

Progress Report on the Implementation of the Batumi Initiative on green economy (BIG-E)

UNECE secretariat

CEP Special Session, 09-12 May 2022, Geneva

In this presentation:

1. Brief history of the EfE/CEP work on Green Economy
 - To put things into context
2. The document “Progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy”
 - Content (information to be updated during next 4 weeks!)
3. The “List of possible GE actions”
 - Content and use
4. CEP SS decisions and next steps

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2011, EfE-7, Astana: GE work begins

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- Ministers made the commitment at the 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana:
 - “We agree to take the lead in the transition to a green economy...”
 - (Declaration: “Save water, grow green!” By Ministers of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe: ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1, para 11)

2014, CEP-20

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) at its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October 2014):
 - “... invited ECE and UNEP, in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders working on green economy, to elaborate **a proposal for a pan-European strategic framework for greening the economy** for consideration by CEP at its twenty-first session in October 2015.
 - The proposed strategic framework should include **practical examples, good practices and tools** to be used for accelerating the transition to a green economy, while promoting a bottom-up approach. It should also build upon existing knowledge products and platforms and annex a proposal for a “Green Economy Action” similar to the Astana Water Action”.

2015, CEP-21

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- Following up on CEP-20 mandate, through a series of brainstorming meetings hosted by ECE and UNEP and by electronic means, a first draft of the strategic framework is prepared by the ECE secretariat and UNEP in cooperation with the OECD and the EEA.
- The CEP at its twenty-first session (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015):
 - generally agreed the strategic part of the draft Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy;
 - also welcomed the proposal by Switzerland to advance the development of the proposed voluntary actions, and entrusted Switzerland to form and convene a group of experts in green economy to prepare a revised draft of **voluntary actions** to green the economy for consideration at the Committee's special session in February 2016.

2016, CEP SS

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- February, CEP special session (Geneva, 23 - 25 February 2016):
 - adopted the draft **Strategic Framework** for submission to the Batumi Conference.
 - welcomed the **Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)** included in the annex to the Strategic Framework.
 - expressed its gratitude to Switzerland for its leadership, welcomed the proposed approach for the Initiative, and **invited interested Committee members and observers to submit voluntary commitments** to it, preferably by Monday, 9 May 2016 (the secretariat circulated the message on February 29, **with the commitments' template** – modified from the SFGE annex, see next slide)
 - took note of the draft list of possible green economy actions, to be used as reference only.

Commitments' template as modified from the SFGE appendix

Appendix

Template for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy

The template below should be used to submit actions undertaken by countries and organizations, both private and public,^a to be included in and contribute to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E).

Selection criteria to guide the identification of green economy actions are whether they:

- (a) Are expected to deliver economic benefits with environmental and social co-benefits;
- (b) Include a mixture of new and ongoing initiatives;
- (c) Will make a clear contribution to the achievement of SDG targets;
- (d) Will have a measurable impact over time;
- (e) Will be a driver for transformation and innovation towards green economy that may be relevant to and inspire other countries in the region.

For each action, please provide information on the following items:

1. Country or organization:
2. Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s) that the initiative will contribute to):
3. Description of the action:
4. Time frame/milestones, for the action, as appropriate:
5. Type of action:^b
6. Economic sectors:^c
7. Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:
8. Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:
9. SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:
10. Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as appropriate:
11. Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:
12. Partners:
13. Contact point:

^a Organizations, both private and public, are invited to submit actions by completing the fields of the template, as appropriate.

^b In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested: (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments; (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments. Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

^c In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested: (a) economy-wide; (b) cities; and (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by [Country name]

Country: [name]

Title:

Focus area:

Description of the action:

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate:

Type of action:

Economic sectors:

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:

Partners:

Contact points:

2016, before and at the EfE-8



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- March-May:
 - Batumi commitments pour in: 123 commitments
- June:
 - The key Conference outcomes included ... the **Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy** (time span 2016-2030 - aligned with the SDGs) and its **Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)**
 - BIG-E operationalizes the Pan-European SFGE during the period 2016–2030. It comprises voluntary commitments by interested countries and organizations, both public and private (BIG-E stakeholders), in the form of green economy actions.
 - Together, the committed actions constitute the BIG-E.

2017, CEP-23

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- CEP-23 (Geneva, 14-17 November):
 - **invited stakeholders to report on the progress** in the implementation of commitments under the BIG-E, with a template to be prepared by the secretariat together with UNEP in consultation with the CEP Bureau
 - the secretariat jointly with UNEP and with support from a consultant would prepare a mid-term review report

2018 (work ongoing for CEP-24, Jan. 2019)



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- BIG-E online reporting tool released by the secretariat
- Responses received, information collected and processed.
- Report prepared by the secretariat (*no consultancy*).

