



Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022

Organization of work at the Conference



UNITED NATIONS



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 July 2022

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

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Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

Organization of work at the Conference

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Reform Plan of the “Environment for Europe” process calls for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Environmental Policy to act as the convening body for the preparatory process of Environment for Europe ministerial conferences. The present document, setting out the organization of work for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy.



I. Introduction

1. The Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference will begin at 9.30 a.m., on Wednesday, 5 October 2022, and end at 1 p.m. on Friday, 7 October, lasting two-and-a-half days in total. The annotated provisional agenda for the Conference is presented in document ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/1. The present document contains the detailed organization of work of the Conference.
2. The Conference is being organized in accordance with the provisions of the Reform Plan of the Environment for Europe process (ECE/CEP/S/152 and Corr.1, annex I). The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy is the convening body for the preparatory process.¹ The organizational procedures for the Conference presented in document ECE/CEP/2021/7, adopted by the Committee in 2021, serve to guide the preparations for the Conference.
3. The Conference will take place at the Filoxenia Conference Centre, Nicosia. Side events will take place at the Cyprus Institute, Nicosia, during dedicated time slots.
4. The two main themes of the Conference are: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”; and “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”. The Conference will address several “questions for discussion” under these two main themes.
5. Upon request by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development, a segment on education for sustainable development is being organized in the afternoon of the first day of the Conference. The substance and work organization of the segment are being prepared by the Steering Committee. At the initiative of the host country, a separate event on education for sustainable development will be organized on the second day for the education sector.
6. The Conference will be co-chaired by the high-level officials in charge of the issues of environment and education in Cyprus (hereinafter, Co-Chairs of the Conference). Each thematic segment will be chaired by a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State.
7. To enhance interaction between delegates, each of the two thematic segments of the Conference will consist of two parts:
 - (a) First, a plenary session lasting approximately an hour;
 - (b) Second, a multi-stakeholder round table organized in two parallel sessions, lasting approximately two hours.
8. Each plenary session will comprise keynote addresses by stakeholders in order to initiate the discussion in the round tables. The keynote addresses will take into account one or more of the “questions for discussion” identified for each of the thematic segments. Subsequent discussions will take place in the round tables. While each parallel session of the round tables will address the same questions, given the different participants involved, it is expected that various distinct perspectives will emerge in the discussions.
9. The consolidated results of the discussions from each thematic segment (both plenary and round-table sessions) will be presented by the Chairs of the two thematic segments on the last day of the Conference and will serve as input into the Co-Chairs’ Summary of the Conference.
10. The annex to the present document includes guidance for the keynote speakers. The “questions for discussion” are provided in the addendum to the present document (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/3/Add.1).
11. The official languages of the Conference are English, French and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation for these languages will be provided during the plenary sessions and the parallel sessions of each round table.

¹ ECE/CEP/S/152 and Corr.1, annex I, para. 12 (b).

12. The Conference agenda and meeting documents (official and for information purposes) will be made available on the ECE website.² Following the Nicosia Call for new commitments with regard to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy,³ countries are invited to register their voluntary commitments prior to the Conference (preferably by Monday, 12 September 2022); more information is available on the ECE website.⁴

13. To minimize the use of natural resources, the Nicosia Ministerial Conference will be a paperless event to the extent possible. All Conference documents will be made available on the ECE website in order to considerably reduce printing. Conference participants are encouraged to download said documents on their electronic devices.

14. The host country will provide the necessary technical equipment (electrical sockets and Wi-Fi Internet connection) to enable the use of laptops in the Conference plenary hall. Participants are invited to bring their own laptops to the Conference.

15. The host country will have an opportunity to organize greening-the-Conference-related events on the margins of the Conference (the exact time will be determined closer to the Conference, depending on the schedule of arrival of delegates).

16. The family photograph of all ministers and heads of delegation will be taken after the conclusion of the discussion under agenda item 3, from 12.30 to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 October 2022.

II. Organization of work

Registration

Timing: Monday 3 October, 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Tuesday, 4 October, 7 a.m.–7 p.m., and Wednesday, 5 October, 7–9.15 a.m.

17. The registration desk will be opened from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, 3 October, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 4 October, and from 7 to 9.15 a.m. on Wednesday, 5 October. For late arrivals, it will be possible to register after the dedicated time throughout the Conference. The host country secretariat will ensure smooth and efficient security checks and registration procedures in order to enable timely registration of all Conference participants. Participants in the special session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (3 and 4 October) and the special session of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (4 October) will register for the Committee meetings and the Conference at the same time. The place and procedure for registration in Nicosia to obtain an identification badge will be communicated closer to the start of the Conference.

1. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

Plenary session, Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 9.30–10.30 a.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

18. **Chair:** The high-level officials in charge of the environment and education in Cyprus will chair the Conference.

19. **Opening show:** There will be an opening show by the host country.

20. **Welcoming address:** There will be a welcoming address by the President of Cyprus.

21. **Introductory remarks:** the Co-Chairs of the Conference will make introductory remarks (up to 5 minutes each).

² See <https://unece.org/info/events/event/368999>.

