

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Agenda item 4: Implementing the mandate and
terms of reference

Draft five-year outline of activities
(workplan) for the period 2024–2028

Twentieth Session

16 – 17 October 2023

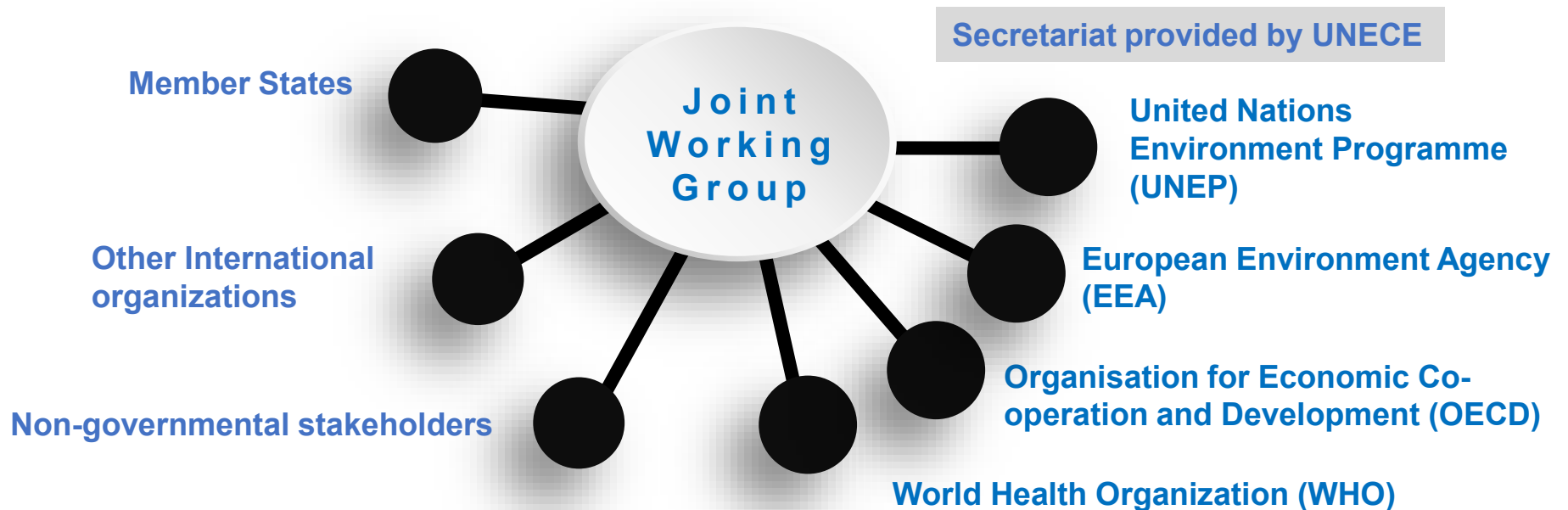
Palais des Nations, Geneva



Introduction



- Document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2023/5 outlines activities proposed to be carried out by the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators in the period 2024–2028
- Outline based on the proposed new mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Working Group (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2023/3).
- Joint Working Group works in close collaboration with:



Outline of activities (workplan) for 2024–2028



Overall objective: Assist member States of CEP and CES in their efforts to produce relevant information and statistics and to share knowledge and experience and provide support to countries to:

A

Area 1

Produce environmental and related integrated statistics and support countries

B

Area 2

Support application of environmental indicators in the context of sustainable development, green and circular economy, the outcomes of the Nicosia Conference and emerging policy themes

C

Area 3

Enhance capacities of target countries for production of high-quality environmental statistics and indicators, in particular in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

D

Cross-cutting activities

Main overall objective and activity

Examples



(a) Area 1: Produce environmental and related integrated statistics and support countries to:

(i) Apply ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and SEIS and open data production methodologies in line with statistical standards and guidelines and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the area of environment

<i>Priority</i>	High	<i>Tentative timing</i>	Throughout 2024–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Promote use of ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators, statistical standards, SEIS and open data principles during annual Joint Working Group sessions and thematic workshops*		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators promoted through annual sessions of Joint Working Group, thematic workshops and capacity-development activities		
	Indicators produced and available online on national platforms		

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

Main overall objective and activity

Examples



(a) Area 1: Produce environmental and related integrated statistics and support countries to:

(ii) Continuously improve data quality and advise how to overcome data gaps

<i>Priority</i>	Medium	<i>Tentative timing</i>	Annual sessions of Joint Working Group 2024–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Provide recommendations on how to improve data quality and how to overcome data gaps and showcase good practice examples during annual Joint Working Group sessions Provide support through dedicated projects*		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	Recommendations and good practices provided during annual sessions of Joint Working Group Number of dedicated projects*		

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

Main overall objective and activity

Examples



(a) Area 1: Produce environmental and related integrated statistics and support countries to:

(iii) Produce environmental and related integrated statistics to inform new or challenging policy areas such as circular economy, sustainable infrastructure and sustainable tourism, and to link financial instruments to measurement of a transition to a low-carbon economy

