ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

134th meeting
Geneva, 01 July 2024

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

Informal Document No. 2024/18

UNECE Technical Cooperation Activities 2023
Annual Report

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The report is submitted in line with the Technical Cooperation Strategy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) adopted by the Commission at its 62nd session and revised and adopted by 116th session of the Executive Committee (EXCOM), by which member States requested the Secretariat to submit annual reports on UNECE technical cooperation.

2. The report presents technical cooperation and related activities structured by the core Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where UNECE has the strongest impact. The report aims to identify the best SDG-fit for technical cooperation activities implemented during 2023. However, considering that the SDGs are multidisciplinary in nature, it should be noted that almost all UNECE technical cooperation activities contribute to several SDGs.

3. UNECE core SDGs are: SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 15 (life on land), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). UNECE also makes indirect contributions to remaining SDGs.

4. The present report responds to relevant recommendations of the recent evaluations including the UN Secretariat support to the SDGs (2023) and OIOS evaluation of RPTC (2024) and others. Revised Resource Mobilization Action Plans for the period 2023-2025 are presented in Annex 5, pursuant to the approval of the revised Resource Mobilization Strategy (Informal Document 2020/27/Rev.1) by EXCOM on 29 May 2020 (ECE/EX/2020/L.4).

5. UNECE technical cooperation activities are implemented through three sections of the regular budget, namely: 1) Economic Development in Europe (Section 20); 2) Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 23); and 3) the United Nations Development Account (Section 35). Extrabudgetary resources supplement these funding sources.

6. A chapter on Section 23, Section 35 of the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, presents trends in contributions and expenditures. This information is supplemented by additional data in the Annexes.

## II. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

7. In 2023, UNECE completed 415 demand-driven technical cooperation activities. All activities were delivered within mandated area of work as part of the programmes of work of the subprogrammes (planned activities) or upon the request of the target countries. Countries of Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe benefitted the most from the UNECE technical cooperation activities. They accounted for 22% and 14% of the UNECE technical cooperation activities respectively, followed by the countries of the Caucasus and Eastern Europe (9% and 8% respectfully). 43% of technical cooperation activities were regional, involving two or more subregions.

Graph 1. UNECE technical cooperation activities by subregion, 2023
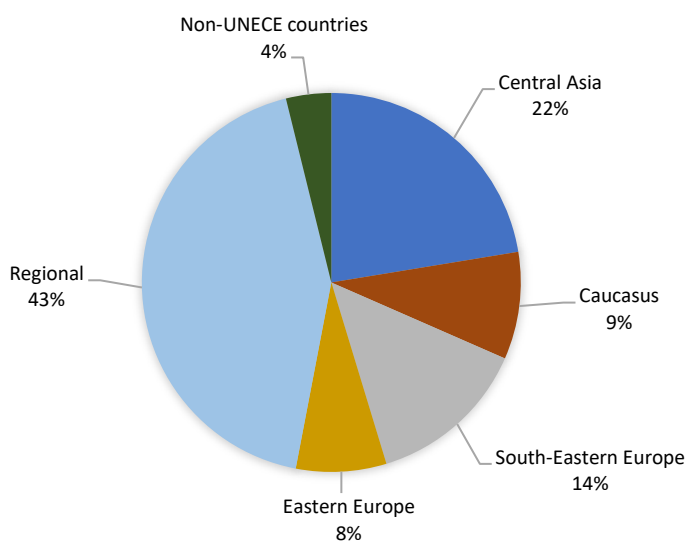
8.   SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 17 (partnerships the goals, SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) accounted for the largest share of the UNECE expenditures under Sections 20, Section 23 and 35 in 2023. It should be noted that several activities are presented under SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) however these SDGs are of cross-cutting nature with many activities contributing to them, so they are not included in the Graph 2 [1].

Graph 2. UNECE technical cooperation activities (Section 23, 35 and extrabudgetary) by SDGs (estimate), 2023

---
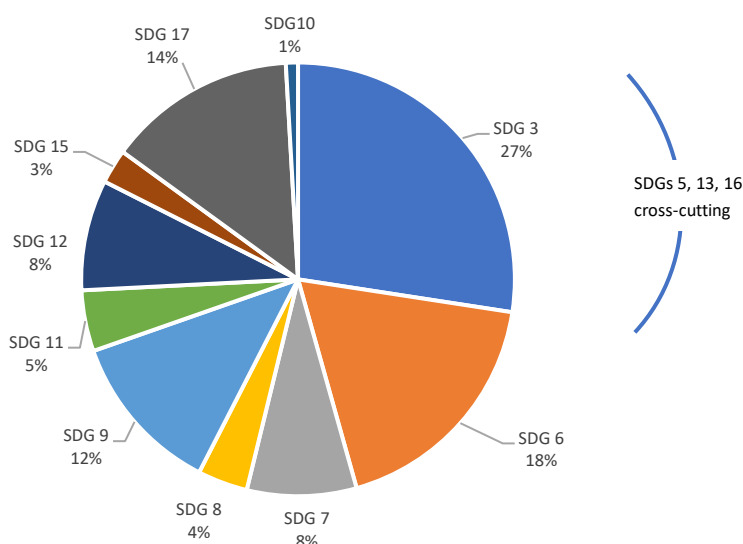
[1] Starting from 2025 data by SDGs is expected to be available through integrated planning, monitoring and reporting system (IPMR)

9.   Technical cooperation activities are implemented in synergies and coordination with other UN entities. For example, Regional Commissions, UN-Habitat, UNEP and other entities are regular partners for UNDA projects (see Annex 4). IBC coalitions where UNECE takes part (lead or co-partner) build a strong partnership of entities working together to support UNCTs in implementation of 2030 Agenda. Substantive quality assurance of UNSDCF provided through the regional Peer Support Group (PSG), which brings all regional entities together. Country level work is implemented in cooperation with UNDP and other UNCT members, involving cooperation through joint programmes (including SDG Fund projects).

10.   In 17 programme countries in the UNECE region, technical cooperation activities were delivered in an integrated and coherent manner through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), in cooperation with UNCTs. This has enabled UNECE to enhance national ownership and better align its technical assistance to national priorities, strengthen cooperation with development stakeholders at the country level, establish necessary cross-sectoral synergies and linkages in the work of UNECE subprogrammes and with the work of other UN entities, and enhance the impact and sustainability of UNECE technical cooperation activities.

11.   In 2023, UNECE continued providing support to the programme countries of the UNECE region in preparation and implementation of the UNSDCFs for 2021-2025, 2022-2026, 2023-2027 and 2025-2029 cycles. In addition, UNECE integrated technical cooperation activities in the Joint Work Plans and Annual Result Reports in the programme countries. Quality assurance services were provided through regional PSG.

III.   TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES BY SDGs

 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages

Target 3.6. By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

12.   To support the implementation of recommendations from the Road Safety Performance Review (RSPR) for Georgia (2018), a comprehensive report on the deployment of type approval procedures in Georgia, aimed at strengthening Georgian institutions and setting the stage for a sustainable, safe, and environmentally friendly national vehicle fleet, was delivered and presented at the national workshop (Tbilisi, Georgia, 20 November 2023) (Sections 20, 23).

13.   Two Road Safety Performance Reviews (RSPR), for Uzbekistan and for the Republic of Moldova respectively, were developed and supported by a series of national workshops on national road safety within the framework of the reviews. The first national workshop in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 17 March 2023) strengthened the capacities of national road safety stakeholders on the safe system approach and how to design safe roads, shared best practices in safe roads, and pointed out some deficiencies in existing practice which should be eliminated. The second national capacity-building workshop in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 18-19 May 2023) presented findings and recommendations of all pillars of RSPR for Uzbekistan and the UN vehicle-safety-related legal instruments. Another workshop introduced RSPR recommendations for the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau, Moldova, 13-14 December 2023). This workshop strengthened national capacities on improving the National Road Safety System using findings from the review and provided a platform to learn from various national examples on how to prepare road safety strategies (Sections 20, 23).

14.   The Special Envoy initiated the United Nations Global Campaign for Road Safety, which commenced in Belgium during the European Mobility Week in October 2023, aiming to raise global awareness and promote affordable, UN-regulated helmets through the Safe and Affordable Helmet initiative (Section 20).

In 2023, the UNRSF hosted its first Virtual Open Day (online, 03 March 2023), a knowledge forum with the Fund's leading public and private sector, civil society and UN partners. Additionally, the UNRSF participated in a series of international forums, including the International Transport Forum, where it contributed to a session on Financing Equitable, Green and Safe Transport (Leipzig, Germany, 22 May 2023). During the session, the UNRSF shared the Fund's views on how financing transport infrastructure can support delivering equity and efficiency. It also presented its Annual Impact Report, which showcased the joint action leading to investments in safe, sustainable and inclusive transport systems. Furthermore, UNECE implemented two projects funded by the UNRSF. Within the framework of the project "Better Road Safety System based on in-depth analysis of road accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia" (2023-2025), a meeting (Belgrade, Serbia, 12-13 September 2023) officially launched the project, and highlighted several topics such as data availability, data protection, project methodology and relations with court accident analysis. Within the framework of the project "Safer and Cleaner Used Vehicles for Africa and Asia (Phase 2)" (2023 – 2025) two workshops (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 24-25 October 2023 and Johannesburg, South Africa, 19-20 December 2023) initiated discussions among stakeholders to engage in establishing a roadmap to implement minimum safety and environmental requirements for imported used and new vehicles (Sections 20, 23).

Target 3.9. By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination

15.   A regional training session on air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 04-05 May 2023) provided a technical overview of different steps for the production, sharing and use of the UNECE air-related indicators through good practices and experiences and discussed challenges that could result in delays and gaps in the indicator production procedure. The session enhanced the capacity of countries to produce and use consistent and harmonized statistics and indicators for air quality and emissions, which benefits countries in terms of providing robust methodological information for evidence-based policies, following the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles (Section 20).

16.   A training workshop on air pollutant emission inventories development in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 03-05 October 2023) focused on practical work on emission estimation and completion of a standard reporting template, as well as drafting an Informative Inventory Report (IIR). A training workshop on air pollutant emission inventories development (Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-16 November 2023) assisted Azerbaijan in preparation for the annual submission of emission data to the Convention with the aim to improve its emission inventory (Section 20).

17.   E-learning course on how to report emissions under the Air Convention was launched in English and Russian (online and Gothenburg, Sweden, 16 March and 31 October 2023). To assist countries in effectively addressing air pollution and developing emission inventories, this course aims to explain the importance of emission inventories for clean air policy development, the requirements for emission inventory reporting and methods for emission estimation (Section 20).

18.   A subregional workshop on the Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Integration and Synergies (GAINS) model (Laxenburg, Austria, 06-10 November 2023) provided hands-on training for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. As a result, the workshop improved the capacity of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop scenarios, including emission projections and reduction targets, with the help of the GAINS model (Section 20).

5 GENDER EQUALITY   **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Target 5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Target 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Target 5.9. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

19.   A webinar "Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) in Vulnerable Geographies: Impact on Women" (online, 23 March 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on challenges, frameworks, and opportunities for women in vulnerable countries and regions. It also provided insights into women's participation in the access, development, and management of critical raw materials (Section 20).

20.   A series of meetings on Gender-Responsive Standards (GRS) was organised to foster the development of a network of gender focal points working on gender-responsive standards. The first meeting (online, 08 February 2023) looked at the GRS along with its development and Gender Action Plan repository, presented Gender Code List project and discussed how to leverage the Guidelines on Developing Gender-responsive Standards. The second meeting (online, 18 April 2023) focused on a proposed publication on "Gender-Responsive Standards are Better for Everyone". Another meeting (online, 05 July 2023) presented the latest UNDP 2030 Gender Social Norms Index Report and discussed how this report could relate to GRS and help inform the work of the GRS. The last meeting (online, 29 November 2023) presented potential gender bias in the credit market and discussed its relation to GRS. These sessions improved national capacities on interrelation of gender and trade and current practices of implementing gender action plans for GRS (Section 20).

21.   The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Working Group on Gender and the SDGs held its first in-person meeting since 2019 in Azerbaijan (Baku, Azerbaijan, 20 November 2023), addressing the theme of "Gender Equality as a Catalyst for Global Connectivity and Transformative Growth in the SPECA Region" (Section 20).

22.   Activities reported under other SDGs also contribute to SDG 5.

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Target 6.1. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Target 6.2. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

23.   UNDA project "Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa" (2022-2025) is aimed to develop an integrated approach to managing the food-water-energy nexus (target countries are Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Algeria, Uganda, and Namibia). A workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation in Montenegro (Podgorica, Montenegro, 16 May 2023) discussed the governance framework that should be in place to allow for an enabling environment for equitable access to water and sanitation, and reviewed geographical disparities, specific barriers faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups and affordability issues. A subregional workshop on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools (Astana, Kazakhstan, 11-12 December 2023) offered an up-to-date overview of

health and education considerations for ensuring adequate WASH in schools, discussed priorities for actions and guided practical implementation of WASH improvements at national and local levels, including consideration of preparedness and response to health emergencies based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic (Sections 20, 35).

24.   UNDA project "Equitable access to water and sanitation services for all and in all settings and strengthened climate-resilience in the water and sanitation sector" (2023-2026) is aimed to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and water and wastewater operators to develop and implement policies and measures aimed at ensuring equitable access to climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services (target countries are Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, and Turkmenistan). A strategic roundtable on Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (Geneva, Switzerland, 13-14 November 2023) identified directions and priorities for countries of the pan-European region in the areas of climate, water and sanitation as well as developed a detailed country plan for national activities under the project (Sections 20, 35).

25.   Within the framework of the project "Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health" (2021-2024), two inception meetings (online, 09 October 2023; online, 19 December 2023) gathered representatives of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to set first steps for project implementation, to understand current national priorities and needs and to agree on the project in-country objectives, timeline, and exact activities to be carried out (Section 20).

26.   A field project "Support the ratification process of Central Asian countries to the Protocol on Water and Health" provided technical guidance and advisory services on the accession to the Protocol for Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. A workshop "Supporting accession to the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health: Exchange on benefits of accession and technical work between Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Serbia" (Belgrade, Serbia, 26-27 June 2023) introduced the Protocol's main obligations, areas of work and benefits of accession, identified the needs and main priorities of the Central Asian countries in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene and health along with how the implementation of the Protocol could support addressing these challenges, showcased the experience of Serbia in implementing the Protocol and discussed roadmaps for accession by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Consequently, the workshop supported Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in acceding to the Protocol on Water and Health by providing a platform for dialogue on the accession process and experience sharing between the Central Asian countries and the Serbian experts involved in the work of the Protocol (Sections 20, 23).

27.   A briefing session on the Protocol on Water and Health for Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 02 February 2023) underscored the importance of water, sanitation, hygiene, and health as priority areas for Uzbekistan. The session highlighted the benefits of accession to the Protocol including streamlining its national action in these areas, establishing concrete and achievable targets, and guiding efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, the session outlined the next steps for Uzbekistan to accede to the Protocol, including finalizing and approving a roadmap for Uzbekistan's accession to the Protocol on Water and Health, announcing the intention to accede to the Protocol at the UN 2023 Water Conference (New York, United States of America, 22-24 March 2023). Additionally, the session noted that within two years of joining, Uzbekistan should set targets and commence reporting as a party to the Protocol (Section 20).

Target 6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Target 6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

28.   A regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins in Central Asia (Astana, Kazakhstan, 01-02 February 2023) enhanced understanding of national stakeholders in Central Asia on monitoring and assessment, as well as data and information exchange. Additionally, the session identified lessons learned and good practices for potential inclusion in the upcoming publication "Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Exchange" and, overall, strengthened the capabilities of government agencies and hydrometeorological services to further develop cooperation in information exchange and the monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (Section 20).

29.   Throughout 2023, UNECE continued the implementation of National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with the aim of strengthening water governance and the application of integrated water resources management, particularly through intersectoral cooperation among countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in line with the Water Convention, its Protocol on Water and Health, the European Union Water Framework Directive and other instruments. Activities were carried out in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (Section 20).

30.   The 18th Steering Committee meeting of the NPD on IWRM in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 03 February 2023) discussed the national Water Strategy and Water Code developments. The meeting concluded with recommendations on economic and financial instruments related to enhancing the water sector and cooperation between national stakeholders and international partners (Section 20).

31.   The 16th meeting of the Steering Committee of the NPD on IWRM in the Republic of Tajikistan (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 15 February 2023) discussed the national programme of reforms in the water sector, including the state water supply and sanitation programme, economic and educational instruments related to water sector enhancement in the country, as well as transboundary issues and international commitments. Water quality issues and recommendations were presented as part of the recent pollution study in the Syr Darya basin (Section 20).

32.   The 10th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the NPD on IWRM in Azerbaijan followed by a thematic workshop on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (online and Baku, Azerbaijan, 05-06 April 2023) provided an update on recent developments in the area of IWRM and policy development, discussed progress and next steps in implementing the EU4Environment – Water and Data programme in Azerbaijan and provided a platform for coordination of donor activities in the water sector in Azerbaijan (Section 20).

33.   The 7th Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of the NPD on IWRM in the Republic of Moldova and workshop on NbS (online and Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 25-26 April 2023) provided an update on the implementation of the road map of EU Water Directives in Moldova under the Moldova-European Union Association Agreement, provided a platform for coordination of donor activities in the water sector in the Republic of Moldova with the aim to enhance the international cooperation with partner organisations, to strengthen dialogue on NbS and potential application and benefits in the Republic of Moldova (Section 20).

34.   A meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of the NPD on IWRM in Ukraine (online and Kyiv, Ukraine, 15 June 2023) provided an update on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), including challenges faced, and offered a platform for coordination of donor activities in the water sector in Ukraine. The meeting also enhanced cooperation with international partner organizations and discussed the progress and next steps in implementing the EU4Environment Water and Data programme. A thematic workshop on the potential of NbS towards river basin management in Ukraine (online and Kyiv, Ukraine, 16 June 2023) provided explanation (including criteria and standards), overview and benefits of different types of NbS, exchanged experience and views among Ukrainian stakeholders and development partners on existing and potential NbS for river basin management in Ukraine (Section 20).

35.   The 21st Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of the NPD on Water Issues in Armenia (online and Yerevan, Armenia, 26 October 2023) agreed on the need to gather more data for decision making and for effective pricing through more metering of water used for irrigation, based on the results of current surveys in transboundary Khrami-Deved basin. The meeting underscored the need to proceed with negotiations on the transboundary monitoring agreement with Georgia. It also highlighted the importance of integrating data from wastewater epidemiology into public health decision-making and conducting public surveys to better understand attitudes on water scarcity, use, and on willingness and ability to pay for water services (Section 20).