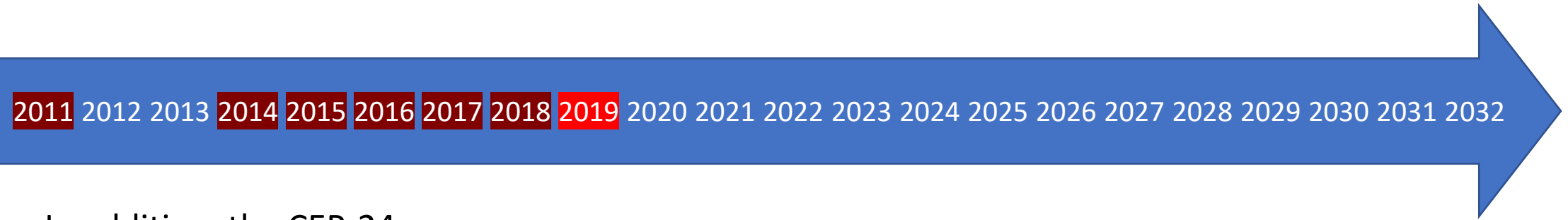
2019, CEP-24



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- CEP-24 (Geneva, 29 - 31 January 2019)
 - The mid-term review of the Batumi Conference’s main outcomes held in the framework of the Committee’s twenty-fourth session.
 - The document “Implementing the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy” (ECE/CEP/2019/4) presented the overview of the progress made in implementing the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and the BIG-E.
 - The Committee welcomed the background documents on the implementation of the BIG-E and BACA.

2019, CEP-24



- In addition, the CEP-24:
 - (a) Affirmed that the two Batumi initiatives continue to provide a solid mechanism for the implementation of the Batumi decisions;
 - (b) Noted with satisfaction the active participation of stakeholder countries and organizations in the reporting;
 - (c) Welcomed the progress achieved in implementing BIG-E and BACA commitments by the member States and organizations;
 - (d) Called upon the member States and other stakeholders to **continue active participation** in Batumi initiatives;
 - ...
 - (g) Welcomed and supported the active involvement of civil society in the implementation and monitoring.

2019, CEP-25

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- The CEP-25 (Geneva, 13–15 November 2019):
 - Set the EfE-9 date to 2021 (November)
 - Agreed on the following two themes for the EfE-9:
 - (i) Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure;
 - (ii) Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism
 - Agreed on the host country (Cyprus)

2020, CEP-26 (and COVID)

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- COVID-19 began (first restrictions introduced in Geneva in March)
- Hybrid format for meetings introduced
- CEP-26 (Geneva, 9-10 November 2020, hybrid):
 - Rescheduled the EfE-9 for 5-7 October 2022
 - Related activities delayed

2021, CEP-27 (Ad Hoc Group and mandate)



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

- CEP-27 (Geneva, 3-5 November 2021, hybrid):
 - Welcomes the continuation of activities by the countries under the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy
 - Welcomes 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;
 - Entrusts Switzerland to form and convene an ad hoc group to prepare the catalogue and invites Committee members and other stakeholders to express their interest if they wish to join the group Rescheduled the EfE-9 for 5-7 October 2022

2022, before CEP SS



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- Switzerland => Ad Hoc Group:
 - A group of experts in green economy convened under the leadership of Switzerland, with support from the secretariat and UNEP
 - experts from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Portugal, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, the European ECO Forum, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Zoï Environment Network, ECE and UNEP
 - Workshop of Bogis-Bossey (March 09-10)
 - “List of possible green economy actions” (CEP SS information paper No.6) prepared, aiming to serve as inspiration for interested countries and organizations in identifying green economy initiatives to voluntarily commit to at the Nicosia Ministerial Conference.
- The secretariat + partners:
 - The online reporting tool "EfE Progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)" launched on 1 April 2022, with the deadline of April 25th

