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**Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Environmental Policy****Special session**

Geneva, 9–12 May 2022

**Report of the Committee on Environmental Policy on its special session****I. Introduction**

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy held its special session in Geneva and online, from 9 to 12 May 2022. The present report is based on a summary of the session's outcomes and the decisions taken, as adopted by the silence procedure completed on 26 May 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**A. Attendance<sup>2</sup>**

2. Delegations from the following 39 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) attended the meeting: Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czechia; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Malta; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Türkiye; Ukraine; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; and Uzbekistan.

3. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Europe Office and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe were also present.

4. Other national, regional and international organizations and bodies were represented at the meeting, including: the European Union, represented by the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus.

5. Representatives of the following civil society organizations, academia and media participated in the session: the Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development “Eco-

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting documents and other information, including statements and the summary of decisions, are available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Committee-on-Environmental-Policy/events/364855>.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the hybrid format of the meeting, the final list of participants (available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CEP\\_SS\\_LoP\\_final.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CEP_SS_LoP_final.pdf)) is based on online registration.



Accord”; the European ECO-Forum; the Integrative Strategies Forum; the Karelian ecological journal *Green Leaf*; the Reform Support Team; and Zoï Environment Network.

## **B. Opening of the session and organizational matters**

6. Mr. Marco Keiner (Director, ECE Environment Division) and Mr. Bruno Pozzi (Director, UNEP Europe Office) made welcoming remarks. The Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy welcomed participants and recalled the main objectives of the session.

7. The Chair informed the Committee that, as the format of the special session was hybrid, in order to keep to its provisional timetable with 3-hour-long sessions, active remote participation should not exceed a total of 30 minutes per 3-hour-long session.

8. The Chair further informed the Committee that the ECE Executive Committee, at its 122nd meeting (Geneva, 3 May 2022), had extended until 31 December 2022 procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation, as contained in document ECE/EX/2020/L.12, and initially adopted on 5 October 2020 by the Executive Committee. The procedures applied to sectoral committees (including the Committee on Environmental Policy), bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee and working parties. That meant that the procedure was to be applied to the decisions of the current session of the Committee on Environmental Policy and that, in practice:

(a) During the current meeting, the Committee on Environmental Policy, as usual, would agree on the decisions;

(b) Subsequently, those decisions would be circulated to all Geneva permanent representations for approval by silence procedure of 72 hours (through the Executive Committee web page);<sup>3</sup>

(c) If the silence was not broken through an objection, the decisions would be deemed adopted. However, if the silence was broken for a given decision, it would be referred back to the Committee on Environmental Policy;

(d) The possibility of raising an objection was limited, being understood as a safeguard measure in case a registered participant was unable to participate remotely in the meeting because of technical reasons. In other words, the possibility of raising an objection was limited to rare cases in which a delegation that had properly registered for, and participated in, a given meeting had experienced technical problems during said meeting.

9. The Committee adopted the agenda of its special session (ECE/CEP/2022/1), taking into account the provisional time schedule as presented in information paper No. 1/Rev.1.

## **II. Sustainable development in the region**

10. Ms. Monika Linn (Principal Adviser, Office of the ECE Executive Secretary) in her capacity as ECE focal point for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, presented developments related to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region, including the key outcomes of its most recent meeting (Geneva (hybrid), 6–7 April 2022), submitted as the contribution of the ECE region to the 2022 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (New York, 5–7 and 11–15 July 2022).

11. Ms. Iryna Stavchuk (Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine) made a statement.

12. A representative of the Russian Federation made a statement.

13. A representative of France made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States in support of Ukraine. The statement was supported by representatives of Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://unece.org/silence-procedure>.

14. A representative of Austria briefed the Committee on the outcomes of the Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2023 United Nations Water Conference (Geneva and online, 12–13 April 2022).

15. The Committee took note of both the information provided on developments in the ECE region linked to the 2030 Agenda and:

(a) The statement made by Ms. Stavchuk (Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine)<sup>4</sup>;

(b) The statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation<sup>5</sup>;

(c) The statements made by the representative of France, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States<sup>6</sup>, the representative of Switzerland and the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in support of Ukraine;

(d) The information provided by the representative of Austria on the outcomes of the Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2023 United Nations Water Conference.