36.   A workshop on international agreements for the integrated management of water resources and transboundary basins in Paraguay (Asunción, Paraguay, 02 March 2023) showcased the existing agreements governing transboundary waters and hydrographic basins that involve Paraguay, alongside the United Nations Water Conventions. The workshop highlighted the added value of such agreements at global, transboundary, and national levels (Section 20).

37.   A national workshop related to Niger's accession process to the Water Convention (Niamey, Niger, 02-03 March 2023) raised awareness about the Convention and helped Niger to commit to a roadmap for accession and eventual implementation. Furthermore, the workshop informed relevant stakeholders about the Convention, facilitated sharing about the processes initiated by Government of Niger to become a party and discussed the next steps in the accession process (Section 20).

38.   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), also called the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (New York, United States of America, 22-24 March 2023) was a global event that served to discuss the importance of considering and engaging in transboundary and intersectoral cooperation to achieve SDG 6 by 2030. The Conference bolstered the visibility of transboundary water cooperation, with over 70 countries referring thereto in plenary statements and highlighting the Convention's importance. Nigeria and Iraq acceded to the Convention by submitting their instruments of accession during the Conference. A commitment "Accelerating transboundary water cooperation through increased accession to and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention" was submitted to the Water Action Agenda in cooperation with lead Parties and partners (Section 20).

39.   Several online workshops were organized to assist countries across different regions with the reporting requirements for SDG indicator 6.5.2. Two global webinars "Supporting countries in preparing national reports for the 3rd reporting exercise with a focus on Coordination" (online, 17-18 April 2023) supported countries in preparation of their national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2. Additionally, two webinars "Third monitoring exercise of indicator 6.5.2 of the SDGs - How to prepare and take advantage of national reports on cooperation in transboundary water matters?" (online, 27 April 2023 and 04 May 2023) contributed to improving the process of monitoring indicator 6.5.2, clarified the methodological concerns related to the preparation of the reports and established collaboration mechanisms to improve the information corresponding to transboundary waters in the next monitoring cycles of the indicator. A regional workshop (online, 08 June 2023) supported countries in preparing National Reports for the 3rd Reporting exercise of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Water Cooperation in Asia Pacific (Section 20).

40.   A regional workshop on the accession process, ratification and implementation of the two global Water Conventions (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 03-05 May 2023) brought together representatives of West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) countries, basin organizations and several technical and financial partners to support countries in the expression of interest, accession, ratification, appropriation of tools and implementation of global Conventions on shared waters. The workshop concluded with the issuance of the Call of Ouagadougou, inviting all member States to accelerate accession process to the two global Conventions (Section 20).

41.   The first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Baghdad, Iraq, 08 May 2023) discussed how accession by Iraq could boost Iraq's domestic water management and governance frameworks, thus building a solid basis for strengthening cooperation with Iraq's riparian countries (Section 20).

42.   The Seventh Meeting of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change Adaptation (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 25-26 May 2023) provided a platform to exchange experience and updates on the benefits and added value of developing and implementing climate change adaptation strategies and plans in transboundary basins. The meeting, which gathered representatives from River Basin Organizations (RBOs) from all over the world, discussed future activities within the Global network. Key topics included strategies to facilitate a regular exchange of experience between participating basins, the development of an online Compendium of good practices and lessons learnt in climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and other similar initiatives. The meeting also reviewed best practices in drought management and adaptation of wetlands to climate change in transboundary basins. It also explored opportunities and examples of mainstreaming water and transboundary cooperation into global processes on water, environment, climate, and biodiversity, including under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Section 20).

43.   A national workshop (Lomé, Togo, 05-06 June 2023) validated the Water Convention's implementation plan for Togo and related strategy. The workshop facilitated the validation of these elements, enabled discussion and identification of priority activities within the implementation plan. Additionally, it served as a platform to apprise national and international technical and financial partners of potential opportunities to support the implementation of key priorities outlined in Togo's plan (Section 20).

44.   A training workshop "From practitioner to practitioner: how to use the two global Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground" (Geneva, Switzerland, 03-04 July 2023) employed the community of practitioners with a deep understanding of how these Conventions could enhance efforts to strengthen governance frameworks and support the implementation of climate-related commitments and the achievement of SDGs. It also enhanced knowledge on technical and policy guidance developed under the Water Convention, including legal aspects of cooperation, benefits of cooperation, climate change adaptation, groundwater management, pollution prevention, and the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus approach, to foster transboundary cooperation in specific basins (Section 20).

45.   A workshop "National Information and Analysis Workshop on the Water Convention for Uruguay" (Montevideo, Uruguay, 31 October 2023) discussed the priorities related to transboundary water cooperation in Uruguay and identified the benefits and advantages of accession to the Convention. Consequently, the workshop increased awareness about Uruguay's transboundary water resources and sparked interest in the Water Convention (Section 20).

46.   The Water Convention secretariat was among the contributors to several side events at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, United States of America, 10-19 July 2023), including the following ones, "Fostering Transboundary Water Cooperation: Unlocking Multifaceted Benefits for Sustainable Development and Peace" (New York, United States of America, 12 July 2023), "The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus amid Climate Change in the UNECE Region – Regional Strategies for a Sustainable Future" (New York, United States of America, 13 July 2023), and "The Paradox of Climate Change – Spoiler or Driver of Transboundary Water Cooperation?" (New York, United States of America, 18 July 2023) (Section 20).

47.   The World Water Week 2023 (online and Stockholm, Sweden, 20-24 August 2023) focused on innovation at a time of unprecedented challenges, as reflected by the theme: "Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World". The Water Convention secretariat organized and

contributed to several sessions at the event, including "Innovation in Transboundary Water Cooperation: Diplomacy, Finance & Technology" (online and Stockholm, Sweden, 20 August 2023), "Leveraging Water for Peace" (online and Stockholm, Sweden, 20 August 2023), "Promoting Innovation in Transboundary Cooperation through Water Convention Tool" (online and Stockholm, Sweden, 21 August 2023), "Innovating for Transboundary Cooperation" (online and Stockholm, Sweden, 24 August 2023) and "Is International Water Law Ready to Face Future Challenges" (online and Stockholm, Sweden, 24 August 2023). These events contributed to raising awareness on the role of Water Convention in enhancing transboundary water cooperation globally. They also enabled sharing and dissemination of information on several tools and guidance documents developed under the Convention (Section 20).

48.   An event "Southeast Asia Water Security - IWRM Regional Conference" (Bali, Indonesia, 01-11 October 2023) discussed common challenges in Southeast Asia and shared the multi-stakeholder innovative solutions in water security. These solutions covered a range of topics, including WASH, environmental protection, and water for economic activity and development, with a focus on transboundary water issues. The conference facilitated the sharing of experiences on addressing persistent challenges and the implementation of innovative solutions. It also introduced water cooperation frameworks that serve as a basis for riparian countries to engage with one another and build trust among these countries to foster cooperation at the transboundary level (Section 20).

49.   A global workshop on Conjunctive Management of Surface Water and Groundwater: National to Transboundary Level (Geneva, Switzerland, 16-17 October 2023) strengthened understanding of conjunctive management and interlinkages among surface waters and groundwater and highlighted its importance for transboundary water cooperation and vice versa. In addition, the workshop showcased good practices and discussed challenges as well as next steps in advancing conjunctive water management under the framework of the Water Convention in the context of transboundary water cooperation and beyond (Section 20).

50.   A national workshop (Gaborone, Botswana, 25-26 October 2023) improved understanding of key stakeholders of Botswana on the Water Convention benefits and obligations and discussed the practical implementation of the Water Convention as well as the next steps and road map for the accession process. The workshop examined the interaction and complementarity between the Water Convention and regional and sub-regional/basin legal frameworks and identified the challenges of cooperative management of transboundary rivers and international lakes at national, regional and international levels (Section 20).

51.   A global workshop on the development of Transboundary Water Cooperation Agreements or other Arrangements (Budapest, Hungary, 07-08 November 2023) provided practical guidance and support for negotiating agreements or other arrangements in complex environments through a systematic, step-by-step process. The workshop contributed to a broader understanding of the important role of legal and institutional frameworks in achieving sustainable development, regional stability, and environmental protection (Section 20).

52.   The secretariat of the Water Convention co-organized and contributed to several events within the framework the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28). A presentation "Watering the clean energy transition" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 05 December 2023) discussed how clean energy policy and planning should consider water availability to reduce water and energy risks as well as promote synergistic solutions. A panel session "Building Peace through climate security in transboundary water cooperation" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 06 December 2023) focused on lessons learned and actions needed to advance Peace & Climate Security by drawing from examples of transboundary water cooperation in various regions around the globe. Another panel session "Closing session: Water for Peace, Security and Health" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 06 December 2023) provided recommendations on how transboundary cooperation and climate resilient WASH services would help to build peace and security under changing climate. An event "Water for peace and security: From risk to resilience" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates,

10 December 2023) committed to implementing all SDG 6 targets, especially in countries lacking water agreements. The event aimed to enhance policy coherence across sectors within and across borders to address risks associated with water security. It emphasized advanced approaches for conflict risk assessment and peace promotion. Additionally, the event advocated for flexible, accessible funding to sustain fragile water systems, develop policies, plans, and incentives to reduce water stress and conflicts, and empower local communities and organizations to strengthen climate-resilient water systems at all levels. Furthermore, it promoted the need for inclusive, informed, and integrated adaptation and resilience-building strategies at the local and national levels to support regions in mitigating and responding to water- and water-related security risks. Another side event "Restoring and conserving wetlands as a tool to reduce water scarcity in transboundary basins" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 10 December 2023) provided an occasion for decision-makers and experts to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices in wetland restoration and conservation to reduce water scarcity and drought risk in transboundary basins. A session "Improving climate resilience through transboundary water cooperation" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 10 December 2023) showcased the best practices and lessons learnt in the context of transboundary cooperation, and discussed challenges, needs and solutions for transboundary basin organisations in facilitating funding for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (Section 20).

53.   A global workshop on funding and financing Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development (Geneva, Switzerland, 05-06 December 2023) provided a platform for countries and RBOs to share experiences, challenges and good practices in mobilizing financial resources for transboundary water cooperation, management and development. The workshop contributed to better aligning basin needs with available financing opportunities. International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and relevant representatives from the private finance community provided insights into their funding priorities, financial mechanisms, and the criteria required for accessing financial support for transboundary water activities. The workshop supported countries and RBOs in better understanding how to mobilize funding and financial resources for transboundary water cooperation and basin development (Section 20).

54.   The United Nations inter-agency Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change hosted a session on water, emphasizing transboundary cooperation, as part of the regional capacity development and knowledge exchange workshop tailored for the needs of UNCTs and Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) in Europe and Central Asia. This session showcased collaborative efforts within the region, provided examples of joint programming and partnerships at the country level and facilitated the exchange of ideas to support cooperation and collective actions among UN agencies at national, regional, and transboundary levels (Sections 20, 23).

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Target 7.1. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

Target 7A. By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy

Target 7.2. By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Target 7.3. By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

55.   UNDA project "Strengthening energy policies of Countries with Special Needs to build back better from COVID-19" (2022-2025) is aimed to strengthen capacities of policymakers in selected countries with special needs in the Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, to align SDG 7 policies with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. An inter-regional seminar "Sharing lessons learned and best practices from the development of SDG 7 Roadmaps" (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 08 November

2023) allowed project countries, which are participating in the roadmap development process, to share their lessons learned and best practices through a regional dialogue. With the use of the National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP), energy and emissions modelling, multiple scenario development, and economic analysis were completed following an intensive data collection process. Two national stakeholder consultation workshops (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 31 January 2023; Astana, Kazakhstan, 02 February 2023) were organized to present the NEXSTEP, targeting policy makers, energy sector professionals, and other stakeholders in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan respectively. The Second National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in Kazakhstan (Astana, Kazakhstan, 09 November 2023) discussed the key results and findings from the analysis with stakeholders to seek comments and suggestions and expert opinions to ensure that these findings are meaningful and aligned with Kazakhstan's specific context. Once agreed upon, these scenarios will form the basis for the development of the SDG7 Roadmap (Sections 23, 35).

56. UNDA project "Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa" (2022-2025) is aimed to develop an integrated approach to managing the food-water-energy nexus to assist Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Algeria, Uganda, and Namibia. A workshop on "Unlocking Central Asia's Critical Raw Materials Potential: Challenges and Opportunities" (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 08 November 2023) discussed advancing sustainable development for Central Asia, securing access to the region's critical raw materials via creating value-added technology chains and developing basic research and human capital, and adopting the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) (Sections 20, 35).

57. Within the framework of the project "Improving national capacity on renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) technologies for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and households in North Macedonia" (2022-2024), two training events were organized to support the implementation of Green Financing Facility (GFF). The first training (Skopje, North Macedonia, 28-29 November 2023) provided understanding of the banking requirements and how to develop EE and RE bankable proposals, which subsequently transferred know-how and knowledge on concepts and practical applications of project finance to consultants working with SMEs and households in North Macedonia to design RE and EE projects. Accordingly, the training built up local capacity and served the needs of local experts to prepare investment projects. The other training seminar (Skopje, North Macedonia, 30 November 2023) was organized for verification consultants working with SMEs and households respectively in North Macedonia. The training provided in-depth knowledge and understanding of verifying renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The participants gained knowledge and expertise in energy management, energy auditing, monitoring, reporting, and verification of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures (Section 23).

58. Within the framework of the project "Sustainable hydrogen production in the UNECE region and its role in the development of a hydrogen ecosystem and export potential" (2021-2023), several analysis were carried out, including the analysis of national potentials to contribute to developing a hydrogen ecosystem and promoting global energy transitions, the analysis of priority areas for the development of national hydrogen potential across CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries, and the analysis of the opportunities for hydrogen export and possible applications in the domestic market. In addition, a subregional assessment of cost and technical performance of hydrogen production was conducted as a part of the comprehensive report within this project. A roundtable on sustainable hydrogen production (online and Astana, Kazakhstan, 03 October 2023) discussed the recommendations of the project findings as well as touched upon decarbonization goals to promote low carbon development. These recommendations include hydrogen production, regional cooperation for development of hydrogen infrastructure, ways to overcome the existing barriers for regional cooperation on hydrogen, and possibilities for creating an enabling environment for the private sector. A policy dialogue at the Forum "Ways for Sustainable Hydrogen Production in Uzbekistan" (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 18 October 2023) discussed the potential and ability to produce and trade hydrogen both domestically and for export in Central Asian countries. A policy dialogue on Green Energy Transition in Turkmenistan regarding tools and innovative solutions (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 25 October 2023)

looked at the broader perspective of energy transition and possible steps for carbon neutrality for Turkmenistan as well as explored prospects for the development of renewable energy sources in the Caspian region, solutions for sustainable hydrogen production and possible next steps in this direction for the country. A roundtable "Promoting Sustainable Hydrogen Production" (Moscow, Russian Federation, 12 December 2023) presented the project outcomes, updated on current activities of the UNECE Hydrogen Task Force, and discussed the lessons learned and ways forward in promoting sustainable hydrogen production in the UNECE region (Section 20).

59.   Within the framework of the project "Addressing the compounded food and energy crisis in Ukraine through innovative technologies and adaptive agricultural practices" (2022-2023), a multi-stakeholder dialogue "Untapped Bioenergy Potential of Ukraine: Comprehensive View of Proper Use. Issues of Energy Security and Food Security" (online and Kyiv, Ukraine, 31 March 2023), implemented as a joint programme with FAO and UNEP, identified possible priorities to achieve food safety and relevant SDGs and served as a platform to exchange information on existing approaches, challenges, and different perspectives to further develop bioenergy and biofuels in Ukraine. It also reviewed the key findings of the analysis of available bioenergy potential in Ukraine, identified priorities and solutions, and proposed concrete recommendations for developing a strategy on the production and use of bioenergy resources, in particular biomethane, bioethanol and biodiesel (Section 23).

60.   Within the framework of the project "Strengthening Georgia's food and energy resilience" (2022-2023), a policy dialogue "Food and Energy Resilience in Georgia: Policy, Institutions and People" (online and Tbilisi, Georgia, 24 March 2023) reviewed the key findings and achievements of the project, and held strategic policy discussions based on policy, institutions and people dimensions on food and energy resilience in Georgia. This dialogue among key stakeholders also identified possible priorities to achieve food and energy resilience and accomplish relevant SDGs. UNECE contributed to the implementation of the joint project with UNDP, FAO, and ILO by assessing energy consumption by small business in rural areas of Georgia, developing recommendations to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency by small business in rural areas, and developing a case study with targeted assistance for small businesses in a selected rural area to introduce energy efficiency measures (Sections 20, 23).

61.   A field project "Mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in post-coal mining areas" assessed the situation of various post-coal mining sites across Albania and identified elements that are necessary to enable the start of transition and to ensure progress in reclaiming and repurposing. A workshop on Just Transition in Mining Communities and Potential for Development of Geothermal Energy (online and Tirana, Albania, 20 June 2023) introduced to the stakeholders the recently developed Guidelines for Mine Closure Programme in Albania and Serbia, discussed the Assessment of the Geothermal Resources of Albania and improved understanding on the pathways for transitioning its post-coal mining areas under the principles of green economy and just transition and ensuring sustainable use of its natural resources. A fact-finding mission to Albania (Tirana, Albania, 18-20 September 2023) assessed the current situation of post-coal mining sites across the country considering various aspects determining their readiness for transition and opportunities for future development. A workshop on mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in post-coal mining areas (Tirana, Albania, 11 December 2023) improved national understanding on transitions of the coal mining areas and validated the report supported by a set of case studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, and Serbia (Sections 20, 23).

62.   Within the framework of the preparation phase of the project "Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings", two workshops were organized. The initial workshop (online and Yerevan, Armenia, 30 June 2023) introduced the objective of the preparatory phase and presented key project deliverables. The subsequent validation workshop (online and Tbilisi, Georgia, 22 November 2023) reviewed the process of implementation including the full draft proposal. Emphasizing scalability and replication, the project will focus specifically on improving the effectiveness of the building sector supply chain to improve the complete lifecycle performance of buildings. A core element of the project will be to engage actively

with the target countries (Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan) to develop their relevant public and private sector capacities to ensure the long-term replication and upscaling of the project activities (Sections 20, 23).

63.   The workshop on Renewable Energy in Transport (Tbilisi, Georgia, 21 November 2023) introduced the best practices in the use of renewable energy in transport to national stakeholders from Georgia and strengthened their knowledge on international legal instruments (Sections 20, 23).