2022, before CEP SS



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

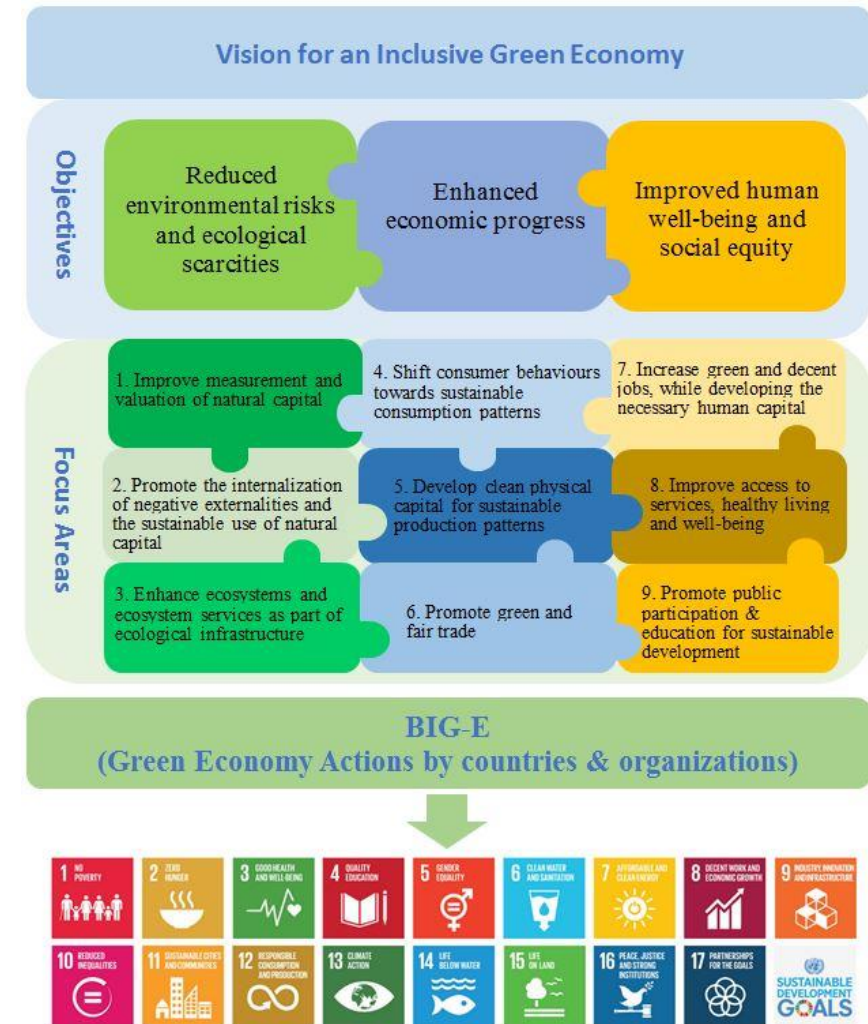
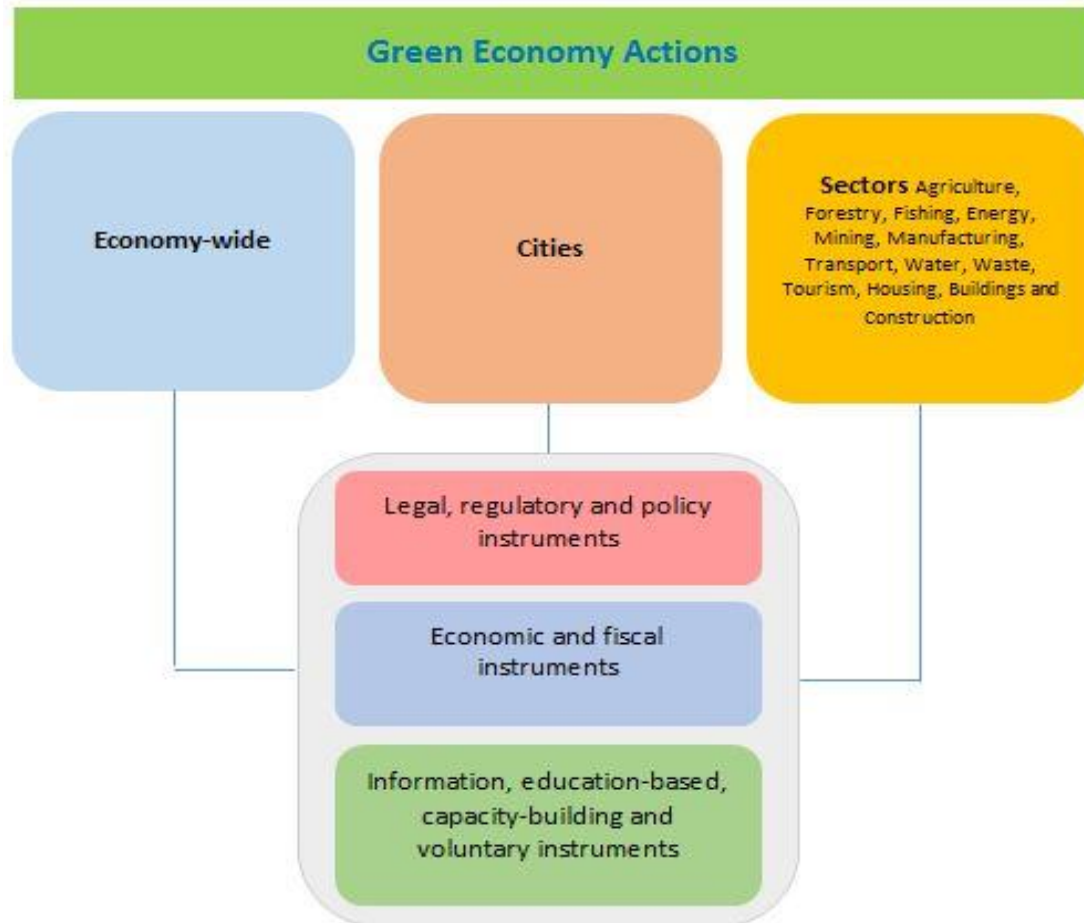
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Progress report on BIG-E implementation

