gender-inclusive road safety policy and strategy/action plan, further disseminate the document and ensure a reach out to the key road safety stakeholder or national stakeholder through the project activities (events, meetings, training, workshops, etc.) and reviewing/strengthening the gender-inclusive road safety policy</p>	<p>Implemented in July 2020</p> <p>A gender inclusive road safety policy and strategy/action plan has been included in the Phase VI project document as an output for the Secretariat.</p>
Sustainable Energy	Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia		6	Ensure that new projects have detailed monitoring and evaluation plan developed and incorporated into the projects' documents along with properly design logical framework and S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators and timelines of individual activities to be implemented.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation</p> <p>In 2020, SED will seek the support of the Programme Management Unit and will develop new projects with S.M.A.R.T. indicators and targets, to better measure and monitor the intermediate results and long-term impact, subject to full staffing of the Division.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2020</p> <p>New project proposals include the approach recommended to the extent possible. Specifically, recently approved XB project funded by the Russian Federation "Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region" and UNDA project "Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector."</p> <p>Situation with staffing of the Division has deteriorated since December 2019 because of the liquidity crisis at the UN and a number of open posts that cannot be filled for that reason.</p>
Sustainable Energy	Strengthening capacity of the member States to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals - Pathways to Sustainable Energy		5	When preparing project concepts and ToRs, the UNECE managers should formulate indicators of achievement that can be easily measured to track the project progress and reflected in project documents.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation</p> <p>UNECE will take this recommendation into consideration when preparing project proposal for the potential Project 's Phase II, expected in in the second quarter of 2020. All future Project concept notes to include measurable indicators of achievement.</p>	<p>Implemented in June 2020</p> <p>New project proposals include the approach recommended. Specifically, recently approved XB project on "Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050".</p>

Annex V: Summary of Evaluation Recommendations as at 31 December 2020

Div.	Project	Outstanding Rees as at 30.06.2020	Rees closed as at 31.12.2020	Rees closed but not implemented as at 31.12.2020	Outstanding Rees as at 31.12.2020
ED	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	6	6	-	-
ED	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	5	5	-	-
ED	Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins	5	-	-	5
ED	Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues	6	-	-	6
ED	Environment Performance Review process in the period 2015–2019	5	5	-	-
STD	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	1	1	-	-
STD	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	1	1	-	-
STD	ITC support to governments in climate change mitigation: lessons from the use of ForFITS tool that links policy choices and CO2 emission scenarios for inland transport	7	-	-	7
SD	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	6	5	-	1
SD	Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE	4	-	1	3
SED	Review of the case studies of the application of best practices guidance for coal mine methane management	1	-	-	1
SED	Enhancing National Capacities for Development and Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region	1	-	-	1
SED	Strengthening capacity of the member States to achieve the energy related Sustainable Development Goals - Pathways to Sustainable Energy	4	3	-	1
SED	Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	5	1	-	4
ECTD	PPP Initiative: PPP Toolkit and International PPP Centre of Excellence	1	1	-	-
ECTD	Competitiveness, innovative policies and public-private partnerships: capacity building for civil servants and business associations	1	1	-	-

Div.	Project	Outstanding Recs as at 30.06.2020	Recs closed as at 31.12.2020	Recs closed but not implemented as at 31.12.2020	Outstanding Recs as at 31.12.2020
ECTD	UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)	6	1	-	5
OES	Road Safety project Phase I to IV	4	2	-	2
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	22	11	1	10
		91 <i>100%</i>	43 <i>47%</i>	2 <i>2%</i>	46 <i>51%</i>

Annex VI: List of recommendations from internal evaluations closed as of 31 December 2020

Sub-programme	Evaluation Title	Evaluation Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report
Transport	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	Jul-18	2	Regional commissions: drafting sustainability strategy and/or plan based on sustainability analysis; either during the design stage or as one of the activities within the project timeline. The sustainability strategy should define the governmental/national institutions' goals, there should be an identification of the people, roles and departments that will be responsible for leading the sustainability efforts	(a) Draft Project Stakeholders ToR will be prepared by UNECE and agreed with all project partners in the project inception phase. UNECE will communicate the Project Stakeholders ToR to beneficiary countries and, after project inception phase, agree the final version; (b) A country-specific project work plan will be developed in initial project year. Each national work plan will have a sustainability plan defining in detail the steps required and measures to be taken to ensure the continuation of project activities and sustainability of project outcomes. The final version will be adopted by each beneficiary country; (c) The UNECE project team and national focal points will report on progress made to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. The beneficiary countries will be invited to report on project results	(a) Implemented. Stakeholder TOR prepared and sent to stakeholders 7 October 2018. (b) Implemented as of June 2020: National scoping missions have been conducted in all 5 beneficiary countries resulting in draft National Connectivity Reports (incl. a work plan and sustainability plan) to be further discussed, finalised and agreed at forthcoming National Policy Dialogue sessions. (c) Implemented as of September 2020: The project manager reported to the WP.5 sessions in September 2019 and 2020 an on both occasions one of the beneficiary countries (Georgia and Serbia respectively) delivered a detailed presentation on their experience in the framework of the project. Other beneficiary countries participated too and had an opportunity to intervene and speak up. The next session of WP.5 will be in September 2021 where the finalised set of indicators will be presented and where once again all 5 pilot countries will be participating and share their final experience and feedback.
Transport	Strengthening the national road safety management capacities of selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition	Jul-18	5	Regional Commission/s: engagement with national stakeholders, donor and financial institutions to ensure proper utilization of the RSPR documents in beneficiary countries, advance the result of the programming, progress national capacity road safety management system, further implementation of the project results and progress in strengthening of the national road safety management system	(a) Organization of a capacity building workshop on road safety management in Tbilisi; (b) Fifty additional copies of Albania and Georgia RSPR will be published in Geneva; (c) Representatives of Albania and Georgia will be invited to report on project implementation at the 81 st session of ITC; (d) UNECE Regional Advisor, with assistance of Sustainable Transport Division colleagues, will organize regional road safety workshop on road safety management and RSPR in 2020	(a) Implemented 16. On 26-27 November 2018, UNECE in co-operation with the Georgian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development organized a RSPR follow-up capacity building workshop in Tbilisi. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the knowledge of Central Asia, Caucasus and East-Europe countries on how to define national road safety policy and improve road safety situation. As such, the workshop supported better understanding of international and regional best practices on road safety management, collection and utilization of robust and reliable road safety statistics and tools (SafeFITS, and RSPR) and methodologies for setting up road safety strategic goals. (b) Implemented 200 additional copies (50 Albania and 150 Georgia RSPR) were delivered September in 2018. (c) Implemented Representatives of Georgia and Albania were invited to 81 st ITC session (February 2019) and reported to ITC on project results. Furthermore, the Secretariat gave presentation on RSPR project methodology and results. (d) Implemented. Follow-up workshop was held online on 1-2 October 2020. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen knowledge of road safety stakeholders on Road Safety Performance Reviews (methodology, data requirements, results and benefits), how to efficiently implement RSPR recommendation – with special emphasize on provisions of the 1997 and 1958 Agreements. Twenty-three participants from six countries, UNECE and international experts participated in 2-day event.