64.   As part of the Sarajevo Energy and Climate Week (SECW), a session on climate adaptation in the Drina River basin (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 26 September 2023) highlighted potential mutual benefits of integrating renewable energy solutions across sectors. It discussed how optimizing biomass production could be achieved by linking with forestry and agriculture, utilizing hydro and solar resources to benefit agricultural activities, and leveraging existing hydropower infrastructure to stabilize renewable energy sources. The discussion benefited from key findings of the nexus assessment, which prompted reflections on necessary climate actions and helped identify cooperative opportunities both within the basin and internationally (Section 20).

65.   An event "Business case for hydrogen blending" (Geneva, Switzerland, 17 January 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on how the current gas infrastructure – pipelines, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tankers and terminals, compressors, or underground storage – could help jumpstart production, transmission, and consumption of hydrogen through blending hydrogen with gas and provided participants with a better and technology-neutral picture of the possible role of hydrogen blending in the energy transition (Section 20).

66.   A session on Coal Mine Methane (CMM) (Kraków, Poland, 28 February 2023) discussed scale and various aspects of methane emissions at both the global level and within Poland. This session enhanced understanding of national stakeholders on actions to reduce methane emissions from coal mines in Poland and abroad. Additionally, the session covered CMM and Abandoned Mine Methane (AMM) regulations globally, as well as the anticipated effects of proposed EU methane regulations on Poland's coal mining industry (Section 20).

67.   A peer learning roundtable on SDG 7 (Geneva, Switzerland, 29 March 2023) at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development facilitated sharing of different perspectives from the UNECE member States, experiences, and expertise in connection with the broad range of issues related to the SDG 7 targets, cognizant of national development aspirations. The discussions extended to the interconnections between energy and other SDGs and how to design more resilient and environmentally sound energy systems in support of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, the session shared concrete experiences and insights on specific immediate actions that policymakers may consider for managing energy supply and demand in a sustainable manner, ensuring no one is left behind. These actions aimed to help achieving higher systemic efficiencies, ensure overall net benefits to the energy system and its actors throughout the value chain, and reinforce the ability of energy systems to absorb shocks and recover. The session also highlighted the value of applicable digital solutions to ultimately make energy systems more sustainable and stressed the importance of a proper plan of managing CRMs needed in a future energy system (Section 20).

68.   The UNECE Resource Management Week 2023 (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 25-28 March 2023) was composed of several sessions covering a wide range of topics. The sessions showcased concrete actions required to reduce sustainability threats and enhance resilience with sustainable resource management, through the application of the UNFC and the UNRMS. The session on "Collaboration for Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)" (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 26 April 2023) discussed the importance of CRMs for sustainable development, focusing on the role of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries in coordinating extractives-related work, providing policy advice, and integrating efforts into UN-wide initiatives like Financing for Development post-COVID-19. It also highlighted collaborative efforts to transform the extractive industries for a green transition. Another session "Unlocking the Resource Potential: Central Asia's Sustainable Future"

(Geneva, Switzerland, 27 April 2023) explored how UNFC and UNRMS could be applied to the resources of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to support their resource progression and policy development. It also showcased some successful examples of UNFC and UNRMS implementation in the region and discussed the challenges and opportunities for further adoption and dissemination. A session "Empowering the next generation of sustainable resource managers: The role of youth in resource management" (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 28 April 2023) discussed how the Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG) could cooperate to channel its engagement in resource management, provide youth policy advocacy, support the work on capacity-building and competency, serve as an educational platform, and bring innovation into resource management discussions, with a focus on climate change effects. In addition, this session showcased concrete actions that RMYMG could and should take to reduce sustainability threats and enhance resilience with sustainable resource management (Section 20).

69.   A side event at the eighth annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum), titled "Enabling systemic energy efficiency improvements and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the energy system digitalization" (online, 03 May 2023), took a system-level perspective and explored the role of digitalization in helping UNECE member States to unlock opportunities 'from source to use' in the energy sector, along with side-effects and related challenges identified (Section 20).

70.   The Methane Mondays online series continued in 2023 with three sessions focused on CMM related issues. Based on the forecast that the global steelmaking will continue to use coking coal even under the optimistic decarbonization scenarios, the 8th meeting (online, 23 January 2023) discussed methane emitted from coal mines to power the global steelmaking industry with the best available methods of addressing those emissions underscored. The meeting also launched the report "Why the steel industry needs to tackle coal mine methane," which showed that over a 20-year time horizon, CMM emissions amplify the steel industry's climate impact by at least 27%, and analysed how demand for coking coal might change under various decarbonization scenarios. The 9th meeting (online, 05 June 2023) focused on the role of monitoring methane emissions from onsite measurements and remote sensing (satellites). It discussed monitoring the broader impact of coal mining beyond methane emissions, including effects on water, ground stability and waste. The 10th meeting (05 September 2023) evaluated the actual impact of the existing initiatives to reduce methane emissions from the coal mining sector. It also addressed the challenge of transforming methane action from a divisive political matter to a unifying global endeavor (Section 20).

71.   A side event to National Methane Forum (Astana, Kazakhstan, 05 July 2023) contributed to better understanding of methane mitigation opportunities in the coal sector in the country and highlighted the links between emissions abatement efforts and Just Transition. A side event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development "The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus amid Climate Change in the UNECE Region" (New York, United States of America, 13 July 2023) underscored efforts in the UNECE region to localize SDGs, accelerate COVID-19 recovery, and devise cohesive policies across the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems (WFEE) nexus (Section 20).

72.   Within the framework of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Week (Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 September 2023), the 10th session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (Geneva, Switzerland, 11-12 September 2023) featured a series of relevant to technical cooperation sessions. The first session, "Tracking Progress in the Uptake of Renewable Energy," reviewed the current status of renewable energy adoption and explored ways to accelerate progress among the UNECE member States. The second session, "Exchange of Experiences on How to Increase the Uptake of Renewable Energy," focused on promoting the sharing of information about existing renewable energy policies and measures across the UNECE region to enhance cooperation. Another session, "Cross-Cutting and Inter-Sectoral Cooperation to Integrate Renewable Energy into Energy Systems," aimed at increasing renewable energy adoption in the UNECE countries by improving understanding of renewable energy resource characteristics and availability, and by enhancing policy, institutional, normative, and regulatory frameworks. Afterwards, a session "Securing access to CRMs in the United Nations Economic

Commission for Europe region: challenges and opportunities" (Geneva, Switzerland, 13 September 2023) addressed securing access to CRMs in the UNECE region for low-carbon transition, by discussing the challenges and opportunities, exploring policy alternatives, and focusing on Central Asia as a resource-rich region. Another session "Enhancing energy connectivity across the UNECE region" (Geneva, Switzerland, 14 September 2023) discussed how regional cooperation on creating an enabling environment for energy connectivity could help ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in the UNECE region. A session "Systemic efficiencies and digitalization in energy" (Geneva, Switzerland, 14 September 2023) improved understanding on approaches and perspectives on accelerating the deployment of energy efficiency measures across buildings, industry, transport, and other end use sectors while embracing the transformative role of digitalization in optimizing energy systems and improving their operational efficiency. A session "Managing Methane Management in the UNECE Region" (Geneva, Switzerland, 15 September 2023) enhanced knowledge of the UNECE member States on the current situation of global methane emissions. It reviewed the existing agreements and initiatives targeting such emissions, evaluated their impact, and explored opportunities and challenges of new methane detection and monitoring technologies and methods. Additionally, it highlighted the difficulty of addressing the problem of ventilation air methane, reviewed available solutions, and presented the Group's current work on that matter. A session on Just Transition (Geneva, Switzerland, 15 September 2023) discussed a new concept of coal, in which the latter is not a fuel but a multi-purpose resource, and thus significantly broadens the range of opportunities for just transition strategies (Section 20).

73.   A workshop "Knowledge Sharing on Resource Classification and Estimation" (Tbilisi, Georgia, 11-12 October 2023) shared knowledge and experience on different resource classification and estimation options, with the focus on the UNFC, its basic elements and application to mineral resources (primary and secondary). The workshop contributed to the ongoing discourse on the development and potential revisions of the Georgian Mining Code Act, including a potential inclusion of UNFC. One of the key aspects under consideration during these consultations was the potential modification of mandatory resource classification and estimation standards in Georgia (Section 20).

74.   The Almaty Energy Forum 2023 (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 06-08 November 2023) facilitated regional cooperation, provided technical capacity support and helped countries in Central Asia to innovate and modernize their regional infrastructure and build resilient energy systems that are secure, affordable and deliver on net-zero targets. As part of the forum, a session "Energy Connectivity in Central Asia" (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 06 November 2023) delivered a technical discussion among regional energy system stakeholders and representatives from international financing institutions, addressing how to strengthen the capacity and resilience of grid infrastructure and direct financing into green energy infrastructure projects across the region. A session "Regulatory roundtable on energy connectivity and renewable integration" (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 06 November 2023) improved understanding on the role of regulations and regulatory frameworks in energy connectivity and energy transitions, and on how to elevate the discussion from the national to regional level among regulators and other relevant power sector stakeholders. Subsequently, the session helped to identify concrete actions required to accelerate the sustainable connectivity discussion at the regulatory level. The third session "Water-energy nexus and energy system resiliency" (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 06 November 2023) discussed and agreed on possible ways forward on several issues, including the major challenges to efficient coordination between energy and water sectors in Central Asia. It addressed the effectiveness of enhanced energy connectivity in diversifying large-scale energy production and transitioning to more coherent and efficient water and energy resource management across the region. It also explored the challenges and opportunities brought by emerging low carbon/energy technologies for coordination, and possible options to enable financing to enhance coherent energy and water management as well as energy connectivity. A workshop for methane policymakers in Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 06 November 2023) improved understanding of regulators and power system stakeholders on options for methane policies. Participants learned from case studies in other countries and discussed opportunities for success in the national context. Accordingly, participants shared existing experiences in the region and potentially identified concrete new options for methane policies. Another workshop "De-risking financing of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects" (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 06 November

2023) facilitated better understanding on persistent barriers and ways to overcome them to scale up green financing initiatives across the region and promote green economic growth and development. A session on developing effective policy frameworks for reducing methane waste and emissions in the context of international cooperation (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 07 November 2023) explored among governments and the private sector how to create favorable policy frameworks for improving the success of mitigation projects and how to prepare for accessing future carbon markets. A session on developing human capital for a just energy transition in Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 07 November 2023) explored how to overcome the barriers for the transition and identified solutions to foster the next generation of energy experts across Central Asia (Sections 20, 23).

75.   The 6th Event on UNFC and UNRMS: "UNFC to support harmonizing European raw materials information for resilient supply chains" (Brussels, Belgium, 16 November 2023) delved into the progress, updates, and practical application of UNFC in supporting the EU CRM-Act proposal. Furthermore, the event demonstrated the flexibility of UNFC application to primary and secondary raw materials from exploration projects down to the supply chain and the recycling. The event included case studies and in-depth discussions to illustrate these applications. As a result, it facilitated knowledge sharing, collaboration, and industry-driven implementation of UNFC among the UNECE member States and enhanced their capabilities in resource management (Section 20).

76.   A webinar on UNFC (online, 12 December 2023) provided an in-depth exploration of UNFC pivotal role in promoting sustainable practices across diverse sectors. It emphasized the transformative impact of UNFC on resource management and classification, underscoring its significance in fostering more sustainable and efficient approach to utilizing natural resources. The UNFC supported programme countries in the UNECE region by providing a comprehensive framework for sustainable resource management, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enhancing governance, accountability, and efficient development of energy and mineral resources (Section 20).

77.   A workshop "Critical Raw Materials Management: UNFC and UNRMS as the Sustainable Transition Pathway" (Lille, France, 15 February 2023) focused on how UNFC and UNRMS could support the transition, with a focus on CRMs. It discussed the challenges associated with managing CRMs and the need for UNFC and UNRMS to support companies in identifying, classifying, and managing their resources. The interconnectedness of global crises, including the climate emergency, water scarcity, and geopolitical conflicts, was highlighted as a major challenge to the sustainable management of CRMs. Case studies on the application of UNFC and UNRMS in the management of CRMs were presented (Section 20).

78.   A workshop "The path to climate neutrality – Building blocks of a new methodology for determining an economic mix of measures" (Geneva, Switzerland, 18 January 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on the methods for calculating the economic viability of decarbonization measures and provided practical demonstrations of technical implementation enabling the identification of the most economically efficient mix of measures (Section 20).

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.2. Achieve higher level of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors

79.   UNDA project "Accelerating the transition towards a circular economy in the UNECE region" (2021-2024) is aimed to strengthen the capacities of the governments of selected UNECE countries to enable and accelerate the transition toward a circular economy in selected priority areas, to build-back-better after the COVID-19 pandemic (target countries are Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Tajikistan). The first in-person Circular Stakeholder Engagement Platform

(STEP) Regional Policy Dialogue (Belgrade, Serbia, 18-19 October 2023) facilitated exchange of best practices, experiences, and insights on transition to a circular economy by showcasing several analytical studies developed by UNECE to bridge the knowledge gap between countries that have made significant strides in circular economy practices and those, where circularity is still in the early stages. In addition, a series of online consultations were held targeting Tajikistan in order to advance preparation of a gap analysis (online, 04 December 2023) (Sections 20, 35).

80.   A webinar "Standards and Circular Economy" (online, 27 September 2023) explored societal changes resulting from sustainable approaches and from applying circular economy and how these changes may impact women and men differently. Furthermore, the webinar provided insight on where standards could contribute to a more gender inclusive approach to the circular economy and explored the potential impact of gender responsive standards in support of a circular economy (Section 20).

Target 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to de-couple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

81.   Within the framework of the EU4Environment programme, UNECE assisted the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in comprehensive capacity-building and institutional building on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and in finalizing legal reforms in this area. A training workshop on Quality Control of SEA and EIA Documentation in the Republic of Moldova (online and Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 24 May 2023) improved understanding of national stakeholders on the envisaged quality control mechanisms for SEA and EIA, including the application of the amended Law on SEA and EIA respectively, and introduced the complete draft Guidelines for Quality Control. A training workshop on current issues of the SEA procedures in Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine, 25 May 2023) familiarized the target audience with Ukraine's international commitments to implement SEA, discussed how the SEA is specifically embedded within the Ukrainian legal system and introduced the main regulatory and legal requirements for SEA as well as related current amendments. In addition, the latest changes and developments in urban planning legislation were presented to support relevant departments at regional and local levels to use the SEA more effectively for greening urban reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. A session "Public Hearing on the Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Master Plan of the city of Ganja" (Ganja, Azerbaijan, 28 September 2023) discussed the preliminary draft of the SEA Report and its key findings. It enabled stakeholders to learn more about and comment on the draft Master Plan of the city of Ganja and the associated preliminary draft SEA Report (Section 20).

82.   A consultation on EIA and SEA in South-Eastern Europe (Vienna, Austria, 05 December 2023) strengthened knowledge and capacities of national focal points on transboundary consultations in EIA and SEA, identified challenges and gaps of the countries related to transboundary consultations and procedures in EIA and SEA, and the ratification of relevant agreements. This session also addressed differences in implementation practices at national level, actions to facilitate consultations, sharing of information and coordination of transboundary EIA and SEA procedures more effectively (Section 20).

83.   Within the framework of capacity-building to support Armenia in developing its SEA system in line with the Espoo Convention and its SEA Protocol, two training workshops (Yerevan, Armenia, 30-31 October 2023 and 23-24 November 2023) enhanced national skills in undertaking screening, scoping, baseline analysis, integrating SEA procedures with planning and decision-making processes by incorporating SEA recommendations into strategic planning documents. These workshops collectively aimed to strengthen the capacity of Armenian stakeholders to effectively implement SEA in their environmental and planning frameworks (Section 20).

 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Target 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

84.   A workshop "Implementation of the TIR Convention, 1975: challenges and opportunities" (Geneva, Switzerland, 08 February 2023) assisted new contracting parties in better understanding the services and potentials of the TIR system to facilitate border crossing procedures in their regions. This workshop raised awareness of countries that have not yet acceded to the TIR Convention about the benefits and multiple advantages that the TIR system could bring for both customs authorities and the private sector with the aim to promote the accession of these countries to the Convention. In addition, the workshop facilitated sharing of experience on how to further improve cooperation among various border crossing systems and what the TIR system could learn from regional integration effort (Section 20).

85.   A meeting "TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) - Friends of the Chair meeting on transforming the middle corridor to an eTIR corridor" (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 21-22 June 2023) agreed on a roadmap for eTIR International implementation in the Trans-Caspian Corridor. With eTIR, the national representatives of SPECA participating States strengthened their capacities on computerization and digitalization of transport documents and improved efficiency in terms of time and costs. In addition, TIR contracting countries, out of which many are Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) or transit developing countries, gained hands-on training on how to implement project on connection of national system to eTIR International system (Sections 20, 23).

86.   An inter-regional workshop on multimodal transport corridor management (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 04 September 2023) improved national understanding on corridor management approaches among policy makers and stakeholders in Europe, Asia, the Near and Middle East, Africa, and Latin America regions. The workshop facilitated exchanges of views on the latest trends, opportunities, and challenges in the field of multimodal transport corridor management with a focus on legal, institutional, and regulatory aspects. It also discussed the role of a formalized corridor management mechanism as a tool to reduce levels of regulatory and institutional fragmentation thereby boosting cross-country/corridor-wide operationalization efforts. Additionally, several universal recommendations and common principles were addressed to enhance transport corridor management at regional and inter-regional levels (Section 20).

87.   A workshop on the promotion of intermodal transport (Geneva, Switzerland, 18 October 2023) discussed freight transport pricing, reliability, and knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of different freight transport operations in the sector and by society at large. The workshop facilitated the exchange of practices and experience to enhance understanding of various measures to level the playing field for the freight sector. It also discussed actions needed to improve the business case for intermodal/combined transport (Section 20).

88.   A workshop on digitalization of transport services for better connectivity after pandemics (online and Astana, Kazakhstan, 17 November 2023) strengthened the knowledge of national representatives from SPECA participating States on the digitalization of transport services, procedures and documents (eTIR and eCMR). It highlighted the advantages of new electronic systems in terms of facilitating trade and border crossings in the region. Two best practice cases on the deployment of the eTIR International system in UN programme countries (Türkiye and Kyrgyzstan) were presented (Section 20, 23).

