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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Informal Document 2023/49

Programme 17 Economic development in Europe

**Part II.A Proposed programme plan for 2025
and programme performance in 2023**

Note by the Secretariat

1. In General Assembly resolution 72/266 “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, Member States approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020. In 2022, with resolution 77/267 the General Assembly decided to lift the trial period effective from 2023 and requested the Secretary-General to continue with the submission of the programme budget according to an annual cycle.
2. The proposed programme budget of the Organization consists of three parts: (i) Part I: the Plan outline, which presents the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization¹; (ii) Part II: the programme plan and performance information for programmes and subprogrammes; and (iii) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes. While Part I is prepared directly by the Secretary-General, Parts II and III are developed by Secretariat departments, including ECE, on an annual basis.
3. The final instructions on the preparation of the Proposed programme budget for 2025 are expected from the UN Controller in January 2024. Based on initial guidance provided by the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC), the ECE secretariat has prepared the draft of Part II of the proposed programme budget for 2025. In line with Regulation 4.8 of the Secretary-General’s bulletin ST/SGB/2018/3, this draft is presented to the EXCOM for review. The format, structure and the content of Part II follows the annual format introduced in 2020, with enrichments reflecting General Assembly resolutions 74/251, 75/243, 76/245 and 77/267. Part II also reflects recommendations under the sequential review procedure of the programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes, agreed by the ECE sectoral governing bodies at their meetings in 2023.
4. The budget levels for ECE and other Departments are expected to be set by the Secretary-General by the end of December 2023, after the adoption of the resolution on the 2024 programme budget by the General Assembly; these instructions will serve as the basis for the preparation of Part III of the proposed programme budget for 2025.
5. Modified as appropriate, the ECE proposed programme budget for 2025 will subsequently be submitted for review to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at their respective sessions in mid-2024. Conclusions and recommendations made by both Committees therein will be transmitted to the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session in 2024 when considering the Secretary-General’s proposed programme budget for 2025.

¹ The Plan outline is submitted once every three years, the last one was submitted in 2022 ([A/77/6 \(Plan outline\)](#))

A. Proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

20.1 The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is responsible for facilitating economic integration and cooperation among its member States and promoting sustainable development and economic prosperity in the ECE region. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, including on the workplan on reform of ECE and the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (resolutions 2006/38 and 2013/1, respectively), and Council resolution 36 (IV).

The ECE region continues to face substantial challenges in addressing the complexity of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which remain a source of primary concern to member States. ECE provides a regional intergovernmental platform from which to address these challenges, such as promoting sustained economic growth and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region, protecting the environment, advancing sustainable transport and mobility, strengthening the capacity for measuring sustainable development, fostering innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships, accelerating trade and economic integration, improving access to affordable and clean energy, ensuring the sustainable management of forests, building urban sustainability and addressing the implications of demographic trends.

The work of ECE is grounded in many of its multilateral agreements, norms and guidelines that provide solutions to problems in areas critical to sustainable development. Apart from serving as a platform for Governments and other stakeholders to collaborate in developing legal instruments and formulating policies for sustainable development, ECE provides specialized and demand-driven technical assistance to build the capacity of countries to implement these instruments, policies and best practices, and facilitates their uptake. ECE support, aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development, is also provided through the implementation of capacity-building activities and projects under the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account.

Strategy and external factors for 2025

20.2 ECE works to promote regional cooperation and integration as a means of achieving sustainable development in the ECE region. Its intergovernmental bodies, which comprise the Commission and its sectoral committees, provide the foundation for ECE support for national Governments and other stakeholders in advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. By convening the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, ECE also provides a region-wide multi-stakeholder platform for the follow-up and review of the Goals, focusing on peer learning and the exchange of practical solutions for achieving sustainable development. The work of ECE is aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the New Urban Agenda. The Common Agenda and the commitments assumed by Member States in this context, including the ones to be integrated in the Pact for Future to be adopted at the Summit of Future, are to lead ECE agenda, accelerating the implementation of existing agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

20.3 The strategy of the programme is based on the implementation of core interlinked functions that are consistent with the legislative mandates of ECE, namely, policy dialogue, normative work and

technical cooperation. In line with the principles of the reform of the United Nations development system at the regional level, in implementing its strategy in 2025 ECE will provide a neutral platform for policy dialogue to address multi-country, transboundary and regional economic and environmental issues among its 56 member States with particular focus on both central and local authorities, as well as other stakeholders including civil society, youth representatives, academia and the business community. The normative work of the programme will focus on the development and implementation of international legal instruments, norms and standards in areas critical to sustainable development, and on the identification and dissemination of best practices within and outside the region. Through technical cooperation in its areas of expertise, the programme will provide integrated policy advice, normative support and capacity-building aimed at expanding the use of its normative work, facilitate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals at the country level and achieve multiplier effects by targeting cross-border issues.

- 20.4 The strategy of the programme will be achieved through an integrated approach to sustainable development, which builds on synergies and the results-oriented work of its eight subprogrammes that are aligned with specific Sustainable Development Goals: environment; transport; statistics; economic cooperation and integration; sustainable energy; trade; forests and the forest industry; and housing, land management and population. Identifying and exploiting cross-sectoral synergies of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and engaging multiple actors for joint action has been critical to accelerating progress in achieving the Goals and will remain key in the future work of ECE. To that end, ECE will continue to leverage its integrated approach by providing multisectoral policy advice and capacity-building through cross-sectoral collaboration among the eight subprogrammes of the secretariat, the intergovernmental architecture and the broad expert community of the Commission. The designation of a high-level theme for the bi-annual Commission session, is an important vehicle in this regard. In 2025 ECE will have completed its two-years focus on the theme “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region”, selected for the Seventieth Commission session and will start delving and collaborating on the new cross-cutting theme to be adopted for the Seventy-first Commission session.
- 20.5 In 2025, the programme will continue to provide support to its member States in addressing the economic and environmental challenges of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on the transition areas with significant catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs that align to ECE mandated work areas, including energy, food systems, digital and green transformations, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. ECE will actively contribute to the decade of action for the Goals in the ECE region, with an enhanced focus on localizing the Goals, and will follow-up on outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit and of the 2024 Summit of the Future.
- 20.6 With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, ECE will build on its close cooperation with international and regional organizations and other regional actors, including but not limited to including but not limited to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union to exchange knowledge, develop joint initiatives and enhance collective impact. Partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations, think tanks and the academic sector will be strengthened in order to facilitate ECE policy dialogue and normative work and to engage them in the implementation of the 2030 agenda by member States.
- 20.7 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ECE will continue to play a key role in coordinating regional United Nations system entities. ECE will continue to co-lead the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia and work as part of the secretariat servicing the platform, working to further promote joint action and synergies among United Nations regional entities and their partners in addressing regional, cross-cutting policy issues, offering integrated policy advice and providing regional perspectives at the global level. This work will build on continued strategic partnerships and joint initiatives, programmes and projects established by ECE with other United Nations entities and international financial institutions, including but not limited to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations

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Development Programme, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Trade Centre, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank. ECE will actively engage in issue-based coalitions aimed at facilitating concerted action among various United Nations entities and partners at the operational level. Cooperation with other regional commissions will be pursued through joint initiatives, programmes and projects in order to maximize synergies for institutional coordination, expertise and knowledge management for best results. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, implemented jointly by ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, will serve as the major framework for cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia. At the country level, ECE will work closely with the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in the ECE region to facilitate the implementation of joint programmes and projects in response to country demands. ECE will also continue its active engagement as part of these country teams through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks by contributing to their planning, monitoring and implementation through common country analyses and participation in joint workplans and results groups. The programme will also promote interregional (including South-South) and triangular cooperation.

- 20.8 ECE integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, to support member States in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and targets of the Goals related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Guided by its policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women, all ECE subprogrammes will commit themselves to taking concrete action with measurable outputs in the 2025 ECE action plan on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the Commission's normative work and further promoting the participation of women in all meetings and workshops. All ECE technical cooperation projects will be assessed against their impact on gender equality.
- 20.9 In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, ECE will mainstream disability inclusion into its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. In line with its annual disability inclusion action plan, ECE will advance disability inclusion in the relevant normative instruments and good practices, as well as its programmes and projects.
- 20.10 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2025 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- Member States continue to guide ECE intergovernmental processes, support the work of ECE and give high priority to regional and subregional cooperation and integration, with a view to achieving sustainable development;
 - All relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will to cooperate in implementing ECE legal instruments, norms and standards;
 - Voluntary resources continue to be available.

Legislative mandates

- 20.11 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

General Assembly resolutions

66/288	The future we want	69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community	69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development	69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

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70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	75/8, 77/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
70/217, 73/243, 76/217, 77/246	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	75/9, 77/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization	75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda	75/216; 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative	75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	75/290 A	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly		Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions
74/15	Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024		67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly		Economic and Social Council
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly	75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility		Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	75/324	High-level political forum on sustainable development
74/231, 76/215	Development cooperation with middle-income countries	77/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
74/235	Women in development		Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co operation and Development (OECD)
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat	75/213, 76/202, 77/162	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	77/184	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
		77/185	South-South cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

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1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission	2022/18	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe	A (69)	High-level statement
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE	B (69)	Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region	D (70)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Subprogramme 1 Environment

General Assembly resolutions

2994 (XXVII)	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment	71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
47/193	Observance of World Day for Water	72/222	Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
62/68	Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm	73/226	Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028
64/200	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	73/238	The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia
67/291	Sanitation for All	75/212	United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028
69/172	Human rights in the administration of justice	77/L.106	Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028
69/215	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources		
69/235	Industrial development cooperation		
70/169	The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation		
70/209	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014)		
71/222	International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028		

Economic and Social Council resolution

2023/21	Implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
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Economic Commission for Europe decisions

CEP/AC.1 3/2005/2	Report of the high-level meeting of environment and education ministries (2005) adopting the ECE strategy for education for sustainable development	ECE/BAT UMI. CONF/201 6/2/ Add.1	Declaration: “Greener, cleaner, smarter!” by ministers of the region of ECE, report of the eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016
ECE/BEL GRADE.C ONF/2007/ 4/ Add.1	Statement on education for sustainable development by the ministers of education and of the environment of the ECE region adopted at the joint session on education for development of the sixth Ministerial Conference, entitled “Environment for Europe”, 2007	ECE/BAT UMI. CONF/201 6/2/ Add.2	Batumi ministerial statement on education for sustainable development adopted by the high-level meeting of education and environment ministries of the region of ECE, report of the eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016
ECE/AC.2 1/2021/ 2- EUCHP20 18924/ 4.3.2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and of the special session of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme	ECE/NICO SIA. CONF/202 2/Add.1	Ministerial declaration of the ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference
ECE/ASTA NA. CONF/201 1/2/ Add.1	Declaration: “Save water, grow green!” by ministers of the region of ECE, report of the seventh Ministerial Conference, entitled “Environment for Europe”, 2011	ECE/NICO SIA. CONF/202 2/Add.2	Nicosia ministerial statement on education for sustainable development

Relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements of the Economic Commission for Europe

ECE/EB.A IR/154 and Add.1	Report of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on its forty-third session	A/ SEA/7 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3	session, and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment on its third session
ECE/MP.P RTR/ 2021/6 and Add.1	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters on its fourth session	ECE/MP.EI A/27- ECE/MP.EI A/ SEA/11 and Add.1	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment on their intermediary sessions
ECE/MP.P P/2021/2 and Add.1	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters on its seventh session	ECE/CP.T EIA/44 and Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on its twelfth meeting
ECE/MP.P P/ 2021/16- ECE/ MP.PRTR/ 2021/2 and Add.1	Report of the Joint High-level Segment of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, and the Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development, adopted by the two Meetings of the Parties	ECE/MP.W AT/63 and Add.1 and Add.2	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its ninth session
ECE/MP.EI A/23- ECE/MP.EI	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context on its seventh	ECE/MP.W H/19 and Add.1 and Add.2	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its fifth session

**Subprogramme 2
Transport**

General Assembly resolutions

58/9	Global road safety crisis	68/269	Improving global road safety
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70/197	Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors	77/286	World Sustainable Transport Day
72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals	77/330	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
72/271	Improving global road safety		
74/299	Improving global road safety		
76/255	Integration of mainstream bicycling into public transportation systems for sustainable development		

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1999/65	Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	2023/5	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
2013/7	Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar	2022/2	Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.2 1/2014/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its fourth session		Committee resolution no. 265 on the ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting” and on facilitating the development of the inland water transport; and the Committee strategy until 2030)
ECE/TRA NS/224	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fourth session (UNECE Road Map for promoting ITS-20 global actions 2012–2020)	B (66)	Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing
ECE/TRA NS/236	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fifth session (Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian Rail Transport and Activities towards Unified Railway Law; and Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links)	ECE/TRA NS/294	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-second session (adopting Ministerial Declaration on enhancing sustainable inland transport solutions to global climate and environmental challenges: a united call to action)
ECE/TRA NS/240 and Corr.1	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-sixth session	ECE/TRA NS/304	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-third session (adopting Ministerial resolution on enhancing resilient inland transport connectivity in emergency situations: an urgent call for concerted action, and adopting the updated ECE road map on intelligent transport systems)
ECE/TRA NS/248	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-seventh session		
ECE/TRA NS/254	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-eighth session		
ECE/TRA NS/270	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-ninth session (adopting Ministerial Resolution on embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility)	ECE/TRA NS/316	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-fourth session (adopting ministerial resolution on ushering in a decade of delivery for sustainable inland transport and sustainable development)
ECE/TRA NS/274	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eightieth session	ECE/TRA NS/328	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-fifth session (endorsing Ministerial Declaration on harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change)
ECE/TRA NS/288	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-first session (adopting Ministerial Resolution on enhancing cooperation, harmonization and integration in the era of transport digitalization and automation;		

Decisions of the treaty bodies of United Nations transport agreements

E/ECE/ TRANS	1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical
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/ 505/Rev.3	United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations	ECE/TRANS/ WP.30/A C.2/147 and Corr.1	Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its seventy-second session (annex I: Consolidated draft eTIR legal framework).
ECE/RCTE/CON F/4	1997 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections	ECE/TRANS/ WP.30 / AC.2/157	Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its seventy-eighth session (February 2022): AC.2, in line with annex 11, article 5, adopted the eTIR concepts and the eTIR functional specifications, including the amendments adopted by TIB at its first session. This provides a complete legal and technical basis for those countries that are willing to implement the eTIR procedure.
ECE/TRANS/ ANS/13 2	1998 Agreement concerning the establishment of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles	ECE/TRANS/ WP.30/ AC.2/TIB /2022/3/ Rev.2	Report of the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975, on its first session: TIB for eTIR implementation, adopted version 4.3 of the eTIR technical specifications and confirmed their alignment with version 4.3 of the eTIR concepts and the eTIR functional specifications.
CE/TRANS / ADN/CON F/ 10/Add.1	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways		
ECE/TRANS/ WP.30/A C.2/125	Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its sixty-first session (annex II, "Joint statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure")		

Subprogramme 3 Statistics

General Assembly resolutions

67/144	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women	73/148	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment
68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	76/140	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
69/210	Entrepreneurship for development	76/141	Violence against women migrant workers
69/282	World Statistics Day		
72/234, 77/181	Women in development		