### III. Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

#### A. Host country preparations

16. The Chair recalled that the Committee, at its previous session, had expressed appreciation to Cyprus as the host of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia, 5–7 November 2022).<sup>7</sup>

17. Mr. Costas Kadis (Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus) made introductory remarks.

18. A representative of Cyprus informed the Committee about the ongoing preparations for the hosting of the Conference.

19. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Cyprus on the host country preparations for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, and expressed strong appreciation to Cyprus for its commitment to preparing the successful Ministerial Conference and gratitude to the Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment for his active participation in the special session of the Committee.

#### B. Substantive thematic documents

20. The Chair recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session (Geneva, 3–5 November 2021), the Committee had considered the drafts of two background thematic documents on the themes for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and asked:

- The Committee to make concrete suggestions and proposals on the first drafts of the two background thematic documents on the themes for the Ninth Environment for

<sup>4</sup> “Statement of Ukraine on the environmental consequences of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine” <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2022/05/statement-ukraine-agenda-item-2>

<sup>5</sup> “Выступление представителя Российской Федерации в ходе Специальной сессии Комитета ЕЭК ООН по экологической политике” <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2022/05/statement-russian-federation-agenda-item-2>

<sup>6</sup> “Déclaration de l’UE et de ses EM” <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2022/05/statement-eu-and-its-member-states-agenda-item-2>

<sup>7</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 43.

Europe Ministerial Conference and to send them to the secretariat, preferably by the end of November but no later than 31 December 2021.

- The Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to further develop the two drafts and submit them as official documents for the special session of the Committee in May 2022.<sup>8</sup>

21. The Committee was informed that, following its call for suggestions and proposals on the first drafts of the two background thematic documents at the twenty-seventh session,<sup>9</sup> comments on the first draft of the background thematic document “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure” had been received from three countries (Czechia, Hungary and Sweden) and on the first draft of the background thematic document “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism” from three countries (Czechia, Hungary and Sweden) and four organizations (the European Investment Bank, OECD, UNEP and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)).

22. The Committee was also informed that two consultants had been contracted by ECE to assist the secretariat in revising and further developing the first drafts of the background thematic documents.

23. The consultants presented the Committee with revised drafts of the background thematic documents “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure” (information paper No. 2) and “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism” (information paper No. 3).

24. The Committee:

(a) Expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat and the ECE consultants, OECD, UNEP and UNWTO, to prepare the revised drafts of the background thematic documents on the themes for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference;

(b) Asked the Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to further refine and finalize the two drafts and issue them as official documents for the Nicosia Conference.

### **C. Pan-European environmental assessment**

25. A representative of the ECE secretariat briefed the Committee on progress in the preparation of a limited indicator-based and thematic pan-European environmental assessment and a summary of its key findings and policy messages (information paper No. 4) and provided an update on the Shared Environmental Information System in relation to information paper No. 13.

26. The Committee:

(a) Reiterated its appreciation to those member States that had provided financial contributions to support preparation of the seventh pan-European environmental assessment, namely Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for all the comments received on the draft assessment;

(c) Congratulated the secretariat for the excellent work in support of the preparation of the pan-European environmental assessment;

(d) Welcomed the summary for policymakers from the pan-European environmental assessment as set out in information paper No. 4;

(e) Agreed to submit the summary for policymakers for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference as an official document in English, French and Russian;

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., para. 25 (c)–(d).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., para. 25 (c).

(f) Requested the secretariat to publish the full pan-European environmental assessment in time for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference;

(g) Welcomed the information provided by the secretariat on key messages and recommendations on the Shared Environmental Information System as set out in information paper No. 13.

#### **D. Progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy**

27. The Chair recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, the Committee had:

- Taken note of the draft list of documents to be prepared for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.
- Welcomed the continuation of activities by the countries under the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy.
- Also 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 of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, entrusted Switzerland to form and convene an ad hoc group to prepare the catalogue and invited Committee members and other stakeholders to express their interest if they wished to join the group.<sup>10</sup>

28. The Chair informed the Committee that an ad hoc group of experts had been established and included experts from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czechia, France, Hungary, Portugal, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, the European ECO-Forum, the European Investment Bank, OECD, Zoï Environment Network, ECE and UNEP. The group had worked by electronic means and met in person on 9–10 March 2022 at the Château de Bossey near Geneva. The group had fulfilled its mandate and prepared the List of possible green economy actions (information paper No. 6).

