Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022

Organization of work at the Conference

Addendum
Economic Commission for Europe

Ninth Environment for Europe
Ministerial Conference

Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

Organization of work at the Conference

Addendum*

Additional information on the organization of work at the Conference

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document is issued as an addendum to the official document of the Nicosia Conference "Organization of work at the Conference" (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/3). This present document contains the additional information referred to in paragraphs 10, 35-38, 47, 56, and 59 of the "Organization of work at the Conference”.

This document will be updated as new information becomes available and issued as a revised document. The date on this page and the document symbol that ends with “…/Rev.” (Add.1/Rev.1, … /Add.1/Rev.2, etc.) will reflect the date of issue and revision number.

* The present document was not formally edited.
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I. Guiding questions for agenda items with interactive format

The guiding questions are meant to guide delegates while preparing their speeches and interventions under particular agenda items of the “Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference” (official document ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/1) as listed below. Speeches and interventions may wish to respond to one or several guiding questions.

**Agenda item 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*

i. **Panel “Quality Education and ESD”**

- How do you guarantee that ESD is embedded in national policies?
- In what way do you support capacity building for learning for sustainability in organisations (educational organisations, professional organisations, institutions, ministries)?
- How do you involve professionals (public, private, local authorities, and institutions) in quality enhancement programs for learning for sustainability?

ii. **Panel “Whole Institution Approach: Institutions as communities of transformational learning”**

- How do you support WIA (whole institutional approach) in your national framework (schools, organisations, local authorities, and ministries)?
- Based on your national experiences, how can policies ensure the collaboration of stakeholders for integrating WIA (whole institutional approach) regarding ESD?
- (a) What advantages of the WSA (whole school approach)/WIA (whole institutional approach) do you experience?
- or
- (b) What challenges are you facing in your national context?

iii. **Panel “Digital Education, ICT and ESD”**

- What does a balanced use of digital tools for ESD programmes mean in your national context?
- From your experience, how did the transition to digital education due to the pandemic impact (positively or negatively) ESD implementation in your national context?
- In which ways digital tools can contribute in a meaningful way to learning for sustainability? Do you have national experiences to share?

iv. **Panel “Entrepreneurship, Employment, Innovation and ESD”**

- How can ESD-oriented entrepreneurship and employment programmes support vulnerable groups, marginalised groups, and youth?
- Do you expect increased youth employability as a result of ESD-oriented entrepreneurship or employment programmes? If yes, how? If not, why?
- Which needs and opportunities can education oriented to sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship be provided to accelerate transformation towards more sustainable economies (green jobs, circular economy, and bioeconomy)?
Agenda item 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
Multi-stakeholder round-table discussions, Thursday, 6 October 2022, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

- Infrastructure and sustainability: Challenges and opportunities
  - What are the pressing challenges to infrastructure sustainability in your country?
  - What are the most significant barriers to planning and executing sustainable infrastructure solutions?
  - What innovative solutions and best practices exist in the areas of planning, financing, and implementation?
  - How to account for the severe impacts of climate change, incl. extreme weather events (floods, heatwaves, droughts, etc.), when building or upgrading infrastructure? Are there strategies, plans and measures specifically targeting climate change adaptation for infrastructures in your Country?
  - Does infrastructure planning and development integrate natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions? What are the main obstacles to the design and adoption of nature-based solutions in your country at the local and regional levels when planning new infrastructure or upgrading existing ones in rural and urban contexts?
  - How to integrate sustainability and resilience (including climate, health, and other factors) into infrastructure planning? How, in turn, can the effects and feedback of such integration on the evolution of indicators be measured?

- Practice and experience in sustainable infrastructure in the region
  - How do different parts of government work together on national/regional/local infrastructure planning, construction, and operations? How do authorities handle differing opinions? How does your country engage stakeholders (incl. vulnerable groups) and ensure process transparency?
  - What tools and incentives (e.g., taxes, subsidies, investments, etc.) are available, and how do they work? How can the government encourage private sector finance?
  - How can investments in sustainable infrastructure be integrated into green COVID recovery plans and mitigate the effects of possible pandemic events? Are there examples of positive results achieved?

- Measuring sustainable infrastructure in the region
  - How to strike a balance between the social, environmental, and economic aspects of infrastructure development?
Agenda item 6. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism

Plenary session, Thursday, 6 October 2022, 3-4 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre
Multi-stakeholder round-table discussions, Thursday, 6 October 2022, 4-6 p.m., Filoxenia Conference Centre

• Promoting circular tourism at the intergovernmental level
  - Can a joint vision of circular tourism for the pan-European Region be established, aligned to existing international sustainability and climate policies?
  - How to better promote a science-based circular tourism model in the pan-European region? Can a joint measurement system be an answer (on the national and subnational level, inter-ministerially, and across the various stakeholders along the tourism value chain and cycle)?
  - How to avoid jeopardizing impact of external crises (health, natural disasters, pollution, social and political instability, etc.) on circular tourism models in the region?

• Promoting circular tourism on national and subnational levels
  - What are major challenges to circular tourism models in your country?
  - What approaches and measures have proven most useful in implementing circular economy models for tourism destinations in your country (e.g., legislation, standards and labelling, financial & fiscal incentives, green innovation, digitalization)?
  - How do/can countries effectively monitor and assess circularity and thus progress towards sustainability in tourism? What are the main obstacles and challenges to establishing an effective and efficient monitoring framework for the region?
  - What are the main barriers to establishing safe infrastructure adapted to local tourism requirements (e.g., water management, waste management, decarbonization of tourism infrastructure, promotion of public transport)? Have positive effects of such infrastructure been observed on, for example, employment, human well-being, natural capital, etc.?

• Promoting circular tourism among the business community
  - What funding vehicles have been put in place in your country to help businesses move towards circular tourism (especially for SMEs which make up 80% of tourism businesses)? What can be done (e.g., "green" loans, property-linked efficiency loans, insurance for tourism assets, etc.)?
  - What initiatives have been introduced or planned in cooperation with tourism businesses and organizations in your country to establish circular tourism destinations? Can such cooperation change tourists’ preferences towards circular rather than conventional destinations? What can be done in the regional context?

• How to encourage investment in circular tourism, including private and foreign direct investment, technological cooperation, and digitalization?
II. List of speakers and participants in the roundtables

[To be updated as new information becomes available; updates will be issued as a revised document]

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