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity	2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2013/235	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session (Statistical Commission decision 44/105: Environment statistics)	2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (Statistical Commission decisions 48/103: Transformative agenda for official statistics; 48/107: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; 48/108: Integration of statistical and geospatial information; 48/114: Business registers)
2014/7	Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session (Statistical Commission decision 45/103: Programme review: broader measures of progress)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decisions 49/108: Regional statistical development; 49/113: Climate change statistics; 49/114: Statistical classifications)
2015/10	2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme	2019/210	Report of the Statistical Commission on its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decisions 50/106:
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session (Statistical Commission decisions 46/102: Population and housing censuses; 46/107: International trade and economic globalization statistics)		
2016/27	Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management		

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- National quality assurance frameworks; 50/116: Disaster-related statistics; 50/117: International migration statistics)
- 2020/5 Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system
- 2020/211 Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-first session (Statistical Commission decisions 51/101: Global indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 51/104: Coordination of statistical programmes; 51/107: International trade and business statistics; 51/108: Price statistics; 51/110: Environmental-economic accounting; 51/112: Demographic statistics; 51/115: Gender statistics; 51/120: Management and modernization of statistical systems; 51/123: Integration of statistical and geospatial information)
- 2021/7 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2021/224 Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-second session (Statistical Commission decisions 52/102: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 52/103: Partnership, coordination and capacity-building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 52/105: Economic statistics; 52/106: National accounts)
- 2022/3 Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem (paras. 4 and 9–10)
- 2022/324 Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session (decisions 53/101 (global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), 53/104 (data stewardship), 53/106 (regional statistical development), 53/107 (population and housing censuses), 53/111 (gender statistics), 53/115 (environmental-economic accounting), 53/116 (climate change statistics), 53/117 (national accounts), 53/119 (business and trade statistics), 53/123 (informal economy statistics), 53/124 (big data) and 53/127 (integration of statistical and geospatial information))
- 2023/325 Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fourth session (Statistical Commission decisions 54/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 54/103: Partnership, coordination and capacity-building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 54/104: Social statistics; 54/106: Economic statistics; 54/107: National accounts; 54/108: Business and trade statistics; 54/109: Regional statistical development; 54/110: Environmental-economic accounting; 54/111: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; 54/113: Statistical capacity development; 54/116: Big data; 54/117: Price statistics; 54/118: Integration of statistical and geospatial information; 54/119: Data stewardship)

Subprogramme 4 Economic cooperation and integration

General Assembly resolutions

- 77/320 Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets
- 76/213 Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
- 76/224 Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
- 77/150 Information and communication technologies for sustainable development
- 77/155 Promoting investments for sustainable development

Economic and Social Council resolution

- 2023/4 Science, technology and innovation for development

Economic Commission for Europe decision

- E/2007/37- Economic Commission for Europe annual
E/ECE/1448 report (24 February 2006–27 April 2007)

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Subprogramme 5 Sustainable energy

General Assembly resolutions

69/225	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy	72/224	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
70/213	Science, technology and innovation for development		

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1997/226	United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities	2023/18	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation
2004/233	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources	2023/19	United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements
2011/222	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines	2023/20	Request to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems
2021/249	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines		
2021/250	Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources		

Subprogramme 6 Trade

General Assembly resolutions

75/211	Entrepreneurship for development	76/200	Agricultural technology for sustainable development
75/231	Industrial development cooperation	76/222	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation	Decision 1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"
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Subprogramme 7 Forests and the forest industry

General Assembly resolutions

62/98	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests	76/223	Natural plant fibres and sustainable development
67/200	International Day of Forests	77/170	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
71/285	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030	77/173	Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
71/286	United Nations forest instrument		
73/284	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)		
75/219	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development	77/186	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

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Economic and Social Council resolutions

2015/33	International arrangement on forests beyond 2015	2020/14	Outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
2017/4	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020	2021/6	Programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2022–2024

Subprogramme 8 Housing, land management and population

General Assembly resolutions

65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	72/226	Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
70/107	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development	75/131	United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)
71/235	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	77/190	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

2014/239	Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session (Commission on Population and Development resolution 2014/1, Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development)	2020/7	Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness
2016/25	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development	2020/8	Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
		2020/19	Change of name and revised terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing of the Economic Commission for Europe
		2023/15	Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Human Rights Council resolution

48/3, 54/13	Human rights of older persons
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Habitat Assembly resolutions

HSP/HA.2/ HLS.1	Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session	HSP/HA.2/ Res.4	Resolution 2/4: Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning
HSP/HA.2/ Res.1	Resolution 2/1: International guidelines on people-centred smart cities	HSP/HA.2/ i	Resolution 2/5: Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience
HSP/HA.2/ Res.2	Resolution 2/2: Accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030	SP/HA.2/ 6	Resolution 2/6: Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals
HSP/HA.2/ Res.3	Resolution 2/3: World Cleanup Day	HSP/HA. 2/Res.7	Resolution 2/7: Adequate housing for all

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HSP/HA.2/Res.8 Resolution 2/8: Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure

risk reduction, crisis response, and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction

HSP/HA.2/Res.9 Resolution 2/9: Creation of a human settlements' resilience framework for early warning, foresight,

HSP/HA.2/Res.10 Resolution 2/10: Equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.1 / 2002/2/Res.6 Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

B (66) Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing

ECE/HBP 190 Report of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on its seventy-eighth session (Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development)

ECE/HBP/208 Report of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management on its eighty-second session (Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes)

ECE/A C.30/2 022/2 Report of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing "A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equality Opportunities Throughout Life"

ECE/W G.1/20 23/2 Report on the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, which adopted the Programme of Work of the Standing Working Group on Ageing, 2023-2027.

Deliverables

20.12 Table 20.1 lists the cross-cutting deliverables of the programme.

Table 20.1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual²</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	60	27	27	40
Documentation for:				
1. The Economic Commission for Europe	13	11	–	13
2. Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	2	2	2	2
3. The ECE Executive Committee	45	14	25	25
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	26	24	18	26
Meetings of:				
4. The Economic Commission for Europe	4	4	–	4
5. Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	3	4	3	3
6. The ECE Executive Committee	10	6	6	10
7. The Working Group on Gender and Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	2	2	2	2
8. The Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
9. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
10. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
11. The Regional Collaborative Platform	4	5	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	20	–	20	12
12. Capacity-building seminars on advancement of gender equality for government officials	20	–	20	12
Publications (number of publications)	2	1	2	2
13. On gender equality and sustainable development	1	–	1	1
14. ECE annual report	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advice to and consultations with member States and United Nations country teams to facilitate implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process in the UN programme countries in the region.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: promotional materials (brochures, banners, panels, posters and postcards) ; information materials for United Nations Road Safety Fund advocacy campaign and awareness-raising material; and globally accessible films on ECE activities.				
External and media relations: ECE weekly newsletter; and news, approximately 200 press releases and news per year 2; press conferences on ECE activities.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: ECE website; ECE Executive Committee, the gender equality and the technical cooperation activities websites; and news on ECE activities on four social media platforms.				

² All '2023 actual' figures contained in the draft programme plan for 2025 to be presented to EXCOM in December 2023 are estimates as of 31 October 2023. The figures will be updated in January 2024.

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Evaluation activities

- 20.13 The following evaluations completed in 2023 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2025:
- (a) Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) evaluation of ECE subprogrammes 4 and 6;
 - (b) OIOS Secretariat-wide evaluations: of Secretariat entities' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, and on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives for 2020–2021;
 - (c) The programme-level evaluation conducted by ECE on the role of ECE to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the context of UN development system reform.
- 20.14 The results and lessons of the evaluations referenced above have been taken into account for the proposed programme plan for 2025. For example, ECE is furthering the implementation of results-based management through better identification of performance indicators, clearer articulation of roles and responsibilities and reporting that better emphasize the benefits of collaboration with other United Nations development system entities. ECE is also strengthening its technical cooperation approach by better monitoring and prioritizing member States requests for assistance and is sustaining its cross-sectoral approach by promoting collaborations among its subprogrammes and with other United Nations organizations, for example on the high-level theme adopted by the Commission.
- 20.15 A programme-level evaluation of ECE data use and information management approaches is planned for 2025.

Programme of work

**Subprogramme 1
Environment**

Objective

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

Strategy

20.17 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 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, 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.

20.18 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

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- (a) Improved environmental governance and performance by member States;
- (b) Strengthened integration of environmental concerns into member States' sectoral policies;
- (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.

Programme performance in 2023

Increased number of United Nations Member States becoming parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)

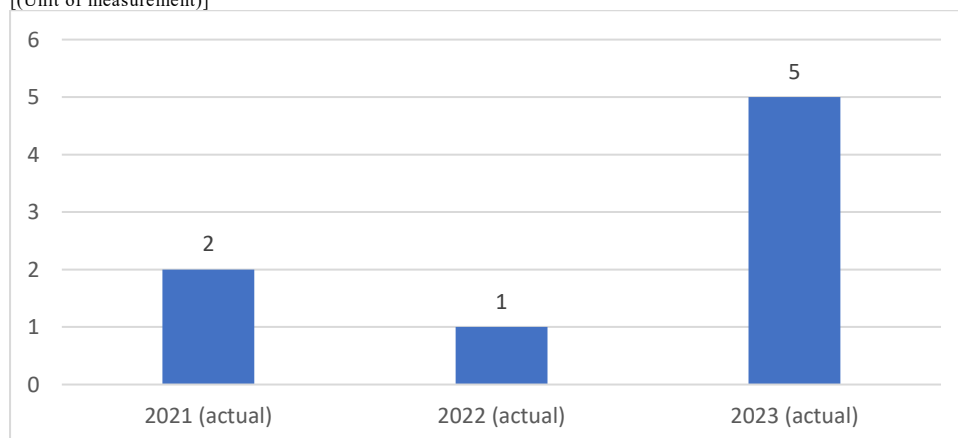
20.19 The Water Convention was originally negotiated as a regional framework for transboundary water cooperation for the pan-European region. Since March 2016, with the operationalization of the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of its text, the Water Convention is open to accession by all United Nations Member States. On average, one new Party per year has joined the Convention since 2018, while in 2023 there has been a clear acceleration with five new accessions (the Gambia, Iraq, Namibia, Nigeria and Panama). By acceding to the Convention, these countries have introduced in their national legislation key rules and principles, such as pollution prevention or sustainable water allocation, which ensure the sustainable management of water resources and pave the way to peaceful cooperation on shared waters. Several concrete actions have been taken in new Parties, such as initiating cooperation on shared groundwaters or development of implementation plans. UNECE work supporting the acceleration of the Convention's universalisation has also contributed to the impact of the 2023 UN Water Conference by catalysing action on water cooperation.

20.20 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.1).

Figure 20.1

Performance measure: number of new Parties to the Water Convention

[(Unit of measurement)]



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Result 1: strengthened industrial safety governance in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

- 20.21 The subprogramme's work contributed to sustaining National policy dialogues in Serbia, including through the organization of a Stakeholder Consultation and support to the development of the National Programme for Industrial Safety. The target of sustaining national policy dialogues on industrial safety in five Central Asian countries was not met due to the termination of a project to launch the national policy dialogues on industrial safety and lack of a follow-up project for their implementation. However, inter-institutional working groups on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution (IIWGs) were formally established in two Central Asian countries in January 2022 (Kazakhstan) and October 2022 (Tajikistan), and both Kazakhstan and Tajikistan organized the second meetings of their IIWGs on 15 March 2023 in Astana and 4 April 2023 in Dushanbe. Uzbekistan also organized a meeting on 27 April 2023, with ECE support, to consider the establishment of a similar working group in its country.
- 20.22 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.2)

Table 20.2
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Serbia established a national policy dialogue steering committee	Serbian national policy dialogue meeting addresses issues of national concern, involving relevant authorities	National policy dialogues were sustained and implemented by Serbia. Inter-institutional working groups on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution were sustained in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan	National policy dialogues are sustained and implemented by Serbia	Action plan for the implementation of the national programme on industrial safety in Serbia developed
Central Asian countries reviewed industrial safety legislation to align with the Convention's requirements	Finalization of review of industrial safety legislation to align with the Convention's requirements		Serbia finalizes the national programme on industrial safety	Inter-institutional working groups on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution are sustained and meetings held in at least two Central Asian countries

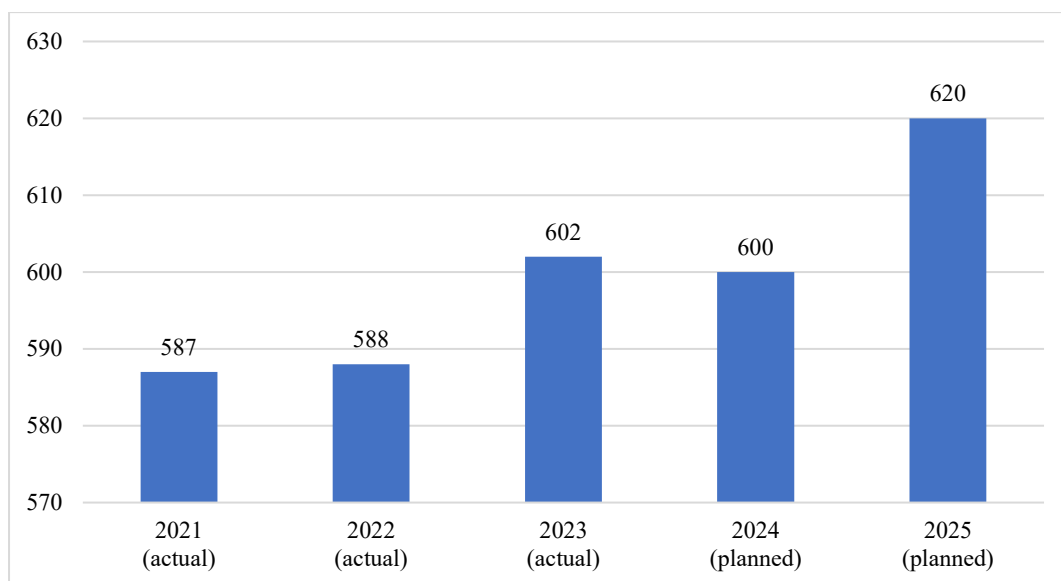
Result 2: increased number of United Nations Member States becoming parties to multilateral environmental agreements serviced by ECE

- 20.23 The programme's work contributed to increasing the number of United Nations Member States becoming parties to multilateral environmental agreements serviced by ECE, which exceeded the planned target of 593 Member States.
- 20.24 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.2)

Section 20 Economic development in Europe

Figure 20.2

Performance measure: number of parties to multilateral environmental agreements serviced by ECE (cumulative)



Planned results for 2025

Result 3: Modernized database and integrated data sources on pollutant releases to better identify potential chemical exposures and risks and enable more responsive and fact-based policy decisions

Proposed programme plan for 2025

20.25 Digital modernization of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), governed by the Protocol on PRTRs, as a comprehensive database for decision-making purposes and as a reporting tool for different processes, is needed to ensure the Protocol remains fit for purpose. The subprogramme carries out activities to strengthen the capacity of Member States with international and national reporting obligations through providing them with advisory support; preparing extensive background material on pollutants in cooperation with numerous UN entities and other international organizations dealing with chemicals; and organizing thematic sessions to share experiences and lessons learned in this area. These efforts led to the recognition by Member States of the pressing need for integrating data on industrial emissions, releases from small and scattered sources and other related data into a single-window online portal within a wider information system encompassing environmental, social and economic data.

Lessons learned and planned change

20.26 The lesson for the subprogramme was that there are numerous pollution-related databases that are disbursed and could be better integrated to improve the utility of available data. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will support preparation of draft decision to promote a reduction in fragmentation of databases and make effective use of technological progress in data management. The subprogramme will also develop guidance on integrating national PRTRs with other information systems and will provide tailored technical assistance to enhance decision-making in areas such as pollution prevention, impact assessment, sustainability and a circular economy.