Sub-programme	Evaluation Title	Evaluation Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report
Economic Cooperation & Integration	Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Initiative: PPP Toolkit and International PPP Centre of Excellence	Oct-18	4	In the context of the unstable humanitarian circumstances in parts of the world, refugee camps for regional or international displaced people have to be created rapidly, exerting increased pressure on local population and resources. In delivering public infrastructure and services in the camps, the private sector can be effective by delivering technical expertise and efficient cost management, thus making PPPs a potentially preferred approach. The knowledge transfer to relevant organizations could be realized within the overall inter-agency cooperation of the UN system. In this context, ICoE could generate and share knowledge on involving private sector in managing humanitarian situations.	UNECE partially accepts this recommendation. The UNECE does not have a mandate to prepare standards, recommendations and guiding principles for humanitarian situations. However, whenever standards or guidelines are designed on specific sectors, the UNECE gives careful considerations on how these could also have a positive impact on humanitarian situations. The private sector has provided many solutions in humanitarian situations, including in refugee camps, and as part of the UNECE campaign for 500 people-first PPP case studies, an energy project in a refugee camp in Ethiopia was showcased. One of the main infrastructure challenges in refugee camps is waste management and UNECE is working with a team of experts to develop guidelines on waste to energy projects, with a section dedicated to small waste to energy projects for refugee camps/rural communities.	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>This recommendation was implemented with the elaboration of guidelines on promoting People-first PPP Waste-to-Energy projects for the circular economy (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2020/5) discussed at the fourth session for the Working Party on PPPs on 1-2 December 2020.</p> <p>The guidelines make specific references to refugees as a vulnerable group, as well as key stakeholders to be consulted when implementing projects.</p>
Environment	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Jun-19	1	The UNECE needs to support the Central Asian countries (CAC) in addressing the challenges linked to the implementation of and accession to the Convention with a long-term support which extend over a considerable number of years with each phase building on the results and lessons learned of the previous ones since the nature of the industrial safety related issues in Central Asia is complex and requires long-term efforts	The Convention's Working Group on Implementation (WGI), serviced by the secretariat, to continue monitoring closely the developments in each of the CAC, encourage countries to report on progress and submit updated self-assessments and action plans reflecting any new developments as well as to submit project proposals aimed to address specific needs of individual countries and the subregion. Timeline: 2019-2020.	<p>Implemented by 31 December 2020</p> <p>The Convention secretariat pursued the implementation of the Convention's workplan 2019-2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1), which placed great emphasis on helping the Central Asian countries (CAC) address the difficulties and challenges linked to the Convention's implementation and accession to it.</p> <p>Forward-looking, the secretariat included in the workplan for 2021-2022 (see addendum to meeting report ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1, forthcoming, based on in-session document ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.3) adopted at eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11, Geneva and online, 7-9 December 2020) projects and activities aimed at strengthening industrial safety in the CAC aiming to address the challenges linked to the implementation of and accession to the Convention (such as Project on National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) for industrial safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) (as a follow-up to the Project on Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia), Project on supporting Central Asian countries' efforts to strengthen the safety of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs) (continuation), Project on strengthening the safety of TMFs in Tajikistan, Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety in Central Asia, Project on strengthening NATECH risk management in Central Asia etc.).</p> <p>All these activities and Projects are based on the needs voiced by the CAC and aim to provide long-term support for enhanced industrial safety in the CAC and in the subregion on the whole. At COP-11, representatives of the CAC acknowledged their progress in the implementation of the Convention, notably</p>

Sub-programme	Evaluation Title	Evaluation Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report
Environment	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Jun-19	2	The UNECE Convention's secretariat needs to continue communications with the national authorities responsible for industrial safety and transboundary cooperation and has to involve all industrial safety actors in the future similar projects design and implementation to maintain the momentum for enhancing the commitment of the CAC in the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	The Convention's secretariat to continue to include CAC in communication on the Convention's activities. The Project manager and the Convention's Secretary to continue fundraising efforts aiming to secure funding for the Project "National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Industrial Safety for Central Asia," which would meet CAC's needs for strengthened inter-institutional cooperation, enhanced governance and more coherent policy-making. NPDs are part of the Convention's long-term strategy until 2030, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018) and included in the Convention's workplan for 2019-2020 (see ECE/CP.TEW 38/Add.1).	<p>thanks to the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme. Notably, representatives of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan acknowledged the importance of activities under the Programme, including the project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, the project on strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular TMFs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, and beyond in Central Asia, and the new Project on NPDs for industrial safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch).</p> <p>Delegates noted that such projects contributed to knowledge- and experience-sharing, for the benefit of harmonizing national procedures and strengthening transboundary cooperation and highlighted that the Assistance and Cooperation Programme was an important means for enhancing industrial safety in the Central Asian subregion. A representative of the Russian Federation also acknowledged that the work under the Project allowed CAC to strengthen industrial safety and the Convention's Chair acknowledged CAC's successes in the Project implementation. COP-11 welcomed the achievements of the CAC under the Project, as evidenced by the independent external evaluation and positively noted the continuation of support to these countries, to address existing gaps and challenges.</p> <p>More information is available in the COP report (ECE/CP.TEIA/42, forthcoming).</p> <p>Implemented by 31 December 2020</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat has maintained close contact with the CAC, notably with the focal points nominated by the competent authorities. It also facilitated communication between the Convention's Working Group on Implementation (WGI) and the focal points, notably by arranging and holding teleconferences with the CAC to follow up on progress in the implementation of national action plans.</p> <p>In the second half of 2020, the Russian Federation confirmed funding for the implementation of the first phase of the Project "NPDs on Industrial Safety for Central Asia". The funding intends to cover the period August 2020-December 2021 in the course of which the Project will be launched, commitment and ownership by the beneficiary countries (CAC) ensured and advisory services on reviewing national policies and legislation, in view of alignment with UNECE and national legal requirements, and other related policy areas in all beneficiary countries, provided. The Project will involve all relevant national authorities, including those responsible for industrial safety, environment, internal affairs, civil defence, emergency situations, among other areas, as well as local authorities, industries and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The secretariat has continuously engaged with the CAC's national authorities in an active manner and advocated for increased implementation of and accession to the Convention by the CAC, notably through the implementation of dedicated projects (further to the above Project, also the Projects on improving mining tailings safety in Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia and the Project on</p>

Sub-programme	Evaluation Title	Evaluation Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report
Environment	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Jun-19	3	The UNECE needs to promote the message that effective industrial accidents hazard and risk management is linked to development planning per se and requires the streamlining of industrial safety risk and prevention throughout development and environment programming. The way forward would be by enhanced mainstreaming of the objectives of the UNECE Convention, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement.	<p>The Convention's secretariat, through assistance activities, to continue increasing awareness and the level of implementation of relevant international legal instruments, such as the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In 2019-2020 this will be done, notably through the Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia, and similar Project for Tajikistan implemented under the Convention's workplan. It will also continue to raise awareness of the linkages to Agenda 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety, through the subregional workshops on Land-use Planning and Industrial Safety (for Eastern Europe and Caucasus, May 2019, Chisinau; for South-Eastern Europe, spring 2020, Belgrade (tbc); and for Central Asia (tbc, if funding becomes available). The implementation of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in CACs would enable enhanced mainstreaming of the Convention's objectives with the policy commitments under Agenda 2030.</p>	<p>improving mine tailings safety in Central Asia), direct communication and through extensive network of regional partners (e.g. the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Interstate Council on Industrial Safety, Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty etc.), including through its participation in the meetings of these partners in 2020.</p> <p>Implemented by 31 December 2020</p> <p>Several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are directly relevant for risk prevention, preparedness and response in the context of the Industrial Accidents Convention. Industrial accidents and their potential far-reaching consequences pose a threat to countries' ability to achieve sustainable development. The UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and Agenda 2030 strengthen each other, just as the Convention can support its Parties in their commitments to achieve the SDGs. That is why supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant policies is one of the key objectives of the Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030, adopted at CoP-10 in December 2018. The Convention also helps its Parties and committed countries to follow up on the priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework.</p> <p>The effective implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention contributes to achieving the objectives set out in the Sendai Framework, while the priorities for action under the Framework directly support prevention, preparedness and response to industrial and chemical accidents.</p> <p>Through the implementation of various activities and projects since the issuance of the recommendation, UNECE has consistently promoted the message that effective industrial accidents hazard and risk management was linked to development planning and required the streamlining of industrial safety risk and prevention throughout development and environment programming. The Sub-Regional Workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (May 2019) raised awareness of the linkages to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety. A representative of Kyrgyzstan who attended the workshop expressed the need for a sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for countries of Central Asia and offered to host such an activity. Such an activity for the CAC has been included in the workplan and is envisaged to be held in the biennium 2021-22.</p> <p>Through its communication (via press-releases, news pieces, social media posts, e-mails as well as at various capacity-building activities and official meetings), the Convention's secretariat has been continuously stressing the role of the Convention as a tool for technological disaster risk which provides support for the attainment of the priorities for action under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and relevant SDGs. The recommendation to accede to (where relevant) and strengthen the Convention's implementation, including as</p>