³ ECE/CEP/S/2022/2, para. 30 (e).

⁴ See <https://unece.org/big-e>.

22. **Keynote address:** the Executive Secretary of ECE and a high-level official of the United Nations Environment Programme will each deliver a keynote address (to be confirmed) (up to 5 minutes each).

23. **Adoption of the agenda:** Participants will adopt the Conference agenda (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/1).

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

Plenary session, Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 10.30–11.30 a.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

24. **Chair:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will chair the session.

25. **Introductory remarks:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will make introductory remarks (up to 5 minutes).

26. **Presentations on the establishment of a pan-European Shared Environmental Information System:** The Executive Secretary of ECE (to be confirmed, up to 5 minutes) followed by a representative of the European Environment Agency (to be confirmed, up to 5 minutes).

27. **Relay from Dobris to Nicosia of all hosts of the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences and event celebrating the Environment for Europe outcomes** (10.45–11.30 a.m.).

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

Plenary session, Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

28. **Chair:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will chair the session.

29. **Introductory remarks:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will provide introductory remarks (up to 5 minutes).

30. **Talk show:** “Transforming Planet: Pan-European Environmental Assessment: key messages to guide environmental action until 2030 and beyond” (up to 30 minutes).

31. **Interactive segment:** “Transforming Planet: celebrating over 25 years of advancing environmental performance in the region and beyond and launching the fourth cycle of ECE EPRs for the benefit of all” (up to 30 minutes).

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

Plenary session and interactive discussion, Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 3–6 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

32. **Co-Chairs:** The Minister for Education of Cyprus and a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State (to be confirmed) will co-chair the segment on education for sustainable development.

33. **Welcome messages:** The Co-Chairs of the segment will make introductory remarks (up to 5 minutes each).

34. **Presentation:** The Chair of the ECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) will present a progress report on ESD implementation in the ECE region (up to 10 minutes).

35. **Panel “Quality Education and ESD”, followed by discussion:** Ministers will introduce policy measures and initiatives, as well as expressing their country’s future aims along this strand of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (up to

5 minutes per intervention for a total of 35 minutes). Leading questions for the panel will be listed in the addendum to this document.

36. **Panel “Whole Institution Approach: Institutions as communities of transformational learning”, followed by discussion:** Ministers will introduce policy measures and initiatives, as well as expressing their country’s future aims along this strand of the UNECE Strategy (up to 5 minutes per intervention for a total of 35 minutes). Leading questions for the panel will be listed in the addendum to this document.

37. **Panel “Digital Education, ICT and ESD”, followed by discussion:** Ministers will introduce policy measures and initiatives, as well as expressing their country’s future aims along this strand of the UNECE Strategy (up to 5 minutes per intervention for a total of 35 minutes). Leading questions for the panel will be listed in the addendum to this document.

38. **Panel “Entrepreneurship, Employment, Innovation and ESD”, followed by discussion:** Ministers will introduce policy measures and initiatives, as well as expressing their country’s future aims along this strand of the UNECE Strategy (up to 5 minutes per intervention for a total of 35 minutes). Leading questions for the panel will be listed in the addendum to this document.

39. **Presentation and adoption:** The framework for the future implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and the draft Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development will be presented for adoption by the Co-Chairs of the segment (up to 10 minutes in total).

40. **Concluding remarks:** Following the adoption of the two texts, the Co-Chairs of the segment will provide concluding remarks (up to 5 minutes each).

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

Plenary session, Thursday, 6 October 2022, 10–11 a.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

41. **Chair:** A minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State will chair the thematic session on greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure (to be confirmed).

42. **Opening remarks:** The Chair of the thematic session will provide opening remarks (up to 5 minutes).

43. **Keynote address:** A keynote address will be delivered by a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State (to be confirmed) (up to 10 minutes).

44. **Interventions:** Floor will open for 3-minute interventions for a total of 15 minutes.

45. **Batumi Action for Cleaner Air ceremony:** There will be a ceremony for the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air, celebrating the implementation of the commitments made under the initiative with the participation of the stakeholders (up to 30 minutes).

Multi-stakeholder round-table discussions, Thursday, 6 October 2022, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

46. **Multi-stakeholder round table on greening the economy:** working towards sustainable infrastructure: Two parallel sessions (two hours each) of a multi-stakeholder round table on “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure” will be held.

47. **Parallel session 1:** The session will be moderated by a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State, or a high-level official of an international organization (to be confirmed). The discussion will focus on opportunities and challenges for greening the economy and, in particular, working towards sustainable infrastructure: possible paths to sustainability, including through green incentives, and steps to promote cooperation among countries of the pan-European region to support the transition, in accordance with the set of questions listed in the addendum to this document.

48. **Parallel session 2:** The session will be moderated by a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State, or a high-level official of an international organization (to be confirmed). The discussion will focus on the same areas as parallel session 1.

49. **Round-table results:** The consolidated results of the discussions on sustainable infrastructure will be presented on the last day of the Conference and will serve as input into the Co-Chairs' Summary of the Conference.

6. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism

Plenary session, Thursday, 6 October, 3–4 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

50. **Chair:** A minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State will chair the thematic session on applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism (to be confirmed).