- Based on the mid-term review report (presented at CEP-24, 2019) with updated information
- Structure:
 - Introduction
 - Overview of progress in the implementation of commitments made within the framework of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy
 - Scope and methodology
 - Analysis of the status of the commitments under the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy through:
 - Focus areas
 - Types of actions
 - Economic sectors
 - SDG goals and targets
 - Reporting statistics
 - BIG-E value
 - Conclusions: lessons and challenges
 - Future steps and follow-up
 - Questions for discussion by the Ministers

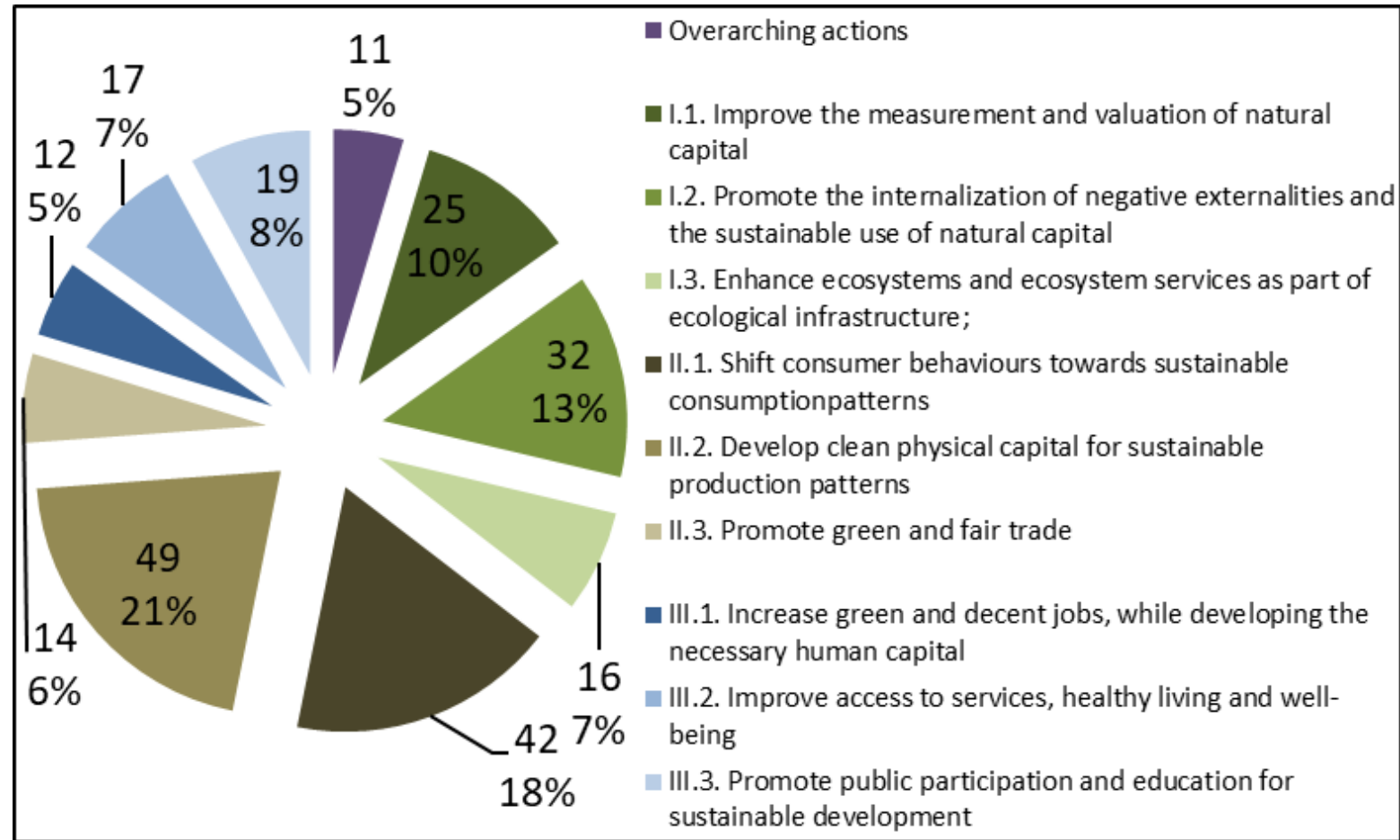
Progress report: Scope and methodology



Progress report:

Focus areas

- Types of actions
- Economic sectors
- SDG goals and targets
- Reporting statistics
- BIG-E value