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						<p>means to comply with global commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been continuously included to the Common Country Analyses under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</p> <p>The Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch), initiated in 2020, seeks to support beneficiary countries in achieving relevant SDGs through a coordinated and well-established process of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs). Notably, it will help in the implementation of the SDGs 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16, including targets 6.3, 9.4, 11.b, 12.4, 13.1 & 16.6. Furthermore, through the establishment of the NPDs as coordination mechanisms addressing, inter alia, technological/chemical accident risks, the Project will contribute to achieving the objectives and four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, notably: Priority 1: understanding disaster risk, Priority 2: strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, Priority 3: investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and Priority 4: enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.</p> <p>Under the UNECE project on supporting CAC in strengthening mine tailings safety, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have taken steps to establish an inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and the prevention of water pollution, and Uzbekistan is embarking on the preparation of an inventory and a map of tailings facilities. Related activities have contributed to fostering the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, both serviced by UNECE, and to improving awareness of linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p>
Environment	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Jun-19	4	The UNECE Convention's secretariat should maintain a continued dialogue with the sub-regional Centre for Emergency Situation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), CIS ICIS and other relevant regional and sub-regional partners and donor organizations for the joint effort aimed at sustaining the results achieved and coordinate further support to the countries concerned. In the longer term the feasibility of a suitable sub-regional organization acting as a sub-regional hub or platform for the exchange of lessons learned, best practices and advanced knowledge in industrial safety could be explored.	The secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention to continue to actively engage with a broad range of relevant actors for increased industrial safety and transboundary cooperation. Timeline: 2019-2020.	<p>Implemented by 31 December 2020</p> <p>The UNECE secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention cooperates closely with a number of regional organizations striving to reduce the risk of technological disaster risks and prevent industrial accidents from happening. Such organisations include the Centre for Emergency Situation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) in Almaty, the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety, Regional Environmental Centre for Asia (CAREC).</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat has exchanged the letters of cooperation with the CESDRR (December 2018) and is cooperating with the Center closely. It has hosted several subregional activities for the CAC in the course of the 2019-2020 biennium and it is planned that the Centre would continue to host relevant assistance activities in the coming biennium and beyond. The Convention's secretariat is also cooperating closely with UNDRR and was invited to participate in and contribute to the regional ministerial roundtables (hosted by CESDRR) and national workshops on national and local strategies. A close partnership with the CIS ICIS has been on-going with the secretariat's</p>

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Environment	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Jun-19	5	For the future similar projects UNECE should encourage and promote the development and/or improvement of existing industrial safety governance arrangements in the way which could facilitate the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention. Industrial safety, including its transboundary dimension, has to be clearly conceptualized by appropriate governance (legislation, policy, strategy, standards etc.) in the countries of Central Asia.	The Convention's secretariat to continue its outreach to potential donors and efforts to raise necessary funds for the implementation of the project aiming at improving the existing industrial safety governance. The project activities will be tailored to country-specific needs which are tracked by the secretariat and the Convention's WGL The Russian Federation appears to be the obvious partner for the implementation of a follow-up project, given the geographical proximity and the transboundary dimension as well as the experience gained by experts, which have participated in the first phase of the project.	<p>regular attendance of its annual meetings and presentation of the on-going and planned assistance activities, notably under technical cooperation projects for the CAC. Most recently, the secretariat attended the XVIII meeting of the ICIS (September 2020) and the ICIS Chair attended the Convention's COP-11 (December 2020).</p> <p>Implemented by 31 December 2020</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat started the implementation of the Project on NPDs for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) in August 2020. It is expected that through the implementation of this project the NPDs will be launched in all CAC with high-level commitment and full ownership on the side of the beneficiary countries. The advisory services will be provided to the five beneficiary countries with the aim of reviewing and analysing the industrial safety legislation in force and providing recommendations in view of alignment with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and national legal requirements, and other related policy areas (including disaster risk reduction) in the five CAC. Subject to further donor financial support, Phase II of the Project (envisaged for 2022-2024) will contribute to the improvement of existing industrial safety governance arrangements and facilitate the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention by the CAC.</p> <p>Furthermore, the implementation of the TMF safety projects for the CAC funded by Switzerland has begun to promote appropriate governance arrangements in the field of industrial safety, specifically that of mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution. While this work addresses a very specific aspect of tailings safety risk, the Project on NPDs for Industrial Safety for CAC will allow to strengthen governance and policy-making in the field of industrial safety more comprehensively in all CAC. The Convention's secretariat has thus continued its outreach to potential donors and its efforts to raise necessary funds for the implementation of relevant projects aiming at improving the existing industrial safety governance bore fruit. The implementation of the above projects, the funding for which has been secured by the secretariat, thanks to the successful fund-raising with relevant donor countries, is ongoing and will continue throughout the next biennium and possibly beyond. The recommendation, which is long-term in its nature, will continue to be implemented, though its shorter-term goals have been achieved by the indicated deadline</p>

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Environment	Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Jun-19	6	The establishment and continuous holding of National and Sub-regional Policy Dialogues for industrial safety could be an effective way to provide support to countries in coherent and risk informed policy-making for industrial safety across different sector indirect follow-up to the completion of the Project and to support the implementation of activities set out in the national action plans developed during the Project.	The Convention's secretariat to actively pursue the mobilization of funding for the launch of NPDs for Central Asia as of 2020 and the establishment of a steady and sustainable process of consultations on industrial safety, accident prevention, disaster risk reduction and emergency response with relevant national institutions, non-governmental organizations, industry representatives, parliamentary bodies, and other national stakeholders thereon.	<p>Implemented by 31 December 2020</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat managed to secure funding (provided by the donor country – Russian Federation) allowing to initiate the process of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in the CAC. The objective is to address the need to enhance industrial safety in Central Asia, through activities directed at strengthening respective governance mechanisms and policy making, by means of launching the process of NPDs on Industrial Safety. It is designed to effectively assist beneficiary countries by providing a framework for dialogue in view of advancing policy reforms and enhancing their environmental governance, disaster resilience and industrial safety.</p> <p>The process of establishing NPDs in the CAC has been on-going since mid-2020. While the NPDs will be taking place in the future with the constantly increasing ownership of the process by the CAC, the secretariat succeeded in launching this process by the set deadline (an announcement of the official launch took place at COP-11). Moreover, the Convention's secretariat and the Working Group on Implementation have been in close touch with the CAC to ensure proper follow-up to the Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia since its completion in March 2019 and providing support and guidance to the countries, as required.</p> <p>Further support will be provided in the course of the implementation of the current Projects in Central Asia which have been designed on a needs-driven basis in consultation with the CAC and bearing in mind the needs and priorities set in the countries' national action plans.</p>
Economic Cooperation & Integration	Competitiveness, innovative policies and public-private partnerships: capacity building for civil servants and business associations (UNECE E-226)	May-19	2	UNECE should carefully plan the adoption of the innovation and competitiveness principles by the member States (governments and private sector). By increasing capacities of policy makers and popularizing “people-first” principles in PPPs, UNECE plays the “facilitator” role between the public and the private sector in the region and creates the premises for a sustainable economic and social development. The operationalization of the principles should be further guided by UNECE, in consultation with the member States.	UNECE will create a task force on innovation and competitiveness principles at the 2019 annual session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (December 2019). UNECE will continue to guide the operationalization of people-first PPP principles in consultation with member States. The responsibilities are with the Innovative Policies Development Section (on innovation principles; Anders Joensson) and the Partnerships Development Section (on PPP principles; Geoffrey Hamilton).	<p>Implemented as of December 2020</p> <p>Principles on innovation policies for sustainable development for six member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) were adopted by silence procedure following the informal consultations of the members of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies on 10 December 2020.</p> <p>On 2 December 2020 the Working Party on PPPs welcomed the People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs and agreed that it should be used on a pilot basis in 2021. This is a concrete tool to implement the People-first PPP outcomes by scoring and evaluating infrastructure projects against the SDGs. Member States decided not to go ahead with the proposed project facilitation hub.</p>

