



**United Nations Economic Commission for  
Europe**

**Working Group on Environmental  
Monitoring and Assessment**

Reporting to the progress made in  
Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at  
the national level

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This questionnaire has been designed to collect information on the results of major actions taken by the countries in environmental monitoring and assessment since the previous meeting of the Working Group (27-28 June 2017). The objective is to evaluate to which extent and how your country progressed in environmental monitoring and assessment, including through using the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and the regular production of quality environmental indicators at the national level. The Working Group could then identify the needs of your country to be addressed in the future to underpin regular reporting and assessments, in accordance with international monitoring and assessment requirements and obligations.

The main aims of the questionnaire are to:

- Determine if the countries regularly produce environmental reports, analyses and assessments, including through using environmental indicators and SEIS
- Ensure that monitoring networks are upgraded or modernized, and that data quality assurance and control mechanisms and data management are in place or improved where needed, in particular for water, air and soil monitoring and data management
- Follow improvements in national environmental policy reflecting all three SEIS pillars (content, infrastructure and cooperation)
- Capture the implementation status of relevant recommendations made in national environmental performance reviews (EPRs)
- Foresee the challenges to be addressed by the Working Group in the years to come regarding institutional, regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level

The secretariat will also provide a list of relevant recommendations contained in UNECE environmental performance reviews against which countries might report on progress.

If you wish to receive further information, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on [WGEMASec@un.org](mailto:WGEMASec@un.org).

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**Information on the person filling in the form**

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**Has your country produced any environmental report, analysis or assessment on environmental information and indicators, including via the use of SEIS, within the last year?**

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please specify which environmental report, analysis or assessment has been produced and provide the link to the website if available.**

<b>Environmental report, analysis or assessment</b>	
<b>1</b>	Works done by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in 2017 ( <a href="http://eco.gov.az/805-illik-hesabat">http://eco.gov.az/805-illik-hesabat</a> )
<b>2</b>	Annual emission inventory report to under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution ( <a href="http://www.ceip.at/ms/ceip_home1/ceip_home/status_reporting/2017_submissions/">http://www.ceip.at/ms/ceip_home1/ceip_home/status_reporting/2017_submissions/</a> )
<b>3</b>	Voluntary review of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the first steps in implementation of the “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”
<b>4</b>	Report under the UNECE Water Convention
<b>5</b>	

**Please note the main changes that have been made to improve the work of national monitoring networks, in particular on air, water and soil.**

<b>Changes</b>	
<b>1</b>	Institutional reforms are being implemented at National Environmental Monitoring Department
<b>2</b>	New automated air monitoring devise was obtained (NO2, SO2, CO, O3, PM2.5, PM10)
<b>3</b>	In compliance with Water and Health Protocol of the Water Convention the target indicators was approved by joint decree of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and Ministry of Health
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**What types of improvements have been made in your country to enhance data quality assurance, control and data management?**

<b>Improvements</b>	
<b>1</b>	The quality management system of air quality monitoring has been improved by developing the quality manuals for laboratory (according to ISO 17 025 requirements) and Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for various monitoring and laboratory activities.
<b>2</b>	Azerbaijan is also in process to implement the air quality monitoring Technical standards (EN) for air quality monitoring into national standardization system.
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**Which improvements in data policy, institutional and regulatory mechanisms and technical solutions have been applied in your country to facilitate and improve data exchange between the parties concerned (ministries of environment, environment agencies and ministries of agriculture, energy, health, industry, transport and water) and with other users, including the public?**

<b>Mechanisms and solutions</b>	
<b>1</b>	The data produced in the automated monitoring station is published online on the Ministry's web page.
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	
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Has your country made any changes in data policy within the last year?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify which changes.

Changes
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Please provide a list of activities undertaken by your country to implement the recommendations on environmental monitoring and assessment made in previous national environmental performance reviews (EPRs).

Recommendations	
1	Within the ongoing Twinning project, the detailed plan to modernize the air quality monitoring system of Azerbaijan has been done.
2	It was helpful in increasing of institutional capacity of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) in air quality monitoring through trainings (workshops, hands-on trainings, study-visits, internships) and new methodologies (such as dispersion modelling tools, calculation tools for emission inventories) have been taken into use.
3	Azerbaijan has been making significant progress in making UNECE environmental indicators available and accessible. So far 42 out of 49 UNECE environmental indicators are available and we plan to reach the maximum number until end of the year.
4	In 2010, Under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Public Environmental Council was established which mainly comprises of NGOs and public representatives. The main objective of the Council is to cooperate with NGOs which operate in Azerbaijan as well as increase efficiency of the implementation of clauses of the Aarhus Convention in order to enhance capacity in preparation of projects, proposals, programs and other measures towards environmental protection and revitalization, ecological security and efficient use of natural resource.
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**What do you think are the main challenges for your country with regard to institutional, regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level?**

Challenges	
1	One of the main challenges to implement the commitments is a lack of experts in this field.
2	There is also some investments needs to fully upgrade and modernize air-monitoring system.
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**Please indicate any other information you think may be relevant. Please also indicate how the Working Group could assist in facilitating environmental monitoring and assessment in your country and region.**