Progress report:

Focus areas

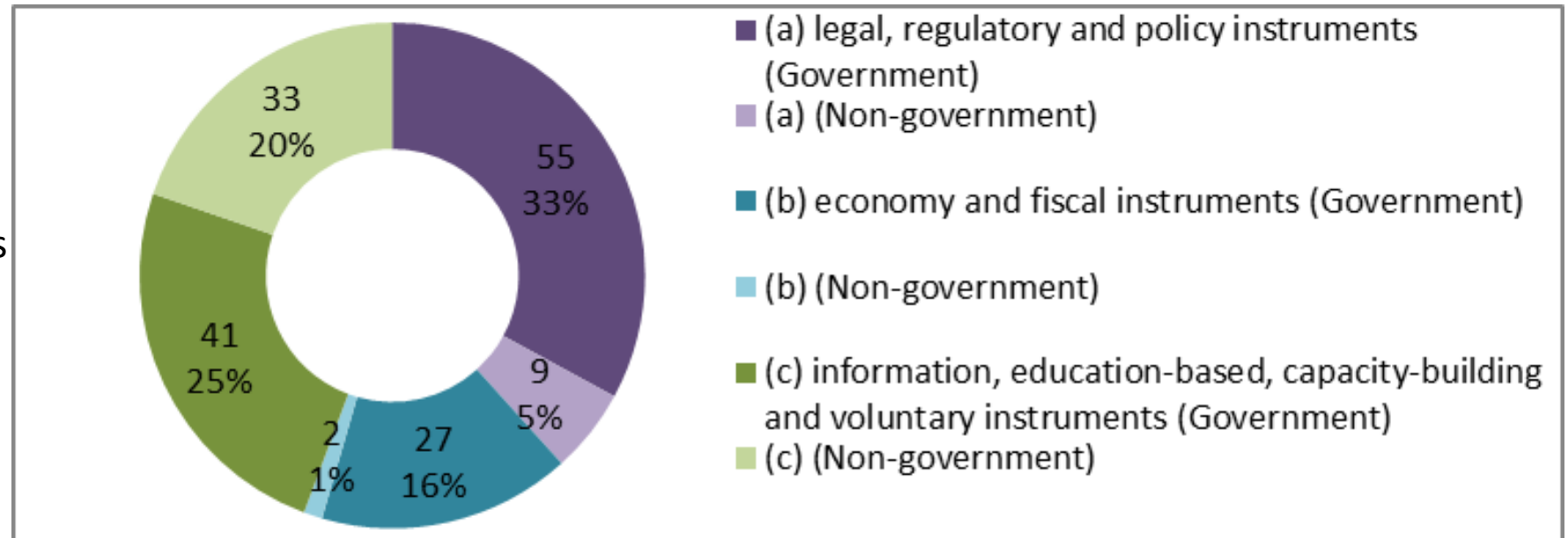
Types of actions

Economic sectors

SDG goals and targets

Reporting statistics

BIG-E value



Progress report:

