



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Special session

Geneva, 9–12 May 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the special session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m.  
on Monday, 9 May 2022\*

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
3. Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:
  - (a) Host country preparations;
  - (b) Substantive thematic documents;
  - (c) Pan-European environmental assessment;
  - (d) Progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy;
  - (e) Final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air;
  - (f) Draft provisional agenda;
  - (g) Proposed Conference outcomes;
  - (h) Resource requirements;
  - (i) Side events;
  - (j) Registration.

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\* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the online registration form (<https://indico.un.org/event/36346/registration/>). Registration will be open from Monday, 14 February to Monday, 25 April 2022. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the Security and Safety Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the ECE website at <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1911.



4. Environmental performance reviews.
5. Presentation and exchange of views on the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.
6. Election of officers.
7. Other business.
8. List of decisions
9. Closure of the meeting.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

1. The Reform Plan of the “Environment for Europe process” (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1) adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy in 2009, and subsequently endorsed by ECE, mandated the Committee to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences. In accordance with the Reform Plan, which stipulates that special sessions of the Committee could be scheduled, if needed, in the year prior to the Conference, the Committee agreed at its twenty-seventh session (Geneva, 3–5 November 2021) to organize a special session in Geneva from 9 to 12 May 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**

2. The Chair of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy will open the special session. The Committee will then be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/S/2022/1). The provisional time schedule is presented in information paper No. 1.<sup>2</sup>

### **2. Sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

3. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the main developments at the regional level regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the key outcomes of the sixth session of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region (Geneva (hybrid), 6–7 April 2022), submitted as the contribution of the ECE region to the tenth session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (New York, 5–7 and 11–15 July 2022).

4. The Committee may wish to consider, as appropriate, the information provided.

### **3. Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

5. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to continue with preparations for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022). In that regard, the Committee requested the revision and development of a number of documents by the secretariat and relevant Environment for Europe partners so as to advance the preparations for the Conference.<sup>3</sup>

6. The Committee will be invited to consider progress in preparing the Conference with regard to a number of issues and activities presented below, and to provide further guidance,

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<sup>1</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 72 (b).

<sup>2</sup> Information and materials for the meeting are available on a dedicated web page on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (<https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Committee-on-Environmental-Policy/events/364855>).

<sup>3</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, paras. 20 (b), 25 (d) and 32 (b).

with a view to finalizing all the preparations in due time. The organizational procedures for the Conference, adopted by the Committee at its last session, are set out in document ECE/CEP/2021/7.

**(a) Host country preparations**

7. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee expressed appreciation to Cyprus, as the host of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, for the information provided.<sup>4</sup>

8. The representative of Cyprus will be invited to inform the Committee about ongoing preparations for the hosting of the Conference.

9. The Committee will be invited to consider the information provided.

**(b) Substantive thematic documents**

10. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee considered the drafts of two background thematic documents on the themes for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and asked:

- The Committee to make concrete suggestions and proposals on the first drafts of the two background thematic documents on the themes for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and to send them to the secretariat, preferably by the end of November but no later than 31 December 2021.
- The Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to further develop the two drafts and submit them to the special session of the Committee in May 2022.<sup>5</sup>

11. The Committee will be invited to consider the information provided, including the revised drafts of the two background thematic documents on: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure” (information paper No. 2); and “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism” (information paper No. 3). The Committee will also be invited to decide on the next steps and to provide guidance on developing further the thematic documents, with a view to their submission as official documents for the Conference.

**(c) Pan-European environmental assessment**

12. At its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 13–15 November 2019), the Committee requested the secretariat and UNEP, working in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency, to prepare a limited indicator-based and thematic assessment,<sup>6</sup> subject to the availability of resources.

13. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee welcomed the draft elements of the assessment and took note of the progress made, timeline and next steps for its completion, and:

- Decided to provide comments on the draft elements provided, in particular the draft summary for policymakers, by 30 November 2021.
- Requested the secretariat to submit the full draft of the pan-European assessment and the draft summary for policymakers for consultation with ECE member States, at the latest by 15 February 2022, and decided to provide comments to the secretariat within one month of receipt.<sup>7</sup>

14. The Committee will be provided with information on progress in the preparation of a limited indicator-based and thematic pan-European environmental assessment and a summary of its key findings and policy messages (information paper No. 4).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., para. 41.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., para. 25 (c)–(d).

<sup>6</sup> ECE/CEP/2019/15, para. 37 (k) (ii).

<sup>7</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 25 (c)–(d).

**(d) Progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy**

15. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee:

- Took note of the draft list of documents to be prepared for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.
- Welcomed the continuation of activities by the countries under the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy
- Welcomed the proposal by Switzerland to advance the development of the catalogue of actions/measures on possible voluntary actions/commitments under the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy on the two themes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, entrusted Switzerland to form and convene an ad hoc group to prepare the catalogue, and invited Committee members and other stakeholders to express their interest if they wished to join the group.<sup>8</sup>

16. The Committee will be briefed about the progress in preparing the report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (information paper No. 5), and the catalogue of actions/measures on possible voluntary actions/commitments under the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy on the two themes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (information paper No. 6).

