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**Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Environmental Policy****Twenty-seventh session**

Geneva, 3–5 November 2021

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:  
draft agenda of the Conference****Draft annotated provisional agenda for the Ninth  
Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

At its twenty-sixth session (Geneva and online, 9 and 10 November 2020), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Environmental Policy decided to reschedule the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia), for 5–7 October 2022, and asked the Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prepare for the next session of the Committee a first draft of the provisional annotated agenda for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.<sup>a</sup>

At its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 13–15 November 2019), the Committee agreed on the following two themes for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:

- (a) Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure;
- (b) Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism.<sup>b</sup>

In addition, a high-level segment on education for sustainable development, in the form of a High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, will be organized during the Conference. Progress achieved in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System across the pan-European region will also be considered. The Conference is being organized in accordance with the Reform Plan of the “Environment for Europe” process.<sup>c</sup>

In accordance with its mandate from the Committee, the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, prepared the present document.

The Committee will be invited to consider the draft and to provide guidance to its Bureau and the secretariat in finalizing the document for the Conference.

<sup>a</sup> ECE/CEP/2020/2, paras. 19 (a) and 22.

<sup>b</sup> ECE/CEP/2019/15, para. 21 (b).

<sup>c</sup> See ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1.



## I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda.
2. From Dobris to Nicosia: 30 years of environmental cooperation in the pan-European region.
3. Environment in the pan-European region: visions of 2030 and beyond.
4. Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries.
5. Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure.
6. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism.
7. Reporting on the outcomes of the thematic sessions.
8. Adoption of the Conference outcomes.
9. Closure of the Conference.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference will be held in Nicosia, from 5 to 7 October 2022. The Conference is being organized in accordance with the provisions of the Reform Plan of the “Environment for Europe” process (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1). The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy is the convening body for the preparatory process. The organizational procedures for the Nicosia Ministerial Conference, presented in document ECE/CEP/2021/7 and adopted by the Committee in 2021, serve to guide the preparations for the Conference.

2. The Nicosia Ministerial Conference will conduct its work under the following slogan: (TBD). The opening of the Conference may be preceded by a short greening-the-Conference-related interactive event for the heads of delegation, to be organized by the host country (TBD). During the Conference, there will be opportunities to network and organize bilateral meetings between ministers, including on topics not on the Conference agenda.

3. A family photograph of the heads of delegation will be taken at the end of the morning session on 5 October, between 12.30 p.m. and 1 p.m.

4. The detailed organization of work for the Conference is presented in document ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/3 and in the annex to the present document. All documents and materials for the Conference will be made available on the ECE website dedicated to the Conference. Other information related to the Conference, including the schedule of side events organized on the margins of the Conference, will be made available on the host country website.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

*Wednesday, 5 October, 9.30–10.30 a.m.*

5. A high-level representative of Cyprus will open the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference. Introductory remarks by the Chair of the Conference and welcoming speeches by high-level representatives of the United Nations will follow.

6. Delegates will be invited to adopt the agenda for the Ninth Environment for Europe Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> The link to the host country website will be posted on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at a later time.

**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/1)

Organization of work at the Conference (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/3)

*Information document*

List of documents and materials for the Conference (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/1)

## 2. From Dobris to Nicosia: 30 years of environmental cooperation in the pan-European region

*Wednesday, 5 October, 10.30–11.30 a.m.*

7. The segment will open with introductory remarks by the Chair of the Conference. Delegates will be invited to reflect upon the role of 30 years of the “Environment for Europe” process in supporting and enhancing countries’ efforts to improve their environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health in the pan-European region.

8. The segment will be organized in the form of a plenary.

9. The segment will conclude with an event to celebrate 30 years of the “Environment for Europe” process.

**Documentation**

Progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/6)

Final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/7)

Report on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in support of regular reporting in the pan-European region (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/8)

Summary of key findings and policy messages of the pan-European environmental assessment (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/9)

*Information documents*

Pan-European environmental assessment (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/4)

Protecting the environment for present and future: ECE accelerators for sustainable development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/7)

## 3. Environment in the pan-European region: visions of 2030 and beyond

*Wednesday, 5 October, 11:30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.*

10. The segment will open with introductory remarks by the Chair of the Conference. Ministers will be invited to share their visions on the state of environment in the pan-European region for 2030 and beyond.

11. The segment will be organized in the form of a moderated interactive discussion between ministers.

**Documentation***Information documents*

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E): list of commitments by country and organization (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/5)

#### **4. Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries**

*Wednesday, 5 October, 3–6 p.m.*

12. The Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries will open with introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs of this segment dedicated to education for sustainable development. Delegates will consider progress achieved in that field.