20.27 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.3)

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Table 20.3

Performance measure:

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
-	Background material on modernizing PRTRs considered by the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs	Draft decision on modernizing PRTRs agreed by the Bureau of the Protocol on PRTRs	Draft decision on modernizing PRTRs approved by the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs	Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs adopts a decision on modernizing PRTRs

Deliverables

20.28 Table 20.4 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.4

Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	183	183	168	260
Documentation for:				
1. The Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	19	19	16	20
2. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	24	24	26	26
3. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	4	4	15	2
4. The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	34	34	24	24
5. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and the 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	42	42	16	16
6. The 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 the 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	50	50	60	161
7. The High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	3	3	3	3
8. The Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	7	7	8	8
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	236	236	219	243
Meetings of:				
9. The Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	30	30	26	28
10. The Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	46	46	44	47
11. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	17	17	15	19

Section 20 Economic development in Europe

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
12. The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	31	31	27	23
13. The Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and 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	34	34
14. 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 the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and subsidiary bodies	70	70	65	84
15. The High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	2	2	2	2
16. The Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	6	6	6	6
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	68	68	30	32
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	68	68	30	32
Publications (number of publications)	13	13	18	9
18. On environmental issues and multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	8	8	10	7
19. Progress reports and performance reviews on environmental issues	4	4	7	2
20. Multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	1	1	1	-
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: 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.				
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.				

Subprogramme 2

Transport

Objective

20.29 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance an intra-regionally and inter-regionally sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient, more inclusive and more affordable, both for freight transport and people's mobility.

Strategy

20.30 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

- (a) Service the Inland Transport Committee and its 21 working parties and 13 administrative committees, as well as the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and more than 50 formal and informal expert networks;
- (b) Administer the international regulatory framework for inland transport, which includes 60 United Nations legal instruments on safety, pollution, efficiency, multimodality and effectiveness (normative function) and ensure that the Committee's regulatory functions are up to date with current technologies and transport innovations – such as intelligent transport systems, autonomous vehicles, digitization of customs and transport documents, transport and border crossing facilitation focused information technology applications that they contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, where feasible – and are open to all United Nations Member States, as appropriate, by developing new and updating existing legal instruments, as necessary, including maintaining the database of international regulatory frameworks for inland transport;
- (c) Provide an intergovernmental policy dialogue platform at the annual sessions of the Inland Transport Committee to review emerging challenges and emergency situations; support consensus-building during the Committee's events in favour of regional and interregional connectivity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, among other matters, including through the adoption of strategies, action plans, high-level statements or resolutions on harmonized actions by member States and contracting parties in order to enable the full implementation of the Committee's mandate;
- (d) Analyse, and provide technical assistance and capacity-building on accession to and implementation of legal instruments, at the request of member States and contracting parties within and beyond the ECE region;
- (e) Facilitate global improvements in road safety, through policy dialogue at Committee meetings, and by contributing to the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety and the operation of the United Nations Road Safety Fund, in cooperation with other international organizations, and provide capacity-building and advisory assistance with regard to promoting legal instruments, calls for proposals and other related activities, as appropriate;
- (f) Support the efforts of member States to respond to and recover from emergency situations, including pandemics, and foster the functioning and development of national, regional and international inclusive transport systems and the implementation of the sustainable development agenda;
- (g) Promote knowledge-sharing and cooperation among Governments and key stakeholders, raise awareness of emerging issues and best responses, contribute to the improved monitoring and measuring of the Goals, facilitate the adaptation of legally binding instruments and frameworks to new realities and prepare new guidance materials.

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- 20.31 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 6 to 9 and 11 to 13 and to result in:
- (a) Improvements in sustainable mobility, and in monitoring and measuring the Goals;
 - (b) Improvements in inland transport, leading to safer, cleaner, more efficient, more inclusive and more affordable multimodal systems for contracting parties to the United Nations inland transport conventions;
 - (c) Enhanced efforts towards net zero emissions by 2050, guided by a Strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport to be adopted by the Inland Transport Committee in February 2024;³
 - (d) More efficient and resilient cross-border flows of goods and people regionally and globally;
 - (e) Enhanced intergovernmental cooperation in emergency situations and minimized disruptions to the continued implementation and updating of United Nations inland transport conventions.

Programme performance in 2023

Enhanced digitalization of legal instruments and development of tools and applications in inland transport

- 20.32 In follow-up to its response to inland transportation challenges in border-crossing which arose during the COVID-19 pandemic, the subprogramme intensified efforts to digitalize applications of its relevant legal instruments and develop tools and applications to further promote accessions. Specifically: (a) Interconnected the eTIR international system with the customs system of five countries and completed the gap analysis for three other countries; (b) Prepared the high-level architecture, concepts, and functional specifications of the future eCMR operations; (c) Defined the high-level architecture for the digitalization of the Carnet de Passage en Douane (eCPD); (d) Developed the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory, which hosts data on transport infrastructure networks and nodes; (e) Developed Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN) with indicators of applications of the legal instruments and sustainability; and (f) Continued developing the e-learning platform LearnITC, launched in 2022 to promote understanding of the United Nations inland transport legal instruments and their digitization.
- 20.33 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.5).

Table 20.5
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>
164 accessions by Member States to legal instruments for the digitalization of transport and border-crossing procedures	166 accessions by Member States to legal instruments for the digitalization of transport and border-crossing procedures	169 accessions by Member States to legal instruments for the digitalization of transport and border-crossing procedures
	44 countries enrolled to LearnITC platform and 123 users	79 countries enrolled to LearnITC platform and 330 users

Notes: Accessions to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR); Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the electronic consignment note (eCMR); and Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR) (cumulative). Enrolments count the number of registrations to e-courses, whereas users count the number of persons registered to the LearnITC platform. If a user is enrolled in more than one course, it will count as several enrolments.

³ Based on the mandate given by the Inland Transport Committee at its eighty-fifth session (ECE/TRANS/328, para. 60(a)).

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Planned results for 2025

Result 1: enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems

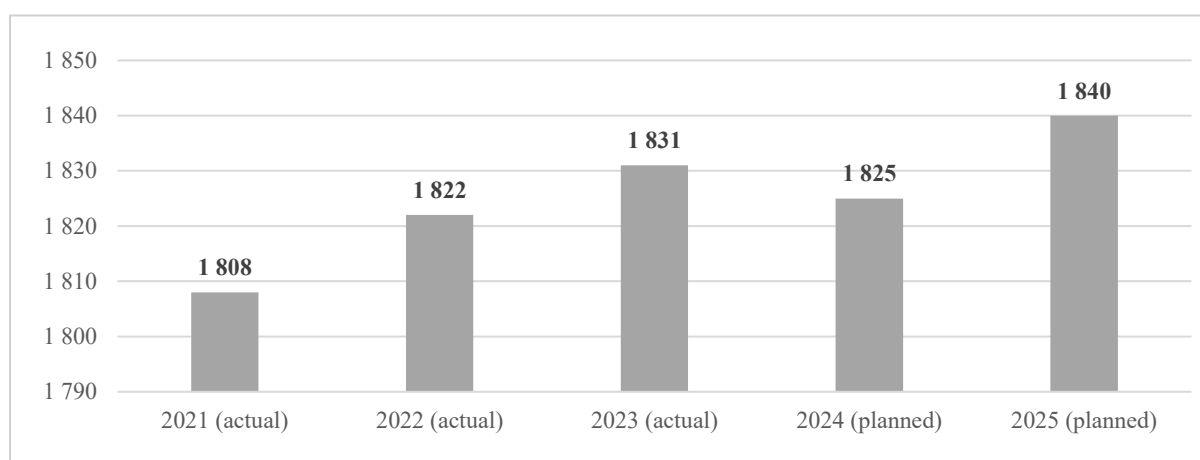
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

20.34 The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 1,831 contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Economic Commission for Europe, which exceeded the planned target of 1,813.

20.35 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.3).

Figure 20.3

Performance measure: number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Economic Commission for Europe (cumulative)



Result 2: increased number of new and updated legal instruments strengthening the capacity of United Nations Member States to address climate change

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

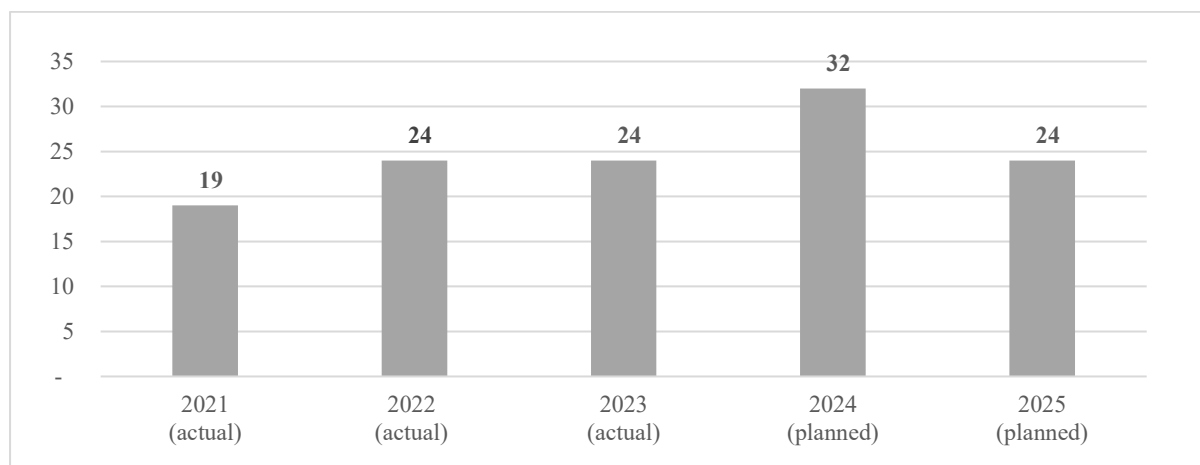
20.36 The subprogramme's work contributed to 23 updates to the existing legal instruments on vehicle regulations and one new legal instrument which entered into force in 2023, which did not meet the planned target of 28 due to a change in the methodology in which Contracting Parties requested to rationalize amendments for more regulatory continuity and robustness, and to bundle them on a fixed basis rather than discussing them individually at every session (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRPE/86/Rev.1, paras 18, 19). While with the new methodology the number of amendments is lower, each amendment may include multiple updates and can be considered as more comprehensive.

20.37 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure 20.4).

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Figure 20.4

Performance measure: number of new and updated United Nations legal instruments under ECE purview, entering into force annually and improving the climate performance of the transport sector (cumulative, since the 2015 Paris Agreement)



Result 3: Increased accessions to Core Road Safety Conventions as an initial step to contribute to fewer worldwide road accident fatalities and injuries, in line with the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety

Proposed programme plan for 2025

20.38 In 2020, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, with the goal of reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent from 2021 to 2030 (resolution 74/299). The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 483 contracting parties to the eight core United Nations road safety conventions which are the prerequisite initial step for countries to build road safety systems.

Lessons learned and planned change

20.39 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the scattered and random accessions to the conventions were not able to contribute to an effective road safety system functioning in an integrated manner in a country. Member States need to urgently complete their full accession process to help build or improve national road safety systems. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will strengthen the provision of guidance on national road safety systems and assistance intra- and inter-regionally to support full accessions to all the core road safety conventions and then implementation as recommended by the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030.

20.40 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.6).

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Table 20.6
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
467 contracting parties to core UN road safety conventions	478 contracting parties to core UN road safety conventions	483 contracting parties to core UN road safety conventions	486 contracting parties to core UN road safety conventions	489 contracting parties to core UN road safety conventions
2 events to provide guidance on Road Safety Convention implementation	4 events to provide guidance on Road Safety Convention implementation	7 events to provide guidance on Road Safety Convention implementation	10 events to provide guidance on Road Safety Convention implementation	14 events to provide guidance on Road Safety Convention implementation

Notes: The eight core United Nations road safety conventions also include the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport.

Deliverables

20.41 Table 20.7 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.7
Subprogramme 2: Deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1 266	1089	1145	1147
1. Documentation for the Inland Transport Committee	1 080	996	985	991
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	31	45	31	31
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	500	500	550	550
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	33	33	33	33
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	214	178	160	160
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	28	29	23	28
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	14	14	14	14
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	28	34	15	18
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	40	19	22	20
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	30	34	30	30
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	15	16	12	12
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	47	45	45	45
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	100	49	50	50
2. Documentation for the Economic and Social Council	183	90	157	153
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	1	1	5	1

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<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	150	72	120	120
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	32	17	32	32
3. Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	3	3	3	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	456	354	407	398
4. Meetings of the Inland Transport Committee	419	338	365	361
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	16	16	16	16
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	111	114	121	121
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	8	8	8	8
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	68	34	58	58
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	22	22	18	18
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	6	6	6	6
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	30	28	12	12
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	28	24	28	28
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	30	30	24	30
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	12	12	6	6
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	18	12	18	18
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	70	32	50	40
5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council	35	14	40	35
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	–	–	1	–
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	25	9	29	25
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	10	5	10	10
6. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	2	2	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	2	2	2
7. On the Trans-European North-South Motorway	1	1	1	1
8. On the Trans-European Railway	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	10	13	13	11
9. Workshops for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region and in contracting parties to legal instruments under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee on intelligent transport systems; transport statistics and trends; road, rail, inland water, intermodal and intersectoral transport issues; and vehicle agreements and regulations	9	6	10	5

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<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
10. Seminars for national coordinators, experts, customs officials and transport industry on the efforts to digitalize the inland transport conventions including the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, the Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the electronic consignment note (e-CMR), as well as the Trans-European North-South Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects	1	7	3	6
Publications (number of publications)	9	8	10	11
11. On the transport of dangerous goods	3	3	2	3
12. On the transport of perishable foodstuffs	1	1	1	1
13. On decarbonization of the inland transport sector and safe transport and cross-cutting issues	3	2	4	4
14. On vehicle regulations	1	1	1	1
15. On statistics	1	1	1	1
16. On border crossing facilitation	-		1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	2	2	2
17. Recommendations for performance evaluation of automated driving systems	-	1	1	1
18. Transport statistics – country profiles	1	1	1	1

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for contracting parties of United Nations transport conventions administered by ECE on legal instruments relating to inland transport, facilitation of transport, border crossing, road safety, vehicle construction, and transport of dangerous goods and other special cargo.

Databases and substantive digital materials: the International TIR Data Bank for users from more than 70 contracting parties of the TIR Convention, which includes the list of the more than 31,000 transport companies authorized to use the TIR system; TIR and eTIR portals; the eTIR international system allowing the exchange of data between the eTIR stakeholders in the course of TIR transports following the eTIR procedure; the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) hosting data on a large variety of transport infrastructure networks and nodes; the Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity (SITCIN) online user platform offering a set of measurable criteria for Governments to evaluate the extent to which they implement the relevant United Nations legal instruments in the field of transport and the degree to which their inland transport systems are inter-operable with those in neighboring countries; the inventory of standards on inland water infrastructure; inventory of existing European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations standards and parameters; databases on transport statistics, road traffic accidents, transport of dangerous goods, transport of perishable foodstuffs, urban transport and transport and environment; Rail Security Observatory; digitized signs and signals (E-CoRSS) under the Convention on Road Signs and Signals; and smart and sustainable connectivity e-learning platform.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials including brochures on legal instruments and activities of the subprogramme for global and regional access.

