

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Agenda item 3:

Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

Nineteenth session

3 – 4 November 2022

Palais des Nations, Geneva



Implementing the mandate and terms of reference



The Bureau of the CES approved the extension of the mandate and terms of reference of the JTFESI until mid-2023

The CEP special session on 3-4 October 2022 approved the extension of the mandate and ToR of the JTFESI until end of 2023 to reflect outcomes of the 9th EfE Ministerial Conference in the new mandate and ToR

The CES Bureau will be invited to approve the new mandate and ToR (2024-2028) and **approve the conversion to a standing body with an expanded mandate and geographical scope**

February 2021

October 2021

October 2022

November 2022

February 2023

November 2022

18th session of the Joint Task Force

19th session of the Joint Task Force. Discussion and approval of the new mandate and ToR (2024-2028)

CEP will be invited to approve the new mandate and ToR (2024-2028) **and approve the conversion to a standing body with an expanded mandate and geographical scope**

Implementing the mandate and terms of reference



Current

- JTF operates according to guidelines for “UNECE team of specialists” with an **ad-hoc mandate expiring** at the end of 2023 and which needs to be **renewed every few years**
- **JTF’s ad hoc nature & resulting lower priority for conference services restrict its scope** to support provision of statistics that can inform policies holistically
- **Many knowledge gaps identified** (e.g. in pan-European assessment) that need to be closed urgently
- This **increasing scope and complexity of activities** to be covered by the JTF **leaves unaddressed important environmental themes**, the needs for data integration and capacity development etc.

Implementing the mandate and terms of reference



Current

- While JTF launched a **new process of revision of the Indicator Guidelines** (2019) to consider global policy environment, updates in technical reference documents **it cannot cover all relevant themes and inform policies holistically due to its limited resources**
- **Close cooperation between national statistical offices and environmental agencies**

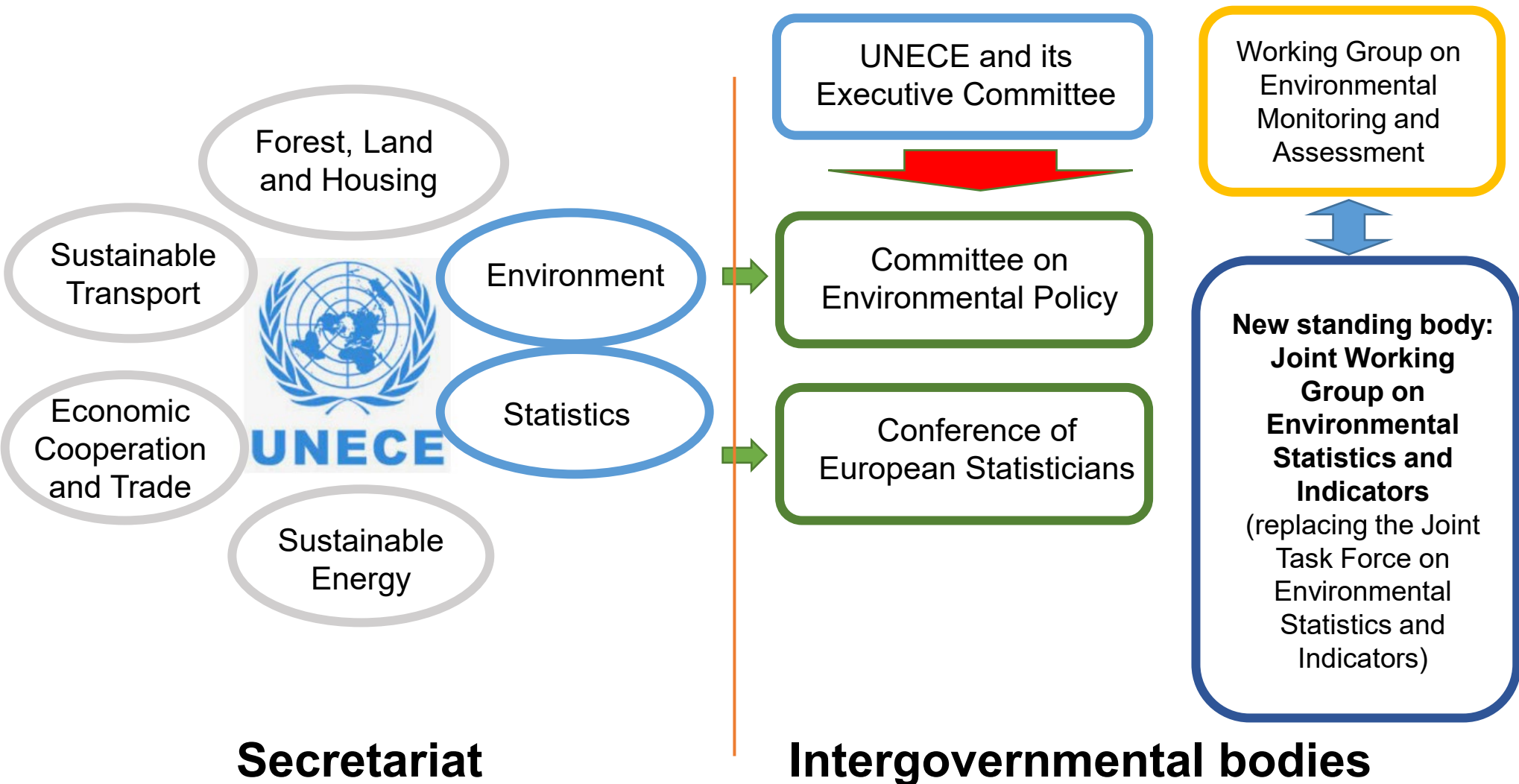
Implementing the mandate and terms of reference