29. A representative of the ECE secretariat briefed the Committee on the preparation of the Progress Report of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (information paper No. 5), and 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 (information paper No. 6).

30. The Committee:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the preparation of the draft progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy;

(b) Asked the Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to finalize the progress report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy and issue it as an official document for the Nicosia Conference;

(c) Expressed its gratitude to Switzerland for its leadership and the members of the group of experts on green economy, with support from the secretariat and UNEP, for developing the draft list of possible green economy actions;

(d) Took note of the List of possible green economy actions (information paper No. 6), to be used as a reference to help stakeholders to identify their voluntary commitments, and asked the secretariat to issue it as an information document for the Nicosia Conference;

(e) Invited interested Committee members, observers, and other stakeholders to submit voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy, and requested the secretariat to actively facilitate the process of submission of voluntary commitments in consultation with the Bureau.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., para. 32 (c)–(e).

## **E. Final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air**

31. The Chair recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, the Committee had taken note of the draft list of documents to be prepared for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference<sup>11</sup> and that one of the documents listed therein was the Final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air.

32. The Chair further recalled that the Environment for Europe online survey entitled “Final report of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)” had been launched by the secretariat on 28 February 2022. The Committee was informed that a consultant had been contracted by ECE to assist the secretariat in preparing the report.

33. A representative of the ECE secretariat briefed the Committee on the preparation of the Final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (information paper No. 7).

34. The Committee:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the secretariat and the ECE consultant for the preparation of the draft Final report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air;

(b) Asked the Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to finalize the report on the implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air and issue it as an official document for the Nicosia Conference.

## **F. Draft provisional agenda**

35. The Chair recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, the Committee had adopted the draft agenda for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2021/6) and invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant partners, to further develop the annotated agenda for the Conference and to submit it to the Committee for consideration at its special session in May 2022.<sup>12</sup>

36. The Chair informed the Committee that, as no revisions had been proposed or introduced to the draft agenda since its twenty-seventh session, document ECE/CEP/2021/6 could be submitted as an official document of the Nicosia Conference.

37. The Committee invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to submit document ECE/CEP/2021/6 as an official document of the Nicosia Conference.

## **G. Proposed Conference outcomes**

38. The Chair recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, the Committee had approved the general framework and structure of the proposed elements for the draft ministerial declaration and invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to further develop the draft of the ministerial declaration, based on comments and revisions to the draft in track changes received by 31 December 2021 from Committee members and observers, and to submit it as an official document to the Committee at its special session in May 2022.<sup>13</sup>

39. The Chair also recalled that, as at 3 February 2022, comments had been received from nine member States (Belarus, Cyprus, Czechia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, the Republic of Moldova and Sweden) and the joint Bureau of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., para. 32 (c)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., para. 20 (a)–(b).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., para. 32 (a)–(b).

40. The Chair informed the Committee that, in order to fulfil its mandate, the Bureau had worked by virtual means and had held an online meeting on 3 February 2022. The work had resulted in the preparation of the second draft of the ministerial declaration, which had been submitted for processing (including translation) as an official document (ECE/CEP/S/2022/4) of the special session of the Committee.

41. The Chair also informed the Committee that the Bureau had asked the secretariat to circulate the second draft of the ministerial declaration to the Committee members and observers for another round of written comments/proposals on the document by Friday 25 March 2022. During that round, comments had been received from the European Union and its member States, Norway, the Russian Federation, UNEP, UNWTO, WHO and the European ECO-Forum.

42. The Committee was informed that the in-person Bureau member consultation had taken place in Lisbon on 11–12 April 2022. That work had resulted in the preparation of the revised second draft of the ministerial declaration (information paper No. 12).

43. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, France (speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States), the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, WHO, the European ECO-Forum and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus took the floor.

44. The Committee invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to further develop the draft of the ministerial declaration, based on follow-up comments and revisions to the draft in track changes received by 30 June 2022 from Committee members and observers, and to submit it as an official document to the Committee at its special session in October 2022.