89.   Following the first session of the Coordination Committee on the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Corridors in December 2022, three sessions were organized in 2023. At the second session (Istanbul, Türkiye, 06-07 June 2023), the Coordination Committee adopted its terms of reference and a biennial 2023-2025 programme of work for the two corridors consisting of five thematic clusters: (a) evaluation of transport infrastructure and renewal requirements as well as identification of missing links; (b) digitalization, harmonization, and standardization of transport documents in use on the corridors; (c) evaluation of availability of reliable corridor-wide agreed timetables and tariffs and other issues hampering regular rail freight services on both corridors; (d) evaluation of the en-route border crossing efficiency on both corridors and identify, prioritize and implement border crossing facilitation initiatives; and (e) strengthening the economic viability and resilience of the corridors as well as their environmental performance. The third session (Baku, Azerbaijan, 25-26 July 2023) kick-started the implementation of the Coordination Committee's 2023-2025 programme of work, focusing on taking stock of ongoing border crossing facilitation and customs digitalization projects on both corridors and shedding light on the availability of reliable corridor-wide agreed timetables and tariffs and other issues hampering regular rail freight services. Finally, the fourth session (online, 11 December 2023) provided an intermediate update on recent developments and activities in support of the operationalization of the members' corridors. The latest status of the Unified Railway Law, developments of the TIR/ eTIR, CMR/ eCMR and other digitalization projects of relevance for the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Corridors agreed deliverables and outputs were put in focus during the meeting (Section 20).

Target 9.4. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

90.   Within the framework of the project "Study on pollution sources and identification of accident risks in the Syr Darya basin" (2021-2023) cooperation among authorities in the Syr Darya River Basin was improved including enhanced understanding of disaster hazards and risk in the transboundary context. As part of the study, the riparian countries produced an inventory and mapped 61 tailings management facilities in the Syr Darya River Basin. They also produced an in-depth report addressing state of water resources, water quality issues and issues related to policies and institutions for water management, industrial safety and prevention of accidental water pollution. The report provided recommendations for riparian countries on how to improve transboundary contingency planning and reduce water pollution. In addition, the implemented activities revealed the urgency to develop and test emergency notification and response measures related to industrial accidents arising from hazardous activities, including tailings dams (Section 20).

91.   Within the project "Addressing technological/ industrial accident risks in national strategies and DRR plans of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan" (2022-2023), awareness of national stakeholders on technological disaster risk and industrial accident risk was raised. In particular, the linkages with natural and climate-related risks and transboundary considerations were mainstreamed into national strategic documents, and policy coherence based on multi-risk management in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was fostered. In addition, country-specific reports with context analysis of the situation and recommendations on technological/industrial accident risks in the two target countries were produced (Section 20).

92.   The field mission to support the accession of Georgia to the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Tbilisi, Georgia, 07-09 November 2023) facilitated a dialogue with relevant authorities of Georgia regarding environmental governance, industrial safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution. The mission, which included bilateral meetings and discussions, demonstrated that Georgia's commitment to strengthening its industrial safety and enhanced cross-border cooperation for better prevention of, preparedness and response to industrial accidents (Sections 20, 23).

93.   Within the framework of the NPD on Industrial Accidents in Serbia, progress in the development of the National Programme on Industrial Safety was made. A targeted session, "Stakeholder Consultation – National Policy Dialogues on Industrial Safety" (Belgrade, Serbia, 20 September 2023), discussed the National Programme for Industrial Safety of Serbia, and agreed on the timeline and actions to be taken to finalize the Programme. This session increased the capacity of relevant stakeholders in addressing industrial safety, DRR and related policy areas. The workshop also enhanced cross-sectoral cooperation between all relevant actors and identified further needs for technical cooperation and capacity-building (Sections 20, 23).

94.   The Second Meeting of the Inter-institutional Working Group on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution (IIWG) in Kazakhstan (online and Astana, Kazakhstan, 15 March 2023) discussed recent industrial safety developments and challenges for Kazakhstan, facilitated a dialogue, knowledge sharing, information exchange and cooperation among relevant actors. Particularly, national stakeholders discussed the recommendations deriving from the projects implemented under the auspices of the Convention, such as alignment of Kazakhstan's national legislation with the provisions of the Convention (Sections 20, 23).

95.   The Second Meeting of the IIWG in Tajikistan (online and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 04 April 2023) reviewed current issues and measures taken to reduce the risks of accidents at tailings management facilities and water pollution. National stakeholders learned from international good practices in the safe operation of tailings management facilities. As a result of the discussions, proposals for further work of the Working Group were developed including the need to develop an early warning system and an automatic monitoring system for tailings facilities in Tajikistan (Sections 20, 23).

96.   An inception meeting on the establishment of the IIWG in Uzbekistan (online and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 27 April 2023) initiated the establishment of an inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution including the development of the draft Terms of Reference. National stakeholders reviewed UNECE tools and activities on strengthening mine tailings safety as well as the benefits, challenges and lessons learnt in the establishment of the IIWG in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (Sections 20, 23).

97.   A subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia (online and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 25-26 May 2023) presented the achievements of Central Asian countries in strengthening industrial safety and preventing accidental pollution from tailings facilities at the national and regional levels and shared information on UNECE guidelines, tools and projects, as well as those of partner organizations, and experiences in their application. Additionally, the workshop discussed challenges and needs, and identified ways to address them to further strengthen national and transboundary governance of risks. The event enhanced transboundary cooperation and dialogue among Central Asian countries in the area of tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution and implementation of and accession to the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and promoted benefits of implementation of other UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Moreover, the workshop facilitated understanding of surrounding disaster risks, vulnerabilities, and exposure, with a focus on mitigating these challenges at both technical and political levels. It served as a platform for exchanging experiences, good practices, and lessons learned, bringing together stakeholders and partners from industrial safety and water communities to share insights and expertise (Sections 20, 23).

98.   Throughout 2023, the UNECE secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention contributed to a series of events relevant to its technical cooperation programme, including National consultative workshop on early warnings for all in Tajikistan (online and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 29-30 August 2023), World Resource Forum 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland, 04-06 September 2023), Global intergovernmental Meeting under UNEA Resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management (Geneva, Switzerland, 07-08 September 2023), Global Nature Based Solutions (NbS) to Mine Tailing Wastewater: From Research to Practice" (online and Almaty, Kazakhstan, 02 November 2023), Final knowledge exchange workshop of the regional project on Stakeholder engagement in remediation of

Uranium Legacy Sites in Central Asia (online and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 24 November 2023), Industrial Accidents session of European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) (Helsinki, Finland, 15 December 2023) (Section 20).

99.   Five regional consultations were organized under UNEA Resolution 5/12 to address the environmental aspects of minerals and metals management. These consultations were held for different regions as follows: African States (online and Dakar, Senegal, 05-06 July 2023), Asia Pacific States (online and Bangkok, Thailand, 15-16 June 2023), Latin American and Caribbean States (online and Santiago, Chile, 17-18 May 2023), Western European and Other States (online and Paris, France, 27-28 April 2023), and Eastern European States (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 24-25 April 2023). These consultations focused on reviewing existing activities and identifying opportunities for improved international cooperation. The goal was to develop non-prescriptive proposals to enhance the environmental management of minerals and metals throughout their entire life cycle, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Two briefings on the implementation of UNEA Resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management were organised: a regional consultation (online and Geneva Switzerland, 28 February 2023) and a global consultation (online and Geneva Switzerland, 23 August 2023). The expertise of Convention was acknowledged as an important instrument and the potential of promoting the application of the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Management Facilities globally was recognized (Section 20).

Target 9.5. Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, particularly developing countries, including by 2030 encouraging innovation and increasing the number of R&D workers per one million people by x% and public and private R&D spending

Target 9b. Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

100.   UNDA project "Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA participating States in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2020-2023) aims to support Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in their efforts to spur innovation as a central driver of the increasingly urgent transition from low productivity and resource-intensive model of economic development to knowledge-based and more sustainable economic growth, in line with the SDGs. An event "Promoting women's entrepreneurship in transition economies for sustainable development" (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 01 June 2023) discussed the empowerment of women to innovate for the green and circular transition in the UNECE region and provided a platform for peer learning. A Business to Business (B2B) event "Innovation for the Circular Economy: Bridging Start-Ups and Corporations" (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 18 October 2023) provided a platform for companies in Uzbekistan, state-owned enterprises, and business clusters to collaborate with universities, business incubators and accelerators (BIAs), and start-ups, to develop joint programs and initiatives supporting sustainable business models. National stakeholders gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing circular economy models, and exchanged views on how start-ups, BIAs, and corporations could collaborate to overcome these challenges in Uzbekistan. These two events bolstered the promotion of female entrepreneurship and transition to a circular economy via BIAs. In addition, a handbook "New Innovation Policy in the SPECA Subregion" was developed by UNECE to support national policymakers and stakeholders in designing and carrying out effective innovation policy and institutional reform. To further support the progress in the sub-region towards the SDGs via innovation, UNECE organized a study tour to Georgia (Tbilisi, Georgia, 10-11 July 2023) for innovation policymakers from the SPECA sub-region. This tour provided SPECA participating States with an overview of the national innovation system and entrepreneurship support structures in Georgia, and highlighted best practices that may also be applied in the SPECA sub-region. A workshop for Chief Innovation Officers on innovation for the circular economy (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 02 May 2023) contributed to fostering a culture of innovation in state-owned enterprises and raised awareness of circular business models. This session introduced circular economy concepts, highlighted the link

between circular economy and innovation and provided case studies and business models. Discussions also addressed green finance and green certification programmes. A capacity-building programme for Azerbaijan on enhancing the venture capital ecosystem featured a series of 3 online consultations (online, 04 July - 25 August 2023). A program "Innovation for the Circular Economy: Empowering Start-ups to Achieve More with Less" (Tbilisi, Georgia, 20-21 December 2023) enhanced the capacity of SPECA participating States, enabling them to effectively incorporate circular principles into their innovation programs and actively promote the adoption of the circular economy concept within BIAs (Sections 20, 35).

101.   Within the project "Reinforcing the innovation ecosystem in the ECE region to promote disruptive innovation and digital technologies for sustainable development and for the circular economy transition" (2022-2025), Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN), a platform for peer learning and the development and dissemination of international good practice on transformative innovation policy, was launched. A seminar on circular economy and transformative innovation (Geneva, Switzerland, 03 March 2023) supported the UNECE member States in sharing experiences on the role of innovation in driving the circular transition and digital and green societal transformations, in line with 2030 Agenda and related SDGs. The seminar improved national capacities with good policy practices in expanding digital infrastructures, strengthening data privacy, addressing market failures, reducing barriers and promoting innovation-driven growth towards a circular economy. Two ETIN policy dialogues (online 07 March 2023; online 14 March 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on successful approaches to transformative innovation policies, but also some pitfalls. A capacity-building event in Montenegro (online and Pržno, Montenegro, 21-22 September 2023) enhanced knowledge of policymakers from the Western Balkans on transformative innovation (Section 20).

102.   A training session (online, 21 February 2023) within the framework of the SPECA Network of BIAs for Sustainable Development, improved understanding of SPECA participating States on the promotion of entrepreneurial culture in the education system through the development of business incubators at universities, which is a crucial element of innovation-led growth in the SPECA sub-region. This training demonstrated the primary benefits of encouraging entrepreneurship and start-ups within university academic processes (Section 20).

103.   A policy dialogue on Fostering Circular Solutions through Innovation (online, 03 April 2023) considered the SPECA Network of BIAs for Sustainable Development as a pilot initiative in supporting the efforts of countries in transitioning to a green and circular business agenda. It provided expertise, knowledge, best practices and recommendations for governments of SPECA participating States and other economies in transition in the UNECE region to empower innovative start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to design circular business models as well as create circular and green jobs (Section 20).

104.   A training session "Working with venture funds and business angels: UNECE practical online training for staff of business incubators and accelerators in the SPECA sub-region" (online, 16 March 2023) strengthened the practical skills of managers of BIAs. It focused on administering startup training programs amidst constantly changing circumstances and the conjuncture of the venture market. The session enabled managers to better analyse current trends and requirements of the venture market, develop new solutions, enhanced their understanding of the acceleration process, including the development of innovative startup ideas, and helped them build relationships with the market, investors, and partners (Section 20).

105.   Two training sessions (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 26 January 2023 and 27 January 2023) enhanced the capacities in implementing the Roadmap on Innovation and Technology Transfer for Republic of Moldova (Section 20).

106.   The UNECE Interim Innovation Policy Outlook 2023 for Eastern European and South Caucasus was launched (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 01 June 2023). Policymakers agreed on the way forward towards impactful implementation of key recommendations on (i) strengthening science-business

linkages and (ii) using the large potential of public procurement to create demand for and incentivize innovation (Section 20).

107.   A high-level launch of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Armenia (Yerevan, Armenia, 07 June 2023) discussed the main findings and recommendations of the report of Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews (I4SDRs) and agreed on the way forward to implement key recommendations on (i) improving innovation policy governance, (ii) improving innovation infrastructure, and (iii) engaging the Armenian diaspora in innovative ventures (Section 20).

108.   Within the framework of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, a study tour of the Swiss innovation eco-system for innovation policy makers at the margins of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 29-30 March 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on ways to align national innovation policies with the requirements of the international sustainable development agenda. A roundtable within the framework of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development "SDG 9 & Fashion – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure" (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 29 March 2023) discussed how the industry could contribute to achieving the targets of SGD9 and identified the current main obstacles preventing the industry to become more sustainable (Section 20).

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target 10.2. By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Target 10.3. Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Target 10.4. Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

109.   A side event at the 61st Session of the Commission for Social Development "Leaving No One Behind at the Regional Level: Adopting an Age-Sensitive Lens to Policy Making" (online, 13 February 2023) discussed the main challenges and achievements in developing and revising age-sensitive policies in the UNECE region. The session also highlighted opportunities for cross-regional learning and showcased some of the specific tools developed at the regional level to support the UNECE member States in developing and revising policies on ageing (Section 20).

110.   A conference "Population and Development: Ensuring Rights and Choices" (Geneva, Switzerland, 19-20 September 2023) highlighted and discussed progress towards the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) programme of action in the region. A report "Ensuring Rights and Choices amid Demographic Change: Report on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the UNECE Region" assessed progress under the three thematic priorities (population dynamics and sustainable development; families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course; and inequalities, social inclusion and rights) and analysed trends in population and development outcomes. The report identifies areas where efforts should be accelerated and highlights possible policy responses as well as recommendations to achieve the ICPD programme of action in the region (Section 20).

111.   A new policy brief on ageing and an event "Older Persons in Vulnerable Situations" (online, 19 June 2023) discussed policy strategies to protect older persons in vulnerable situations with a focus on the UNECE member States. Following a clarification of what is meant by vulnerability and vulnerable situations, the event showcased several concrete policy examples and initiatives. It provided participants

with firsthand insights about the challenges and lessons learned and shared key recommendations from the UNECE Policy Brief of Ageing No. 28 on the same topic (Section 20).

112.   A range of capacity-building activities on mainstreaming ageing was implemented in 2023. A training workshop for government officials on Mainstreaming Ageing into Public Policy through Age-Sensitive Analysis (Tbilisi, Georgia, 23-24 February 2023) analysed and discussed three policy documents, as well as accompanying data from Georgia on ICT, health and employment. Based on this analysis, national stakeholders enhanced their understanding of how to better address the needs of older persons in their policies. Furthermore, this workshop identified and developed priority areas for the new Action Plan on Ageing by the Government of Georgia (Sections 20, 23).

113.   Following the capacity-building activities above, several new tools were developed on mainstreaming ageing. Based on the training workshop in Georgia and a similar training with national and local policy makers piloted in the Republic of Moldova, a comprehensive 'reference' and 'facilitator' guide were finalized to allow further replications and scaling up the training on age-sensitive analysis and policy formulation to other UNECE member States at their request. A new interactive online course introduced the different stages for developing a strategic framework to mainstream ageing, as suggested in the UNECE Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing. These new tools for mainstreaming ageing offered a range of complementary ways to learn about mainstreaming ageing and to put the latter into practice. They were presented at an online event (online, 05 September 2023) to members of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) as well as other stakeholders (Sections 20, 23).

114.   A side event at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development "Towards age-friendly sustainable cities and communities" (online, 28 March 2023) demonstrated how investments towards age-friendly environments contribute to the 2030 Agenda's ambition to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable (SDG 11) as well as other SDG goals and targets. This event improved understanding of the UNECE member States on concrete actions being implemented in their countries and communities aimed at enhancing the capabilities of older persons and creating more supportive environments for aging (Section 20).

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Target 11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Target 11.b. By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

115.   UNDA project "Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs): Evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries in transition" (2022-2025) is aimed to advance socioeconomic recovery and localization of the SDGs in selected Eastern European and Central Asian countries, specifically in Niš (Serbia), Tbilisi (Georgia), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan), by harnessing the potential of VLRs for the design of local recovery plans. Two virtual workshops were held, "SDG Monitoring Units at the Local Level" (online, 26 September 2023) and "Training Tool: Enhanced VLR Guidance Portal for Sustainable, Green and Resilient Recovery & Transitions" (online, 13 December 2023). Moreover, a series of training sessions (Tbilisi, Georgia, 30-31 October 2023; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 03 November 2023; Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 08 November 2023) were coordinated focusing on SDG localization, multilevel governance arrangements, the Urban Monitoring Framework, and action oriented VLR methodology. Furthermore, two VLR-VNR studios

(Geneva, Switzerland, 30 March 2023; Geneva, Switzerland, 03 October 2023) were organized focusing on the experiences and best practices on the development of VSRs (Voluntary Subnational Reviews). They facilitated a dialogue between local and national governments and implementing partners in the UNECE region on how the evidence-based approach could help to accelerate achieving the SDGs at the local level. Particularly, participants shared experiences on the collection and use of local data for the development of VLRs and smart sustainable cities profiles and for evidence-based policymaking in city action plans. Based on the Studio discussions, recommendations will be formulated for more effective processes of data collection and utilization (Sections 20, 23, 35).

116.   UNDA project "Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the UNECE Region" (2020-2023) is aimed to support the transition of target cities towards becoming smart and sustainable, contributing to the achievement of SDG 11 and other urban related SDGs in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Montenegro. A workshop (online and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 28 February 2023) presented and discussed the study "Integrated Development of Five Residential Areas in Bishkek". The final project results were also presented and discussed by mayors at the third meeting of the Forum of Mayors (Geneva, Switzerland, 02-03 October 2023) and at the 84th session of the Committee on Urban development, housing and land-management (Geneva, Switzerland, 04-06 October 2023), including information on the best practices and success stories (Sections 20, 23).

117.   Within the framework of the project "Enhance capacity of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in developing and implementing policies and strategies for sustainable housing and sustainable smart cities (Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Housing and Sustainable Smart Cities for the CIS countries)" (2021-2024), a detailed assessment of establishing a new Center of Excellence was conducted. Two online workshops were organized, "Presenting the e-course on urban economic resilience" (online, 26 October 2023) and "Building urban economic resilience, case study of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan" (online, 30 November 2023). The first webinar introduced an e-course "Introduction to Urban Economic Resilience Diagnostics and Action Planning during and after Covid-19". The second webinar delved into a city case study of Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) with its experience on implementing the Diagnostics and Planning Tool and designing an Economic resilience Building Plan with a focus on how this experience shaped city plans and how it could be useful to other cities in the UNECE region (Section 20).