External and media relations: press releases for the subprogramme.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: LearnITC and other digital platforms and multimedia content on sustainable transport and mobility; and website of the subprogramme for global and regional access.

**Subprogramme 3
Statistics**

Objective

- 20.42 The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to advance official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians.

Strategy

- 20.43 The strategy of the subprogramme is guided by the priorities and needs of member States and is based on the core interlinked functions: the streamlining of international statistical work in the ECE region through policy dialogue; methodological work to develop and promote guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics; and statistical capacity development of ECE member States with less developed statistical systems.

- 20.44 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Promote in-depth statistical dialogue at the Conference of European Statisticians and expert meetings;
 - (b) Launch regional and country-specific initiatives related to methodological work to develop and disseminate statistical models, guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics, to support modernization of national statistical offices and their changing role to become data stewards, and to promote the use of official statistics;
 - (c) Maintain and develop the ECE statistical database;
 - (d) Establish and strengthen partnerships between geospatial experts and statisticians to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information, in cooperation with statistical departments of other regional entities, as well as international specialized agencies active in the region;
 - (e) Facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices in population and housing censuses, price statistics and environment statistics, including adaptations that occurred during COVID-19 restrictions allowing to improve timeliness and granularity of official statistics;
 - (f) Provide support to countries in planning and conducting their census and developing their statistical capacity, including cross-cutting topics such as statistics for SDGs, statistical legislation, data collection, data integration, dissemination and human resource management.

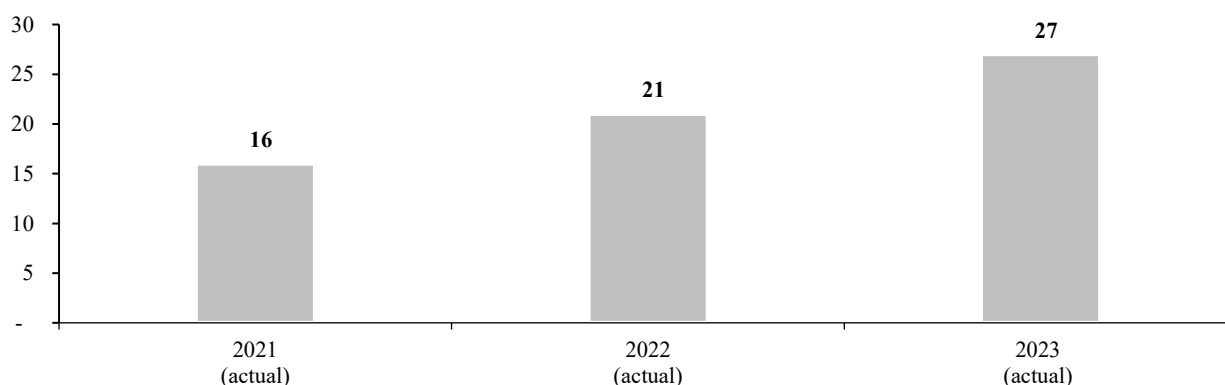
- 20.1 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Improved statistical methodology and capacity of member States to measure and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and develop evidence-based policies to manage their post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery;
 - (b) Member States using innovative and efficient approaches to conducting censuses that result in the improved cost-efficiency, coverage, accuracy, comparability and timeliness of dissemination of the census results.
 - (c) Improved capacity by member States to provide the statistics necessary to develop evidence-based policies to manage their post-pandemic recovery.

Programme performance in 2023

Improved measurement of economic globalization and of the activities of multinational enterprise groups

- 20.45 Economic globalization and the activities of multinational enterprise (MNE) groups play a large and growing role in national economies. Measuring economic globalization and MNE activities is a major challenge facing producers of official statistics. To this end, the subprogramme has developed recommendations and guidelines to assist countries in measuring economic globalization: *The Impact of Globalization on National Accounts* (2011), *the Guide to Measuring Global Production* (2015) and *the Guide to Sharing Economic Data in Official Statistics* (2020). The subprogramme has also promoted the establishment in national statistical offices of specialized units responsible for MNE Groups, so-called Large Cases Units, to account for their activities more consistently across national and international economic statistics. The work of the subprogramme has contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the number of countries having established Large Cases Units (or similar organizational structures) to improve the measurement of economic globalization and of the activities of MNE groups.
- 20.46 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.5).

Figure 20.5
Performance measure: total number of countries that have established Large Cases Units (cumulative)
 [(Number of countries)]



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: increased number of countries collaborating on developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics

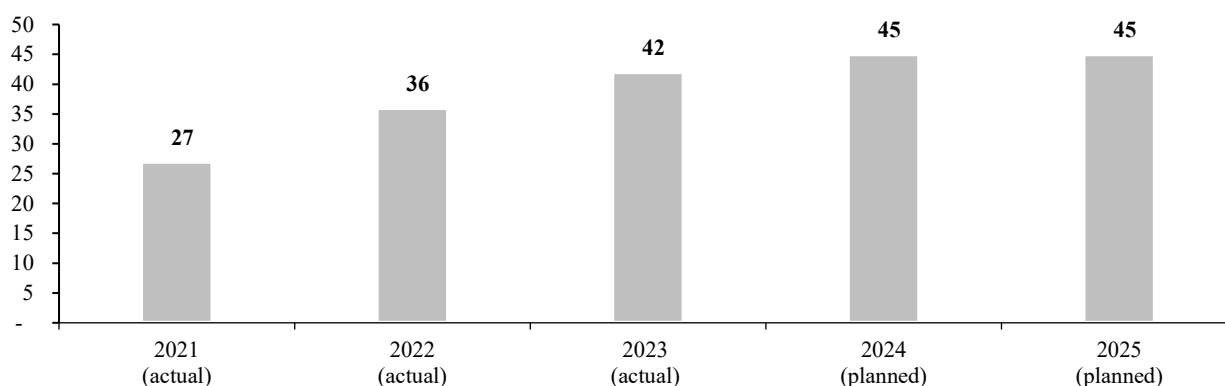
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 20.47 The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 42 member States actively collaborating in developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics, which exceeded the planned target of 33 member States.
- 20.48 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.6).

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Figure 20.6

Performance measure: number of member States actively collaborating in developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics (cumulative)



Result 2: improved environmental statistics and indicators in the Economic Commission for Europe region

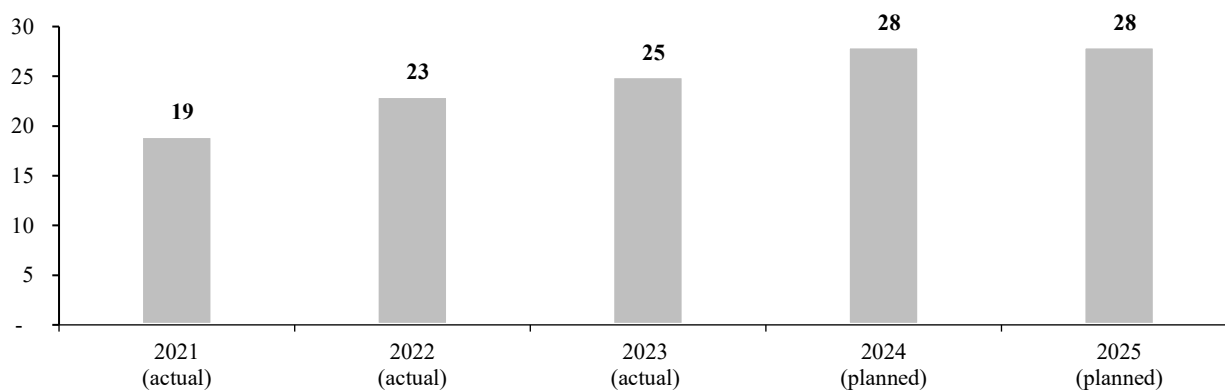
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

20.49 The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase to 25 member States actively improving environmental statistics and indicators through the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, which met the planned target.

20.50 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.7).

Figure 20.7

Performance measure: number of countries improving environmental statistics and indicators through the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (annual)



Result 3: ECE Statistical Database for improved research and decision-making

Proposed programme plan for 2025

20.51 ECE statistical database provides key economic indicators, population figures, and statistics on gender equality and migration. ECE helps member States to enhance the international comparability and quality of national statistics and facilitates access to policy-relevant numbers in the ECE statistical database for all member States. In 2022, the

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subprogramme developed a new Statistical Data Portal, which offers user-friendly access to data with a focus on data visualizations.

Lessons learned and planned change

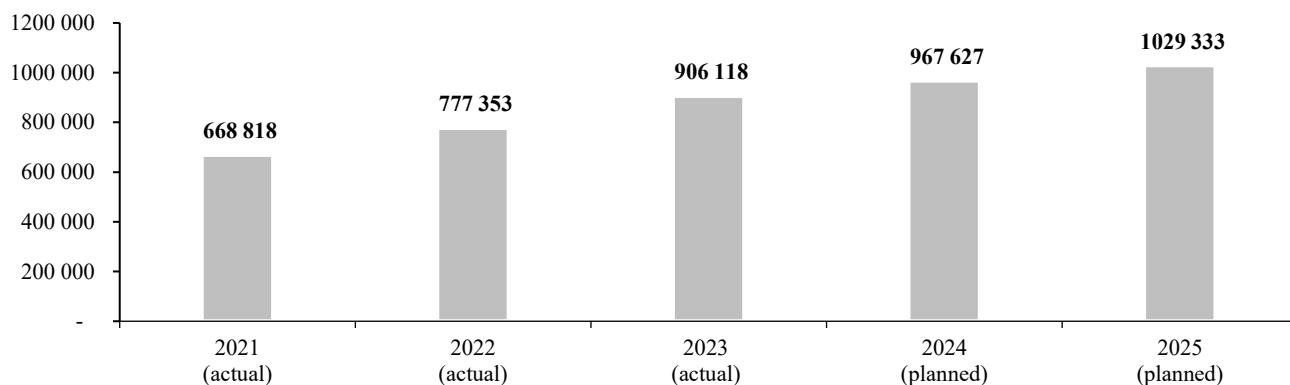
20.52 The lesson for the subprogramme was that further visualization of data and developing data stories can help reach wider audiences and improve user satisfaction. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will conduct regular surveys to gather insights on what enhancements to data visualization would be most useful and will prioritize improvements based on feedback.

20.53 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.8)

Figure 20.8

Performance measure: total number of downloads from the ECE Statistical Database

[(Number of downloads)]



Deliverables

20.54 Table 20.8 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.8

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	81	81	69	69
1. Documentation for the Conference of European Statisticians	43	43	43	43
2. Documentation for groups of experts on statistical issues	38	38	26	26
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	85	85	85	85
3. Meetings of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau	13	13	13	13
4. Meetings of groups of experts on statistical issues	72	72	72	72
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	1	1
5. On social and economic statistics	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	6	6	6	6
6. Workshops on social and economic statistics	3	3	3	3
7. Workshops on innovating statistical production	3	3	3	3
Publications (number of publications)	7	7	7	7

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Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
8. On topics covering multiple statistical areas, including social, environmental and economic statistics	7	7	7	7
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for more than 100 government officials (staff of national statistical systems) and other stakeholders of up to 4 countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe on economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, statistics for the SDGs, geospatial statistics and institutional issues and modernization of official statistics.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: ECE statistical databases (Goals, population and gender statistics database; economic statistics database); hosting of the transport and the forestry databases.				
D. Communication deliverables				
External and media relations: articles for the “UNECE Weekly” and “EnvStats” newsletters for regional access.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: interactive digital workspaces (wikis, including the ECE census wiki); website of the subprogramme.				

Subprogramme 4 Economic cooperation and integration

Objective

- 20.55 The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region.

Strategy

- 20.56 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of three core interlinked functions in the subprogramme’s two areas of work (innovation and competitiveness policies; and public-private partnerships): international policy dialogue; normative and analytical work; and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

- 20.57 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) support member States in creating a conducive business environment by developing good practices to inform innovation policy reforms to drive sustainable development, including through on-demand analyses of national innovation systems, policies and institutions; and through capacity-building workshops and seminars at the national and subregional levels;
 - (b) build capacity of member States in creating regulatory frameworks and public-private partnership project pipelines that can help to close the SDG infrastructure financing gap, including through:
 - (i) promotion of innovative modalities of financing, development and management of critical infrastructure;
 - (ii) development of international guidelines and standards to design public-private partnership projects and legal and regulatory frameworks;
 - (iii) the use, on-demand, of a methodology to evaluate and score public-private partnership projects in support of sustainable development; and
 - (iv) cooperation with multilateral platforms for sustainable infrastructure (including SOURCE⁴).
 - (c) focus some of its policy dialogues, analyses and recommendations, standards, and capacity-building on addressing economic challenges through innovation policies and public-private

⁴SOURCE is the multilateral platform for sustainable infrastructure.

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partnership infrastructure projects that can facilitate innovation and develop infrastructure to make economies more resilient and sustainable.

20.58 This work will help member States make progress towards achieving SDGs 8, 9, 12 and 17 and contribute to enhancing sustainable use of natural resources, and digital and green transformations for sustainable development.

20.59 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) improved innovation-related policies and institutions in member States for sustainable development; and
- (b) the improved design and operation of public-private partnerships by member States that contribute to sustainable development and lead to more sustainable projects.

Programme performance in 2023

UN programme countries in the ECE region have improved their national policies in support of innovation for sustainable development

20.60 UN programme countries in the ECE region urgently need to generate more innovation, i.e. new, more sustainable and more efficient ways of producing and consuming, in order to achieve their national Sustainable Development priorities. In the past, their innovation efforts have been constrained by a lack of effective supporting policies. The subprogramme has supported UN programme countries in the ECE region (upon request) with in-depth analyses of their national innovation policies, resulting in detailed recommendations for policy reforms, and with tailored training programs building the capacity of policy makers for implementing reforms. As a result, an increasing number of countries have implemented innovation policy reforms that are in line with international good practice.

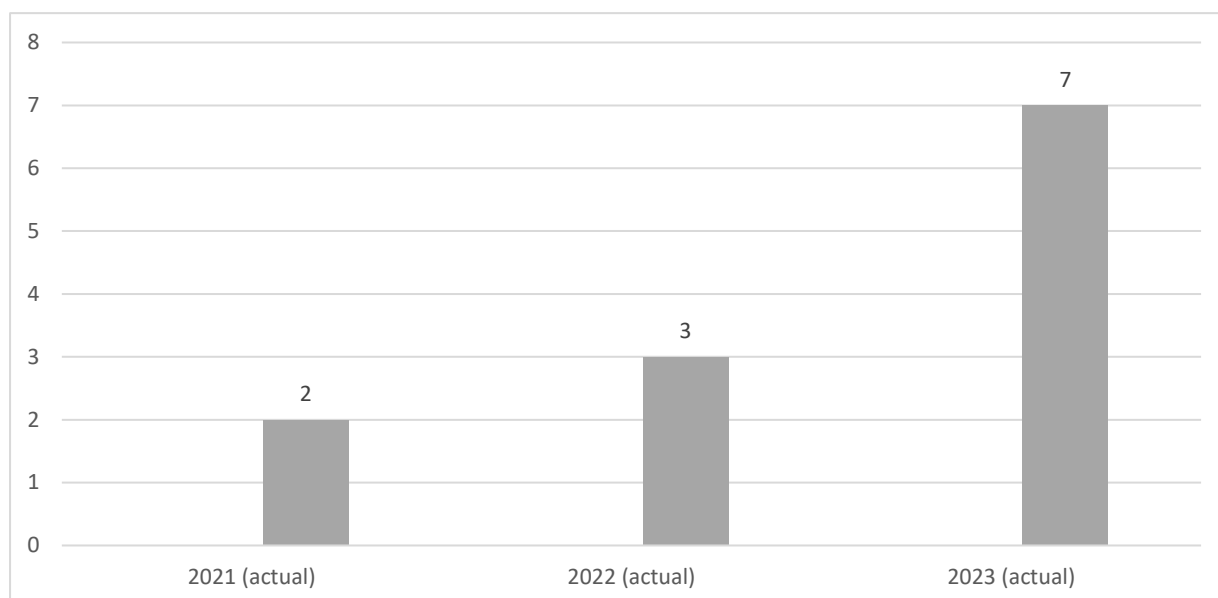
20.61 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.9).