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Statistics	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	Jun-19	4	Within its mandate, working together with other international organisations, as well as the local UNDP office in Ashgabat, UNECE to continue making efforts and to find ways to bring State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (Turkmenstat) more into international initiatives in order to ensure more active participation of Turkmenistan in international cooperation and especially participation of representatives from SSC Turkmenistan in international and sub-regional workshops, seminars and other type of capacity building events as well as in future similar projects	<p>UNECE will continue to engage with Turkmenstat and the UN country team in Turkmenistan to encourage greater involvement of Turkmenstat in international statistical activities.</p> <p>As capacity development activities are strictly demand-driven, follow-up activities will depend on requests from Turkmenistan. However, UNECE will continue to seek ways to fund participants from Turkmenistan to attend relevant international meetings, and will use events such as the annual UNECE / Eurostat / EFTA High-level Seminar for EECCA countries (the 2019 seminar is on 24-26 September in Chisinau) to engage with senior managers from Turkmenstat to try to identify capacity development priorities.</p>	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project</p>
Statistics	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	Jun-19	5	When planning a project, UNECE to have more advisory missions and more intensive professional and diplomatic contacts in order to ensure full participation of the countries that are intended beneficiaries.	The Statistical Division will ensure that project managers take the necessary steps to make sure that beneficiary countries are fully engaged and committed to project activities from the outset of all future projects	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project</p>
Statistics	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	Jun-19	6	When running a project, UNECE should ensure that all required documentation, such as mission reports, events documentation, related correspondence and similar are received, collated and deposited in a designated place in accordance with the prescribed procedures.	The Statistical Division will ensure that project managers will be reminded of this for all future projects, particularly in cases where project managers are leaving their post.	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project</p>
Statistics	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable development of statistics	Jun-19	7	UNECE to examine the possibilities within the existing procedures and tools, for each project activity, in addition to the amounts of expenses breakdown by type, to keep evidence on expenses by activity and source of financing (as information given on some workshops in some mission reports or activity concept note).	The Statistical Division will ensure that project managers keep appropriate financial records to supplement what is recorded in the UMOJA system, for all future projects.	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project</p>
Statistics	Strengthening national capacity in the most vulnerable UNECE countries for the sustainable	Jun-19	8	From the very beginning of a project, to have a deputy Project manager or other designated person who will take the over the management of a running project in case of Project	The Statistical Division will ensure that effective contingency planning is included in all future projects.	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>ECE is not the lead agency for the UNDA 14T project on Statistics, but ECE will participate and has transmitted the recommendations to the lead entity for their consideration when they develop the project</p>

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	development of statistics			manager departure from UNECE. The deputy Project manager or other designated person has to be involved in and familiar with the project from the very beginning in order to ensure smooth continuation of the project in case when the Project manager lives the project		
Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	1	Given UNECE's convening power and mandate, UNECE can facilitate involving and engaging with a broader range of key stakeholders/decision makers that could advance the Air Convention priorities more effectively by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organizing regional or national seminars to include decision-makers, such as representatives of the ministries of environment and natural resource management; including officials from statistical agencies in trainings would also facilitate their understanding of the type of data required to apply international methodologies. 	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will ensure that complementary actions, such as seminars including decision-makers, will be organized, e.g. in the framework of the EU co-funded project, to be implemented by the end of 2021.	Implemented as of December 2020 In May and October 2020, UNECE organized online meetings of the EECCA Coordinating Group to engage representatives of Ministries and share progress on ratification and implementation of the Air Convention. UNECE organized online workshops on methodologies and guidelines used to develop national emissions inventories for national experts from ministries and relevant institutions in Moldova (6 November), Kyrgyzstan (4 December) and Kazakhstan (21 December). The workshops helped countries improve the quality and completeness of reporting under the Air Convention. As regards the inclusion of officials from statistical agencies in workshops, UNECE has limited impact on the nomination of national experts to participate in the training sessions, but the secretariat nevertheless recommended the participation of statistical officials.
Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	2	UNECE in collaboration with committed and experienced national partners should further work on the adaptability of the tools and methodologies to the regional and national contexts. Furthermore, UNECE may consider diversifying the portfolio of products covered in subsequent workshops and seminars, to include Greenhouse Gas - Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS), COPERT and the like.	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will try to continue complementary activities on the tools and models (GAINS, COPERT) under the Convention, depending on availability of resources, by the end of 2021.	Implemented as of December 2020 As some EECCA countries, in their official letters to the secretariat, stressed the need for a better understanding of the COPERT model for calculating emissions from road transport, the Convention's secretariat prepared a concept note on a future possible project and has attempted to raise funds and held negotiations with potential donors in this regard. A project proposal to be funded by the EU has been submitted, which includes a subregional workshop on the GAINS model and the development of scenarios with support of the GAINS model. The outcome of the project proposal is not yet known.

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Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	3	There is a continued need for awareness raising about the Convention and its protocols on the environmental and health effects of air pollution as well as modalities of engagement and benefits. Potential tools may include a basic tool kit that could be applied for fast familiarization of new public officials with the problem, and/or a framework document that would visibly demonstrate the benefits of acceding to the Air Convention and the protocols. Using well-substantiated and clear-cut messages about adaptability of the tools to national contexts could help better sensitize politicians about the advantages of the Convention and encourage them to internalize this knowledge for further actions	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) could develop further awareness-raising materials, such as brochures and translation of existing documents into Russian, depending on availability of resources, by the end of 2021.	<p>Implemented as of December 2020</p> <p>Preparatory work has started for a high-level awareness-raising event and national roundtable to be held in Nur-Sultan in July 2021. Similar to the high-level meetings and roundtables organized in Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2019, this event also aims to raise the political profile of the Convention and awareness of the benefits of accession to the Protocols. The final draft of a National Action Plan for ratification will be presented and discussed with the national authorities of Kazakhstan at a roundtable. (The project is financed by Switzerland as co-funding to the EU project “Implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) – Phase II” (2019-2021)). A mid-term online stakeholder workshop was organized to fill information gaps and to produce different scenarios for ratification and implementation of the Convention in Kazakhstan.</p> <p>The secretariat co-organized a subregional online workshop for Central Asian countries convened by the US EPA to inform about the Convention, its lessons learned and the capacity building programme. About 50 participants joined the meeting.</p> <p>In addition, the secretariat organized an awareness raising webinar on the occasion of the First International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, which was attended by 150 participants from around the world, including many stakeholders from the EECCA countries.</p> <p>Further improvements and translations of sections on the website into Russian have been implemented and migrated to the new Drupal website.</p>
Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	6	Discussion of strategies to acquire funding and political support for advancing the Convention through other partners should be an integral part of UNECE support in EECCA region in addition to the focus on capacity building and skills upgrade.	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will try to invite representatives from IFIs to capacity building activities, whenever appropriate, by December 2020.	<p>Implemented as of December 2020</p> <p>UNECE invited representatives from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank to the 39th session of the Executive Body for the Convention to discuss possible strategies to finance work related to the Convention in beneficiary countries. Follow-up discussions have been held with the World Bank.</p>

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Environment	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	Jul-19	7	Consistent with UNECE prioritization of gender-responsive standards, affirming gender balance in invitations to participate would further ensure equal representation and equal project benefits for women and men. Existing gender representation in beneficiaries, which implicitly facilitated attention to gender equality, could be complemented by exploring opportunities to cooperate with other development partners with explicit mandate and knowledge on how to ensure gender equality, for example the UN Women and national gender machineries.	The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olenrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will encourage gender balance in project activities by sending targeted invitations and explore opportunities to cooperate with other development partners with explicit mandate and knowledge on how to ensure gender equality, for example UN Women, by end of 2021.	<p>Implemented as of December 2020</p> <p>UNECE is encouraging gender balance in meetings and has highlighted the importance of gender balance in preparatory conversations for events with national focal points.</p> <p>In all seminars, national roundtables and organised awareness raising meetings, equal representation and equal benefits for women and men in project implementation are envisaged. An example is the recently organised online meeting of the EECCA Coordination Group, where 9 of the 15 participants were female. In the recent online workshop on the development of emission inventories in the Republic of Moldova, 9 of 20 participants were female.</p>
Environment	Evaluation of EPR process in the period 2015–2019	Sep-19	1	The EPR unit should continue to align the future EPRs with the specific needs and priorities of the beneficiary countries, by integrating sectors, such as agriculture, energy and transport.	<p>Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) have always been geared to serve needs of the beneficiary countries and the EPR unit will continue to align the EPRs with the needs and priorities of the beneficiary countries. In particular, the EPR unit will sensitize the countries to design the structure of the respective review to further integrate economic sectors, such as agriculture, energy and transport.</p> <p>As a voluntary programme the EPR has to be responsive and support the needs and requests of the countries willing to have their environment management reviewed. The EPR unit will continue to respect this mutual understanding and will ensure that the country representatives understand and will be informed about the importance of integrating environment into sectoral policies, such as agriculture, energy and transport. When an EPR report is launched, the EPR unit will also explore with the respective country the initiation of a national process to monitor and assess progress in the implementation of EPR recommendations, including the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group necessary to support the integration of sectors, such as agriculture, energy and transport.</p>	<p>Implemented, September 2020</p> <p>One feature and advantage of the EPR programme is to be flexible to meet specific needs of the beneficiary countries. During the preparatory mission, the EPR unit agrees with the environmental authorities to include chapters that are of priorities for the country under review.</p> <p>The recommendation was implemented in preparation for the EPR of Morocco.</p>