Focus areas

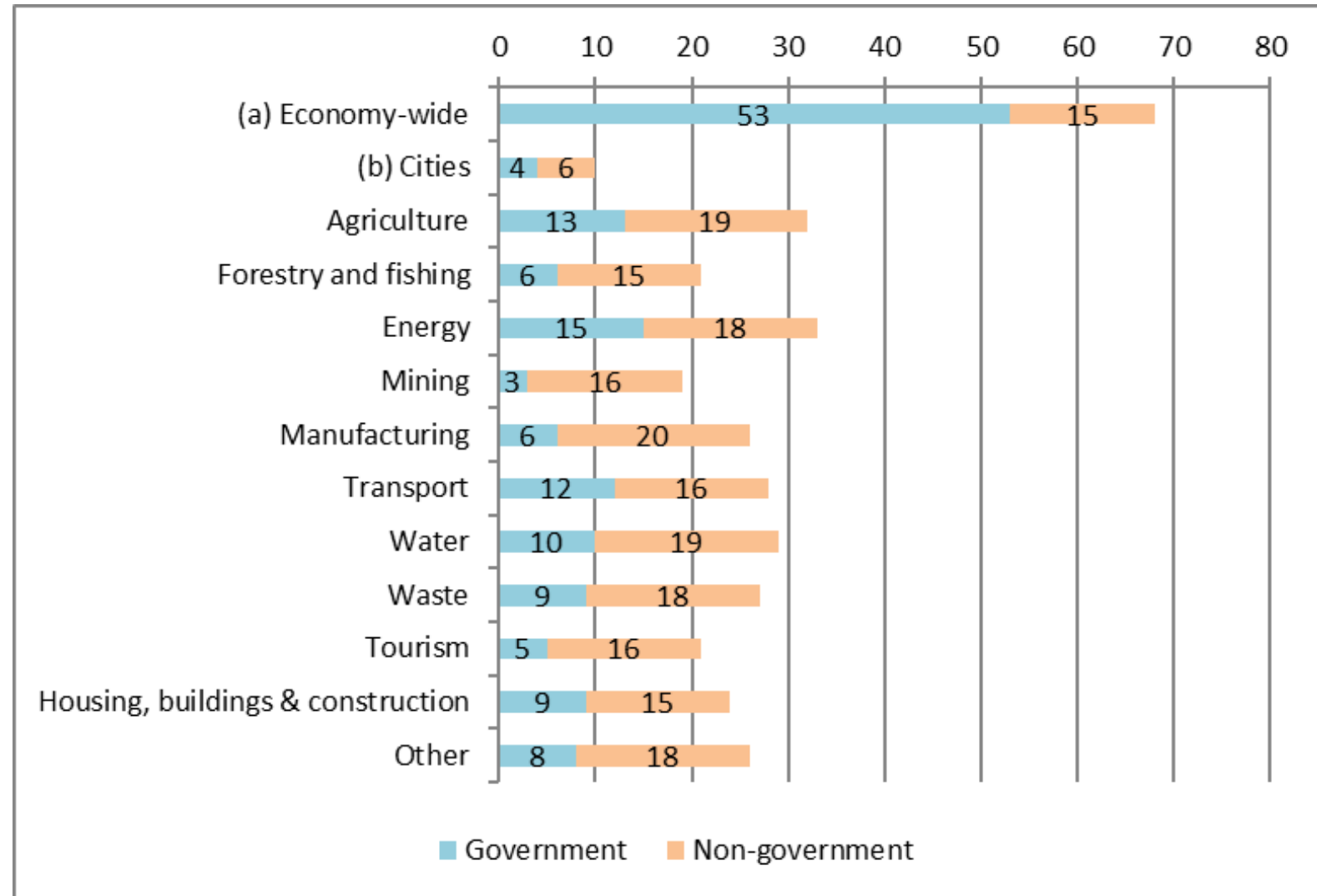
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Progress report:

Focus areas

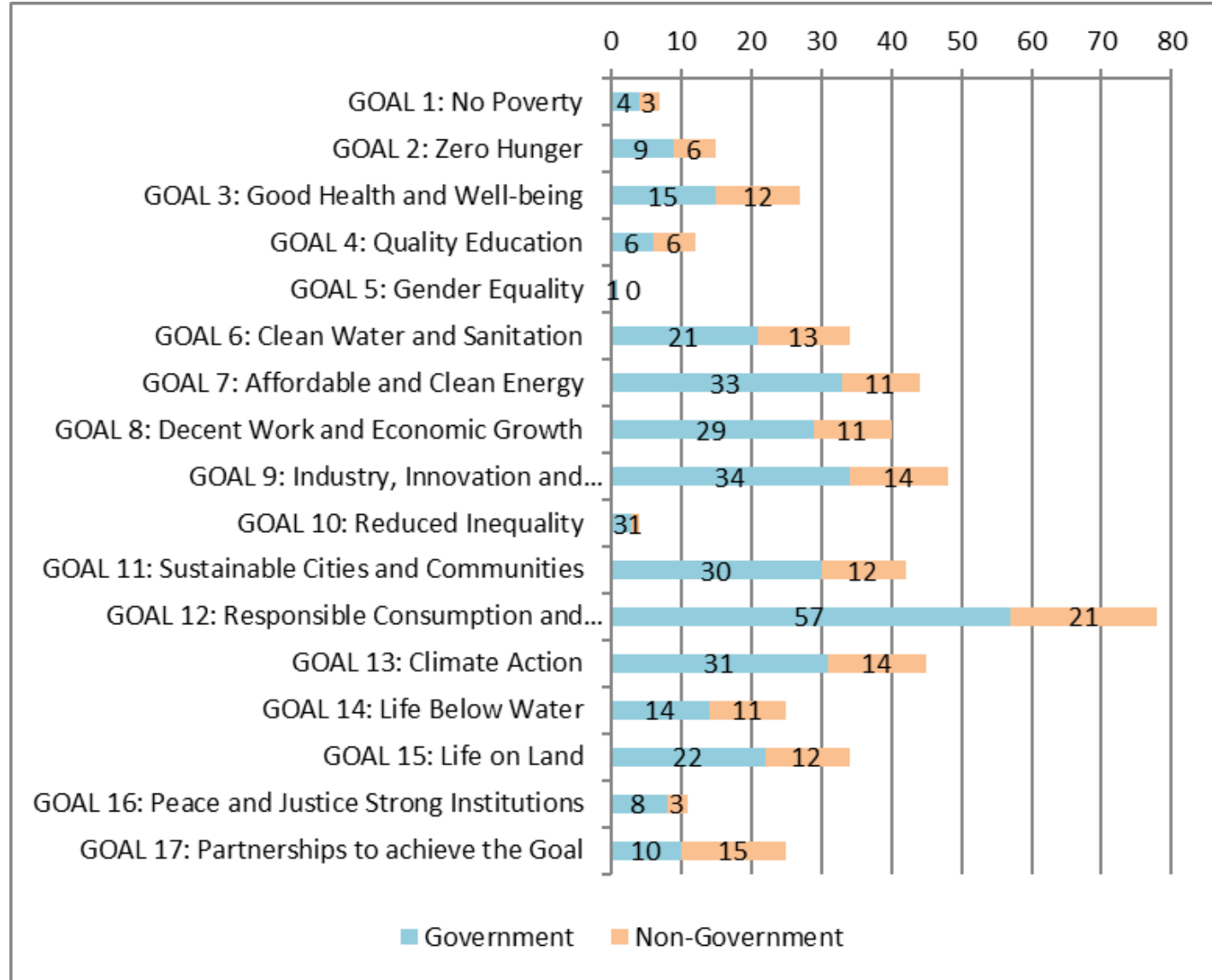
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Reporting statistics