Future plans

- **Proposal to convert the Joint Task Force to a standing body after 2023** – Committee on Environmental Policy and Conference of European Statisticians will be invited to approve the **conversion**.
- **New body as useful platform for experts from national statistical offices and ministries of environment for all UNECE and CES member States with an expanded mandate and geographical scope.**

Implementing the new mandate and terms of reference (2024-2028)



New mandate and terms of reference



Mandate:

The [Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators](#) shall:

- Serve as the ECE platform for experts from national statistical offices and ministries of environment (or responsible government agencies) for improving environmental and integrated statistics to strengthen environmental reporting and to inform emerging policy themes ([broadened scope and unique setting involving statistical and environmental experts](#))
- Serve under the oversight and guidance of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians
- Report to both the Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians
- Include all member States of the Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians ([widened geographical coverage](#))

New mandate and terms of reference



Main objective of proposed Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators:

Assist member States of the Committee and CES in their efforts to produce relevant information and statistics and to share knowledge and experience.

Objectives: The platform shall be used to provide support to countries to:

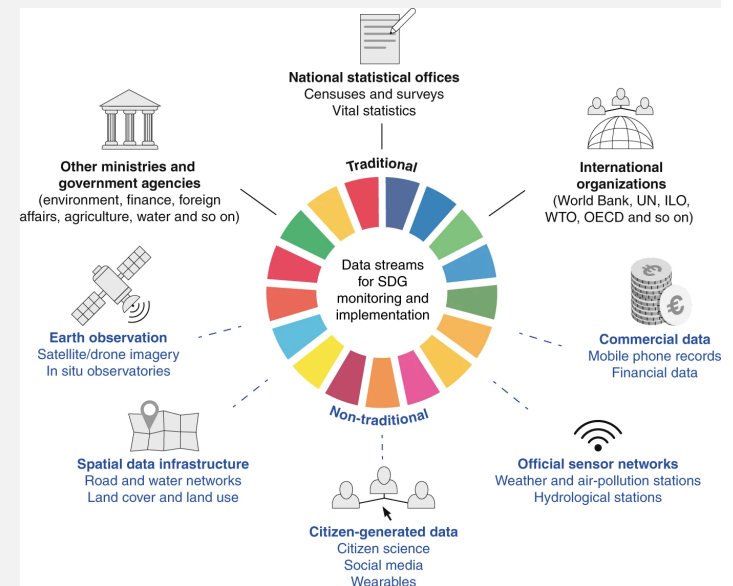
- Correctly apply SEIS & open data methodologies in line with statistical standards
- Implement the SEEA and UN FDES
- Produce environmental and related integrated statistics to inform new or challenging policy areas such as circular economy, sustainable infrastructure and sustainable tourism
- Apply environmental indicators in the context of sustainable development, green & circular economy initiatives, the outcomes of the EfE Conferences and emerging policy themes
- Analyse and communicate environmental data

New mandate and terms of reference



Objectives (continuation):

- Produce environmental and health-related statistics to derive actions that serve both the health of the environment and people
- Continuously improve data quality and advise how to overcome data gaps
- Use new or alternative data sources (e.g., remote sensing, “big data” and citizen science)
- Share data and disseminate policy-relevant information products.