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Environment	Evaluation of EPR process in the period 2015–2019	Sep-19	3	The EPR unit should seek advice from the Expert Group on EPRs on the need and modalities for deeper coverage of human rights and environment in EPRs in future EPRs.	The EPRs have concentrated on the state of the environment, environmental management, health and measurable environmental issues such as emissions. Human rights issues related to environment have not been covered by EPRs and the EPR unit will seek advice from the Expert Group on EPRs and OHCHR colleagues dealing with environment and human rights how and to what extent to address these issues. The EPR unit will invite OHCHR colleagues to raise the issue of human rights connected to environment in the next meeting of the Expert Group on EPRs. The EPR unit will then analyse and subsequently implement the recommendations that the Expert Group will give on how to cover and integrate human rights in the general structure of EPRs at the 31st meeting of the EPR Expert Group on EPR (date).	<p>Implemented, August 2020</p> <p>A workshop was organised 19 August 2020 with the EPR Expert group to discuss the integration of human rights into the EPRs. The Procedural Aspects were already in the EPRs in the chapter on environmental democracy.</p> <p>The EPR unit drafted a paper to share with the experts how to integrate substantive human rights in the relevant chapters: air protection, water management, waste and chemical management, health and environment and agriculture and environment.</p>
Environment	Evaluation of EPR process in the period 2015–2019	Sep-19	4	UNECE should extend cooperation with other UN entities and other international organizations for organization of the future EPRs since the EPR Programme covers several fields that are beyond the expertise of UNECE, such as industry, health, agriculture, waste management and environmental risk management. This should include WHO, UNEP, UNIDO.	The EPR Programme by its nature is a wide ranging and multi-faceted and therefore needs expertise on very diverse and specified issues – such as biodiversity, protected areas management, waste and chemical management and climate change adaption and mitigation. The five staff of the EPR unit does not and cannot have all this expertise. Therefore, the EPR unit has had hundreds of UN system, in-kind or outside experts contributing to EPR reviews over the course of the past 23 years. For example, during the period from 2015 to 2019, 162 experts worked on EPRs out of which 41 were either from the EPR unit or ECE. The EPR unit has collaborated with UNEP, OCHA, WHO and OECD. The EPR unit will continue its long-standing policy of using the best available experts on specific issues and continue and, if possible, expand its contacts with WHO, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, OECD and others for the best possible expertise on all environmental issues for the next review that will take place spring 2020.	<p>Implemented, October 2020</p> <p>The practice has been extended to relevant organisations, depending on the structure of the review.</p> <p>After a preparatory mission, the EPR unit contacts other international organizations to ask them to provide expertise or to share information on related topics based on the agreed structure.</p> <p>During the consolidation of the report, the EPR unit also contacts relevant international organisations, if needed.</p> <p>In October 2020, the European Investment Bank was invited for the first time, and accepted, to join the team for the EPR of Morocco, as well as the UNEP Regional Office for Africa.</p>

Sub-programme	Evaluation Title	Evaluation Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report
Environment	Evaluation of EPR process in the period 2015–2019	Sep-19	5	Future EPRs need to continue supporting the beneficiary countries in developing/refining legal and policy framework for green economy together with putting in place specific green economy initiative and financing.	<p>As responses to the emerging global and regional concerns, new concepts and approaches, such as green economy, have been developed. In 2011, the seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” requested the EPR Programme in its third cycle to include amongst others, financing in a green economy context. However, in some reviewed countries, the legal and policy framework for green economy and specific green economy initiatives are lacking.</p> <p>The Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy provides guidance to an inclusive green economy that will bring investment in innovation, foster the transfer of green technology and products and stimulate sustainable consumer behaviour. To respond to the identified challenge and based on the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, the EPR unit will work with the Expert Group on EPRs and UNEP, and in cooperation with OECD, to design and increase capacity-development activities and materials to support countries in integrating green economy approaches at the 31st meeting of the EPR Expert Group on EPR (date). These actions will be undertaken in order to reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities, create green jobs and minimize negative consequences for enterprises and vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Implemented, October 2020</p> <p>Two chapters are linked to green economy: Chapter 1 is reviewing policies on Green economy and chapter 3 on Green economy goes further into details. Moreover, each chapter covers measures to green the environment.</p> <p>For instance, in October 2020, in a meeting of the Expert Group on EPRs, Romania accepted recommendations refining the legal and policy framework for green economy.</p>
Environment	Evaluation of EPR process in the period 2015–2019	Sep-19	6	UNECE in collaboration with CEP, EPR Expert Group, donors and relevant UN and other international organizations should increase the awareness and readiness of reviewed countries to provide all necessary data and information facilitating a smooth incorporation of relevant SDGs into the reviews.	<p>The availability of data has been problematic throughout the time of the EPR Programme. The voluntary nature of the Programme sometimes hinders the enthusiasm of the country under review to provide the necessary data. There are several, sometimes overlapping, reasons for non-provision of data. These include institutional practices of ministries and statistical offices; data are considered confidential; or data for specific environmental area not being collected at all. In communications with the countries under review, the EPR Programme has always emphasized the importance of the availability of good, reliable and timely data. The rationale for having data for EPRs has been that good data enables better analysis of the environmental problems leading to good recommendations best suited for the needs of the country, including the incorporation of SDGs in the reviews.</p>	<p>Implemented, September 2020</p> <p>The EPR unit in all forums and in all phases of the EPR process, consistently reminds countries under review to submit to the EPR review team accurate information and data in particular those related to the structure of the review.</p> <p>Morocco was the last country to be reviewed and during the virtual preparatory meetings in September 2020, the need of accurate data and information facilitating a smooth incorporation of relevant SDGs into the review was raised.</p>

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					The EPR Programme will continue to underline the need for reliable data and to increase awareness of the reviewed countries of the importance of data availability. The EPR unit will seek support from the Executive Secretary and the Statistical Division to obtain the necessary data for future countries under review. The next review is expected to take place spring 2020.	
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Jul-19	2	In order to achieve the SWAP 2.0 indicator for “approaches” requirements for Reporting on Gender Related SDG Results, the Statistics Division and the P-5 Gender Focal Point should provide guidance to all relevant UNECE staff on systematic collection, use, analysis and reporting of gender-disaggregated data, gender equality and empowerment of women results. Consider holding a Workshop on Gender Statistics for UNECE staff, similar to the May 2019 Workshop on Gender Statistics for Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia – Finding and Filling Gaps in Gender Statistics for SDG Monitoring.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Statistical Division plans to organize an event for UNECE staff in connection with the launch of the UNECE Dashboard of SDG Indicators in the first half of 2020 and is ready to provide the guidance as suggested in this recommendation. SDGU will cooperate with the Statistical Division for the content of the workshop relating to gender statistics for ECE staff. Division Directors will encourage all staff to use the guidance provided and to participate in the possible workshop.</p>	<p>Implemented in October 2020</p> <p>The Statistical Division has prepared and launched the UNECE Dashboard and Database on SDG indicators, which highlight the presentation of data by sex. The UNECE SDG Dashboard, Database, and Report were promoted through press releases and at the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, and through broadcast messages to UNECE staff in March 2020. Organization of a separate workshop for staff was not suitable then because of the Covid pandemic breaking out. In October, the Statistical Division held a region-wide online meeting on gender statistics, which included a session dedicated to progress towards measuring gender-related and gender-disaggregated SDGs. The meeting materials and report have been made available to all UNECE staff. The Statistical Division published the UNECE Guidance on Communicating Gender Statistics, which provides recommendations and examples of best practices in the reporting, dissemination, and communication of gender statistics.</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Jul-19	7	In order to meet all of the United Nations Evaluation Group gender related norms and standards, UNECE should (i) strengthen evaluation terms of reference by including gender questions under effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, as well as for relevance and impact, and by requiring an evaluator with gender expertise; (ii) strengthen evaluation design by requiring a focus on marginalized groups of women; and (iii) strengthen evaluation reports by requiring analysis of gender as a cross cutting issue, and analysis of whether attention was paid to the intervention’s effects on women.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>PMU in 2020 will particularly focus on marginalized groups of women. The effectiveness of evaluations in driving an analysis of UNECE’s efforts for gender equality and the empowerment of women will only be fully realised when the first cycle of projects which included gender in the design, will be evaluated from 2021.</p>	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>(i) The 2020 evaluations in progress include gender questions in the terms of reference under 2 or 3 criteria depending on the nature of the project or subprogramme to be evaluated. All evaluators selected in 2020 have gender expertise.</p> <p>(ii) A focus on the most vulnerable has been included in all the terms of reference of the evaluations initiated in 2020 (3 UNDA projects, 1 XB project, 3 subprogramme-level evaluations).</p> <p>(iii) The four evaluations reports completed in 2020 include large sections analysing gender as a cross-cutting issue and include recommendations how to strengthen gender mainstreaming in project/programme design.</p>