BIG-E value



Progress report:

Focus areas

Types of actions

Economic sectors

SDG goals and targets

Reporting statistics

BIG-E value

2019 (2022) online reporting:

23 (6) governments

8 (0) organizations

96 (19) commitments

...

We will request responses individually.

Albania	0	Estonia	2/2	Liechtenstein	0	Serbia	0		
Andorra	0	Finland	2/2	Lithuania	5/5	Slovakia	1/1	CAREC	8/7
Armenia	0	France	2/2	Luxembourg	1/1	Slovenia	1/1	Cittadellarte-Pistoletto Found.	2/0
Austria	1/0	Georgia	4/4	Malta	0	Spain	0	European ECO Forum	1/0
Azerbaijan	1/1	Germany	4/4/1	Monaco	0	Sweden	3/0/3	GGKP	1/1
Belarus	5/5	Greece	0	Montenegro	0	Switzerland	5/4	FOP.47 / UNEP / GRI	1/0
Belgium	0	Hungary	4/4	Netherlands	5/2	Tajikistan	0	ICSD / IFAS	1/1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	Iceland	0	Norway	0	North Macedonia	0	IPEN / Eco-Accord	2/0
Bulgaria	0	Ireland	0	Poland	5/2/5	Turkey	0	IRP / UNEP	1/1
Canada	0	Israel	0	Portugal	4/3/2	Turkmenistan	0	OECD	4/4
Croatia	5/5	Italy	4/4	Republic of Moldova	5/5/5	Ukraine	4/3	REC Caucasus	4/4
Cyprus	0	Kazakhstan	2/2	Romania	2/2	UK	0	REC CEE	1/0
Czechia	0	Kyrgyzstan	1/0	Russian Federation	0	USA	0	ECE	8/8
Denmark	0	Latvia	3/3/3	San Marino	0	Uzbekistan	5/0	UNEP	3/3

Progress report:

Selected conclusions,
lessons & challenges

- As a whole, the region is actively implementing measures to build GE
- A default gov. approach to a GE action: principally economic objectives, often supplemented by calculated environmental (rarely social) effects
- SCP - major focus of GE actions for both gov & non-gov
- Green jobs and green trade unpopular
- Gov' traditional preference for command-and-control approaches - legal, reg., & policy instruments outnumbering economic and fiscal instruments 2-to-1;
- Growing recognition of the need for public involvement through information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments
- Government measures usually either economy-wide or 1-2 sector focused
- In contrast, non-governmental stakeholders' focus much broader - six sectors on average (differing definitions?)
- Energy, agriculture & transport most favoured sectors by government GE measures, mining sector least popular
- SDG-wise: Governments tend to address the GE as a primarily economic concept - almost two thirds of the commitments are related to Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), with industry- and energy-related goals following close behind
- SDG structure of actions reflects sub-regional differences in development priorities
- Organizations remarkably active on SDG17 (partnerships). Governments less pronounced.
- Gender, inequality & poverty-related goals scarcely addressed
- the environment and well-being of the population somewhere in the middle

Progress report:

Future steps

- Exchange of information and experience through bilateral and multilateral contacts may help to simultaneously increase the motivation of key national actors and remove some resistance towards practical application of the green economy measures.
- Use of high-level regional platforms in accordance with the Strategic Framework (para. 41)
- Continue support to the Initiative through the ECE and (if available) Green Growth Knowledge Platform websites
- Periodic review by the CEP
- Reporting to the EfE Ministerial Conferences
- New measures could be proposed and discussed via comments & at CEP/EfE

Please propose your questions via comments – now, and/or after the CEP SS!