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Figure 20.9

Performance measure: Number of UN programme countries in the ECE region that have implemented innovation policy reforms as a result of ECE support

[Number of countries, cumulative]



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: Improved capacity of member States in the development of infrastructure projects in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the circular economy

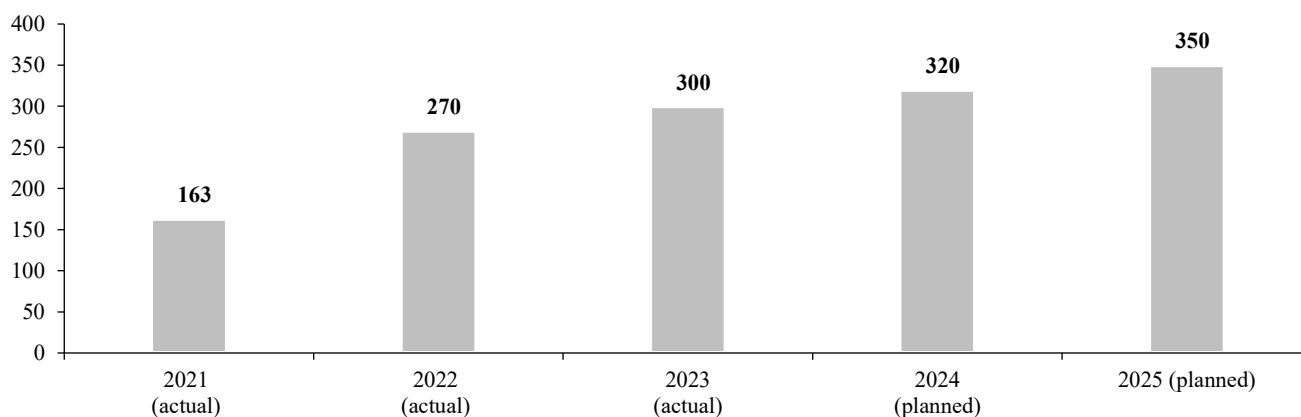
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

20.62 The subprogramme's work contributed to 300 policymakers from member States using the ECE standards and guidelines on public-private partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals, which meets the planned target of 300 policymakers.

20.63 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.10).

Figure 20.10

Performance measure: number of policymakers from member States that have used the ECE standards and guidelines on public-private partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals to identify and prepare infrastructure projects aligned with the Goals and the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources (cumulative)



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Result 2: member States implement transformative innovation⁵ policies and good practices for sustainable development

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 20.64 The subprogramme’s work contributed to improving the evidence base for policymaking and to increase the capacity of policymakers to promote transformative innovation as demonstrated by member States endorsing 10 additional good practices on transformative innovation policy, which met the planned target of 10 additional good practices.
- 20.65 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.9).

Table 20.9
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Member States endorsed good practices on innovation policies for the circular economy transformation, and noted the need for more policy learning	Member States endorsed the establishment of an ECE innovative network of agencies	Member States endorse an additional 10 good practices on transformative innovation policy	At least 3 member States implement policies and good practices to stimulate transformative innovation for sustainable development	At least 3 additional member States implement policies and good practices to stimulate transformative innovation for sustainable development

Result 3: More PPP infrastructure projects that are assessed as complying with the SDGs

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 20.66 Scaling up investment in public infrastructure, and mobilizing private sector finance and expertise can help achieve the 2030 Agenda. The subprogramme has developed a PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS), a methodology for assessing public-private partnerships in infrastructure on their contributions to the economic, environmental and social pillars of Sustainable Development. The subprogramme has been training policy makers and practitioners on using this methodology for self-assessments of PPP projects, including in land-locked developing countries in Central Asia as called for in the Vienna Programme of Action.⁶The self-assessments have helped policy makers to identify and address gaps in the sustainability of PPP projects. The assessments reveal the degree to which proposed projects contribute to increased access and equity, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, economic effectiveness, replicability and stakeholder engagement. The results provide important insights on sustainability gaps and help to improve project proposals. Project proposals assessed so far have covered both economic and social infrastructure (transport, renewable energy and energy efficiency, water and sanitation, healthcare, and education).

Lessons learned and planned change

- 20.67 The lesson for the programme was that a thorough self-assessment has been taking PPP units up to 40 hours per project generating delays in taking projects forward. In applying

⁵ Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), “Report of the ECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships on its fifteenth session” (ECE/CECI/2022/2, paras. 57 and 69 (Decision 2022 – 5.2)).

⁶ Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (https://www.un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/files/vienna_programme_of_action.pdf).

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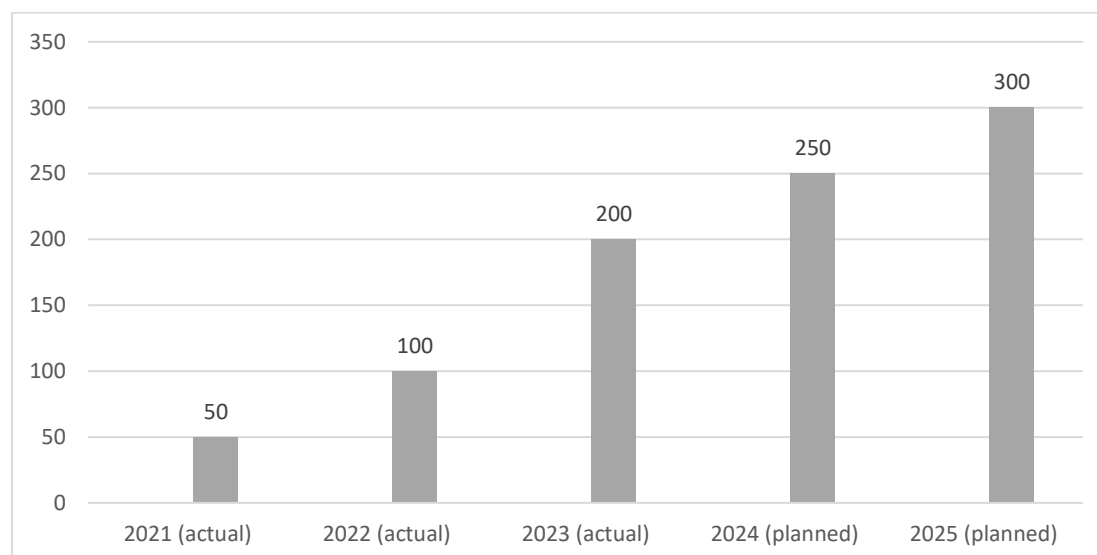
the lesson, the sub-programme will offer to PPP units and project teams additional technical assistance with the aim of cutting the time needed for a thorough assessment by 75 percent.

20.68 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.11)

Figure 20.11

Performance measure: Number of PPP projects assessed using the PIERS methodology (cumulative)

[Number of projects, cumulative]



Deliverables

20.69 Table 20.10 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.10

Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies:				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	18	18	18	18
1. Documentation for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18	18	18	18
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	19	19	19	19
2. Meetings of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18	18	18	18
3. Meetings of the Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development	1	1	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge:				
Technical cooperation and field projects (number of projects)	3	2	3	0
4. On innovation and competitiveness policies	2	2	2	0
5. On Public-private partnerships	1	0	1	0
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	16	16	16	16
6. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on innovation and competitiveness policies for sustainable development	8	12	8	8

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<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
7. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on public-private partnerships	8	4	8	8
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	3	3
8. Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews	1	1	1	1
9. Comparative reviews on innovation policy and/or public-private partnership	2	2	2	2
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigating missions (number of missions)	3	1	3	3
Fact-finding missions for Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and public-private partnership needs assessments	3	1	3	3
C. Substantive deliverables:				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services under the Working Party on Public-Private Partnership and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies reaching 30 government ministries and agencies and stakeholder entities.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: database of public-private partnership case studies from around 15 member States.				
D. Communication deliverables:				
External and media relations: press releases and launch events for the above publications for regional, subregional and national access.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: subprogramme's website for regional access.				

Subprogramme 5 Sustainable energy

Objective

- 20.70 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure secure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

Strategy

- 20.71 The strategy of the subprogramme is to support international policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders to foster sustainable energy development; develop and deploy ECE policy recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on energy-related issues; and provide capacity-building and assistance to member States, at their request, through training programmes, advisory services and technical cooperation projects. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to ECE work on cross-sectoral collaboration areas⁷ and priorities related to the circular economy.

- 20.72 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

- (a) Further develop normative instruments (such as best practices and principles), awareness-raising campaigns and the deployment of ECE tools through workshops, seminars and technical projects to help member States meet their commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement with regard to reducing their environmental footprint related to energy, accelerating the deep transformation of the energy sector to meet future needs, ensuring the sustainable management of resources and assessing options to ensure energy for sustainable development;
- (b) Promote policy dialogue and cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners on sustainable energy issues;
- (c) Provide technical assistance and guidance on energy transitions in the context of sustainable development, disseminate best practices and improve information-sharing;
- (d) Promote collaboration among private and public stakeholders that are key to implementing national and regional policies, including with regard to normative instruments and their deployment and dissemination;
- (e) Coordinate and promote efforts related to energy resilience across the ECE region and to provide an ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems for inclusive dialogue; and
- (f) Explore and increase understanding on energy-related climate financing in the ECE region, including policies and mechanisms for increasing financing for low- and zero-carbon technologies, the critical raw materials needed for low-carbon and low-emissions transformations and sustainable infrastructure projects;⁸

⁷ ECE cross-sectoral collaboration areas: (a) Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region (agreed by the 119th meeting of the ECE Executive Committee as a cross-cutting theme of the seventieth session of ECE in 2023); (b) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; (c) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (d) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (e) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the Goals.

⁸ This language was agreed by ECE member States at the thirty-first session of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, held from 21 to 23 September 2022, and, subsequently, at the 125th meeting of the ECE Executive Committee. In particular, the Committee “agreed to the proposed modifications to the programme of work for the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/31/2022/INF.1) and requested the secretariat to

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- (g) Support countries across the ECE region in applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) to assure sustainable development of their natural resources, including access to and development of critical raw materials;
- (h) Support ECE member States in enhancing their understanding of the benefits of low- and zero-carbon technology interplay for more resilient energy systems across the ECE region;
- (i) Support ECE member States in broadening and accelerating the deployment of energy efficiency measures across buildings, industry, transport, and other end-use sectors while embracing sector-wide digitalization;
- (j) Support and guide ECE member States in their efforts to accurately measure and report methane emissions from the energy sector and the related extractive industries, and to effectively mitigate those emissions by detecting and repairing leaks from the installed infrastructure and by capturing and destroying or utilizing gas from active and abandoned coal mines;
- (k) Explore the notion of “just transition”, being an integrated approach to sustainable development, which brings together social progress, environmental protection, and economic success into a framework of democratic governance. Increase ECE member States’ understanding of that concept and its complexity, and improve their capacity to plan and implement transformation strategies in accordance with its principles.

20.73

The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7, 12 and 13 and to result in:

- (a) More effective integration of sustainable energy across national policies and normative frameworks in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;
- (b) Enhanced dialogue and cooperation among energy actors to boost transformational investment in the energy sector and, consequently, accelerate the modernization of the energy system to meet countries’ sustainable development and climate commitments;
- (c) Improved access of member States to frameworks and tools required for integrated and sustainable resource management that aid the progress towards a more circular economy and contribute to the food-water-energy nexus;
- (d) Improvement in the performance of buildings from a health perspective (e.g. temperatures, comfort, effective air intake and recycling filters), which will improve the protection and resilience of populations;
- (e) Increased understanding and implementation of climate-friendly policies and mechanisms by member States, which are aimed at addressing issues such as financing for low- and zero-carbon technologies and sustainable infrastructure, and the critical raw materials needed for such transformations;
- (f) Improved capacity of ECE member States to design and implement policies setting up effective mechanisms for accurate measurement and reporting of methane emissions from the energy sector and the related extractive industries, as well as for their effective mitigation;
- (g) Improved understanding of a “just transition” concept and increased capacity of ECE member States’ for its effective application of national energy transition strategies, at the planning, as well as, the implementation stage.

reflect the modifications in the proposed programme plan of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024” (ECE/ENERGY/143, para. 76).

Programme performance in 2023

Enhanced understanding of ECE member States to manage natural resources sustainably

20.74 The ECE region depends on natural resources for economic development, human well-being, as well as the low-carbon and low-emission transitions. However, their extraction and use pose significant environmental and social challenges. The global material footprint is approximately 100 billion tonnes annually, projected to double by 2060. Resource extraction contributes to about half of the greenhouse gas emissions and is responsible for 80 per cent of biodiversity loss. Balancing resource use and conservation requires transformation and innovation at all societal levels. In 2021, the subprogramme supported development of the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)¹ to help member States achieve a paradigm shift in balancing economic development, environmental sustainability and social responsibility. UNRMS Principles and Requirements was published. Case studies and capacity-building events were undertaken. In 2023, ECOSOC endorsed UNRMS for global implementation (E/RES/2023/19). The subprogramme also worked to enhance capacity of member States to use UNRMS through developing and disseminating policy and technical briefs and providing technical support to apply UNRMS principles.

20.75 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see Table 20.11).

Table 20.11
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>
6 policy, technical and concept notes on transforming sustainable resource management.	UNRMS and 4 UNRMS application guidance notes published	ECOSOC endorsed UNRMS for global application
4 capacity-building workshops for member States on transforming sustainable resource management	4 capacity-building workshops for member States on transforming sustainable resource management. Case studies developed for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine	United Kingdom tested UNRMS application for critical transition minerals

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: digitalization of the energy sector as an enabler of a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

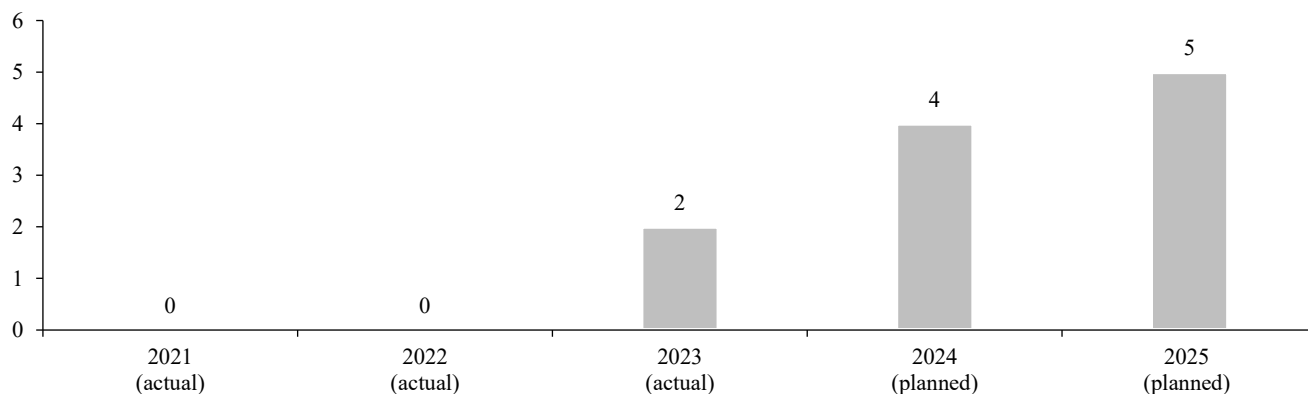
20.76 The subprogramme’s work contributed to the development of national case studies from two Member States and the application of ECE recommendations on digitalization of the energy sector to them, which met the planned target. .