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OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Jul-19	8	Update the UNECE Gender Equality Policy to align with SWAP 2.0 indicators. Where UNECE is missing requirements, tailor the policy expectations in this area to achieve “approaching requirements”. Where UNECE is “approaching requirements”, tailor the policy expectations in this area to achieve “meets requirements”. For baseline achievement of SWAP 2.0 indicators, refer to UNECE SWAP report 2018 and this independent gender evaluation, taking the lowest level of achievement as the baseline if there are different conclusions between the two documents.	<p>UNECE accepts these recommendations.</p> <p>In 2020, UNECE will update the GEP starting in 2021. The GAP will continue to be updated biennially. The GAP 2020-2021 will be aligned with SWAP 2.0 indicators by 31 December 2020. Divisional focal points will continue to support the update of the GAP, as annexed to the GEP. Divisional focal points will continue to support and monitor the subprogramme-level Gender Action Plans.</p>	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>The UNECE Gender Action Plan for 2020 has been updated and is published at: https://unece.org/DAM/Gender/UNECE_GAP_2020_final.pdf</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	14	Carry out resource mobilization for more gender equality funding, such as launching an XB project on integrating gender into the SDGs in Europe. Consider approaching as donors member States, for example in countries in Europe that are successfully implementing gender mainstreaming in economic areas. Hire a project manager.	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation</p> <p>Division Directors will encourage staff to include funding for gender mainstreaming activities as part of broader project proposals in ECE region but within the mandates of ECE subprogrammes. To enhance the effectiveness of UNECE efforts in this area, resource mobilisation for gender equality and empowerment initiatives will be centralised. At the same time, various initiatives at the subprogramme level, such as the development methodological guidance in the “UNECE road map on statistics for SDGs” and in the related technical materials by the Statistics subprogramme will continue. If resources are available, a project manager will be hired depending on the size of the project.</p>	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2020</p> <p>SDGU participates in an UNDA project, tranche 13 on the workstream of strengthening care economy policies, focusing on policies responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with a gender lens, together with other UN regional commissions since May 2020. This has provided additional funding for initiating studies to map and analyse the impact of COVID-19 on women and the policy responses in selected countries.</p> <p>The Sustainable Transport Division has recently completed a study on car sharing and car-pooling which covers gender aspects in particular through how the needs of female users and drivers in car sharing and car-pooling and how various schemes have been adapted to reflect these needs</p> <p>The Statistical Division has prepared and launched the UNECE Dashboard and Database on SDG indicators, which highlight the presentation of data by sex. The Dashboard was implemented with financial support from Switzerland. All the gender-relevant guidance materials prepared in Statistics, such as “UNECE road map on statistics for SDGs”, “Guidance for measuring intra-household power and decision-making” and “Guidance on communicating gender statistics” build heavily on in-kind contributions from member countries. Work on a UNECE web site showcasing good examples of communicating gender statistics is financially supported by UN Women.</p> <p>FLHD published “Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry” including a chapter with recommended actions and practices on how to foster gender equality.</p>

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OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	17 & 18	<p>Rec #17: In order to achieve the “meets” indicator for gender architecture, UNECE should add one more staff member fully dedicated to gender duties – ideally at P-4 or P-3 level - rather than just a single Senior Gender Focal Point, to adequately implement the UNECE Gender Equality Policy and meet UN SWAP performance indicator targets. This could be achieved through either (i) hiring an XB project manager or (ii) through hiring a JPO or UNV. This would offer UNECE more appropriate levels of human resources to adequately fulfil its commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women, properly implement its gender equality policies and action plans, build on the advances made, and address areas of persistent weakness. The Senior Gender Focal Point post could be used more efficiently if there were more junior human resource available to relieve her of more junior responsibilities. The Senior Gender Focal Point is a senior level post that should be engaging in the most high-level gender mainstreaming and gender analysis activities, including capacity building of UNECE staff, an area which is highly technical and needs a lot of work so that staff can adequately fulfil their gender mainstreaming obligations. Currently, the Senior Gender Focal Point is doing some capacity building work, but this is insufficient to ensure that gender focal points and divisional staff in particular have adequate capacity to carry out gender mainstreaming and implementation of the Gender Action Plan in their areas of work.</p> <p>Rec #18: Explore lower cost options for expanding human resources to</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation</p> <p>To achieve the “meets” indicator for gender architecture, UNECE will put forward a proposal to EXCOM to consider the resources required in order to meet the SWAP Guidelines for the establishment of a self-standing Gender Unit, by June 2020.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2020</p> <p>SDGU has prepared a note: Follow-up to the Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in the Economic Commission for Europe: Options for Additional Resources for Gender-related Activities with the Terms of Reference for a JPO attached.</p> <p>This note was presented to EXCOM at its 111th meeting (October 2020) to seek the assistance of the UNECE member States in funding one additional professional to work on gender related issues in UNECE.</p> <p>Despite active follow-up on the note, including by the Executive Secretary approaching potential donors, no funding could be secured. SDGU will make further efforts to seek additional funding for human and financial resources in support of the UNECE work on gender.</p>

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				<p>establish a UNECE gender unit, such as JPO, UNV, interns. Target applicants with technical expertise in gender, such as gender specialist retirees, those with a PhD in gender field work, or advanced gender studies students. Explore whether SDGU JPO can be allocated to more gender work, in the context of work on the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development and implementation of the SDGs in Europe.</p>		
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	19	<p>Take steps to improve implementation of the Gender Parity Strategy, including through (i) all senior managers to support the Executive Secretary and the Secretary General in full implementation of the UNECE gender parity strategy, as well as the SG's System Wide Strategy on Gender Parity; (ii) stricter implementation of the Executive Secretary veto on hiring decisions that do not support the gender parity strategy goals, such as overturning inconsistent hiring decisions, proactive and dedicated outreach to female candidates for recruitment and promotion, and re-advertising positions where male candidates have been recommended in the face of suitably qualified female candidates; and (iii) Job openings that fail to yield a minimum 20% female applications to require written justification from the hiring manager on the positive outreach measures taken to attract women applicants. In the absence of a strong justification, job openings to be extended / reopened</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2020</p> <p>In all divisions, hiring managers have included a provision on gender parity in their ePAS (i.e., take measures towards the attainment of gender parity as per Phase 1 of the United Nations System-wide Gender Parity Strategy).</p> <p>Division Directors have included in their workplans a goal: Recruit staff expeditiously and undertake necessary measures to reduce vacancy rates; take measures towards the attainment of gender parity as per Phase 1 of the United Nations System-wide Gender Parity Strategy;</p> <p>Success criterion is defined as follows: Gender equality (50% female, 50% male staff) at all G and P levels in the Division.</p>