## H. Resource requirements

45. The Chair recalled that the Environment for Europe reform plan stipulated that, for the preparatory process of the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the Conference itself, the necessary extrabudgetary financial resources would have to continue to be provided to ECE to supplement the United Nations core budget resources. The plan also stated that the host country should assume relevant financial commitments.<sup>14</sup> It was further recalled that, at its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 13–15 November 2019), the Committee had welcomed information paper No. 19 on estimated resource requirements for preparing the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and invited interested countries and organizations to make contributions (in cash and in kind) for the preparation of the Conference.<sup>15</sup>

46. The Chair further recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, the Committee had expressed gratitude to Cyprus, Germany and Serbia for their contributions and pledges to contribute financially to the preparation of the Conference and invited interested countries and organizations to make contributions (in cash and in kind) for the preparation of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.<sup>16</sup>

47. The Committee was informed that, after the twenty-seventh session of the Committee:

- Contributions had been received from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany (€30,000) and from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia (€5,000).
- A pledge had been received from the Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy (€50,000).

48. The Committee welcomed the contributions and pledges made since the twenty-seventh session of the Committee in November 2021 by Germany, Italy and Serbia for the

<sup>14</sup> ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, para. 12 (g) and (h).

<sup>15</sup> ECE/CEP/2019/15, para. 30.

<sup>16</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 40.

preparation of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and invited interested countries and organizations to make contributions (in cash and in kind) for the preparation of said Conference.

## **I. Side events**

49. A representative of Cyprus informed the Committee about the online procedure for submitting proposals for side events and highlighted that all practical arrangements for side events were subject to agreement between the host country and the side event organizer(s).

## **J. Registration**

50. A representative of Cyprus informed the Committee about the registration procedure for the Nicosia Conference.

## **IV. Environmental performance reviews**

51. The secretary to the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews gave an overview of activities since the twenty-seventh session of the Committee.

52. The Committee:

(a) Welcomed the information provided on the activities of the Programme on Environmental Performance Reviews and the ongoing environmental performance reviews being conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan;

(b) Also welcomed the requests for an environmental performance review from Mauritania and Tajikistan;

(c) Requested the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, with support from the secretariat, to prepare its revised mandate and terms of reference to be submitted to the special session of the Committee in October 2022;

(d) Expressed appreciation to the following countries and organizations providing support to the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews: Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Switzerland and UNEP; and invited members of the Committee to nominate their representatives to the Expert Group;

(e) Took note of the information provided by the secretariat and thanked Austria, Germany and Switzerland for their financial support;

(f) Thanked France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, UNEP and the European Investment Bank for providing expertise, United Nations country teams for substantive support, and the United Nations Development Programme for logistical support;

(g) Encouraged delegations to provide in-kind (expert) and financial support to the Environmental Performance Review Programme.

## **V. Presentation and exchange of views on the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**

53. The Chair recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, the Committee had welcomed the information provided by UNEP on the outcomes of the online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (22–23 February 2021) and preparation of a resumed hybrid meeting (Nairobi, 28 February to 2 March 2022), and invited



UNEP to continue to inform the Committee of relevant developments under the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.<sup>17</sup>

54. Mr. Pozzi (Director, UNEP Europe Office) informed the Committee of the outcomes of the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.

55. The Committee:

(a) Welcomed the information provided by UNEP on the outcomes of the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP;

(b) Invited the UNEP Europe Office to continue to brief the Committee on relevant developments under the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP;

(c) Expressed appreciation to Mr. Pozzi (Director, UNEP Europe Office) for his long and fruitful cooperation under the Environment for Europe process and other matters of the Committee on Environmental Policy.

## VI. Election of officers

56. The Chair informed the Committee that, at its twenty-seventh session, the Committee had taken note of the information provided on the upcoming changes in the position of the representative of Belgium to the Bureau and agreed to include the agenda item on the election of officers in the agenda of the special session in May 2022.<sup>18</sup>

57. The Chair also informed the Committee that, on 13 April the secretariat had circulated an email to the Bureau and asked the Bureau members to indicate if they wished to put forward their candidature for the Committee on Environmental Policy Bureau elections at the upcoming special session of the Committee in May 2022. Based on the responses received, the secretariat had finalized information paper No.11/Rev.3 listing those Bureau members who had expressed interest in continuing to serve in the Bureau and uploaded the paper to the dedicated web page of the special session.

58. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of France (speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed reservations regarding the list of candidates.

59. The Committee acknowledged that a consensual decision on the list of candidates had not been reached and asked the secretariat to prepare for the procedure of elections to be decided by secret ballot at the morning session of the Committee's special session on 12 May 2022.