13. Ministers of education and environment will decide on the next steps to be taken to advance education for sustainable development in the region. The segment will be organized in a plenary and interactive format.

14. The segment will conclude with ministers of education and the environment being invited to adopt the Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development.

##### **Documentation**

Draft Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/L.2)

Framework for the future implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/10)

##### *Information documents*

Fourth evaluation report of the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/6)

#### **5. Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure**

*Thursday, 6 October, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.*

15. The session will open with introductory remarks by the Chair of the first thematic segment on greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure.

16. Following the plenary part of the thematic segment, the Conference will break into two parallel sessions for interactive moderated discussions on greening the economy in the pan-European region. The discussions will be held in the form of a multi-stakeholder interaction around the table. The consolidated results of the discussions will be presented on the last day of the Conference and will serve as input into the Chair's Summary of the Conference.

17. To facilitate the work of the Conference, a background thematic document on greening the economy in the region: working towards sustainable infrastructure has been prepared.

##### **Documentation**

Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/4)

##### *Information documents*

Environmental Performance Reviews: how two themes of the Conference have been addressed in the EPRs (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/3)

## 6. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism

*Thursday, 6 October, 3–6 p.m.*

18. The session will open with introductory remarks by the Chair of the second thematic segment, on applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism.

19. Following the first part of the session, the plenary will break into two parallel sessions for interactive moderated discussions on applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism. The discussions will be held in the form of a multi-stakeholder interaction around the table. The consolidated results of the discussions will be presented on the last day of the Conference and will serve as input into the Chair's Summary of the Conference.

20. To facilitate the work of the Conference, a background thematic document on applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism has been prepared.

### Documentation

Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/5)

### Information documents

Environmental Performance Reviews: how two themes of the Conference have been addressed in the EPRs (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/INF/3)

## 7. Reporting on the outcomes of the thematic sessions

*Friday, 7 October, 10–11.30 a.m.*

21. The Friday morning session will open with introductory remarks by the Chair of the Conference. On the basis of reports from the interactive discussions, the Chairs of the thematic segments will present the outcomes under agenda items 5 and 6.

22. Each presentation will be followed by comments from the floor on the main results and findings of the interactive discussions.

## 8. Adoption of the Conference outcomes

*Friday, 7 October, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.*

23. This segment will open with introductory remarks by the Chair of the Conference presenting a draft of the agreed outcome (Ministerial Declaration).

24. In addition, interested countries and organizations will be given the opportunity to briefly present any other initiatives, agreements, pledges or policy tools on subjects related to the Conference themes. The delegates will be invited to consider any initiatives, agreements, pledges or policy tools presented.

25. Participants will then be invited to adopt the Ministerial Declaration.

### Documentation

Draft Ministerial Declaration (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/L.1)

## 9. Closure of the Conference

*Friday, 7 October, 12.30–1 p.m.*

26. The Chair of the Conference will present the results of the Conference in the form of the Chair's Summary of the Conference.

27. The Conference will close at 1 p.m. on 7 October 2022.

**Annex****Organization of work for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022)***Wednesday, 5 October**Thursday, 6 October**Friday, 7 October*

**Short greening-the-Conference-related event for heads of delegation** (TBC, interactive, 9–9.30 a.m.)

**1. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda**  
(plenary, 9.30–10.30 a.m.)

**2. From Dobris to Nicosia: 30 years of environmental cooperation in the pan-European region**  
(plenary, 10.30–11.30 a.m.)

**3. Environment in the pan-European region: visions of 2030 and beyond**  
(interactive discussion, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.)

**Family photograph of heads of delegation**  
(12.30–1 p.m.)

**Lunch break** (1–3 p.m.), **side events**  
(1.10–2.50 p.m.)

**4. Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries**  
(plenary and interactive discussions, 3–6 p.m.)

**Official events/side events**  
(6.15–8.15 p.m.)

**Side events** (8.15–9.45 a.m.)

**5. Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure**  
(plenary and interactive discussion, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)

**Lunch break** (1–3 p.m.), **side events**  
(1.10–2.50 p.m.)

**6. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism**  
(plenary and interactive discussions, 3–6 p.m.)

**Official events/side events**  
(6.15–8.15 p.m.)

**Side events** (8.15–9.45 a.m.)

**7. Reporting on the outcomes of the thematic sessions**  
(plenary, 10–11.30 a.m.)

**8. Adoption of Conference outcomes**  
(plenary, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.)

**9. Closure of the Conference**  
(plenary, 12.30–1 p.m.)