20.77 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.12)

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Figure 20.12

Performance measure: number of Member States applying ECE recommendations on digitalization by developing national case studies (cumulative)



Result 2: enhanced resilience of energy systems in the Economic Commission for Europe region

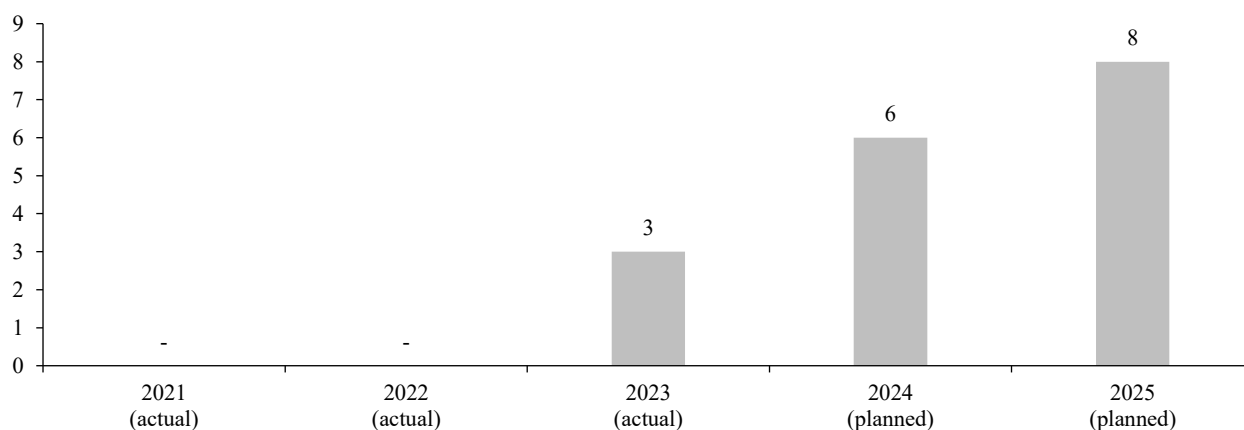
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

20.78 The subprogramme's work contributed to the application by three member States of mechanisms developed by ECE to enhance the resilience of energy systems and progress towards the attainment of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 7, which met the planned target.

20.79 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.13)

Figure 20.13

Performance measure: number of member States using ECE mechanisms to enhance the resilience of energy systems in the ECE region (cumulative)



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Result 3: More sustainable and resilient natural resource management based on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 20.80 The subprogramme provides technical assistance to member States for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) for national resource management strategies and policies and to assess and prioritise development of critical raw materials (CRMs) needed for the energy transition.
- 20.81 The lesson learned for the subprogramme was that UNFC can be more adaptable and responsive to changing demands and expectations of Member States, other stakeholders and regional contexts. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will organize workshops, webinars, and dialogues, develop a web-based platform, and tailor its approach to different regions, sub-regions, countries and sectors in collaboration with the UNCTs; engage with the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management; develop an international hydrogen taxonomy and specifications and support a sustainable CRMs value chain including for LLDCs. These actions will help align UNFC with sustainable development and foster a new paradigm in socially-acceptable sustainable resource management in 2025.
- 20.82 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.12)

Table 20.12
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
ICE-SRM established in Russia to deploy UNFC in Eurasia	ICE-SRM established in Mexico to deploy UNFC in Latin America	UNFC included in European Union Critical Raw Materials Act proposal	3 additional ICE-SRMs established in Europe, UK and Central Asia	5 countries adopt UNFC guidelines and improved UNFC data infrastructure
ECOSOC endorsed UNFC (2019 Update) for global application	African Union Heads of State endorse adoption of UNFC and UNRMS as the African Minerals and Energy Classification and Management System (AMREC)	1 Bridging Document between UNFC and Russian Federation national Petroleum system updated and endorsed	5 countries adopt UNFC guidelines and improved UNFC data infrastructure	10 Member States provide input to the Knowledge hub on UNFC
	2 Bridging Documents between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China classifications for mineral and petroleum resources developed and endorsed			

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Deliverables

20.83 Table 20.13 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.13

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	45	45	40	40
1. Documentation for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and related subsidiary bodies	45	45	40	40
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	38	38	38	38
2. Meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its Bureau and related subsidiary bodies	38	38	38	38
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	9	9	5	3
3. On sustainable resource management	3	3	2	1
4. On reducing the environmental footprint of energy	1	1	1	-
5. On accelerating transformations of the energy sector	3	3	1	1
6. On supporting member States in securing sustainable energy	2	2	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	10	10	13	11
7. Workshops for experts and government officials on the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System	2	2	2	2
8. Seminars on energy efficiency measures, accelerators and standards	2	2	2	2
9. Seminars on renewable energy development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation	2	2	2	2
10. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development	4	4	3	3
11. Training and workshops on methane management	-	-	2	2
12. Workshops and seminars on energy efficiency	-	-	2	-
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	3	3
14. On hydrogen, the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System	2	2	1	1
15. On digitalization and on best practices in methane management	-	-	2	1
16. On resilient energy systems	-	-	-	1
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklets on sustainable energy and related topics, for regional access.				
External and media relations: press releases, keynote speeches and articles on the activities of the energy subprogramme.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of subprogramme's website providing access to information and documents for regional and global access.				

Subprogramme 6 Trade

Objective

- 20.84 The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business, regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond.

Strategy

- 20.85 The strategy of the subprogramme is to support international policy dialogue on reducing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those caused by cumbersome trade procedures and paperwork, by differences in trade procedures, standards and documents, or by divergent regulatory approaches and product standards; to facilitate the development of standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and e-business, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation; and to provide capacity-building and enable the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.
- 20.86 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Promote simple, transparent and effective processes for global trade through its normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business;
 - (b) Facilitate international policy dialogue on establishing digital trading environments and on compliance with the multilateral trading system requirements, including the dissemination of standards, recommendations and guidelines;
 - (c) Promote the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable and resilient value chains and the enhanced traceability of supply chains, e.g. minimizing waste and maximizing the use of natural resources towards circular economy through studies, policy dialogues and technology-based pilot initiatives such as blockchain-based traceability for textile value chains;
 - (d) Strengthen regulatory cooperation and promote standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance to facilitate a predictable and harmonized regulatory environment;
 - (e) Provide practical ways forward for standards bodies wishing to mainstream a gender perspective in standards. The subprogramme will further support capacity-building and dissemination on the use of standards and regulatory cooperation, notably with its Standards for SDGs Portal (<https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/>) and its initiative on education on standards (<https://learnqi.unece.org/>);
 - (f) Promote up-to-date agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines through its normative work and promote awareness of food loss reduction through policy dialogues, partnerships with international organizations and technology-based initiatives to address food loss and waste;
 - (g) Identify regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and assist Governments in setting action-oriented recommendations for implementing the instruments developed by the subprogramme through analytical evidence-based studies;
 - (h) Deepen its international policy dialogue, normative, technical assistance and capacity-building activities on the digitalization of trade processes in order to support a sustainable and resilient recovery.
- 20.87 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 17 and to result in:

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- (a) Increased implementation of simplified trade processes, and the digitalization of member States' trading environments, leading to greater productivity;
- (b) Increased transparency and traceability of the value chains and reduction of waste, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- (c) Increased uptake of international standards by countries to enable the implementation of internationally harmonized regulatory processes;
- (d) Improved gender equality in trade through the increased participation of women traders;
- (e) Enhanced digitalization of trade procedures (e.g. progress towards adoption of trade related digital services like Single Window) to support the public and private sectors' efforts in member States to facilitate trade.

Programme performance in 2023

New and revised ECE agricultural quality standards are adopted that contribute to enhance trade and increase the livelihoods of farmers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

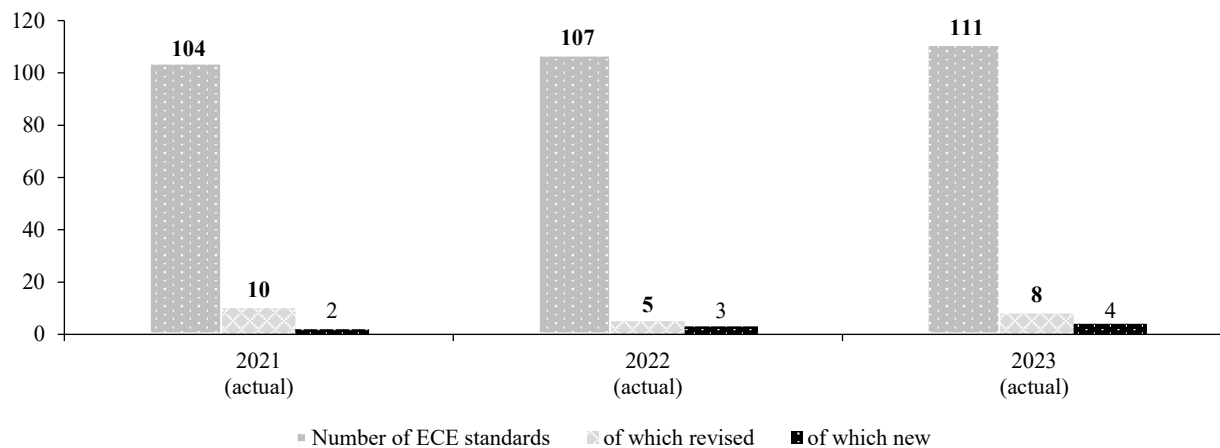
- 20.88 Under its Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, ECE sets internationally agreed commercial quality standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dried fruit and nuts, meat, egg, seed potatoes, and cut flowers. All member states of the United Nations can participate in the Working Party. The standards, through their harmonized language and transparent requirements, facilitate agreement between buyers and sellers, and in so doing, facilitate international trade and contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. They are used by traders to retail chains, enabling them to order with confidence, by authorities to check against rules, and by producers to improve production and reach new markets. In addition to their economic impact, standards can have positive environmental and social impacts, thus holistically delivering on Agenda 2030. In terms of environmental impact, for example, a new ECE standard for "certain small fruits" (covering 12 varieties that grow primarily in tropical and subtropical regions), fosters their cultivation, which in turn, can induce conservation of endangered forest ecosystems in beneficiary countries. Similarly, in terms of social impact, new ECE standards for relatively unknown products (e.g. dried persimmon, sweet apricot kernels, certain small fruits), facilitate the labelling and marketing of such products, which in turn facilitates commercialization, creates jobs and improves social cohesion by preserving the livelihoods of farmers. The subprogramme, as the secretariat to the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, supports the development of new and revision of existing standards. In 2021-2023, several new standards were developed and adopted, including for sweet apricot kernels, pomegranates, certain small fruits, sweet potatoes, dried persimmon, inshell peanuts, peanut kernels, inshell pecans, and pecan kernels, several of which at the request of stakeholders in Central Asia. A 2022 OECD/ECE study using regression analysis found conclusive evidence of a positive impact of new or revised ECE agricultural quality standards and related OECD explanatory material on the trade in fresh fruit and vegetables, after controlling for other parameters, including GDP and population levels, economic integration agreements, time-invariant properties (e.g., common cultures and shared histories), any linearly-trending time effects. In 2023, the European Union updated its legislation on marketing standards for fresh fruit and vegetables. The update retained the dynamic link with ECE standards, with standards for the 10 most traded fresh fruit and vegetables being mandatory in all EU countries and the requirements harmonised with ECE standards (both for import and export). The imports of those 10 products correspond to around 33% of EU (27) total imports of fresh and dried fruits and vegetables and nuts.
- 20.89 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.14).

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Figure 20.14

Performance measure: Number of ECE agricultural quality standards developed and adopted by the ECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

[(Number of standards, cumulative)]



Note: The graph shows the cumulative number of ECE agricultural quality standards, with the new and revised standards highlighted.

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: increased facilitation of agricultural trade through the adoption of agricultural quality and electronic business standards in Economic Commission for Europe member States

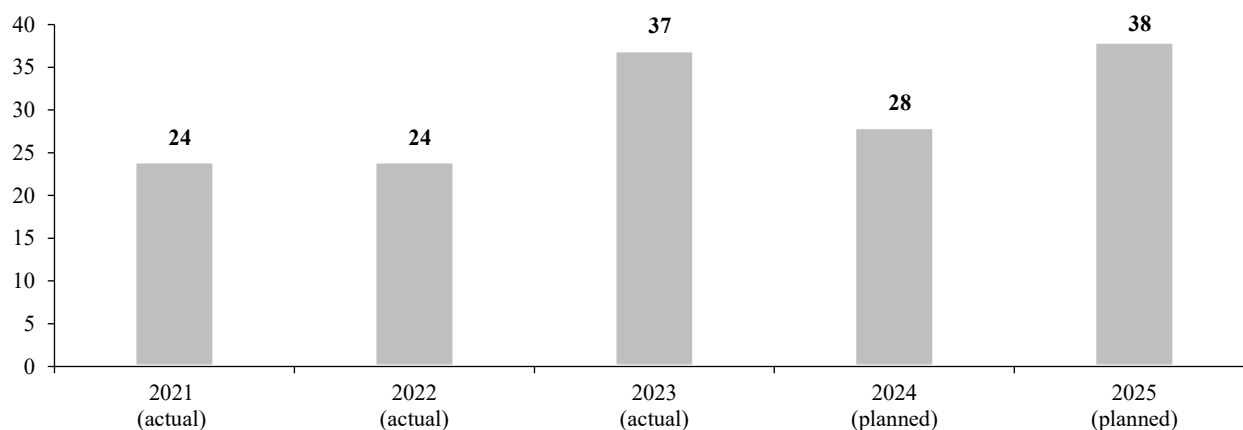
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

20.90 The subprogramme’s work contributed to 37 ECE member States fully or partially implementing the Commission’s standard for “electronic application and issuance of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates”, which exceeded the planned target of 28.

20.91 *Progress* towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.15)

Figure 20.15

Performance measure: number of ECE member States fully or partially implementing the Commission’s standard for “electronic application and issuance of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates”^a (cumulative)



^a The data for 2022 are based on past progress as reflected in the survey conducted in 2021, given that the data are captured every two years through the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

Result 2: mainstreaming a gender perspective in standards development organizations

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

20.92 The subprogramme’s work contributed to 83 standards development organizations that have committed themselves to implementing the ECE Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development⁹, which exceeded the planned target of 80.