New mandate and terms of reference



Activities:

- Advice to WGEMA, CEP and CES on the application of data and ECE (and others') indicator production methodologies
- Address methodology and data quality challenges in line with the ECE revised Indicator Guidelines, international statistical standards and guidelines, the SEIS principles and the recommendations made by WGEMA
- Develop capacity in the target countries for production of integrated statistics and of environmental data, for SEEA implementation and in producing environmental and health-related statistics in support of policymaking
- Provide a forum for sharing experience
- Maintain the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and keep them under regular review

New mandate and terms of reference



Activities (continuation):

- Assist countries in continuously improving data quality and overcoming data gaps
- Strengthen capacities of countries in using new or alternative data sources (e.g., remote sensing, “big data” and citizen science)
- Assist countries in further developing capacity for data sharing and dissemination of policy-relevant information products

Activities / outcomes of Ninth EfE Ministerial Conference:

- Support development of a common understanding of sustainable and safe infrastructure and of how to quantify progress across countries
- Support access to diverse information sources and reliable, up-to-date, quality data and statistics, namely by using modern tools and techniques, for facing both current and emerging needs and challenges.

New mandate and terms of reference



Activities / outcomes of Ninth EfE Ministerial Conference:

- Support partnerships and exchange of experience among national statistical offices and related agencies, for example, environmental agencies, to produce data and statistics for monitoring progress in environmental protection
- Support implementation of key findings of the seventh pan-European assessment



TRANSFORMING
PLANET



New mandate and terms of reference



Outputs include:

- Revised Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators
- Availability of harmonized and comparable indicators for emerging themes across the region and CES members
- Capacity in target countries strengthened (in using new data sources, applying indicator methodologies, integrated statistics, implementation of SEEA etc.)

Organizational Arrangements:

- The Joint Working Group shall:
 - meet at least annually, be composed of experts from statistical offices & environmental ministries or agencies from countries of the ECE region & CES members
 - elect its Chair and up to two Vice-Chairs for a term of two years (shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term)
 - ToR shall be reviewed every 5 years
 - Joint secretariat be provided by the ECE Environment and Statistical Divisions;
 - Work shall be supported by EEA, UNEP, OECD and WHO
 - Donors shall be requested to provide support for the activities of the Working Group

Mentimeter Poll - Questions



1. Do you agree that the Joint Task Force should be converted to a standing body named Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators ?
If no please explain why
2. Do you agree that the mandate of the new body should be to serve as the ECE platform for experts from national statistical offices and ministries of environment (or responsible government agencies) for improving environmental and integrated statistics to strengthen environmental reporting and to inform emerging policy themes? – yes / no.
3. Do you agree that the new Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators would include all member States of the Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians?
4. Do you agree to the objectives of the new Joint Working Group? Please select from the below options.
5. Would you suggest any other objective, if yes which? (Open question)
6. Do you agree to the proposed activities? / Please select all activities that the new Working Group should support.
7. Support implementation of key findings of the seventh pan-European assessment. Please select all activities, identified gaps that the new Working Group should support or help to address:
8. Do you have any other suggestions where the new Working Group should engage? (Open question)
9. Please specify if you / your country would like to lead any of the proposed activities. Please indicate the activity and the name of your country.

Mentimeter Poll



This short poll aims at collecting your feedback on the new mandate and terms of reference of the new body– the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (replacing the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators) starting from 2024.

How to connect:

Option 1: xxx

Option 2: www.menti.com and voting code: xxx

Option 3: with QR code:

Questions and Comments?



Proposed Decisions



Proposed Decision:

The Joint Task Force:

- Supports the conversion of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators into a standing body with a broadened mandate and scope and geographical coverage, named the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators
- Approves the new mandate and terms of reference for the new standing body.
- Requests the secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians on the outcomes of this agenda item.
- Requests the secretariat to support the new body in preparing a work plan for the next five years and in assessing resource requirements and to inform the Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians.
- Takes note of the limited resources currently available for servicing the Joint Task Force and for supporting countries in addressing challenges related to environmental statistics and indicators to inform existing and emerging policies holistically
- Invites its members, international organizations and partners to support the activities of the new body and to support the mobilization of funds for implementation of its work plan.