118.   A side event "Multilevel governance for SDG Localization" (online, 31 January 2023) to the ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2023 generated engagement in the discourse surrounding multilevel governance and placing it as a key element for SDG localization, defined concrete actions to accelerate the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda through SDG localization and multilevel governance, agreed on a common roadmap and shared the experiences of different countries and cities around the world, thus facilitating a peer-to-peer knowledge exchange (Section 20).

119.   A series of events were organized within the framework of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 29-30 March 2023). A roundtable on SDG 11 "Cities leading the transformation: SDGs in action and the new multilateralism" (Geneva, Switzerland, 29 March 2023) highlighted the multiple levels at which cities operate (from policies and action at the local level driving forward solutions and positive change to forging strategic international partnerships to increase their relevance and impact in global matters) and facilitated sharing of experiences among senior government officials from municipal bodies across the region on specific actions and projects undertaken to meet the relevant SDG 11 targets. A side event "The city of the future is a green city: why we need trees in our cities for the SDGs" (online and Geneva, 30 March 2023) explored how urban trees could help foster vibrant communities and how local implementation could link into national and global goals (Section 20).

120.   A thematic session at the 7th UNECE International Public-Private Partnerships Forum, "Promoting economic recovery and planning reconstruction in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv through the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and innovative digital tools" (Athens, Greece, 04 May 2023)

discussed how private sector engagement, including the PPPs, could be harnessed to 'build back better' the cities of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv, as part of the future implementation of the master plans. Also, the session explored how digital tools and digitalization opportunities could be used for the development of the master plans and meaningful stakeholder engagement in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv. The session looked at ways in which digital tools and PPPs could be applied strategically in planning the reconstruction of cities, including in promoting stakeholder engagement and improving the social and economic situation in the cities and highlighted how the challenges could be addressed through transition to a circular economy (Section 20).

121.   Within the UN4UkrainianCities Project, a kick-off meeting (Geneva, Switzerland, 05 June 2023) discussed the overall project plan including the long-term reconstruction planning strategies in the cities of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv. In addition, the project initiated the process of formulating concept master plans for target cities, utilizing integrated urban development approaches. Several meetings were organised to present and learn from experience in other countries. The thematic workshop "Exchange of Experience in the Development and Implementation of Housing Policy between Ukraine and Finland in cooperation with UNECE" (online, 14 August 2023) focused on the relevant experience of Finland, for example regarding specific legislative measures required to address the needs of vulnerable groups. Another workshop "Housing cooperatives in the UNECE region: best practices and experiences" (online, 25 October 2023) discussed the existing European legal framework for the creation and functioning of housing construction cooperatives with examples from Germany. A workshop "Housing Fund Management Models for Ukraine: The Estonian Experience" (online, 01 December 2023) focused on Housing Management Models for Ukraine by drawing on the Estonian experience. A meeting (Madrid, Spain, 01 November 2023) focused on the Ukrainian urban cadastre, its national infrastructure and integration with local practices, where Ukrainian government representatives and city officials also discussed the status of the implementation of their urban cadastre systems, as well as their plans for legislative changes in this field (Section 20).

122.   A side event to the Second UN-Habitat Assembly "Regional Action supporting SDG Localization and Urban Resilience" (Nairobi, Kenya, 08 June 2023) focused on regional efforts aimed at accelerating progress towards achievement of the SDGs. The event underscored the impact of region-specific normative guidance and partnerships in accelerating actions, enhancing data collection and supporting cities in undertaking VLRs. The discussions also emphasized the potential of intergovernmental platforms, national and regional forums and regional SDG progress profiles in building momentum and fostering partnerships for the SDG Decade of Action. Drawing from regional reviews of SDG11 progress and recent data and case studies on localization and urban-related SDGs, the event thereby presented a comprehensive view of the ongoing efforts (Section 20).

123.   As part of the Fourth International Social Housing Festival (Barcelona, Spain, 07-09 June 2023), a session "(Re) Defining the role of Housing Agencies in Southern Europe in 2023" (Barcelona, Spain, 08 June 2023) discussed the roles of the housing agencies in Southern Europe in the provision of affordable housing. The discussion also covered the institutional/organizational aspects of housing agencies and different financial schemes that could be applied. Additionally, the session served to exchange views between Southern European countries that are currently reflecting on the roles and possibilities of their housing agencies, such as Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia, and regions with more consolidated experiences in the Euro-Mediterranean area (Section 20).

124.   At the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, several sessions addressed the roles of multilevel governance for SDG implementation. A studio "Multilevel governance for SDG implementation; the role of VNRs and VLRs" (New York, United States of America, 11 July 2023), discussed experiences, challenges, and progress in SDG implementation to enhance collaboration, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing among local and national government representatives, UN agencies, and other international organizations. Two online sessions were organized as part of the Second edition of the VLR – Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR) Days. The first session "Multilevel governance for SDG localization: Connecting VLRs, VSRs and VNRs" (online, 17 July 2023) raised awareness about the importance of multilevel governance in achieving the SDGs, explored

the potential synergies and linkages between VNRs, VSRs, and VLRs in fostering effective collaboration and coordination among different levels of government, and showcased successful examples of countries that have implemented and benefited from the connection of VNRs, VSRs, and VLRs, with lessons learned and best practices highlighted. The other session "Data innovation for reporting, planning and transparency" (online, 18 July 2023) highlighted the significance and complexity of data collection and analysis models in VLRs and VSRs. It showcased cutting-edge data methodologies and tools that could strengthen data collection, and analysis within the VLR and VSR processes. This session also explored successful case studies and best practices where data innovation has empowered local stakeholders in sustainable development planning and decision-making. Thereafter, the session fostered collaboration and knowledge-sharing among participants to identify challenges and opportunities in integrating data innovation into VLR and VSR processes. Within the framework of the Forum, a side event "Building urban resilience and responding to crises through SDGs localization: Regional Approaches" (New York, United States of America, 14 July 2023) highlighted how regional efforts to localize SDGs and design coherent urban policies could help build resilience and position cities to lead recoveries from the global pandemic while contributing to national strategies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda (Section 20).

125.   As part of the 62nd European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress (Alicante, Spain, 28 August – 01 September 2023) and under the theme "Urban Challenges in the Face of Technological Transformations: Expansion, Decarbonization, Productivity and Inequalities", a roundtable session "Housing affordability, energy efficiency and health: policy challenges for cities and regions" (Alicante, Spain, 01 September 2023) discussed the pressing issue of housing affordability, emphasizing its nexus with energy efficiency, health, and policy challenges. Particularly, the discussion delved into the root causes of affordability challenges and highlighted the need for large-scale housing renovation programs aligned with climate goals and social equity considerations (Section 20).

126.   A side event to the UNECE Urban Resilience Week 2023, "Supporting cities in urban resilience building for inclusive responses and recovery" (online and Geneva, 04 October 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on the multifaceted challenges confronting cities globally, including rapid urbanization, climate change, economic vulnerabilities, and limited financial resources. It addressed the need of a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to urban resilience. Consequently, this event facilitated discussions on strategies for implementing future projects, including supporting five pilot cities from different regions, with a focus on resilience amidst the triple planetary crisis. Contributions from the other UN Regional Commissions and UN-Habitat underscored the diverse expertise and collaborative spirit driving efforts to bolster urban resilience worldwide (Section 20).

127.   A workshop "Ensuring tenure security after natural and man-made disasters" (Madrid, Spain, 02-03 November 2023) shared experiences and good practices from countries of the UNECE region and beyond in securing land and housing tenure after natural and man-made disasters, especially the relevant legal, geospatial, and economic aspects. Additionally, the workshop discussed how geospatial information could be linked more effectively to legal information associated with land and property ownership, how different countries promote the use of digital solutions to support sustainable and resilient urban development, and the legalization and improvement of informal settlements (Section 20).

Target 11.2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

128.   UNDA project "Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity (trade and transport nexus) in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Western Balkans" (2021-2024) is aimed to enhance the capacity of selected countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Western Balkans to move towards sustainable mobility and smart connectivity. The Sustainable Mobility and Smart Connectivity E-Learning Platform has over 700 enrolments from more than 90 countries around the world. Enrolments and interest in the platform are increasing as it is seen as an essential element of capacity-building toolkit offering 13

courses that span sustainable transport. To support this work six national action plans on sustainable transport were developed for the pilot countries (Albania, Azerbaijan Georgia, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) (Sections 20, 23 and 35).

129. Within the framework of the project "Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to develop sustainable urban mobility policy on car sharing and car-pooling initiatives" (2019- 2023), the final case studies for the three target countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) were completed presenting the local contexts in these countries related to urban transport and sustainable mobility, and also the legal aspects to consider for the development of car sharing and carpooling services in Astana, Bishkek, and Dushanbe. Additionally, a final regional workshop (Astana, Kazakhstan, 05 October 2023) presented the project findings and provided capacity-building for the countries of Central Asia on the potential for car-sharing and car-pooling initiatives (Section 20).

130. Within the project "Improving the knowledge and to increase uptake of CTU Code (safe loading and securing of cargo in containers)" (2021-2024), a workshop on the safety of transporting and handling containers and other Cargo Transport Units (CTU) (Aktau, Kazakhstan, 20-21 September 2023) covered in detail the following topics: (i) roles and responsibilities for the packing and handling of cargo in containers, (ii) appropriate loading methods depending on type of cargo, type of commodity or its packaging, (iii) marking of containers, (iv) cargo securing methods, and (v) cargo declarations. In addition, participants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran (Islamic Republic of) participated in two hands-on simulations at the workshop. Subsequently, the workshop served as the first step for the countries to promote actively the use of the CTU Code with their logistics industry (Section 20).

131. A workshop on "Transport Planning for the Future" (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 23 October 2023) tackled two issues: active mobility from a policymaker perspective and the role of micromobility in transport; and the new e-biking functionality of the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) for walking and cycling. The workshop emphasized the significance of walking and cycling as active modes of transport and the impact of the urban environment on individuals' transport choices, with a focus on how it encouraged walking and its synergy in terms of promoting the use of public transport. It also addressed the importance of intersectoral cooperation in support of healthier and more sustainable transport and mobility, and emerging micromobility options as an alternative to cars. Besides, the workshop explored the substitution effect of micromobility on car journeys, active mobility options, and how HEAT could be utilized to assess the health benefits associated with e-biking (Section 20).

 Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns

Target 12.2. By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

Target 12.3. By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses

Target 12a. Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

132. UNDA project "Accelerating the transition towards a circular economy in the UNECE region" (2021-2024) is aimed to strengthen the capacities of the governments of selected UNECE countries to enable and accelerate the transition toward a circular economy in selected priority areas, to build-back better after the COVID-19 pandemic (target countries are Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Tajikistan). UNECE worked with the Government of Serbia to develop a roadmap for circularity in agri-food, with a focus on food loss and waste reduction and management.

Further, UNECE organized a regional Policy Dialogue on Circular Economy Transition in the UNECE region focusing on Sustainable Meat and Livestock (online, 29 August 2023), a roundtable on sustainable food systems – digitalization and food loss and waste reduction (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 14 November 2023), and a session on "Circular Food Systems: Enabling Policies and Successful Business Cases in the Agri-Food Sector" organized jointly with the World Resources Institute as an official accelerator session of the World Circular Economy Forum (online and Brussels, Belgium, 18 April 2024) (Sections 20, 35).

133.	UNDA project "Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa" (2022-2025) is aimed to develop an integrated approach to managing the food-water-energy nexus to assist Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Algeria, Uganda, and Namibia. The assessment and mapping of food availability in Albania, was completed with its findings integrated into resilience plans in an all-encompassing nexus approach. A similar food availability mapping was initiated in Georgia. The digital food management tool for cities was fully developed and is ready-to-use with configurations and user roles customizable to individual city requirements (Sections 20, 35).

134.	The project "Enhancing Transparency and Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and Footwear" (2019-2024) is aimed to enhance the transparency and traceability along the garment and footwear value chain, as part of improving the due diligence process by private sector actors, as well as to advance more responsible production and consumption patterns in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Dissemination of the Sustainability Pledge Call to Action for UNECE Recommendation No. 46 further advanced and to date, it received more than 100 pledges from companies and stakeholders, from across 28 countries, involving a larger network of about 750 industry actors. These pledges involve measurable actions with specific key performance indicators (KPIs) to advancing traceability and transparency in the garment and footwear industry. As part of the project, a study regarding the excess of used clothing in Chile, with a focus on Europe as an origin and Chile as a destination, was developed (Section 20).

135.	A session "Introduction to the CRM Traceability Project" (Bangkok, Thailand, 02 October 2023) at the 41st UN/CEFACT Forum explored the supply chains connecting CRM resource-rich countries and end consumers and highlighted how emerging sustainability regulation in consuming countries impacted intermediary manufacturers, processors, and smelters in Asia and beyond. Participating stakeholders improved understanding on how interoperable digital solutions could facilitate the efficient exchange of sustainability data while keeping commercially sensitive information private (Section 20).

136.	A session at the Sixth Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development "The role of international trade in circular fashion: challenges and opportunities" (Santiago, Chile, 27 April 2023) discussed among key national stakeholders the role of international trade in circular economy and the creation of new incentives to reduce environmental impacts, particularly in the Atacama Desert in Chile (Section 20).

137.	A side event at the 2023 OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector "From farm to shelf: Why upstream and downstream actors need to work in tandem to achieve social and environmental justice in fashion value chains" (online and Paris, France, 13 February 2023) connected key stakeholders from farm to fashion, including upstream and downstream actors, policy makers, and standard-setting bodies. The event explored their different perspectives, such as challenges and opportunities to reach net-zero targets, and social and environmental objectives in fashion's agricultural supply chains, as the sector faces complex obstacles and lags on climate actions. The discussions enhanced knowledge on policy recommendations and supply-side measures. These measures are intended to balance economic and social objectives with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (Section 20).

138.   A conference "Resilience of Global Supply Chains in Times of Crisis - Supporting a Sustainable Recovery with Green and Digital Solutions" (Geneva, Switzerland, 10 May 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on key global developments to guide UN/CEFACT work, forge synergies and enhance partnerships to advance digitalization and ensure more resilient and shock-proof supply chains in the region, and beyond. This conference took stock of the complex issues of disruptions in global supply chains and potential ways to address them, including through the digital solutions and instruments developed by UN/CEFACT (Section 20).

Target 12.4. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Target 12.6. Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

139.   The work under the Aarhus Convention promoted digital access to information in support of the green and circular economy. An international workshop "Advancing public access to environment-related product information: Challenges and opportunities" (Geneva, Switzerland, 09-10 November 2023) discussed legal and policy developments in public access to environment-related product information and the use of product passports and other digital tools. It also addressed the means to encourage operators to inform the public and measures against greenwashing (Section 20).

Target 12.8. By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

140.   A capacity-building workshop on implementing the fourth priority area on "Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and education for sustainable development" of the implementation framework of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development" (Tbilisi, Georgia, 30-31 October 2023) was organized to strengthen national capacity by sharing best practices from the UNECE region in integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) principles into policies and curricula. It focused on supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, fostering employability, and enhancing education levels where entrepreneurship is taught in Georgia (Sections 20, 23).

141.   A capacity-building workshop (online, 12 December 2023) improved national capacities on reporting on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (2021–2025) and supported national focal points in the preparation of the national implementation reports (Section 20).

 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Target 13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Target 13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

142.   Activities reported under SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 17 also have a direct contribution to SDG 13.

143.   The United Nations inter-agency Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change organized an introductory webinar on the nexus of climate action and leaving no one behind (online, 05 June) at the request of the UNCT and Resident Coordinator of Georgia. The webinar supported UNCT members in working with vulnerable groups to assess who is particularly vulnerable to the effects of

climate change and environmental degradation and how to help address this vulnerability. The Coalition also issued a set of "Climate messages 2023" to UNCTs. In addition, the Coalition organized a webinar (online, 21 June 2023) on disability-inclusive climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction educational materials, and innovative "green schools" solutions, at the request of the Education Results Group (represented by UNICEF) of Turkmenistan (Sections 20, 23).

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.1. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Target 15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

144.   UNDA project "Circular forest product value chains and nature-based solutions in Central Asia and the Caucasus" (2023-2026) is aimed to improve knowledge and capacity to advance inclusive and resilient post-pandemic rural development and forest landscape restoration through circular forest product value chains and nature-based solutions in selected countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Georgia) in Central Asia and the Caucasus. National counterparts in all four target countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Georgia) agreed on national action plans and committed to supporting and participating in the implementation of the project's activities. To better scope the current situation in the target countries, technical consultations were held, including stakeholder interviews and research. A stakeholder analysis was conducted to identify potential partners and synergies with ongoing work while avoiding duplication (Sections 20, 35).

145.   Within the project "Strengthening cooperation and national capacities in selected UNECE countries for sustainable forest management" (2021-2024), an advanced version of the "Guidelines for Developing Forest Information Systems (FIS)" and the publication "Developing National Forest Information Systems – a Practical Guide" were developed. Several training sessions for national experts from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, including two online training sessions (online, 13 March and 5 April 2023) and two advisory missions (16-18 May 2023 and 11-14 July 2023), focused on the development and pilot implementation of the guide, analysed the current situation, needs, requirements and opportunities and provided technical advice for the establishment of forest information systems in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. A regional workshop (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 10-11 October 2023) strengthened capacity of policy makers in the field of forest information management and development of (FIS) in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The analysis of the national situation, needs, requirements, and opportunities for building FIS contributed to the exchange of knowledge and experience among the project countries. Besides, the preparation of national surveys provided country-specific national overviews of boreal forests in six countries in the UNECE region (Canada, Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, United States of America). Information on boreal forests, including the preliminary results of the scoping study was presented at the COP 28 UNFCCC side event "Forest-Climate Solutions" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 09 December 2023) (Section 20).

146.   A field project "Accelerating the digital transition for sustainable forest management and forest policy in UN programme countries in UNECE region" developed a practical guide on establishing FIS to provide a deep dive into the needs, opportunities, and constraints of developing/improving a FIS for forest sector activities and sustainable forest management for national analysts, policymakers and forestry professionals. Additionally, a regional workshop (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 08 October 2023) enhanced participants' knowledge about practical methods to assess information management. The

workshop covered necessary tools to tackle forest information-related issues at different levels of governance in a holistic and strategic manner. Participants also gained hands-on experience with FIS development by undertaking exercises in stakeholder analysis, institutional mapping, defining IT-related & business objectives for forest information systems, and identifying strategic actions (Sections 20, 23).