51. **Opening remarks:** Opening remarks will be made by the Chair of the thematic session (up to 5 minutes).

52. **Keynote address:** A keynote address will be delivered by a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State (to be confirmed) (up to 10 minutes).

53. **Interventions:** Floor will open for 3-minute interventions for a total of 15 minutes.

54. **The Batumi Initiative on Green Economy – from Batumi through Nicosia:** The progress of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy and the launch of the Nicosia Call will be marked with a ceremony, with the participation of Batumi Initiative stakeholders (up to 30 minutes).

Multi-stakeholder round-table discussions, Thursday, 6 October 2022, 4–6 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

55. **Multi-stakeholder round table:** Two parallel sessions of a multi-stakeholder round table on applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism will be held (two hours each).

56. **Parallel session 1:** The session will be moderated by a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State, or a high-level official of an international organization (to be confirmed). The discussion will focus on opportunities and challenges for greening the economy and, in particular, applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism, as well as possible paths to sustainability and steps to promote cooperation among countries of the pan-European region to support the transition, in accordance with the set of questions listed in the addendum to this document.

57. **Parallel session 2:** The session will be moderated by a minister or a high-level official from an ECE member State, or a high-level official of an international organization (to be confirmed). The discussion will focus on the same leading questions as parallel session 1.

58. **Round-table results:** The results of the discussions on sustainable tourism will be presented on the last day of the Conference and will serve as input into the Co-Chairs' Summary of the Conference.

59. **List of participants:** A list of the round-table participants will be presented in an addendum to the present document, to be prepared closer to the Conference.

7. Reporting on the outcomes of the thematic sessions

Plenary session, Friday, 7 October 2022, 10–11.30 a.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

60. **Chair:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will chair the session devoted to reporting on the outcomes of the thematic sessions.

61. **Introductory remarks:** The Co-Chairs will provide introductory remarks (up to 5 minutes each).

62. **Reporting on the sustainable infrastructure segment:** The Chair of the thematic segment on greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure will report on the main outcomes of both the plenary and the round-table sessions (up to 7 minutes).

63. **Questions/comments:** The floor will be opened for questions or comments regarding the main findings of the thematic segment on greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure (up to 30 minutes total).

64. **Reporting on the sustainable tourism segment:** The Chair of the thematic segment on applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism will report on the main findings of both the plenary and the round-table sessions (up to 7 minutes).

65. **Questions/comments:** The floor will be opened for questions or comments on the main findings of the thematic segment on applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism (up to 30 minutes total).

66. **Concluding remarks:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will provide concluding remarks (up to 5 minutes).

8. Adoption of the Conference outcomes

Plenary session, Friday, 7 October 2022, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

67. **Chair:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will chair the session.

68. **Introductory remarks and presentation of Declaration:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will make introductory remarks and present the draft Ministerial Declaration (up to 7 minutes).

69. **Adoption of Declaration and statements:** Ministers and high-level representatives will be invited to adopt the Ministerial Declaration. Thereafter, the floor will be opened for statements (3 minutes per intervention, for a total of up to 40 minutes).

70. If needed, time will be made available for the announcement of any relevant initiatives, agreements, pledges or policy tools on subjects related to the Conference themes that might be submitted to the Conference.

71. **Concluding remarks:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will make concluding remarks (up to 5 minutes).

9. Closure of the Conference

Plenary session, Friday, 7 October 2022, 12.30–1 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

72. **Chair:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will chair the session.

73. **Co-Chairs' Summary:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will present the Co-Chairs' summary of the Conference (up to 20 minutes).

74. **Concluding remarks:** The Executive Secretary of ECE will make concluding remarks (up to 5 minutes).

75. **Closing remarks:** The Co-Chairs of the Conference will provide closing remarks before officially closing the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (up to 5 minutes).

Annex

Guidance for keynote speakers⁵

1. Each keynote speaker will have up to the amount of time specified under each agenda item for delivering a keynote address. The speech will be made from the lectern situated on the podium. For a more efficient use of time, seats for the keynote speakers will be reserved in a designated area close to the lectern. The Chair of the respective session will invite speakers to deliver their keynote address in accordance with the established order as per section II of the above document. The necessary technical equipment will be provided for PowerPoint presentations. Nonetheless, the established time limit must be respected, and it is therefore suggested that any PowerPoint presentation should be limited to a maximum of four slides.
2. Keynote speakers are invited to submit to the ECE secretariat (efe@un.org) a copy of their keynote address as soon as possible and no later than Friday, 23 September 2022. The secretariat will provide these copies to the interpreters and also use them to extract the key messages for the Co-Chairs' Summary of the Conference. The entire Co-Chairs' Summary will be presented at the end of the Conference.
3. Final copies of the keynote addresses should be sent to the ECE secretariat (efe@un.org) after the Conference for posting on the ECE website⁶.

⁵ A separate document containing the list of participants in the round tables and other moderated discussions and their arrangements will be prepared closer in time to the Conference and issued as an addendum to the present document.

⁶ See <https://unece.org/info/events/event/368999>.