

# **Economic Commission for Europe**

## **Committee on Environmental Policy**

**Twenty - eighth session**

Geneva, 1–3 November 2023

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

**Annual programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2024 and outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2025**

Information paper No.5

25 October 2023

## **Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2025**

**Note by the Secretariat**

### **Introduction**

1. This document presents an outline of key components (objective, strategy and deliverables) of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2025. These components are based on the subprogramme-related section of the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024, with modified or new elements highlighted in track changes. The Committee on Environmental Policy (“the Committee”) is invited to consider this information and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those modifications and/or member States’ recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the subprogramme for 2025. It will be prepared by the secretariat at the end of 2023 and included in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2025.

## **Outline of key components of the programme of work**

### **I. Objective**

2. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health.

### **II. Strategy**

3. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment Division.

4. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a) Support the implementation of outcomes of global and regional summits and conferences, and support and promote the implementation by countries of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements, contributing to achieving mainly Sustainable Development Goals 3, 6, 9, 11 to 13 and 15 to 17, through the core interlinked functions of international policy dialogue, normative work, capacity-building and the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned in the areas of air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, impact assessment, environmental monitoring and assessment, environmental performance, education for sustainable development and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into other dimensions of sustainable development;

- (b) Support and promote the implementation of the ECE policy tools, including the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme, contributing to achieving mainly Goals 6, 11 to 13 and 15; the ECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme, contributing to achieving mainly Goal 17; the ECE strategy for education for sustainable development, contributing to achieving Goals 4, 12 and 13; and the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, contributing to achieving mainly Goals 3, 11, 13 and 17;
- (c) Support and promote the sharing of information (e.g., through the Shared Environmental Information System), experiences and good practices in the ECE region;
- (d) Promote synergies among ECE multilateral environmental agreements;
- (e) Conduct environmental performance reviews, assisting countries in the implementation of the recommendations from those reviews, and monitor the impact of the recommendations on national policies;
- (f) Using a country needs-based approach, support countries, with a focus on those in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, in environmental policymaking, monitoring, assessment and management, including by providing an intergovernmental decision-making platform, organizing capacity-building activities and providing advisory services;
- (g) Work with interested non-ECE countries, including those wishing to join the multilateral environmental agreements that are open to global accession;
- (h) Support member States in addressing emerging issues related to the work of the subprogramme, including those resulting from international and regional processes by, among others, providing advisory support and developing policy packages and/or recommendations, and supporting countries in the development of region-wide approaches to such emerging issues (e.g., on sustainable infrastructure), [including ensuring effective and inclusive access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice.](#)

5. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Improved environmental governance and performance by member States;
- (b) Strengthened integration of environmental concerns into member States' sectoral policies, ~~including the post COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery phase;~~
- (c) More effective development and implementation of environmental legislation and policy by member States;
- (d) Improved response to environmental challenges by member States;
- (e) Enhanced cross-border cooperation between countries and effective international and national cooperation;
- (f) Strengthened implementation of ECE multilateral environmental commitments and increased geographical coverage.

### III. Deliverables to be implemented in 2025

6. The below table provides an outline of deliverables that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>		
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents, per entity)	<b>168</b>	<b>260</b>
1. Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	16	20

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
2. Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	26	26
3. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	15	2
4. Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	24	24
5. Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies	16	16
6. Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies	60	161
7. High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	3	3
8. Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	8	8
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings, per entity/theme)	<b>219</b>	<b>243</b>
9. Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	26	28
10. Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	44	47
11. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	15	19
12. Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	27	23
13. Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies	34	34
14. Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and subsidiary bodies	65	84
15. High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	2	2
16. Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	6	6
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>		
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>
17. Workshops on environmental issues, including on air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, environmental assessment, monitoring and performance and education for sustainable development, for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region to improve environmental governance and performance	30	32
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>
18. On environmental issues and multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	10	7
19. Progress reports and performance reviews on environmental issues	7	2
20. Multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	1	0
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>		
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services for some 100 government officials and other stakeholders of States participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on water, energy and other environmental issues.		

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
---------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

**D. Communication deliverables**

**Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:** environmental performance review highlights [and a brochure on assistance and cooperation programme under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents](#) to facilitate broad dissemination of key messages and recommendations to representatives of Governments, local authorities, academia, business and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as media outlets in the reviewed countries.

**External and media relations:** press releases on environmental issues.

**Digital platforms and multimedia content:** website of the subprogramme.