147. Two studies, "General conditions for a transition to a sustainable and circular bioeconomy in forest-based industries" and "Circularity concepts in pulp and paper industry," were published, providing more sectoral-oriented details on how the forest sector could shift towards a more circular model. The pulp and paper industry in particular as one of the most tangible examples was highlighted in the studies. The studies also served as the basis for a training program on the future of the forestry and wood-based industries, particularly in the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy. The National Forest Policy Dialogue on "the future of the forestry and wood-based industries sector in Türkiye in the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy" (Kastamonu, Türkiye, 21-23 September 2023) enhanced knowledge of participating policymakers and experts and presented examples from the studies which provided concrete models for future pilot implementations (Section 20).

148. Three webinars for national correspondents on the data collection for the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry focused on countries in the Western Balkan and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The first module (online, 17 April 2023) introduced the Joint Wood Energy and data sources on energy consumption and production. International and regional organizations presented their data on energy, renewable energy, and wood energy and discussed with participants how to improve links between the forestry and energy datasets. The second module (online, 20 April 2023) offered national correspondents a platform to discuss in detail the possible national data sources, strategies, and resources needed to collect relevant data. The last module (online, 27 April 2023) offered national correspondents the opportunity to discuss with the Secretariat structural or data issues that require clarifications before submitting of the dataset. National correspondents are also encouraged to bring to the attention of the Secretariat possible improvements to the inquiry (Section 20).

149. A webinar "Advancing urban forestry: A Nature Based Solution for Local and Global Goals" (online, 03 August 2023) addressed how cities could strengthen their management of urban trees and forests to mobilize finance. It also explored how mayors and local governments in the UNECE region could collaborate and exchange best practices and experiences in urban forestry. In addition, the session discussed the connection between local implementation of urban forestry initiatives and their alignment with national and global objectives (Section 20).

150. A meeting "Strategic and Technical Approaches to Tree Health Protection" (online, 26 September 2023) provided a platform for experts from UNECE member States to engage in detailed discussions and exchange ideas regarding the challenges and potential strategies for protecting trees to ensure resilience and effective management of urban forests. Through the presentation of case studies, practical examples, and recommendations, participants explored ways in which cities could enhance tree protection efforts. These insights can be replicated and scaled to benefit other urban areas facing similar challenges (Section 20).

151. A workshop "Forest Landscape Restoration in the Republic of Moldova – Feasibility study on the production of forest reproductive material" (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 12 October 2023) validated the study and discussed applicability of its findings and recommendations, including for the National Afforestation and Reforestation Programme (NARP) for 2023-2032 and its Action Plan for 2023-2027 (Sections 20, 23).

152. A side event "Seeds of change - Rethinking forests and cities" (San Marino, 21 November 2023) at FORESTA 2023 facilitated better understanding of the contribution of urban trees and forests to SDGs and climate action in the UNECE region, addressed national and local urban trees and forestry actions with case studies, best practices and examples, considered policy and planning needs and opportunities, and reflected on the evolving relationship between cities and forests (Section 20).

153.   A session "Carbon sponge city - Why cities can help solve our climate problems" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 01 December 2023) within the COP 28 reviewed how low carbon materials could help cities to reverse climate change trends. Experts discussed how these materials could allow cities significantly increase the carbon stock in their built environment. The role of wood in this scenario was stressed as a major contributor to absorbing carbon emissions and providing a more sustainable city of the future. Another event "Trees in dry cities: luxury or a fundamental climate and SDG solution?" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 01 December 2023) provided a platform for knowledge sharing and best practice exchange, with insights from dry countries/cities in different regions and explored concrete tools and local needs and challenges in more detail. The outcome of this event was the creation of the "Trees in Dry Cities Coalition", which subsequently, developed an action agenda and initiated joint training, pilot development for financing and communication campaigns at major events (Section 20).

154.   A capacity-building mission on forest landscape restoration and urban forests in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 30 October – 02 November 2023) gathered information on the priorities and feasibilities of initiatives for Uzbekistan's regreening and afforestation measures in urban and rural areas. The mission identified feasible regreening and afforestation measures that fit into the Uzbek policy landscape (Sections 20, 23).

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target 16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

155.   *Target 16.7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels*

156.   Several thematic sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice under the Aarhus Convention (Geneva, Switzerland, 04-05 April 2023) focused on access to justice in cases related to climate change and biodiversity protection. The Task Force discussed current trends, good practices, barriers, challenges, and innovative approaches in these areas. Furthermore, the delegates continued discussions on access to justice in energy-related cases; took stock of measures removing barriers related to costs, access to assistance mechanisms and timeliness of the review procedures; and learnt about recent and upcoming developments. The Task Force also considered tools to promote effective access to justice such as (a) access to independent environmental expertise; (b) dissemination of information on access to review procedures, collection of relevant data and statistics and access to relevant case law using e-justice initiatives, modern digital technologies and other tools; and (c) multi-stakeholder dialogues to remove existing barriers. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to support countries' efforts in the implementation of SDGs (Section 20).

157.   An international roundtable "Aarhus Convention: Effective Public Participation for Good Governance, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Development" (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 01-02 June 2023) promoted better understanding of benefits and opportunities brought by the Convention and its Protocol as effective tools for furthering sustainable development, good governance and healthy environment (Sections 20, 23).

158.   A judicial colloquium "Judicial protection of human rights and public interests against environmental pollution from chemicals and wastes" (Geneva, Switzerland, 03-04 April 2023) brought together high-level representatives of the judiciary, judicial training institutions and other review bodies to strengthen the capacity of judiciary to effectively handle cases related to environmental pollution from chemicals and wastes and explore trends and good practices related to the adjudication of these cases, in particular with regard to standing, scope of review and remedies. The meeting also addressed the role of the Aarhus Convention and other relevant international law in this context (Section 20).

159.   The Fourth Joint Aarhus Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity Roundtable on Public Awareness, Education, Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice regarding Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)/Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) (Geneva, Switzerland, 11-12 November 2023) took stock of successes and challenges, identified synergies in relation to the promotion of effective implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the context of LMOs/GMOs, showcased the provisions of Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding public awareness, education and participation, and featured a training session on procedures and practice on access to justice related to LMOs/GMOs (Section 20).

160.   A thematic session on public participation in international forums (Geneva, Switzerland, 27 June 2023) contributed to enhancing understanding on the promotion of transparency and public participation in international forums dealing with environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context and trade, and on the issue of balanced and equitable participation and different modalities for engaging stakeholders in international decision-making (Section 20).

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Target 17.10. Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

Target 17.11. Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

161.   UNDA project "Blockchains for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness" (2022-2025) is aimed to help government officials of developing countries to understand legal and regulatory requirements for using blockchain in trade facilitation as well as how to implement blockchain successfully for trade facilitation and crisis resilience (target country for the UNECE region is Uzbekistan). A multistakeholder workshop (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 19 October 2023) explored opportunities, challenges, and successful cases for the adoption of blockchain technology in Uzbekistan. The event also delved into practical examples and lessons learned from industry stakeholders involved in the UNECE blockchain pilot initiatives in Uzbekistan's cotton and textile sector. These initiatives aim to bolster compliance with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, diversify export opportunities, and attract investments in the country, including through harnessing the potential of innovative advanced technologies (Sections 20, 35).

162.   UNDA project "Enhanced capacities pandemic-resilient, sustainable cross-border trade and transport of selected countries in the UNECE region" (2022-2025) is aimed to strengthen green supply chains and enhance their resilience and inclusivity, based on harmonization and digitization of trade and transport information flows in selected transition economies, using UN standards (target countries are Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan). The SPECA Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange along the Trans-Caspian Corridor Using UN Legal Instruments and Standards was developed and adopted. Regarding pilot implementation projects, the launch and advancement of a pilot project for the digitalization of a railway consignment note was an important achievement. At the capacity-building seminar "Fourteenth International Capacity-Building Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation" (Baku, Azerbaijan, 22-23 May 2023), five national railway agencies (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and Ukraine) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to participate in the testing of an electronic prototype of the CIM (Uniform Rules Concerning the Contract of International Carriage of Goods by Rail)/SMGS (Agreement on International Railway Freight Communications) railway consignment note, aligned with the UN/CEFACT standards. This seminar together with the SPECA Working Group on Trade and numerous technical meetings made practical steps in the digitalization of

the railway consignment note in compliance with the UN/CEFACT standards in order to provide for interoperability with other modes of transport and the whole supply chain. Technical meetings of experts from UN/CEFACT, the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) and national experts started the development of a technical specification for the digitalization of the SMGS railway consignment note used in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (Sections 23, 35).

163.   Within the framework of the project "Fostering Resilient, Diversified and Sustainable Value Chains in the Eurasian Region after COVID-19" (2021-2024) (target countries are Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan), a research on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the context of integration to regional and global value chains was delivered and three national studies focusing on specific sectors were prepared: Armenia (fish products); Kazakhstan (vegetable oil); and Kyrgyzstan (dried apricots and prunes). The findings of these studies improved national understanding on existing trade bottlenecks across sectors, which provided actionable and practical recommendations and contributed to structural transformation in the economic landscapes and a more interconnected and prosperous trade environment (Section 20).

164.   Within the framework of the project "Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system" (2018-2024), national trade facilitation roadmap for Uzbekistan was finalized in a view of contributing to the national efforts to accede to the WTO (Sections 20, 23).

165.   Within the project "Building Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Trade in the SPECA subregion" (2022-2024), assessment of Tajikistan readiness to implement the SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade was updated and training materials for capacity-building were finalized for future capacity-building responding to the requests of the country to mainstream sustainable trade and the SPECA principles of Sustainable Trade in the sustainable development plans of Tajikistan (Sections 20, 23).

166.   A field project "Enhancing capacity to develop evidence-based policy making for digital and sustainable trade facilitation, to support the accession to the WTO of targeted target countries in the Central Asian region" developed policy briefs focusing on Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, to support their accession to the WTO. In addition, a technical workshop (Baku, Azerbaijan, 20 November 2023) was held during the 18th Session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade. The project contributed to increased knowledge and understanding of trade facilitation stakeholders in the implementation status of trade facilitation measures, including for the WTO TFA and for paperless and sustainable cross-border trade transactions at the global, regional, and national levels (Sections 20, 23).

167.   The Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Global Report 2023 offered an in-depth and comparative analysis of the implementation of 60 trade facilitation measures in over 140 countries worldwide. Aside from measures outlined in the WTO TFA, the report covered the implementation of cutting-edge paperless and cross-border trade facilitation measures and those supporting more inclusive and sustainable trade. The new report provided insights into the impact of trade facilitation measures on trade costs and highlighted good practices around the world. The launch event (online and Geneva, Switzerland, 15 September 2023) presented key findings from the report and discussed the way forward and how countries and development partners could formulate evidence-based strategies and policies and foster the exchange of exemplary and innovative practices, based on the recommendations in the report (Section 20).

168.   A training session on regulatory and procedural barrier to trade as part of accession to WTO (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 22 June 2023) was organised at the request of the Government of Turkmenistan, covering various aspects of the WTO accession process, with a focus on non-tariff measures. The training contributed to better understanding of emerging themes in international trade discussions, such as the circular economy and digital and green transformations (Sections 20, 23).

169.   A training session (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 13 December 2023) was organized to launch the study on Assessment of Trade Facilitation Framework - Republic of Moldova. The study mapped out achievements, ongoing reforms and future directions for capacity-building work that is needed for the Republic of Moldova to deliver on its commitments under the WTO TFA. Furthermore, it assessed country priorities, considering both national development strategies and cross-cutting international agendas, and provided concrete recommendations for the Government (Sections 20, 23).

170.   A roundtable discussion on enhancing export competitiveness of Kazakhstan (online and Astana, Kazakhstan, 09 June 2023) assisted national stakeholders in prioritizing policy reforms towards removing technical barriers to trade. These reforms would contribute to more seamless commerce and support the country's integration into regional and global value chains. The event was organized back-to-back with the Astana International Forum, where UNECE convened a high-level side event "Unlocking the buckle of sustainable trade: the role of digitalization" (Sections 20, 23).

171.   A webinar "Market surveillance role in combatting counterfeit products" (online, 21 February 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on the adoption of Recommendation M. Following the webinar, decisions were made to include references to the updated United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection in 2015 and incorporate references to other relevant documents regarding the reinforcement of regulations for controlling restrictive business practices into the recommendation text (Section 20).

172.   A webinar on Semantics and Semantic Interoperability – Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding (eB-MoU) (Geneva, Switzerland, 27 June 2023) improved understanding of the UNECE member States on the significance of semantic interoperability in data integration, and the anticipated benefits of adopting semantic processes. It also shared practical knowledge of best practices to overcome challenges and leverage semantic interoperability to unlock the full potential of their data assets (Section 20).

173.   A session "Going circular: How the Harmonized System (HS) codes can/not support a circular economy" (Geneva, Switzerland, 15 September 2023) explored how to better facilitate trade flows to contribute to an inclusive circular economy. It also discussed the important role of the HS codes in helping to address circular trade facilitation challenges. In addition, it emphasized the limitations of the HS codes and introduced experimental trade facilitation measures to achieve more quickly a robust and inclusive circular economy (Section 20).

174.   A seminar "Trade Facilitation and Digital Transformation of multimodal information exchange in Eastern Europe and SPECA, Using United Nations Standards" (Baku, Azerbaijan, 22-23 May 2023) facilitated the preparation of a methodology for digitalization of data and document exchange in the trans-Caspian corridor. Additionally, the seminar contributed to the development of a roadmap for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange in the region (Section 20).

Target 17.14. Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

175.   Within the framework of the project "Enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through strategic cooperation among the SPECA participating States" (2020-2024), the 2023 annual SPECA Economic Forum "Transforming the SPECA Region into a Connectivity Hub with Global Outreach" (online and Baku, Azerbaijan, 21-22 November 2023) and the 18th session of the SPECA Governing Council (Baku, Azerbaijan, 23 November 2023) prepared the ground for the SPECA Summit on 24 November 2023, which adopted the Baku Declaration and the SPECA Roadmap for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the SPECA corridors. Furthermore, the SPECA events advanced the preparations for and promotion of a SPECA Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Additionally, a set of activities on trade facilitation (support for the regional network of National Trade Facilitation Bodies, support for digitalization of multimodal data and document flows) took place in implementation of the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy (Sections 20, 23).

176.   Within the framework of a field project, UNECE supported Uzbekistan in preparing a National State of the Environment Report (NSoER), which aims to communicate key environmental issues and trends to citizens, experts, and policymakers. A training session on the methodology and its application (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 01 February 2023) strengthened the capacity of government officials and experts on environmental monitoring, reporting and the use of environmental indicators and highlighted the relevance of indicators for policy evaluation, designing of new policies and for informing the public on the state and trends of the environment and possible impacts on human health. The NSoER improved overall public accessibility of environmental data which is beneficial for fostering public participation in environmental decision-making to help the country to accede to the Aarhus Convention (Section 23).

177.   In 2023, the Committee on Environmental Policy adopted the 89 recommendations from the Third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Kyrgyzstan and 88 recommendations contained in the EPR of Mauritania to assist the countries in improving their environmental management and achieving SDGs, covering 16 SDGs in both cases. The review mission for the fourth EPR of Tajikistan was conducted (Section 20).

178.   Within the framework of UNECE EPR Programme, three workshops were organized. A workshop on climate change policy development in North Macedonia (Skopje, North Macedonia, 02-03 October 2023) shared updates on their national climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, particularly progress and activities since the last EPR related to the implementation of EPR climate change recommendations. In addition to presenting national policies, strategies, and regulatory frameworks, attendees showcased measures potentially applicable across the UNECE region. The workshop also served as a platform for sharing international knowledge and experiences in climate change management. The other workshop on disaster risk reduction for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Skopje, North Macedonia, 16-17 October 2023) discussed recommendations on disaster risk reduction policies, strategies made by the EPR, and implementation status in their respective countries. Highlights included progress updates since the last EPR, and efforts made to implement proposed disaster risk reduction measures. The programme also included introductions to national policies, strategies, and regulatory frameworks, with an emphasis on identifying replicable initiatives appropriate to programme countries in the UNECE region. A workshop on waste management with respect to policies and practices in North Macedonia (Skopje, North Macedonia, 19-20 September 2023) discussed the regulatory framework, access to waste management services, gender mainstreaming, and extended producer responsibility schemes, considered links between waste generation and management and circular economy and mechanisms to mitigate environmental impacts from waste management, shared experiences and best practices, established priorities for forthcoming steps to enhance the implementation rate of the EPR recommendations, and explored potential regional cooperation avenues. In conclusion, the workshop deliberated on the needs for sustainable waste management finance in the region and agreed on a set of topics for subsequent workshops (Sections 20, 23).

179.   UNECE contributed to a UNEP-led comprehensive Report on Ukraine Environmental Damage Assessments (completed in December 2023) and arranged with UNEP a discussion on the results of "Rapid Environmental Assessment of Kakhovka Dam Breach Ukraine, 2023". An informal inter-agency coordination group on environmental assessments for Ukraine organized two seminars on the assessments of Environmental Damage (Geneva, Switzerland, 16 February and 24 May 2023) focused on the use of Earth observations and remote sensing (Section 20).

Target 17.17. Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

180.   A field project "Implementing the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) methodology in Ukraine" developed guidelines on the flexible application of the PIERS methodology for fast-track evaluation/screening of PPP and infrastructure projects, with a focus on the need for attracting investment to support the development and reconstruction of infrastructure across the country, and how the PIERS can support PPP and infrastructure investment. A training seminar

"Practical tools for aligning PPP and infrastructure projects in the post-war recovery and reconstruction in Ukraine with the SDGs" (online, 12 December 2023) discussed the evaluation of pilot reconstruction projects in Ukraine and familiarized government officials in Ukraine with the practical implementation of the UNECE "PPP for the SDGs" approach and the PIERS methodology. Additionally, evaluations of two pilot reconstruction projects (The First and Container Terminals in the Chornomorsk Seaport and New Multidisciplinary Hospital in Zhytomyr) in Ukraine were conducted (Sections 20, 23).

181.   The 7th UNECE International Public-Private Partnerships Forum (Athens, Greece, 03-05 May 2023) addressed several current and emerging challenges and opportunities at global, national and city levels, focusing principally on the important nexus of green and digital transformations in PPP and infrastructure projects that contribute to the SDGs. The Forum also highlighted how ongoing global challenges could be addressed through PPPs for the achievement of SDGs in areas such as sustainable PPPs for disaster reconstruction and economic recovery, transition to a circular economy, green PPP procurement, and women's empowerment (Section 20).