60. As a follow-up to the Committee's decision on 9 May 2022, the secretariat circulated a note to the ECE member States to inform them that, due to the special requirements of the secret ballot procedure, the morning session of the Committee's special session would be held from 10–11.30 a.m. in private. Furthermore, each ECE member State that planned to attend the meeting was kindly requested to submit through its permanent mission a note verbale containing the names of the country's representative, alternate representatives, advisers and experts and to register the delegation through the Indico platform at latest by close of business on Wednesday, 11 May 2022.

61. The secretariat received notes verbales from thirty-four ECE member States; thirty-two ECE member States participated in the secret ballot procedure, received ballots and voted.

<sup>17</sup> ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 70.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., para. 75 (d).

62. The results of the secret ballot elections were the following:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Votes received</i>	<i>Elected</i>
Ms. Elisabete Quintas Da Silva (Portugal)	Chair	32	Yes
Mr. Michael Bass (Germany)	Vice-Chair	32	Yes
Ms. Alessandra Fidanza (Italy)	Vice-Chair	32	Yes
Mr. Kaupo Heinma (Estonia)	Vice-Chair	32	Yes
Ms. Larissa Lukina (Belarus)	Vice-Chair	3	No
Ms. Maria Nagornii (Rep. of Moldova)	Vice-Chair	31	Yes
Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard (Switzerland)	Vice-Chair	32	Yes
Mr. Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan)	Vice-Chair	29	Yes
Ms. Nino Tkhilava (Georgia)	Vice-Chair	30	Yes

63. The Committee:

(a) Decided to elect the following candidates to the Bureau of the Committee:

- Ms. Elisabete Quintas Da Silva (Portugal) - Chair
- Mr. Michael Bass (Germany) - Vice-Chair
- Ms. Alessandra Fidanza (Italy) - Vice-Chair
- Mr. Kaupo Heinma (Estonia) - Vice-Chair
- Ms. Maria Nagornii (Republic of Moldova) - Vice-Chair
- Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard (Switzerland) - Vice-Chair
- Mr. Jakhongir Talipov (Uzbekistan) - Vice-Chair
- Ms. Nino Tkhilava (Georgia) - Vice-Chair;

(b) Expressed appreciation to the outgoing members of the Bureau, Mr. Matthias De Moor (Belgium), Ms. Sandra Dokic (Serbia), Mr. Youssef Elkei (United States of America), Mr. Nuritdin Inamov (Russian Federation) and Ms. Larissa Lukina (Belarus), for their work.

## VII. Other business

64. A representative of the secretariat informed the Committee of the need to extend the mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators until the end of 2023, instead of mid-2023. The reason was that the timing of various meetings in 2022 and 2023 made it impossible to develop new terms of reference prior to the autumn 2023 meeting of the Joint Task Force. Furthermore, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians was supportive of establishing a standing body on environmental statistics, which would also examine how to inform emerging policy initiatives such as circular economy. That might have budgetary implications, so further consultations with member States were needed.

65. The Committee decided to include an agenda item on extension of the mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators until the end of 2023 in the provisional agenda for its special session in October 2022.

## VIII. List of decisions

66. Supported by the secretariat, the Chair compiled and presented a summary of the outcomes of the special session and the decisions taken. Following a discussion, the draft list was finalized and approved.

67. The Chair informed the Committee that the list of decisions would be circulated through all Geneva permanent representations for approval by silence procedure of 72 hours (through the Executive Committee web page). If the silence was not broken through an objection, the decisions would be deemed adopted and the approved list of decisions would be uploaded to the session web page. If the silence was broken for a given decision, it would be referred back to the Committee.

## IX. Closure of the meeting

68. The Committee:

(a) Agreed to the proposal by Portugal to organize an additional Bureau meeting, tentatively scheduled for the beginning of July 2022, and thanked Portugal for the offer to host it in Lisbon;

(b) Decided to organize the Committee's special session in Nicosia, from 3 (afternoon session) to 4 (morning and afternoon sessions) October 2022;

(c) Requested the Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the Committee's decisions, including by preparing the documents and reports necessary for the Committee's work at its next special session and for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference;

(d) Expressed gratitude for the work of the interpreters and the Zoom technical team in servicing the current meeting;

(e) Also expressed appreciation for the work of the ECE secretariat in preparation of the current meeting.

69. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

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