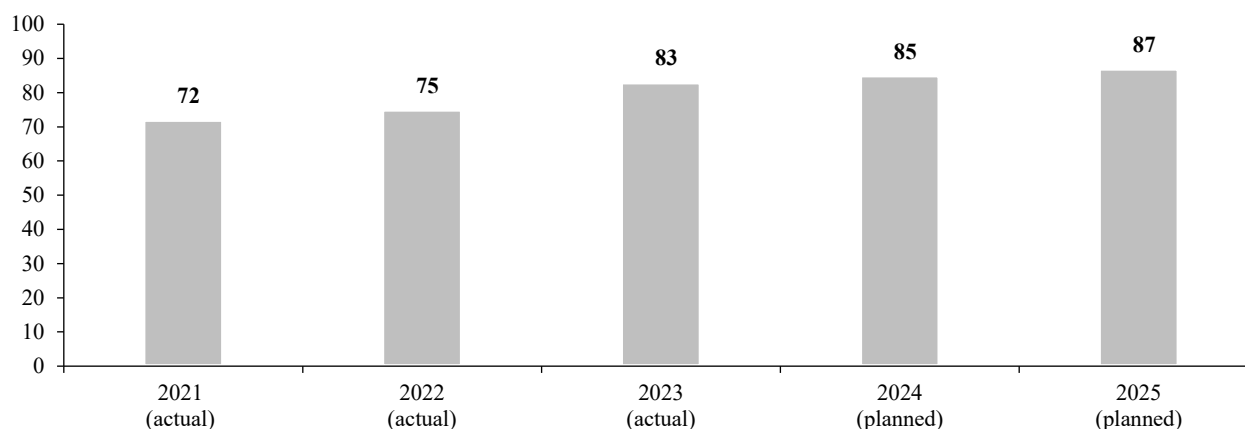
20.93 *Progress* towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.16)

⁹ <https://unece.org/trade/wp6/Gender-Resp%20-Stdards-declaration>

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Figure 20.16

Performance measure: number of standards development organizations that have committed themselves to implementing the ECE Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development (cumulative)



Result 3: enhanced digitalization of trade in Economic Commission for Europe member States

Proposed programme plan for 2025

20.94 Facilitating trade through increased digitalization of trade processes such as simplification and dematerialization of trade processes, adoption and harmonization of international standards and guidelines, and the promotion of interoperable digital systems are a priority of the subprogramme. To date, UN/CEFACT has produced more than 40 policy recommendations on trade facilitation, more than 400 electronic business standards, several training materials and other guidance materials, which are available freely to the global trading community. This normative work, along with policy guidance, technical assistance and capacity-building activities, are geared towards greater digitalization of trade to help facilitate trade, reduce the cost of trading and in turn increase competitiveness.

Lessons learned and planned change

20.95 The lesson for the subprogramme was that there is a growing demand to integrate cross-cutting themes, such as digitalization, circularity, or resource efficiency, into trade-related work. For example, electronic traceability systems will increasingly be required to provide proof of the origin, content and sustainability of traded goods. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will expand work on cross-cutting issues with a focus on sectors such as minerals, textiles, and agri-food. For example, the ECE Team of Specialists on ESG Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy will develop digital standards for product circularity data and for ESG traceability in critical minerals.

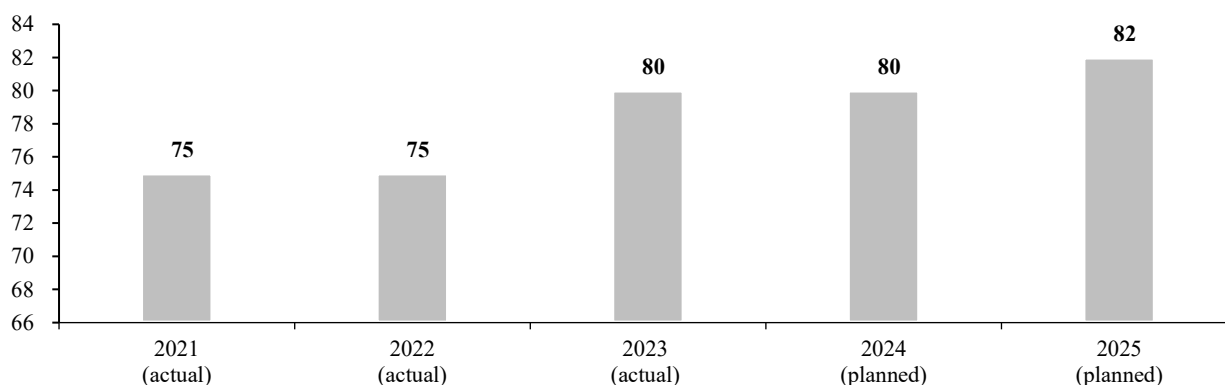
20.96 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.17)

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Figure 20.17

Performance measure: average implementation rate of digital trade facilitation measures of Economic Commission for Europe member States

[(Percentage)]



^a The data is collected every two years through the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. Thus, data for 2022 and 2024 is based on the preceding year.

Deliverables

20.97 Table 20.14 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.14

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	108	108	107	107
Documentation for:				
1. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	10	10	13	13
2. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	14	14	14	14
3. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	60	60	60	60
4. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	24	24	20	20
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	96	96	99	99
Meetings of:				
5. The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and its Bureau	4	4	7	7
6. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, its Bureau and related expert bodies	13	13	13	13
7. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its specialized sections	26	26	26	26
8. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	53	53	53	40
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	4	3	5	5
9. On enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls	-	-	1	1
10. On food loss reduction in agriculture supply chains	1	-	1	1
11. On trade facilitation	3	3	3	3
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	14	9	18	18

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<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
12. Workshops for policymakers and experts in low- and middle-income countries in the ECE region on trade procedures, supply chain management, conformity assessment and market surveillance, and women's entrepreneurship	2	2	6	6
13. Seminars for standardization and inspection agencies and other stakeholders in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on ECE agricultural quality standards	6	3	3	3
14. Seminars for policymakers and experts in countries with economies in transition and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on support for the implementation of trade-related standards, recommendations and guidelines	6	4	9	9
Publications (number of publications)	10	10	11	11
15. On regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in a country to be decided	1	1	1	1
16. On trade standard guidance in the following areas: quality infrastructure, risk management, education, sustainable development	1	1	2	2
17. On mainstream a gender perspective in standards	3	3	2	2
18. On agricultural trade, supply chains and food loss and waste	-	-	1	1
19. On trade facilitation recommendations, standards and strategies	5	5	5	5
Technical materials (number of materials)	8	8	8	8
20. Guidelines on cross-border trade	1	1	1	1
21. Training material and guidelines on trade standards and/or regulatory cooperation	2	2	2	2
22. Standards and guidelines on agricultural quality	4	4	4	4
23. Training material on trade facilitation and electronic business	1	1	1	1
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigating missions (number of missions)	3	3	3	3
24. Fact-finding missions on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization, and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade	3	3	3	3
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to government officials and other stakeholders in at least 10 ECE member States on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization, and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: databases for e-business standards and codes.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklets, promotional materials, fact sheets and information brochures reaching at least all UN programme countries in the ECE region and for more than 1,000 public and private sector experts.				
External and media relations: press releases, publication launch events and articles in external newsletters intended for government officials and experts working on trade.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: subprogramme's website.				

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Subprogramme 7 Forests and the forest industry

Objective

- 20.98 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the sustainable management of trees and forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development, climate action and biodiversity in the ECE region.

Strategy

- 20.99 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, analytical and normative work, international policy dialogue, capacity-building and communication.
- 20.100 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Promote cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, the sustainable use of forest products and services, linkages between sustainable food systems and forests, and urban and peri-urban forestry;
 - (b) Collect, validate and disseminate information, research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products, including wood energy;
 - (c) Facilitate the exchange of national and sub-national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using indicators for Sustainable Development Goals 11, 12 and 15, which will help member States to measure progress towards achieving the Goals and provide an indirect indication of progress under the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030;
 - (d) Organize capacity-building seminars and webinars and prepare dedicated publications on the forest sector and wood energy, including on crisis response and on solutions for more resilient economies.
- 20.101 The subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations and processes (e.g. the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Agroforestry Centre and Forest Europe).
- 20.102 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7, 11, 12, 13 and 15 and to result in:
- (a) The ability of ECE member States to sustainably manage healthy forest ecosystems in order to provide important ecosystem goods and services to benefit society, including climate mitigation and adaptation;
 - (b) Increased and more efficient use by ECE member States of sustainable forest products that contribute to the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, with increased use of renewable raw materials to replace less sustainable alternatives;
 - (c) The integration of forest resources and products into planning and recovery from economic, health and environmental shocks, to increase the resilience of member States and their most vulnerable persons.

Programme performance in 2023

Enhanced knowledge and awareness for evidenced-based policymaking for and management of forests and the forest industry

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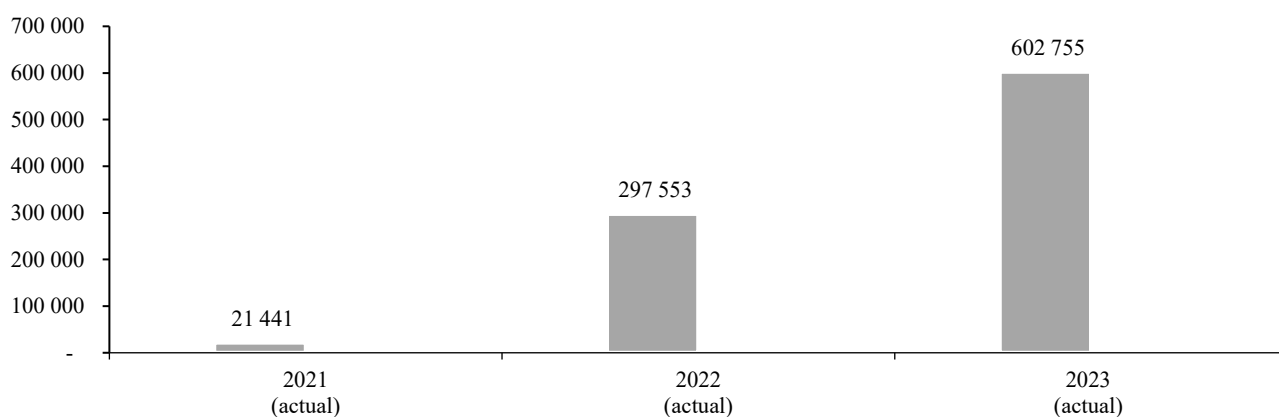
20.103 Communicating effectively within and outside the forest and forest products sector is essential to promote evidence-based decision making for sustainable management of the forest sector and forest industry and to enhance its contribution to national and global goals such as SDG 7 (wood energy data), SDG 11(urban forests), SDG12 (e.g. sustainable production and consumption of forest products) SDG13 (e.g. low carbon construction) and SDG15 (e.g. forest resources). The subprogramme has enhanced the dissemination of information resulting from the implementation of the programme of work, developing a diverse set of communication products to enhance the subprogramme’s capacity reach key stakeholders in the sector and beyond. This has included policy briefs, press releases, a quarterly information billboard, videos, podcasts, among other formats that allow different breadth and depth of communication reach and engagement. Efforts to amplify the outreach of the Joint Section’s work by actively engaging on social media channels and the Forest Information Billboard have played a key role in successful in reaching a large number of policymakers, experts and general public.

20.104 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.18).

Figure 20.18

Performance measure: Social media reach of the subprogramme

[Reach: Number of impressions across social media platforms managed by the subprogramme (cumulative)]



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: enhanced accessibility and timeliness of sustainable forest management information and improved monitoring of the impact of increased wood use in a circular economy

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

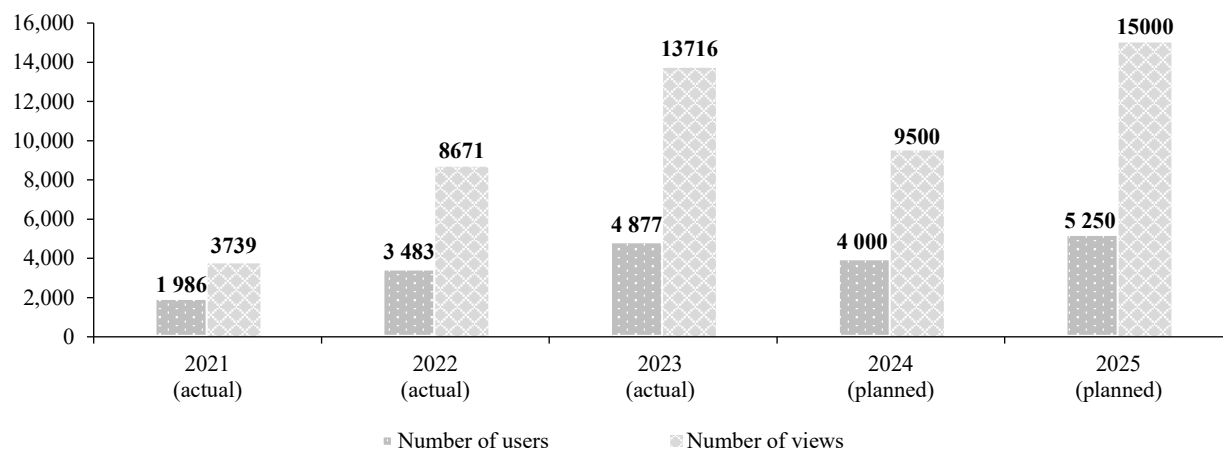
20.105 The subprogramme’s work contributed to 13,716 views by 4,877 users, which exceeded both the planned target of 6,000 views and of 2,500 users.

20.106 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.19)

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Figure 20.19

Performance measure: number of public users and number of views of up-to-date data on sustainable forest management from the INForest platform that is accessible to persons with disabilities (cumulative)



Result 2: cities and towns commit themselves to expanding sustainable urban and peri-urban forest cover

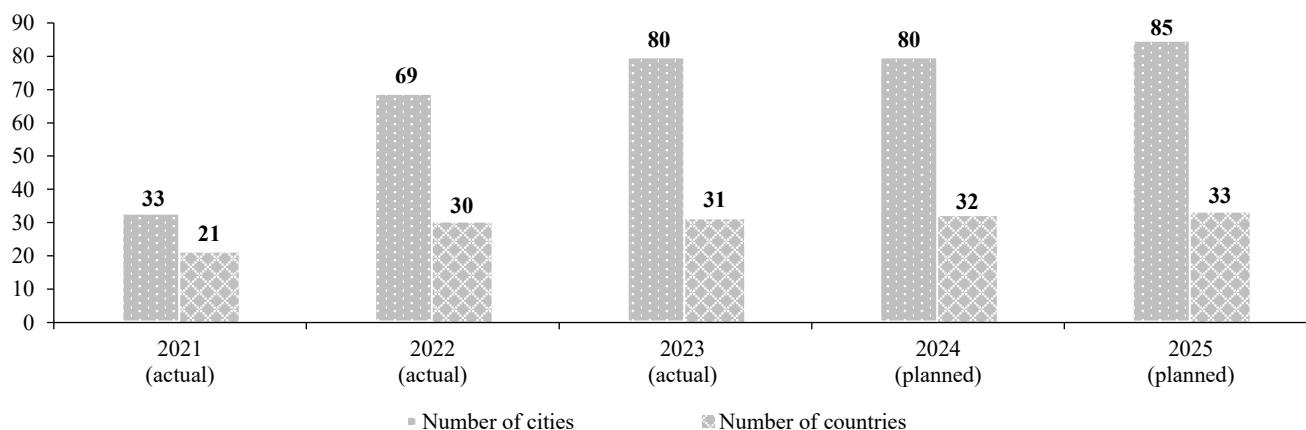
Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

20.107 The subprogramme's work contributed to a cumulative total of 80 cities from 31 countries that made pledges and commitments to increasing sustainable urban tree and forest cover, which exceeded/met the planned target of 75 cities from 31 countries.