Target 17.18. By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Target 17.19. by 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

182.   Within the framework of the project "Supporting CIS countries to provide high quality statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs" (2019-2025), an expert forum for producers and users of Climate Change-related Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland, 28-30 August 2023) provided a platform for dialogue between producers and users of climate change-related statistics from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. The event facilitated the exchange of knowledge and experiences in developing new climate change-related statistics and enhancing the utility of existing data. It showcased good practices in the production, dissemination, and usage of climate change-related statistics. The forum also reviewed and provided feedback on the draft "Guidance on the Role of National Statistical Offices in Achieving National Climate Objectives", supported the implementation of the CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics (2014), and the CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (2020). Furthermore, it identified priorities for future work and provided input to the draft guidance on enhancing the role of national statistical offices in meeting national climate goals (Section 20).

183.   A seminar on the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) (Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 March 2023) improved knowledge of the UNECE member States on the production and use of environmental-economic accounts for informing important policy areas such as the circular economy, biodiversity or climate change mitigation and adaptation. Participants were from 41 countries, including experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The seminar highlighted the importance of implementing SEEA and using it more for informing national, regional and global policy makers. It also provided a unique tool for responding to complex policy questions on the interface between the economy and the environment (Section 20).

184.   A webinar on Administrative Microdata for Climate Change, Energy and Environment Statistics (online, 30 March 2023) provided a platform for national experts from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to share experience and knowledge about the availability and use of environment-related administrative microdata, such as utility meter data, building energy performance certificates or vehicle tests data in energy, climate

change and environment domains, and identified next steps to support countries to improve their climate, energy and environment statistics through the use of administrative microdata (Section 20).

185.	A workshop on Gender Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland, 09 May 2023) discussed gender and trade statistics as well as measuring violence against women, targeting experts dealing with gender statistics in national statistical offices (NSOs) of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshop reviewed results from the UNECE survey on data availability and use for gender-in-trade statistics, which revealed important data gaps as well as the potential of filling the gaps. Pilot studies from Georgia and Kazakhstan were used to demonstrate how to produce policy-relevant statistics on gender-in-trade statistics using existing sources. The session on violence against women reviewed lessons from recent specialized surveys and proposed ways to improve survey tools to better capture data on marginalized groups more likely to be victims of violence. Participants identified the needs for further conceptual work on measuring technology-facilitated violence against women (Section 20).

186.	The Machine Learning for Official Statistics Workshop 2023 (Geneva, Switzerland, 05-07 June 2023) brought together experts from national and international statistical organisations in the UNECE region who are using machine learning to improve the quality of official statistics. The workshop shared new developments in the field and discussed issues and challenges (Section 20).

187.	The Workshop on the Generic Law of Official Statistics (GLOS) (Yerevan, Armenia, 04-05 July 2023) shared the national experiences of using the law, gathered input on needed updates or extensions to existing guidance, and initiated a review process among representatives of national statistical offices who used or implemented the law (Sections 20, 23).

188.	A workshop on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland, 18-19 September 2023) allowed national stakeholders from the UNECE member States to share and learn from each other's experiences in dissemination and communication during their 2020 round censuses. The workshop featured in-depth case studies from several countries, explored potential partnerships with the private sector for technological solutions to improve data dissemination, and included a practical activity to better understand users' perspectives on census data dissemination tools (Section 20).

189.	The Financial Accounts Workshop (Brussels, Belgium, 09-11 October 2023) served as a forum for sharing insights into compiling financial accounts and supporting early development stages. The workshop was primarily targeted to countries that participated in the inaugural workshop in November 2022, namely Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. This workshop reviewed key takeaways from the previous workshop, and facilitated discussions on financial accounts and monetary data, who-to-whom matrices, and issues concerning both financial and non-financial corporations, as well as household sectors. The workshop helped countries initiate or enhance their efforts in compiling financial accounts and balance sheets. Feedback from attendees underscored the workshop's usefulness, with a request for a follow-up workshop focusing on practical examples and exercises (Section 20).

190.	The High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) Workshop (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 November 2023) provided a platform for the broad official statistics community to share ongoing initiatives related to modernization and innovation, thus creating synergies among the organizations and opportunities for further collaboration, which will further enrich the work programme of HLG-MOS (Section 20).

191.	A workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to Measure SDG 1 and 10 (Geneva, Switzerland, 27 November 2023) focused on modern methods of poverty analysis, including measuring non-monetary dimensions such as insecurity, malnutrition, poor quality of health and education services, and pollution's effects on living standards. Participants discussed how to meet policymakers' demands for more granular data on poverty at the household level and information on households' growing needs in education, employment, social interaction, environment, and health. The meeting recommended

continued efforts in harmonizing and enhancing traditional household surveys and developing new tools, such as rapid and high-frequency surveys targeting vulnerable populations, to address the timeliness gap in producing poverty measures (Section 20).

192.   A side event at COP28 "Enabling climate action through data, transparency and finance" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 05 December 2023) spotlighted current advancements in climate data, finance, and transparency, including loss and damage data, modelling applications, and the Enhanced Transparency Framework. It emphasized the need for high-quality statistics and data to support reporting, policymaking, and public awareness. Additionally, the event explored the use of new technologies and transparency frameworks to unlock climate finance (Section 20).

193.   A Workshop on Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Data (Belgrade, Serbia, 04-05 October 2023) aimed to strengthen the links between statistical and geospatial communities across the UNECE region. It promoted greater integration of geospatial and statistical information by fostering institutional partnerships and using common standards. The workshop focused on sharing innovative practices and lessons learned, fostering collaboration between national statistical and geospatial agencies, and promoting international cooperation. It also identified areas for future work to enhance the integration of geospatial and statistical data (Section 20).

194.   The High-Level Seminar "Modernization of statistical systems on Capacity Development for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia" (Riga, Latvia, 26-28 September 2023) discussed strategic developments at ministerial level for the coming years with a special focus on Modernization of Statistics. It facilitated a good understanding of recent, ongoing and planned activities in the area of modernizing statistics among the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (Sections 20, 23).

195.   Using the UNECE methodology, a UNECE-led team of international experts assessed the National Statistical Systems of Georgia and Kazakhstan in 2023. National Statistical Offices, National Banks and other producers of Official Statistics such as various ministries, were assessed on their compliance with internationally agreed methodologies, international quality frameworks and adequacy of resources. Not only the production side was evaluated, representatives from user groups such as major national news outlets, academics and policy makers were interviewed to assess the usefulness and the support provided to users of official statistics. The outcome in both cases was largely positive. It led to 78 new recommendations for Kazakhstan and 105 for Georgia. These new recommendations were subsequently used to prepare the development plans for the national statistical system in both countries. They also served as a guide for multilateral and bilateral assistance (Sections 20, 23).

196.   A Conference "Managing a statistical organization in times of change" for Chief Statisticians (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 05-07 December 2023) was organized for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to facilitate a strategic discussion on data governance, partnerships and user engagement, innovative data sources, and quality management. The conference enabled participants to identify strategic areas requiring further investment, including the monitoring of SDGs (Sections 20, 23, 35).

IV.   REPORTING ON REGULAR BUDGET (SECTIONS 23, 35) & EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDING

197.   Total extrabudgetary contributions to UNECE increased by US$7,583,658 (41.9%), totalling US$25,679,206 in 2023. UNECE member States remained the largest contributors to UNECE technical cooperation activities, providing 63.1% of the total extrabudgetary resources. The top ten bilateral donors (Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Finland, Norway, Austria) accounted for 82.2% of all voluntary contributions from the UNECE member States. Germany, Switzerland, and Italy were the largest donor countries, providing US$6,580,695, US$2,304,105 and US$916,334 in 2023 respectively. Intergovernmental and non-governmental

organizations contributed 18.8% of all extrabudgetary resources, the European Union provided 16.4%, and the rest 1.7% was from the private sector (Graph 3).

198.   Compared to 2022, contributions from the member States increased by 71.5% (from US$ 9,442,559 in 2022 to US$16,198,115 in 2023). The contribution from the European Union decreased slightly from US$4,278,912 in 2022 to US$4,220,318 in 2023. Contributions from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations increased by 10.4% (Graph 4 and 5).

199.   In 2023, total extrabudgetary, Section 23 and Section 35 expenditures were US$25,491,771. Extrabudgetary expenditures amounted to US$21,486,899 being 84.3% of total expenditures in 2023. The remaining expenditures for technical cooperation included regular budget expenditures from the Regular programme on technical cooperation – Section 23 (RPTC) (9.9%) and the UN Development Account – Section 35 (UNDA) (5.8%) (Graph 6).

200.   The Environment subprogramme accounted for the largest share (54.6%) of the UNECE extrabudgetary expenditures. The share of other subprogrammes was as follows: Executive Direction and Management (12.5%), Transport (10.8%), Sustainable energy (6.8%), Economic cooperation and integration (5.1%), Housing, land management and population (4.0%), Trade (2.8%), Statistics (1.9%), and Forests and the forest industry (1.5%) (Graph 7).

201.   Expenditures from RPTC resources amounted to US$2,533,089 in 2023. These resources were used as follows: Statistics (17.7%), Sustainable energy (15.7%), Transport (15.5%), Environment (14.6%), Trade (13.1%), Forests and the forest industry (10.3%), Executive Direction and Management (6.7%), Economic cooperation and integration (2.7%), Housing, land management (2.4%), and Population (1.4%) (Graph 8).

202.   Expenditures from the United Nations Development Account amounted to US$1,471,782. The share of expenditures from UNDA by subprogramme was as follows: Economic cooperation and integration (29.8%), Transport (15.9%), Sustainable energy (14.7%), Statistics (12.0%), Trade (11.0%), Housing, land management and population (6.5%), Forests and the forest industry (5.4%), and Environment (4.6%) (Graph 9).
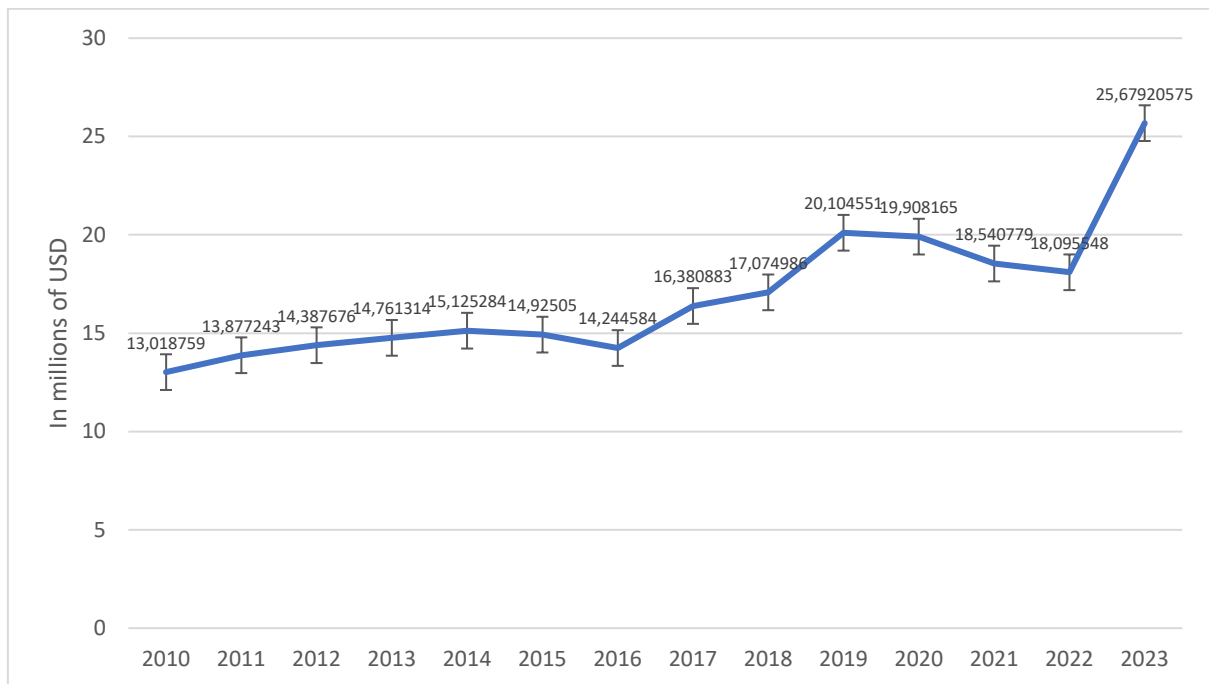
V. ANNEXES

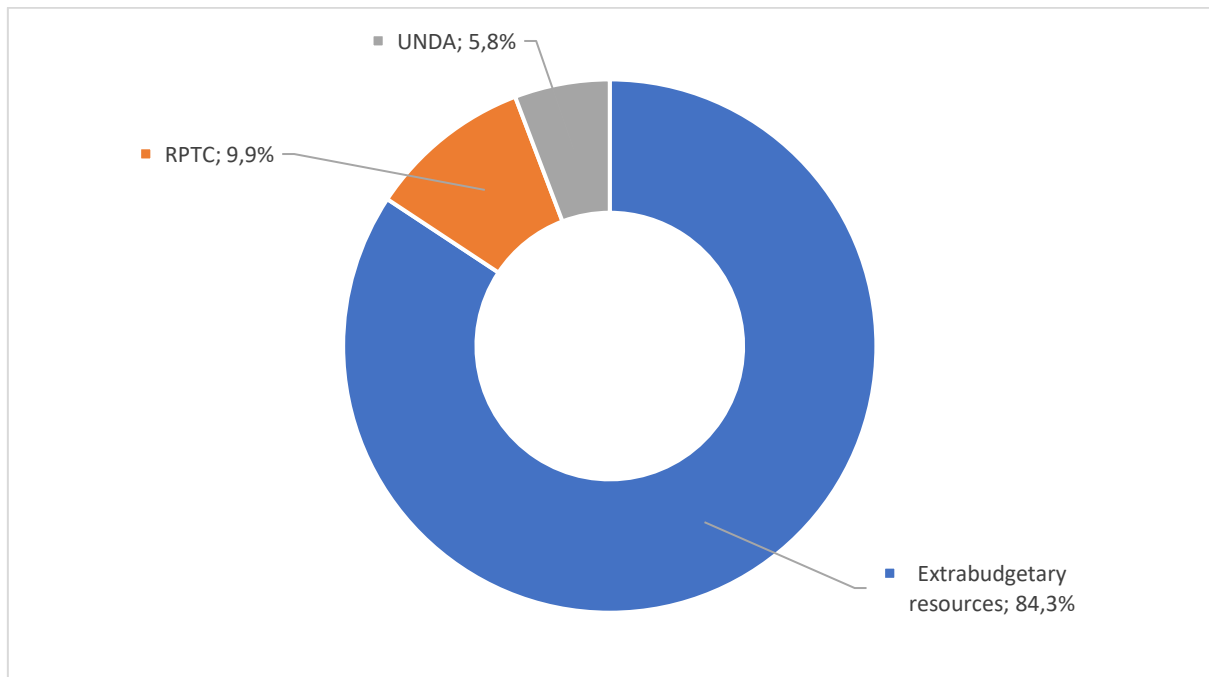*Graph 3. Extrabudgetary contribution by source, 2023*
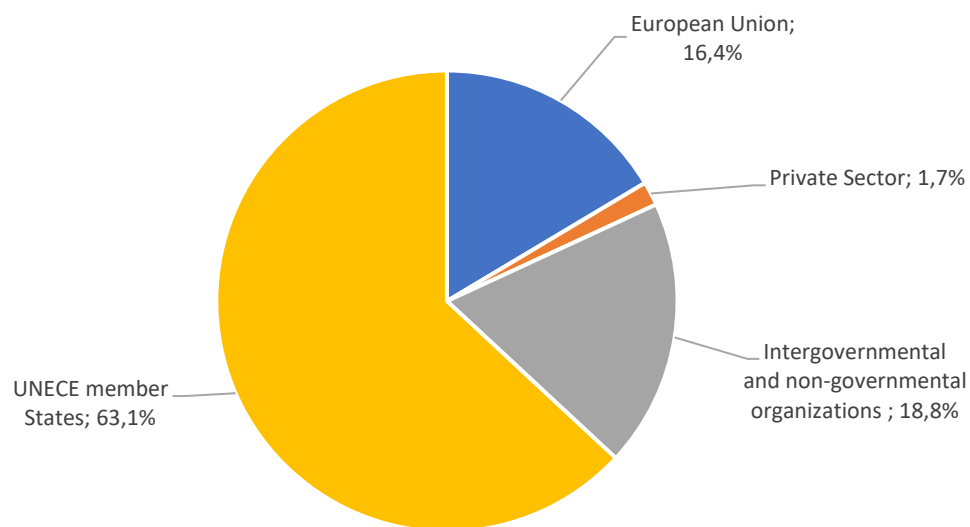
Graph 4. Trend in extrabudgetary contributions by source from 2010 to 2023
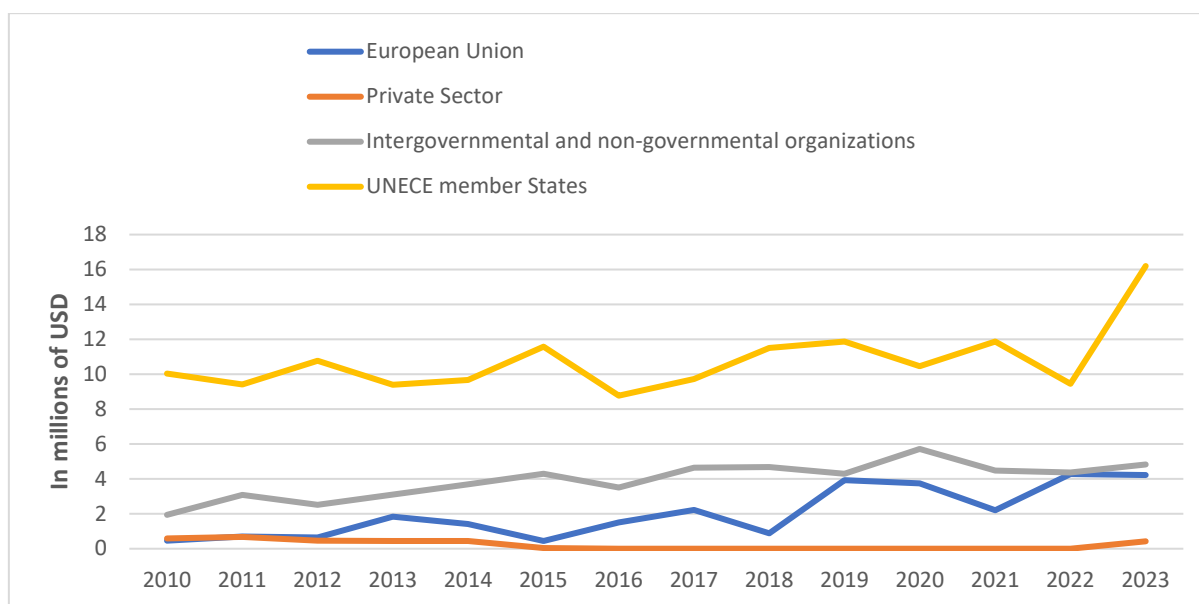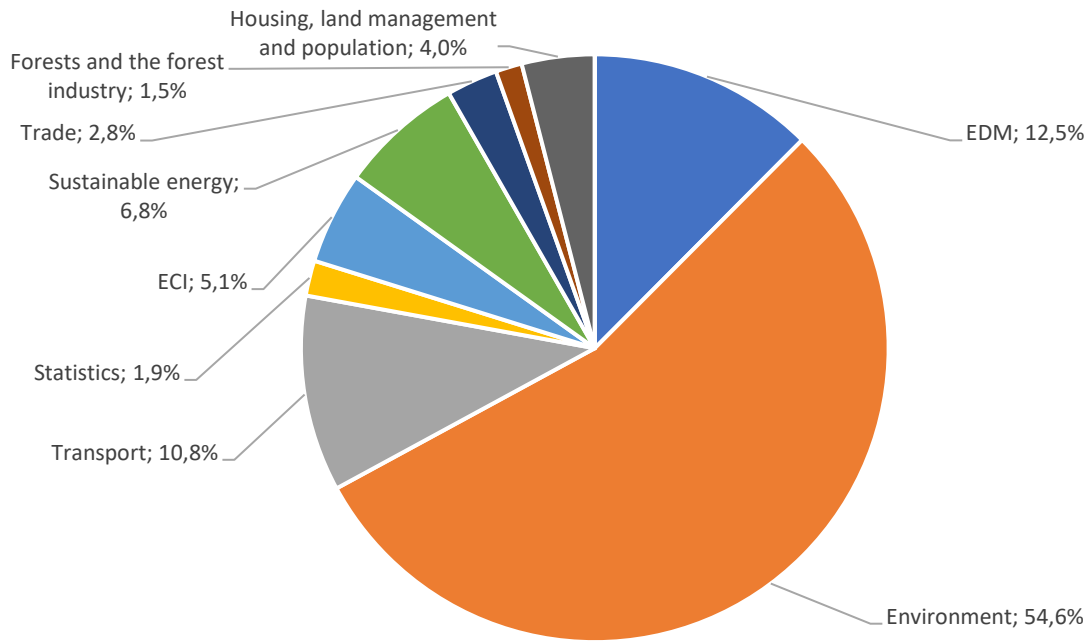
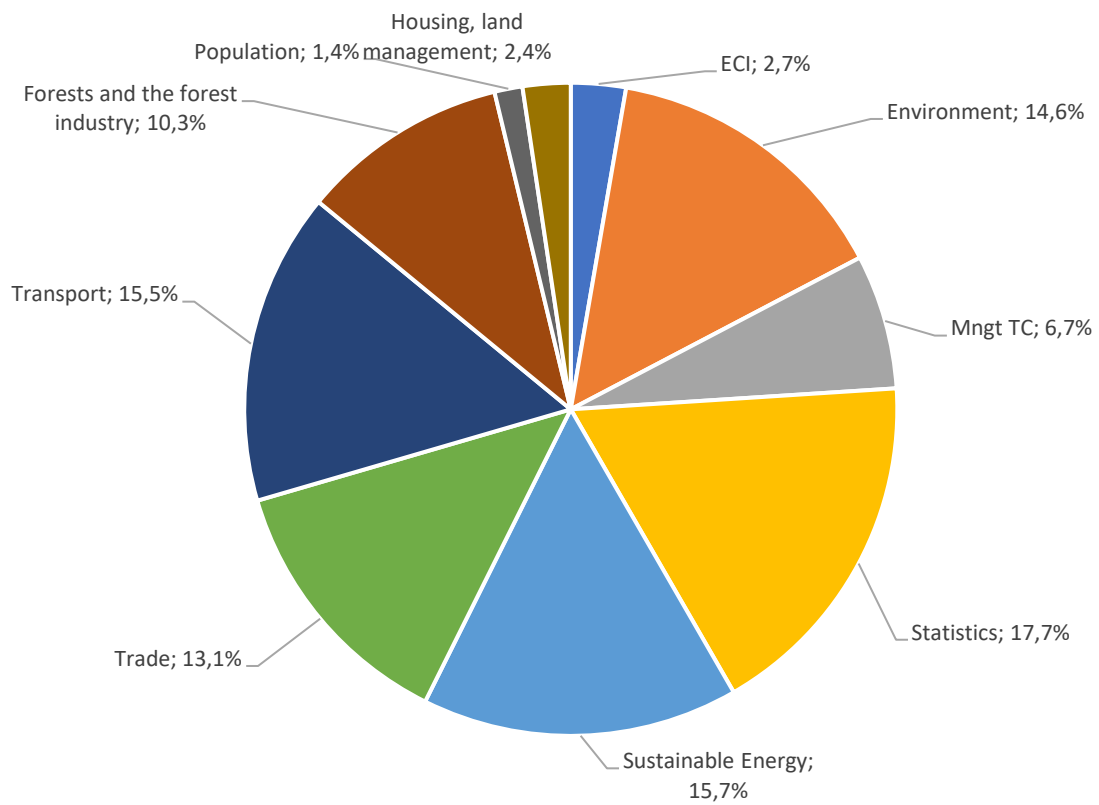*Graph 5. General trend in extrabudgetary contributions, from 2010 to 2023*