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OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	21	Consider engaging gender champions to shift organisational culture both from within UNECE (e.g. divisional gender champions) and from within member States (e.g. female gender equality ambassadors).	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation</p> <p>Internally, Directors and Division gender focal points could already be seen as “gender champions”. Externally, SDGU is, and will continue to work with gender champions.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2020</p> <p>SDGU continues to work with the International Gender Champions network. In 2020, support to the ES includes the establishment of a Gender Equality Award in UNECE as part of her commitments as well as collaborating with other International organizations from the network.</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	25	Improve member State capacity building by using examples from role model member States who are implementing good practices in gender mainstreaming to inspire other member States with applied examples of gender equality in technical areas.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation</p> <p>Division Directors and divisional gender focal points to encourage member States to share success stories and best practices at relevant Sectoral Committee sessions. Additional capacity building events would be determined based upon additional resources.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2020</p> <p>Environment Division organized a webinar on gender mainstreaming in environmental policies and strategies on 9 September 2020 with a view to facilitate experience sharing by Member States namely from Germany on the integration of gender aspects in environmental policy with reference to specific examples of measures on climate change programmes and projects. 72 people including 50 from member States and 20 UNECE staff members attended the webinar. https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-and-gender/webinar-on-gender-mainstreaming-in-environmental-policies-and-strategies.html</p> <p>At the request from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia to provide support in strengthening the capacity of the Ministry’s staff in gender mainstreaming and developing a package of relevant gender mainstreaming tools for environmental policies, an online refresher training was organized for the staff of the Ministry and other relevant stakeholders in Serbia on 27th November to present examples and different approaches of integrating gender aspects into environmental policies. https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-and-gender/online-training-on-integration-of-gender-aspects-into-environmental-policies.html</p> <p>Statistical Division has repeatedly encouraged countries to send examples of good practice in communicating gender statistics, according to a pre-designed template. The collection is published here.</p> <p>In informal discussions relating to the Working Party on Transport Statistics (12 June 2020) member States were encouraged to further look at how to gather wider gender disaggregated data.</p> <p>FLHD encouraged member States to share their success stories and best practices at the 78th session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industries. Sweden mentioned that gender mainstreaming is their national priority.</p>

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OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	27	Establish a regional gender network with other regional commissions to share information, knowledge, lessons and best practices in gender mainstreaming, particularly in economic commissions, including on capacity building, gender architecture, financial tracking and financial resource allocation.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The network with the respective gender units or divisions in other RECs is already operational. In addition, the substantive divisions organize regular meetings (such as gender statistics focal points of member countries to share information, knowledge, lessons and best practices in gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems).</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2020</p> <p>The Gender Focal Point in SDGU, continues to collaborate with the InterAgency Network for Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) members through participating in the annual meetings as well providing inputs to joint publications, including on the preparation of the Key Messages on the 25 years after Beijing: A Review of the UN system's support for the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and on reflecting gender dimension in the COVID-19 response in the IANWGE Compendium on integrating gender considerations in the response to the COVID-19</p> <p>Statistical Division is leading the gender statistics stream in the Development Account project "Data and statistics" of 10 UN agencies, including all regional commissions.</p> <p>While there are no respective divisions in other regional commissions working on Forestry, the division collaborates with FAO and ILO on gender related questions in the forest sector.</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	28	Expand partnerships at the local level, especially in member States where gender equality is a sensitive issue, including through strong women's national and local organisations and civil society entities to provide advocacy.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Cooperation with women's and other civil society organisations in member States exists through, and will be further strengthened in, the Beijing+25 process. SDGU will continue to work with NGOs in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as with women's associations and groups following the Beijing+25 Regional Review meeting (29-30 October 2019) where over 180 civil society organisations were represented.</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2020</p> <p>SDGU, through the Gender Focal Point continues to expand the collaboration with member States and women's organisations in Central Asia and Western Balkans, including through capacity building on the use of ICTs for women (on-line workshops took place in June-July and November 2020).</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	29	Pursue results-oriented partnerships, including with UN system actors – particularly other technical agencies and scientific organisations that are doing well on gender mainstreaming, with academia, and the private sector to increase results in UNECE's areas of weakness, including capacity building.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE is actively involved in the Issue Based Coalition (IBC) on gender equality and will continue this cooperation, particularly in the context of the reform of the UN Development System and efforts to coordinate work of the UN family at the regional level. Other examples include: (i) cooperation on gender issues with DESA through participation in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, and with UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on exchange of experience and capacity-building in gender statistics; (ii) implementation of the 5-point plan on women's</p>	<p>Implemented as at 31 December 2020</p> <p>A UNECE-wide compilation of cooperation and partnership agreements, including MoUs and Centres of Excellence, was reported to EXCOM on 8 April 2020.</p> <p>As co-chair of the IBC on environment and climate change, Environment Division Director and IBC focal points are actively engaged in the activities implemented by the IBC One of the 11 task teams established under the IBC will cover issues related to gender and environment. Although ECE is not a co-lead agency of this task team we will participate in the activities organized by the task team and contribute wherever it is relevant.</p> <p>At the request from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia to provide support in strengthening the capacity of the Ministry's staff in</p>

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					<p>empowerment in PPPs, working closely with companies and governments to increase the participation of women in the PPP decision making and implementation; and (iii) developing networks of operators in the field on the Gender Sensitive Standards Initiative.</p> <p>Divisions will be encouraged to develop results-oriented partnerships, including with UN system actors, while noting that to be fruitful partnerships often require additional time and resources from UNECE. A review of all UNECE partnerships is scheduled for 2019-2020 and will take the work on gender equality into account in this exercise.</p>	<p>gender mainstreaming and developing a package of relevant gender mainstreaming tools for environmental policies is being developed. Within the scope of this work the ENV DIV is working together and exchanging information with the RCO, UN Women in Serbia and UNDP Serbia.</p> <p>The Statistical Division leads the Regional UN Coordination Group on Data and Statistics, which addresses gender issues in the context of measuring SDGs. UN Women participates in the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics. The Statistical Division is also engaged in a project with UNCTAD and UNECA to strengthen the capacity of selected countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop and use statistics for more gender-responsive trade policy</p> <p>While there are no respective divisions in other regional commissions working on Forestry, the division collaborates with FAO and ILO on gender related questions in the forest sector.</p>
OES	Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE	Aug-19	30	Once UNECE has addressed the gender equality human resource recommendations, UNECE should consider participation in a SWAP peer review either with (i) a Geneva based technical organization, such as ILO, which has good gender mainstreaming practices (e.g. results based management); or (ii) another regional commission, e.g. ESCWA or ESCAP, both of which have good gender equality practices (e.g. financial allocation, gender architecture) that could guide improvement in these areas for UNECE.	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Conducting a SWAP peer review requires the commitment of financial resources. UNECE would consider a SWAP peer review with another Regional Commission (ESCAP or ESCWA, pending the availability of additional human and financial resources, starting in 2020.</p>	<p>Closed without implementation in December 2020</p> <p>In the absence of sufficient human resources available, this recommendation cannot be implemented.</p>
Population	Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE		4	<p>4.1 Develop a concept note to obtain funding for subnational calculations, which also includes indicative budget lines to be filled by national experts.</p> <p>4.2 Qualitative studies that complement the index could be encouraged and commissioned if funding is available or commissioned in partnership with other projects (e.g. the Generations and Gender Programme).</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE (Population Unit) could consider developing a concept note to obtain funding for subnational calculations or other possible activities related to AAI, provided there is interest from the European Commission or member States. The Population Unit will approach partners in the European Commission and explore the interest and fundraising possibilities to follow-up on the use of AAI as a monitoring tool for ageing related programmes</p>	<p>Closed, not implemented due to refocused policymakers' priorities (COVID-19)</p> <p>In 2020 – except for Italy, no other member State/EU expressed interest to extend AAI calculations at subnational level. Covid-19 situation moved the policymakers' focus towards long-term care issues.</p> <p>No additional funding could be raised.</p>