<i>Priority</i>	High	<i>Tentative timing</i>	2024–2026
<i>Task or event</i>	Support development of common definitions, e.g., of the term “sustainable infrastructure”, to allow quantification of progress, and set up expert groups or engage in groups set up by international partners*		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	Options to develop common definitions explored (e.g., by suggesting and supporting establishment of task forces, consultancies, etc.) and support provided*		

<i>Priority</i>	High	<i>Tentative timing</i>	2024–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Develop guidance to support countries in producing integrated statistics, including for new or challenging policy areas*		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	Guidance developed		

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

Main overall objective and activity

Examples



(a) Area 1: Produce environmental and related integrated statistics and support countries to:

(vi) Regularly revise ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators to take into account recent policy developments (e.g., by suggesting updates or new indicators on emerging themes) and support production thereof

<i>Priority</i>	Medium	<i>Tentative timing</i>	2024–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Lead revision of ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators as needed*		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators – 2028 Edition developed		

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

Main overall objective and activity

Examples



((b) Area 2. Support the application of environmental indicators in the context of sustainable development, green and circular economy initiatives, the outcomes of the Nicosia Conferences and emerging policy themes

(iv) Establish thematic expert groups or task forces, or recommend establishment of such groups under umbrella of Committee on Environmental Policy and/or Conference of European Statisticians

Priority

Medium

Tentative timing

2024–2028

Task or event

Provide advice to Committee and Conference on need for expert groups or task forces and establish them as needed *
Include relevant agenda item in annual sessions of Joint Working Group, Committee and Conference

Indicator of achievement

Annual sessions of Joint Working Group held

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

Main overall objective and activity

Examples



(c) Area 3. Enhance capacities of target countries for production of high-quality environmental statistics and indicators

(ii) Assist countries in developing capacity for implementation of SEEA & data for other sectors, incl. health & transport in accordance with ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators & FDES

Priority **High** *Tentative timing* 2024–2028

Task or event **Support to SEEA development and statistics for other sectors**

Indicator of achievement Training on SEEA and other sectors organized

(iii) Strengthen capacities of countries in using new or alternative data sources (e.g. remote sensing, “big data” and citizen science)

Priority **High** *Tentative timing* 2024–2028

Task or event **Include relevant agenda item in annual sessions of Joint Working Group
Organize joint capacity-development workshops and activities, including with other actors, e.g., EEA, ESA, ITU, OECD, UNEP or WHO**

Indicator of achievement Annual session of Joint Working Group held . Joint capacity-development activities held.*

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

Main overall objective and activity



(d) Cross-cutting activities

<i>Priority</i>	Low	<i>Tentative timing</i>	2027–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Draft new mandate and ToR of reference for Joint Working Group for 2029–2033		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	New mandate, ToR and timetable approved by Joint Working Group in 2028		
<i>Priority</i>	Medium	<i>Tentative timing</i>	As required
<i>Task or event</i>	Evaluate performance and activities of Joint Working Group as required*		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	Evaluation report issued		
<i>Priority</i>	Medium	<i>Tentative timing</i>	2024–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Mainstream gender and importance of data disaggregation into activities of Joint Working Group, e.g., in dedicated capacity-development events or sessions, election of chairs, participation in events, and strengthen collection and use of disaggregated data		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	Report of annual sessions of Joint Working Group and/or outcomes of capacity-development activities		

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

Main overall objective and activity



(d) Cross-cutting activities

<i>Priority</i>	High	<i>Tentative timing</i>	2024–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Mobilize resources to ensure that Joint Working Group can implement all needed tasks to support informing policy through high-quality data and statistics		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	Additional resources mobilized (amount and number of contributions)		
<i>Priority</i>	High	<i>Tentative timing</i>	2024–2028
<i>Task or event</i>	Present outcomes and relevant documents of Joint Working Group (workplans, ToR, progress reports, etc.) at sessions of Committee on Environmental Policy and Conference of European Statisticians		
<i>Indicator of achievement</i>	Mandate and ToR of Joint Working Group for 2029–2033 approved by Committee and Conference		

* Activities and their achievement that are subject to the availability of additional resources.

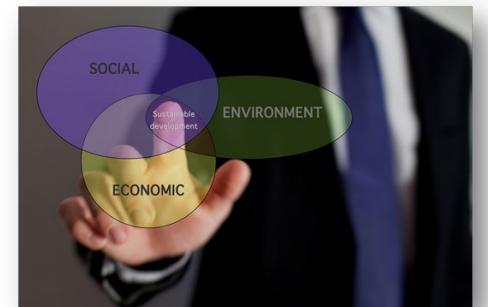
Outline of activities



- Member States and collaborating organizations invited to lead specific activities

Please notify the secretariat regarding interest in leading activities at jtfeisec@un.org

- Extrabudgetary resources needed for various activities
- Annual Joint Working Group session to be held annually
- Full outline of activities for 2024-2028 (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2023/5) was made available at the meeting website
- No comments on the outline were received by the secretariat prior to the 20th session of the Joint Task Force



Thank you !

Questions and Comments?



Proposed Decision



Proposed Decision:

The Joint Task Force

- Approves the proposed outline of activities (workplan) for the period 2024–2028 of the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators
- Requests the secretariat to forward the outline of activities to the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians for consideration
- Invites its members, international organizations and partners to support the activities of the new body and the mobilization of funds for implementation of its workplan.