



Meeting report n. 8

Eighth meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

30 November 2021 (10:00–11:30, Geneva/Venice/UTC+2 time)

The objective of this meeting was to provide an update on IBC activities, on the IBC meeting of the co-chairs held on 25-26/11 and initiate planning for 2022. The meeting was opened and moderated by the IBC co-chairs: Bruno Pozzi, Director, UNEP Europe Office; Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe; and Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE (on behalf of Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE). 12 IBC members were represented: ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UN-Women, and WMO.

The meeting was recorded and the link will be shared with IBC members.

Updates on Water task team by Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa and Sonja Koeppel, UNECE. In response to the request of RCs, the water task team organized a webinar on preventing water conflicts on 25 October 2021. As next steps the task team will investigate how to further support RCs and UNCTs to better reflect the implications of the global and regional water-related processes in UNSDCFs and CCAs.

Updates on Air pollution task team by Matthew Billot, UNEP. Driven by the demands of RC from Serbia, the webinar on air pollution from domestic heating in Serbia was organized on 26 May 2021. It received very positive feedback from the UNCT and was followed up with a setting up of a sub-group on air pollution from domestic heating under the Results Group on green transition. **UNDP** expressed its interest to be more engaged in the task team on air pollution through two entry points: green buildings and combined heating and cooling. **UNICEF** proposed to scale up this work in other countries and is willing to take an active role in the task team. **WHO**, as one of the co-leaders, proposed to follow up with Serbia and other interested countries. It was agreed by members that it is a successful story of the IBC work and IBC should communicate these good results on the website.

Matthew Billot introduced the upcoming **training on the guidance on Integrating the Environment and Climate Change in Processes for UNSDCFs**. The guidance has already been used by Kyrgyzstan UNCT in the development of its CCA. The training will consist of four sessions. RCs, UNCTs, and Environment Results Group have been invited to the first session on 9 December 2021. IBC members are welcome to participate and encouraged to extend the invitation to the colleagues in UNCTs. IBC is also reaching out to UNCT in the Republic of Moldova regarding a possible pilot exercise. **UNDP** suggested to extend the invitation to other target groups, including the ones working on the Country Programme Documents (CPDs) as the guidance could bring added benefit to integrate green dimensions in CPDs. The IBC co-chairs agreed the guidance training could be a good starting point for better engaging with Environment Results Groups.



The IBC input to the **2022 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development** was presented by Jonathan Baker, UNESCO. The IBC co-chairs proposed a peer learning session on SDG 15 focussed on acting to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems. The proposal will be sent to the Regional Forum secretariat. Based on the feedback from UNECE member States, a consultation (through emails) among IBC members and a preparatory meeting will be organized for the session on SDG 15.

Takeaways from the Meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia (RCP-ECA) on 11-12 November 2021 were presented by Bruno Pozzi, Regional Director, UNEP. He noted that the IBC remains the best tool to serve RCs and UNCTs on environment and climate change. In the RCP meeting the compendium of green measures for COVID-19 was mentioned by DCO as a very good example. The IBC co-chairs felt strongly the very high expectations of the IBC from the RCP meeting. In the next phase, there may be a new round of consultation of RCs on their demands to better tailor products.

The **Review of the IBC strategic priorities and approaches for 2022** was presented and moderated by Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Regional Director, UNESCO. The IBC co-chairs proposed four strategic priorities for the IBC 2022: green transition, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The green transition, from an environment and climate change perspective, will be supported by a new task team. This reorientation was based on the co-chairs' reflection on the work done by IBC, feedback received from the RCP-ECA meeting and requests from RCs. Depending on the feedback from IBC members, the IBC co-chairs would be consulting other regional directors and DCO to ensure full engagement with the four priorities.

The other task teams would remain in place and only be reactivated when there would be specific request from RCs. The crosscutting task teams, such as the gender and youth ones, would be transformed into advisory groups that could contribute to the four priorities and advise on all IBC work.

The reorientation of the IBC work was **endorsed** by OHCHR, UNDP, WHO, UN Women and the Gender Task Team and no objection came from other agencies and task teams.

The session on the **draft work plan for 2022** was presented and moderated by Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE. Comments from IBC members are welcome by 10 December 2021. All IBC members are invited to participate in the four main priorities, building on the membership of the related task teams.

List of Annexes:

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: IBC work plan 2022

Annex 3: IBC member list updated