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Transport	Evaluation of the Road Safety project Phase I to IV		5	Secretariat of the Special Envoy to continue noteworthy function to support the mandate of the Special Envoy for Road Safety.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Secretariat of the Special Envoy will continue noteworthy function to mobilize the key road safety leaders to prioritize road safety in national policies and further promote accession by countries to the UN legal instruments with the support of UNECE to contribute to the achievement of the global road safety agenda</p>	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>This is ongoing, as a cornerstone of the Special Envoy activities. Some of the planned country visits and capacity building in 2020 have been delayed due to Covid-19 and will resume once the travel restrictions are lifted. Meetings and support to member states have been conducted online. Regional and national in person workshops have been put on hold.</p>
Transport	Evaluation of the Road Safety project Phase I to IV		8	Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road safety to activate comprehensive partnership to foster the connection of road safety and gender equality.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety will ensure high level reach-out at the global, regional and national level of institution addressing gender and/or empowerment of women to ensure active partnership to foster the connection of road safety and gender equality.</p>	<p>Implemented in December 2020</p> <p>A gender inclusive road safety policy and strategy/action plan has been included in the Phase VI project document as an output for the Secretariat. Additionally, through the UNCTs, the Secretariat will request meetings with human rights and gender equality groups when the visits of the Special Envoy resume.</p>
Trade	UNECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in member States (Working Party 6)		5	Seek partnerships with a broad range of women's organisations, including those representing vulnerable groups of women, in each thematic area and advisory group to seek their perspectives, address their needs, and to reach those furthest behind.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The secretariat has been working with a number of NGOs representing the needs of women, including L'Association Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie (RNF), Women at the Table, the International Gender Champions, ISEAL Alliance "Gender Working Group", HER Project and others in order to seek their perspectives and address their needs.</p> <p>The secretariat will continue to work with the above-mentioned organizations and identify other partners and seek ways of addressing their needs and perspectives in WP.6 activities, and more broadly in forums related to standards and quality infrastructure as described in the WP.6 programme of work for 2020.</p>	<p>Implemented as at December 2020</p> <p>This activity is fully anchored in the continuous activity of the secretariat in support of the Chair and Bureau of WP.6 and can thus be considered as completed.</p> <p>An increasing number of Member States beyond the ECE region and numerous international and national standardization bodies are supporting the initiative and bringing in their contribution towards the work. Information on work in 2020 can be found in the report to the annual session "Report on GRIS activities ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2020/4".</p>
Sustainable Energy	Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia		1	Continue building the capacity of the member States through technical workshops on the topics requested in the course of the evaluation, including workshops on improving statistical data for sustainable energy.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p> <p>In 2020-2021, SED will continue building the capacity of member States through technical workshops on the topics requested in the course of the evaluation, including workshops on improving statistical data for sustainable energy. Workshops may be organized with funds from RPTC budget or other extrabudgetary projects managed by SED.</p>	<p>Implemented in October 2020</p> <p>Capacity-building workshops on data solutions for evidence-based policy and stakeholder collaboration were organized on-line (because of the Covid-19 pandemic) on 12 and 14 May 2020: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53669 (jointly with UNDP Armenia and the Urban Development Committee) and http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53671 (jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the National Statistical Office of Georgia). Target countries: Armenia and Georgia. Also, participants from Belarus, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, and</p>

Sub-programme	Evaluation Title	Evaluation Date	No.	Report Recommendation	Management Response	Progress Report
Sustainable Energy	Strengthening capacity of the member States to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals - Pathways to Sustainable Energy		1	The UNECE may wish to continue disseminating the project outputs as wide as possible using, among others, electronic means.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation</p> <p>UNECE will explore all possible means to disseminate project results in the UNECE region and beyond. In 2020, results will be disseminated on the Project website, by attending Expert Groups meetings and delivering presentations. Meetings scheduled for the first half of 2020 include: the 15th session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane on 23 March 2020, the 7th session of the Group of Experts on Gas on 25 March 2020 and during the Resource Management Week from 20-24 April 2020. More dissemination activities are planned at the 11th International Forum for Sustainable Energy in Georgia in September 2020 and during the 29th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva in November 2020.</p>	<p>Tunisia. Plans for organizing workshops had to be scaled down because of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Training workshops “Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment” on-line on 14 September 2020 (in English - http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=55077) and on 1 October 2020 (in Russian - http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=55186). Participants from Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, India, Ireland, Lithuania, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>Implemented in November 2020</p> <p>The project outputs were presented to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session in November 2019 and published in the final report in English and Russian.</p> <p>Various additional materials have been developed in English and Russian containing policy recommendations and summaries and shared on the project website: https://www.unece.org/energy/pathwaystose.html</p> <p>The Expert Groups of the Committee have been involved and have received an invitation to comment and disseminate the findings.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19, meetings that were scheduled for the first half of 2020 were postponed. The 11th International Forum for Sustainable Energy in Georgia originally planned for September 2020, which was seen as the official launch opportunity for the final report, is also postponed to 2021.</p> <p>At the 29th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy recommendations from the Pathways project were presented and discussed: Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Accelerating Energy Transition in the ECE Region ECE/ENERGY/2019/1 and Policy recommendations from Pathways to Sustainable Energy ECE/ENERGY/2020/1.</p> <p>In addition, a number of documents were developed by the Group of Experts that discussed how the recommendations from Pathways project are being implemented: “Pathways to Sustainable Energy- policy recommendations from the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency” ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/5; “Pathways to Sustainable Energy – policy recommendations from the Group of Experts on Resource Management” ECE/ENERGY/2020/10 and “Pathways to Sustainable Energy – policy recommendations from the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems” ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/3.</p>
Sustainable Energy	Strengthening capacity of the member States to achieve the energy-		2	Further development to enhance the project achievements could benefit the member States: for instance, enhanced capacity-building and	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>The Project Team will continue seek opportunities to make an impact in subregions in form of capacity</p>	<p>Implemented in November 2020</p> <p>Several workshops had been planned in the Caucasus and Central Asia region with the focus on renewable energy and cost of electricity, as well as nexus</p>

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	related Sustainable Development Goals - Pathways to Sustainable Energy			expertise development to build on the effectively implemented activities 2016-2019.	building. However, this is subject to extrabudgetary funding and in-kind contributions. Fundraising will be actively sought during 2020. Resourcing strategy will be discussed with the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in its calls and meetings in 2020. The Regional Advisor will also be involved.	areas energy and water. These have been postponed to 2021 when travelling will be possible again, and the secretariat is in contact with the donor (Russian Federation). In cooperation with Regional Advisor, two subregional Workshops that built on recommendations from the Pathways project were delivered online with a focus on the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and south eastern Europe. 1) Water-Energy Nexus Subregional workshop in cooperation with UNECE Environment Division and UNDP Armenia that discussed sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment in above mentioned subregions. 2) Subregional workshop on attaining carbon neutrality that discussed the role of CCUS technologies and nuclear energy in carbon neutrality context.
Sustainable Energy	Strengthening capacity of the member States to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals - Pathways to Sustainable Energy		4	To include gender and human rights aspects in the design of future projects, the UNECE may consider: a) further encouraging stakeholder/beneficiary organizations to increase the participation of female experts and decision-makers from their side in project events, e.g., by including a special notice into the invitations to these events; b) further encouraging female experts to join the Project Advisory Board and especially the Expert Groups Focal Points and Chairs; c) introducing in the project design a number of measurable gender and human rights related indicators and targets to report on the progress made.	UNECE accepts this recommendation.. UNECE will continue pursuing gender balance when organising events and forming Task Forces, Working Groups and Project Advisory Boards, in line with the corporate commitments taken in the signed Management response to the Gender mainstreaming evaluation of UNECE: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN/UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports_with_SPs/Programme-wide_docs/ Management Response to Gender Evaluation 2019 - Final clean.pdf In the Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE will proactively engage female experts to achieve gender balance.	Implemented in November 2020 The project team informed all expert groups of the opportunity to strengthen Bureaus and widen expertise by proactively recruiting female experts into task forces and project advisory boards. SED is also encouraging active participation of female experts as key note speakers, moderators and panellists at expert groups and Committee on Sustainable Energy meetings. SED launched a project on “Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” under which it formed a Task Force on Carbon Neutrality. The team is striving to achieve active participation of female experts. Currently there are 60 policy makers and industry experts recruited in the Task Force on carbon neutrality, of which 37% female and 63% male. The project team recruited 3 female experts to the project Advisory Board from Russian Federation, Serbia and World Meteorological Organization.