20.108 *Progress* towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.20)

Figure 20.20

Performance measure: number of cities and towns making pledges and commitments to increasing sustainable urban tree and forest cover (cumulative)



Result 3: evidence-based planning and action for the sustainable production and consumption of forest products

Proposed programme plan for 2025

20.109 Sustainably produced wood is a global commodity and widely used for many important products. ECE member States account for some 40 per cent of global forest resources and more than 60 per cent of wood harvested globally for the manufacturing of wood products

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(excluding wood energy). The subprogramme contributes to increased access to forest products information by annually collecting data from member States on their production, trade and consumption of wood and wood-based products and by developing technical and policy-oriented reports and assessments based on this information.

Lessons learned and planned change

20.110 The lesson for the programme, as learned among others through the evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review conducted in 2022, was that there is a strong demand for up-to-date information on forest products from within the forest industry as well as recognition of gaps in knowledge and awareness of forest products outside of the forest sector and industry. This recognises the critical role that forest products may play in meeting national and global goals, including achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12. In applying this lesson and the findings of the evaluation, the programme will provide information on forest products, including tailored formats to enhance outreach beyond the sector. For example, data briefs on specific wood-based commodities assessments that provide summary information tailored to be relevant to key stakeholders within and beyond the sector.

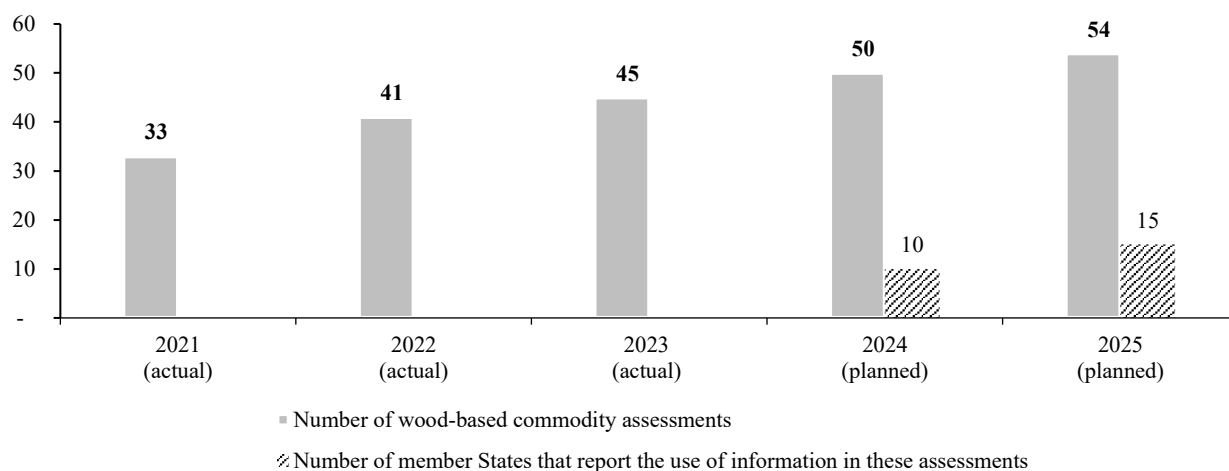
20.111 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.21).

Figure 20.21

Performance measure: number of assessments of wood-based commodities, regarding their production, trade and consumption, based on data reported by member States, and number of member States that report the use of information from these assessments in planning and activities

[Number of wood-based commodities assessments (cumulative)]

[Number of member States who report public institutions using information in the assessments to inform planning and activities (cumulative)]



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Deliverables

20.112 Table 20.15 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.15

Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	24	24	16	24
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	18	18	10	18
2. Documentation for the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	6	6	6	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	24	28	20	22
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	8	8	6	8
4. The Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	2	3	2	2
5. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of Teams of Specialists	14	17	12	12
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	-	-	-	1
6. On forests and the forest industry	-	-	-	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	12	15	12	12
7. Training events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	12	15	12	12
Publications (number of publications)	7	7	7	5
8. Forest Products Annual Market Review	1	1	1	1
9. On sustainable forest management and forest products	6	6	6	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services, forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues, for up to 3 member States.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: ECE region databases on forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption, removals and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access. ECE region databases on forest resources and forest ownership (also published by the ECE Statistical Division).				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: events celebrating the International Day of Forests; brochures and information materials on various forest-related topics; presentations at round tables and international forest-related events.				
External and media relations: press releases for the subprogramme; Forest Information Billboard newsletter.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: website of the subprogramme; social media accounts; videos and other media on forest-related topics.				

Subprogramme 8

Housing, land management and population

Objective

- 20.113 The objective, to which the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen member State-owned and city-level programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management, and to advance evidence-based population and social cohesion policies.

Strategy

- 20.114 The subprogramme comprises two components: (a) housing and land management; and (b) population.
- 20.115 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, international policy dialogue, normative work and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in all areas of the subprogramme's work.
- 20.116 To contribute to the objective, the housing and land management component of the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States' national, regional and local governments and other key stakeholders in the review of progress in achieving SDGs 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12, and build their capacities for the implementation of measures to accelerate achieving the SDGs through technical assistance projects, thematic studies, trainings, exchange of experiences and best practices and policy advice on: affordable climate-neutral and decent housing for all; housing finance; smart sustainable cities, digitalisation in cities and innovative financial mechanisms for cities; land administration and management, including informal settlements; and urban strategies and programmes that integrate climate change measures and promote climate neutrality of buildings;
 - (b) Support local governments in the development of the evidence-based policies on sustainable housing and urban development through the application of the ECE/International Telecommunication Union (ITU) key performance indicators on smart sustainable cities, indicators on urban economic resilience and the UN system wide urban monitoring framework; and in the preparation of smart sustainable cities profiles and SDG Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) based on the assessments of achievement of the Goals;
 - (c) Provide assistance to national and local governments with the development of evidence-based urban and housing policies through the preparation of country profiles on urban development, housing and land management;
 - (d) Support the strengthening of the capacities of national Governments and local ones in the design, implementation and monitoring of urban resilience plans and sustainable urban infrastructure development projects, including those that provide support to the most vulnerable persons, especially those in informal settlements;
 - (e) Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative financing instruments to unlock further financing and partnerships for the implementation of these plans and projects, in collaboration with the Geneva United Nations Charter Centres of Excellence;
 - (f) Subject to approval by the ECE Executive Committee, organize the fifth Forum of Mayors to discuss the challenges for sustainable housing and urban development.
- 20.117 To contribute to the objective, the population component of the subprogramme will:

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- (a) Continue to facilitate cooperation between member States, regional agencies and other partners;
- (b) Support national and regional review and follow-up activities to assess progress in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) by providing a platform for intergovernmental policy debate on matters related to mainstreaming ageing, and facilitate communication with a wider network of experts and non-governmental organizations;
- (c) Coordinate data collection on ageing indicators, including intergenerational and sex-disaggregated data, as well as policy-oriented research on ageing and intergenerational and gender relations, to support evidence-based policymaking and the monitoring of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy;
- (d) Support the development of national capacities for policy formulation through policy discussions, policy briefs and the showcasing of good practices from member States;

20.118 The above-mentioned work in the area of housing and land management is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11, and, to a lesser extent, Goals 3, 5, 7, 9 and 12 and to result in:

- (a) Improved national and local policies for housing affordability, adequacy and accessibility for all; the energy efficiency and climate neutrality of buildings; and sustainable and resilient urban development;
- (b) Increased capacity of national and local governments for the development of housing and urban development policies and programmes, which integrate the concepts of the 2030 Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and relevant best practices, including those developed and shared by the Geneva UN Charter Centres of Excellence, the action plan “Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in the region, city, neighbourhood and homes”;
- (c) Improved understanding by city authorities of their socioeconomic development priorities through the preparation of smart sustainable cities profiles and voluntary local reviews of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, based on the revised guidelines for the development of voluntary local reviews in the ECE region and using ECE/International Telecommunication Union key performance indicators for smart sustainable cities, urban economic resilience indicators and a United Nations system-wide urban monitoring framework;
- (d) Increased capacity of land administration authorities to develop national land administration and management systems based on thematic studies and capacity building activities in land administration and management.
- (e) More effective local urban development and housing policies and related resilience plans, in particular for the most vulnerable segments of population living in informal settlements.

20.119 The above-mentioned work in the area of population is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17 and to result in:

- (a) Demonstrated progress by member States in mainstreaming ageing across all policy fields and governance levels;
- (b) Enhanced capacities of member States in mainstreaming ageing across all policy fields and governance levels;
- (c) Policy approaches adopted by member States that advance the rights and dignity of older persons and their contribution to a sustainable and inclusive society for all ages;

Programme performance in 2023

Creation of the Forum of Mayors as a formal subsidiary body of ECE for city leaders from across the ECE region and beyond to exchange experiences and best practices in city management and planning and promote human-centred solutions for supporting the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- 20.120 Cities are sharing multiple challenges, including climate change and extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts and heatwaves; urban sprawl; environment pollution; lack of affordable and decent housing and urban infrastructure. To address these and other challenges, cities require to exchange experiences and best practices and engage in cooperation between each other as well as with their national governments through multilevel governance approaches.
- 20.121 Following an independent evaluation requested by member States, the subprogramme established cooperation with multiple cities in the ECE region and created the UN Forum of Mayors as a formal subsidiary body of ECE, a team of specialists to promote both city-to-city as well as local to national level of governments cooperation. The Forum is a tool to promote new multilateralism in the ECE region and globally.
- 20.122 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.16).

Table 20.16
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>
-	The Second Forum of Mayors (April 2022) brought together 250 participants, including leaders from 44 cities, and resulted in increased city-to-city cooperation to address city-level challenges in the areas of housing, climate-neutral buildings, green cities and nature-based solutions, sustainable urban transport, and smart urban development solutions.	The Third Forum of Mayors (October 2023) brought together 300 participants, including leaders from 61 cities, and resulted in enhanced city-to-city cooperation and multilevel governance to strengthen cooperation with the national governments to address city-level challenges.

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: acceleration of the city-level implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 20.123 The subprogramme’s work contributed to the development of the smart sustainable cities profile for Almaty (Kazakhstan), Ålesund, Asker, Bærum, Rana and Trondheim (Norway) using evidence-based approaches, which met the planned target.
- 20.124 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.17)

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Table 20.17

Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Two smart sustainable cities profiles (for Hrodna, Belarus, and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) using evidence-based approaches developed	Two smart sustainable cities profile (for Tbilisi, Georgia, and Podgorica, Montenegro) and one smart sustainable country/city profile (for San Marino and its cities) developed using evidence-based approaches	Six smart sustainable cities profile for Almaty (Kazakhstan), Ålesund, Asker, Bærum, Rana and Trondheim (Norway) using evidence-based approaches developed	Four additional country/city profiles and smart sustainable city profiles and voluntary local reviews using evidence-based approaches developed Two cities implementing the recommendations contained in the profiles and voluntary local reviews	Two additional smart sustainable cities profile / voluntary local reviews using evidence-based approaches developed Three cities implementing recommendations contained in the profiles and voluntary local reviews

Result 2: acceleration of the city-level implementation of best practices in housing and land management and urban development

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 20.125 The subprogramme’s work contributed to the implementation of one country profile for Albania (as requested by the Government, the profile combined a country-wide analysis with cities’ analysis), which met the planned target of one country/city implementing recommendations contained in the thematic policy briefs and guidelines on housing, land management and urban development.
- 20.126 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.18)

Table 20.18

Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
–	“Place and Life in the One country profile ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, and emergencies region, neighbourhood and homes” adopted by member States	implemented recommendations contained in the thematic policy briefs and guidelines in city, housing, and management and urban development	Two countries/cities implementing recommendations contained in the thematic policy briefs and guidelines on housing, land urban development	Three countries/cities implementing recommendations contained in the thematic policy briefs and guidelines on housing, land urban development

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Result 3: More age-sensitive and inclusive policies to respond to the opportunities and challenges of individual and population ageing

Proposed programme plan for 2025

20.127 Countries in the ECE region are undergoing a demographic transformation to population ageing that impacts all generations and all aspects of social and economic life. To support countries in adapting to population ageing, the subprogramme supports the implementation of MIPAA/RIS, including through periodically assessing and sharing progress, fostering policy dialogue and enhancing national capacities for evidence-based policy formulation.

Lessons learned and planned change

20.128 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the accessibility and sharing of policy examples for policymakers could be improved to support policy formulation. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will develop the Ageing Policies Database that will enhance access to comprehensive, timely and searchable information on ageing-related policies drawing on the repository of ageing-related policy information collected through the periodic regional reviews and appraisals of the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and through regular policy updates. The Ageing Policies Database will facilitate this information sharing across the ECE region. It will further contribute to monitoring the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and related international policy frameworks and provide an important information resource supporting countries in mainstreaming ageing by integrating an ageing perspective in their broader policies, adjust to demographic change while applying a gender perspective, create an environment that is conducive to the full realisation of the individual and societal potential of longevity. The subprogramme will draw on available policy information collected during the fourth and upcoming fifth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS and regular policy updates by ECE member States.

20.129 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.19)

Table 20.19

Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
Member States report on ageing-related policies during the fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	Member States, at the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGGA), include the development of an Ageing Policies Database in the programme of work	Member States agree on the scope and design of the Ageing Policies Database	The Ageing Policies Database is made available for global access	At least 15 member States share ageing-related policy updates for inclusion in the database, including national policies on active and healthy ageing, long-term care, and lifelong learning, among others

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Deliverables

20.130 Table 20.20 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 20.20

Subprogramme 8: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 Actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	25	25	16	23
Documentation for the:				
1. The Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	11	11	11	11
2. The Working Party on Land Administration	7	7	-	7
3. The Standing Working Group on Ageing	5	5	5	5
4. The regional conference on population and development issues	2	2	-	-
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	37	37	33	33
Meetings of the:				
5. The Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, its Bureau and expert bodies	14	14	18	14
6. The Working Party on Land Administration and its Bureau	10	10	6	10
7. The Standing Working Group on Ageing and its Bureau	9	9	9	9
8. The regional conference on population and development issues	4	4	-	-
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	2	3	2
8. Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management	1	1	2	1
9. Road maps on mainstreaming ageing	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	10	13	10	10
10. Workshops, seminars and training courses for policymakers and/or experts in the ECE region on urban development, housing and land management (including real estate)	8	11	8	8
11. Workshops and policy discussions on population ageing issues for policymakers, experts, practitioners and other stakeholders in countries of the ECE region	2	2	2	2
Publications (number of publications)	6	7	6	6
12. Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management, studies on housing, urban development and land administration	4	5	4	4
13. On population	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	4	3	3
14. Technical guidelines on urban development, housing and land management	2	2	2	2
15. Toolkit and training course material on mainstreaming ageing	2	2	1	1
Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions (number of missions)	2	2	2	2
16. Fact-finding missions for policymakers in preparation for and follow-up to the country profiles on urban development, housing and land management	1	1	1	1
17. Fact-finding missions to develop national capacities in designing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for policymakers in up to 4 member States, in preparation for and follow-up to the country profiles on urban development, housing, land management; “Generations and Gender Programme” advocacy to				

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<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 Actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
support evidence-based policymaking; advisory services for government officials and other stakeholders to develop national capacities in designing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: ageing indicators data set for global access and database on ageing-related policies				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklet/fact sheets of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration (2); booklet of the Standing Working Group on Ageing and ageing-related events for various stakeholders.				
External and media relations: press releases and social media posts related to urban development, housing, land management and population activities.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: websites related to urban development, housing and land management and to population activities; and Active Ageing Index wiki.				