17. The Committee will be invited to consider the information provided, as appropriate, and to provide guidance on developing further the progress report, with a view to its submission as an official document for the Conference. The Committee will also be invited to decide on the next steps with regard to the catalogue of actions/measures on possible voluntary actions/commitments, including inviting interested Committee members and observers to submit voluntary commitments under the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy, especially with the focus on the two themes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

**(e) Final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air**

18. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee took note of the draft list of documents to be prepared for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.<sup>9</sup>

19. The Committee will be briefed about the progress in preparing the final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (information paper No. 7), and will be invited to consider the information provided, as appropriate. The Committee will also be invited to decide on the next steps and to provide guidance on developing further the final report, with a view to its submission as an official document for the Conference.

**(f) Draft provisional agenda**

20. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee adopted the draft agenda for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2021/6)<sup>10</sup> and invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant partners, to further develop the annotated agenda for the Conference and to submit it to the Committee for consideration at its special session in May 2022.

21. The Committee will be invited to consider the revised draft agenda for the Conference (ECE/CEP/S/2022/3) with a view to approving it, as well as the draft organization of work (information paper No. 8) of the Conference, with a view to agreeing on the proposed formats for the ministerial discussion. It will also be invited to take note of the information provided by the secretariat regarding the organization of the segment on education for sustainable development.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., para. 32 (c)–(e).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., para. 32 (c).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., para. 20 (a).

**(g) Proposed Conference outcomes**

22. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee approved the general framework and structure of the proposed elements for the draft ministerial declaration and invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to further develop the draft of the ministerial declaration, based on comments and revisions to the draft in track changes received by 31 December 2021 from Committee members and observers, and to submit it as an official document to the Committee at its special session in May 2022.<sup>11</sup>

23. The Committee will be invited to work on the draft ministerial declaration (ECE/CEP/S/2022/4) prepared by its Bureau with support from the secretariat, with a view to submitting it to the Nicosia Conference for adoption.

**(h) Resource requirements**

24. The Environment for Europe reform plan stipulates that, for the preparatory process of the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the Conference itself, the necessary extrabudgetary financial resources will have to continue to be provided to ECE to supplement the United Nations core budget resources. The plan also states that the host country should assume relevant financial commitments.<sup>12</sup>

25. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee welcomed information paper No. 19 on estimated resource requirements for preparing the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and invited interested countries and organizations to make contributions (in cash and in kind) for the preparation of the Conference.<sup>13</sup>

26. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee expressed gratitude to the countries for their contributions and pledges to contribute financially to the preparation of the Conference and invited interested countries and organizations to make contributions (in cash and in kind) for the preparation of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.<sup>14</sup>

27. The Committee will be briefed on the current situation with regard to resource requirements and pledges for the preparation of the Conference. Interested countries and organizations may inform the meeting about envisaged contributions for the preparation of the Conference.

**(i) Side events**

28. The agreed organizational procedures for the Nicosia Conference include provisions for the organization of side events.<sup>15</sup>

29. The Committee will be invited to consider for information purposes the list of side events provided by the host country secretariat (information paper No. 9).

**(j) Registration**

30. The Committee will be briefed on the status of the registration process for the Conference. Delegations are invited to register for the Conference as soon as possible and not later than the deadline of 30 June 2022. Provisions for the registration process and the forming of national and other delegations are set out in the organizational procedures for the Conference.<sup>16</sup>

**4. Environmental performance reviews**

31. At its current session, the Committee will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Azerbaijan. The Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews will

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., para. 32 (a)–(b).

<sup>12</sup> ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, para. 12 (g)–(h).

<sup>13</sup> ECE/CEP/2019/15, para. 30.

<sup>14</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 40.

<sup>15</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/7, paras. 35–40.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., paras. 4–15.

finalize the recommendations for the review at a meeting to be held in Geneva from 30 March to 1 April 2022. The Committee will consider the recommendations presented in information paper No. 10, with a view to their prospective adoption.

32. Furthermore, the Committee will consider the recent and planned activities under the Environmental Performance Reviews Programme.

## **5. Presentation and exchange of views on the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

33. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee welcomed the information provided by UNEP on the outcomes of the online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (22–23 February 2021) and preparation of a resumed hybrid meeting (Nairobi, 28 February to 2 March 2022), and invited UNEP to continue to inform the Committee of relevant developments under the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.<sup>17</sup>

34. The Committee will be invited to consider information provided by UNEP and exchange views on the outcomes of the resumed hybrid meeting.

## **6. Election of officers**

35. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee took note of the information provided on the upcoming changes in the position of the representative of Belgium to the Bureau and agreed to include the agenda item on the election of officers in the agenda of the special session in May 2022.<sup>18</sup>

36. The Committee may wish to consider, as appropriate, the information provided.

## **7. Other business**

37. The Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose subjects for discussion under this item are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **8. List of decisions**

38. Each morning, the Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions and decisions of the Committee from the previous day. The list of decisions will be finalized before the closure of the meeting.

## **9. Closure of the meeting**

39. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions and decisions of the Committee and close the meeting. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau for circulation to the Committee after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the meeting web page.

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<sup>17</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 70.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., para. 75 (d).