Progress report:

Questions for
Ministerial discussion
(examples)

- How effective is the present regional cooperation on greening the economy?
- Which results of the present overview of progress in the implementation of commitments are most interesting?
- Is the relative lack of social aspects in the commitments a matter of concern?
- What are the positive and negative lessons so far that can be drawn from implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy?
- What are the main challenges in implementing it? What are the regional and national aspects of these challenges? How can they be overcome?
- How can the experience-sharing between stakeholders be intensified?...

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List of possible actions:

Mandate and result

- 2015-16:
 - To facilitate submission of the voluntary commitments, CEP mandated a list of possible actions to be developed by the group of GE experts under the leadership of Switzerland with support from the secretariat and UNEP and submitted to the Batumi Ministerial Conference as an information document. Prior and after the Conference, 123 commitments have been submitted by 27 countries and 13 lead organizations
- 2021-22:
 - CEP-27 “welcomed the continuation of activities by the countries” under the Strategic Framework the IG-E. It is expected that countries and stakeholders of the EfE process will submit new batch of voluntary commitments to the EfE-9 (Nicosia, 5-7 October) through the procedure set out in the Annex of the Pan-European Strategic Framework.
 - To better facilitate the process of submission of the voluntary commitments by countries and stakeholders, CEP-27 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

List of possible actions:

Mandate and result

- Switzerland convened an ad hoc group of experts.
- The group was chaired by the Committee's Bureau member from Switzerland and included experts from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Portugal, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, the European ECO Forum, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Zoï Environment Network, ECE and UNEP.
- The resulting document includes a list of possible actions to serve as inspiration for interested countries and organizations in identifying green economy actions to voluntarily commit to at the EfE-9.
- The list covers the two themes of the Conference
- Posted on the CEP SS website as the Information paper No. 6

List of possible actions:

Proposed use

- Look at the examples included into the list - with the understanding that the list is not comprehensive nor exhaustive and serves as source of inspiration. There can be many green economy actions that are not included in the list.
- Identify if the organisation/country does have some actions/measures (either planned or ongoing projects, programmes or plans) alike the examples included in the list – these projects, programmes, or plans might potentially be submitted to the BIG-E as voluntary actions
- Decide (via the relevant internal procedure) to submit a voluntary commitment from the country/organization to the BIG-E
- Fill in the template (will be circulated by the secretariat) and send to the secretariat at efe@un.org
 - [Template for online application may be made available - not yet decided]
- While contemplating submitting the voluntary commitment, the following can be considered:
 - As the aim of the BIG-E is to facilitate the exchange of information and good practice, the voluntary commitments submitted under BIG-E can be selected from these actions/measures that are already ongoing or upcoming under various plans and programmes, possibly even the commitments made under other frameworks
 - While the list concentrates onto two principal environmental themes of the EfE-9, voluntary commitments under BIG-E are not limited to only these two themes. An action/measure of a broader green economy nature can be submitted anytime to the BIG-E as a commitment.

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2022, CEP SS and EfE-9

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- CEP SS, May 9-12:
 - To consider the “List...” (SI & ST) and decide on its use;
 - To issue a call for Nicosia commitments;
- CEP SS, October 4:
 - Any last-minute amendments/agreements
- EfE-9, October 5-7:
 - BIG-E progress report reviewed
 - Nicosia commitments welcomed, focus on two themes
 - BIG-E continuation

Inviting commitments – next batch 2016, CEP SS vs 2022, CEP SS

- CEP special session (Geneva, 23-25 Feb 2016):
 - Expressed its gratitude to Switzerland for its leadership, welcomed the proposed approach for the Initiative, and **invited interested Committee members and observers to submit voluntary commitments** to it, preferably by Monday, 9 May 2016 (the secretariat circulated the message on February 29, with the commitments' template – modified from the SFGE annex)
 - Took note of the draft list of possible green economy actions, to be used as reference only.
- CEP special session (Geneva, 9-12 May 2022) – *possible approaches*:
 - May wish to **invite interested Committee members, observers, and other stakeholders to submit voluntary commitments** to it, preferably by Monday, September 12 2022 (the secretariat will circulate the message with the commitments' template – first agreed with the Bureau)
 - May wish to express its gratitude to Switzerland for its leadership and the members of the Ad Hoc Group for developing the draft list of possible green economy actions, to be used as a possible reference to help the stakeholders in the process of identifying their voluntary commitments.
 - ...

Look into the future...

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032

2025?

- CEP-30?
- Mid-term
- EfE-10 themes

2027?

- Next “package” of BIG-E commitments – Batumi-Nicosia-[name]
- EfE-10 Progress report

2030?

- CEP-34?
- Mid-term?
- SFGE & BIG-E pre-final report

2032?

- EfE-11
- SFGE & BIG-E final report

Questions/Comments?

- Thank you for kind attention!