*Graph 6. Expenditures by source, 2023*

Graph 7. Expenditures under extrabudgetary resources, 2023

Housing, land management and population; 4,0%

Forests and the forest industry; 1,5%

Trade; 2,8%

Sustainable energy; 6,8%

ECI; 5,1%

Statistics; 1,9%

Transport; 10,8%

EDM; 12,5%

Environment; 54,6%

Graph 8. Expenditures under RPTC by use, 2023

Population; 1,4%

Housing, land management; 2,4%

Forests and the forest industry; 10,3%

Transport; 15,5%

Trade; 13,1%

Sustainable Energy; 15,7%

ECI; 2,7%

Environment; 14,6%

Mngt TC; 6,7%

Statistics; 17,7%

Graph 9. Expenditures under the UNDA by use, 2023

Housing, land management and population; 6,5%

Environment; 4,6%

Forests and the forest industry; 5,4%

Transport; 15,9%

Trade; 11,0%

Statistics; 12,0%

Sustainable energy; 14,7%

ECI; 29,8%
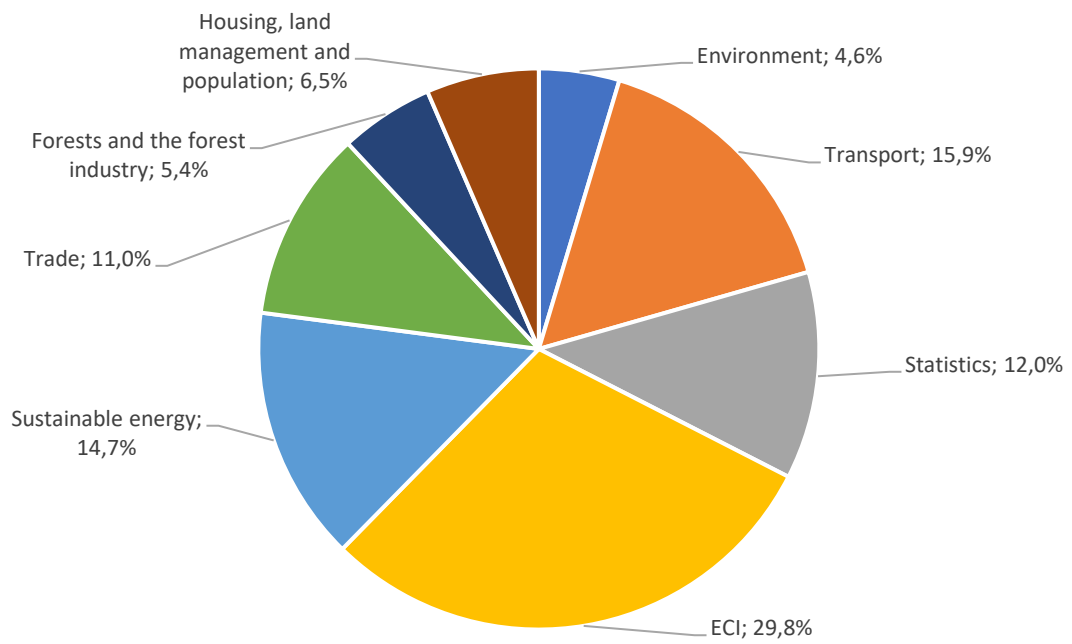
Extrabudgetary contributions (by donor & by year) (in US$)

Donor Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Albania	780	429	4,429	6,433	19,583	14,871	11,055	2,952	7,768	12,020	1,963	9,017	6,530	12,530
Andorra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,142	0
Armenia	18,798	20,721	21,491	20,491	11,844	30,844	18,344	17,500	17,500	19,832	7,920	30,978	8,760	28,960
Australia	0	0	485,900	0	29,900	75,000	37,140	73,923	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	115,653	180,819	205,249	227,700	218,447	238,318	202,496	228,782	216,091	237,949.66	228,883	316,705	322,919	320,370.4
Azerbaijan	244	572	572	572	6,024	4,024	2,024	5,673	3,380	3,380	5,943	2,972	7,125	5,402
Belarus	2,345	3,702	3,940	3,702	6,262	6,462	6,462	7,123	7,123	7,123	6,693	6,975	6,475	0
Belgium	164,964	182,820	121,467	137,578	147,436	122,570	142,898	110,464	178,407	118,538.75	188,702	158,860	89,853	156,507.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10,613	21,300	620	42,039	11,811	24,691	24,011	25,732	13,552	26,232	10,721	28,180	10,790	33,580
Bulgaria	52,003	33,040	56,540	36,946	43,546	28,813	37,284	29,429	37,547	27,609	21,357	28,376	37,858	34,016.28
Canada	38,899	78,047	8,792	29,567	40,418	192,639	51,560	40,000	0	35,000	38,661	7,974	38,564	18,170.77
Croatia	63,832	94,876	41,464	39,423	48,114	47,455	45,061	43,307	43,669	45,498.11	38,440	39,105	38,766	59,603.22
Cyprus	12,668	12,910	5,551	5,205	4,620	2,620	2,620	25,199	22,786	27,984.07	166,334	52,215	122,046	53,149.98
Czech Republic	150,778	108,164	122,140	96,320	116,930	117,814	115,290	143,517	108,041	107,693.42	129,599	109,189	129,775	111,161.13
Denmark	88,239	175,092	116,862	124,784	110,331	174,444	83,070	191,579	166,474	83,565.37	82,061	120,560	117,897	210,080.74
Estonia	7,051	7,368	41,570	28,605	11,307	17,717	9,322	14,057	14,932	22,319.46	7,090	140,006	67,826	26,749.88
Finland	1,263,169	1,026,351	765,936	336,895	573,739	667,963	727,086	312,531	383,124	383,411	396,507	343,042	330,250	370,920.18
France	1,225,261	735,322	1,258,254	737,754	737,805	701,444	607,201	744,992	896,953	899,094.28	696,794	788,920	709,117	736,635.13
Georgia	659	524	988	489	1,734	2,234	1,934	2,652	2,652	2,872.02	2,711	2,996	3,257	4,292.59
Germany	1,109,360	1,040,175	987,760	1,259,862	1,024,156	1,021,790	726,544	828,131	1,356,645	1,195,048.23	1,283,839	2,372,947	1,527,679	6,580,695.05
Gibraltar [2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	668	0	0
Greece	20,000	0	0	115,580	0	1,096	1,062	112,590	31,473	58,460.00	24,270	24,270	25,165	30,639.44
Hungary	55,632	24,000	60,019	72,811	48,268	138,996	43,439	57,463	29,178	55,887.52	59,737	70,976	74,809	85,960.79
Iceland	1,804	0	2,051	2,361	4,316	1,480	2,836	2,772	1,500	2,792.00	3,202	3,343	1,843	3000
Ireland	65,759	77,513	60,675	65,118	54,509	53,192	53,163	49,105	48,727	70,396.73	70,735	153,490	137,298	211,718.90
Israel	15,000	15,000	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	500,636	488,393	574,648	389,748	492,895	620,853	615,748	472,527	941,574	714,143.63	537,150	485,185	583,197	916,334.11
Kazakhstan	119,276	23,957	39,944	59,945	20,960	20,985	16,000	26,742	212,542	105,742	86,677	107,700	43,715	61,110.00
Kyrgyzstan	0	500	648	0	2,044	0	1,478	858	0	1,966	0	0	0	1000
Latvia	5,816	6,059	7,647	7,874	8,360	4,258	7,618	6,285	7,492	6,248.11	11,429	7,451	7,189	6,180.45
Liechtenstein	1,551	500	899	470	1,351	970	500	452	860	817	600	592	592	3170
Lithuania	23,171	26,511	34,303	29,211	35,707	36,296	29,378	40,053	27,219	26,017.00	39,566	18,065	22,519	28,271.49
Luxembourg	22,565	4,909	0	11,554	17,989	14,300	19,773	23,016	22,850	36,555	39,038	71,407	77,092	483,780.82
Malta	1,000	892	0	1,890	0	0	0	1,990	9,354	2,290	4,430	6,127	4,249	8,856.19
Monaco	306	294	303	303	839	670	1,273	1,180	1,180	1,180	1,391	1,454	1,454	1483
Montenegro	224	0	0	426	2,184	512	1,999	1,793	7,568	12,518.86	6,307	1,511	3,342	6,336.6
Netherlands	502,642	647,297	468,830	467,561	448,258	592,273	566,679	617,236	672,604	679,248.03	615,356	878,661	845,363	844,965.79
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	35,000	35,000	36,154	0	0	31,530	0	0	0
North Macedonia	0	0	0	310	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,784	4,770	1,961	6,530
Norway	788,396	1,086,833	947,150	1,055,268	822,414	744,079	748,404	766,852	865,375	936,606.49	569,815	398,484	363,163	356,220.81
Poland	73,337	122,925	115,189	154,267	152,787	143,155	141,954	117,146	140,969	140,702.76	217,697	162,071	141,462	101,967.49
Portugal	31,096	63,521	25,483	26,990	107,370	1,467	990	14,881	1,044	89,216.01	81,464	103,987	69,068	143,623.64
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	0	30,209	30,000	27,000	0	30,000	30,000.00	35,000	33,736	30,546	29,750
Republic of Moldova	4,861	596	310	3,135	1,000	2,209	2,000	1,465	1,215	0	5,000	0	900	3,542.00
Romania	17,500	27,500	17,500	26,383	24,507	55,476	70,571	36,274	35,829	66,397.47	69,420	17,603	56,606	85,718
Russian Federation	1,274,242	1,268,192	1,488,130	1,278,120	1,545,780	1,645,780	1,345,750	1,401,660	1,401,660	1,401,660	1,369,460	1,369,460	10,000	10,000
San Marino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	109,413	81,494.53

[2] A/AC.109/2021/8

Serbia	6,090	17,041	11,000	18,142	16,124	14,624	21,664	19,768	33,317	135,922.69	28,182	40,130	30,732	40,584.69
Slovak Republic	24,137	24,196	14,234	26,810	21,089	49,591	30,621	10,810	34,797	23,240.97	47,329	37,493	32,988	42,660.76
Slovenia	36,575	50,409	25,407	37,347	30,475	57,566	102,425	60,509	55,279	23,837.04	99,353	104,494	108,742	74,755.37
Spain	184,757	168,607	168,130	168,090	165,570	168,818	168,804	163,422	167,958	162,520.36	148,425	182,007	172,675	180,627.54
Sweden	270,737	198,406	650,400	188,446	159,659	343,156	101,760	214,191	886,476	899,117.39	865,514	922,061	307,732	302,305.32
Switzerland	1,148,693	813,605	1,315,726	1,544,313	1,786,168	1,781,444	1,853,617	1,640,695	1,908,794	2,396,160.69	1,694,931	1,566,218	2,011,922	2,304,105.01
Tajikistan	200	200	200	200	0	0	175	500	500	500	0	500	500	0
Türkiye	40,375	52,735	52,760	52,750	93,960	161,114	158,614	137,920	73,180	137,920	25,000	191,800	107,730	206,800
Turkmenistan	400	0	0	1,050	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	14,458	12,196	15,898	6,002	0	42,032	27,546	18,181	12,181	21,181	0	7,204	15,531	0
United Kingdom	438,467	456,326	397,004	441,219	334,942	288,380	288,380	370,034	369,034	364,822	349,322	335,568	457,935	402,296.76
United States of America	17,000	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0	449,500	0	0	0	0	0	349,500
African Development Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian Development Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
ASTM International	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	0	0
Ax Son Johnson Foundation	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Sea Economic Cooperation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79,665	0	0	0	0	0
City University of Hong Kong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179,171	0	178,970.92	0	0	0	0
European Union	458,275	692,592	639,278	1,832,407	1,416,794	363,478	3,009,043	4,230,935	891,024	3,935,632	3,735,123	2,206,479	4,278,912	4,220,318.35
Eurasian Development Bank	0	135,200	50,000	166,900	6,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Environmental Agency	0	157,500	181,769	0	151,101	100,000	0	208,075	0	44,247.79	0	0	0	0
European Investment Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	7,964	0	0	0	0
European Real Estate Institute (EREI)	0	0	0	0	4,013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FIA Foundation	0	0	0	0	0	843,645	845,547	901,442	874,126	825,082.22	882,353	0	747,757	802,997.86
Global Water Partnership Mediterranean	0	0	0	0	0	0	174,251	188,702	0	255,724.18	84,895	49,717	0	0
World Bank	321,000	213,000	71,000	0	45,000	0	0	231,868	101,067	267,136	91,892	0	122,242	97,650
IBGE Institue Bruxellois pour la Gestion de l'Environnement	0	0	0	0	0	2,308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	10,000.00	20,000	0	10,000	0
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	0	0
International Ground Water Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) Netherlands	0	0	0	0	1,651	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Road Transport Union (IRTU)	959,000	1,473,937	1,029,762	1,042,946	1,488,984	1,646,462	1,090,822	1,858,056	1,496,294	1,408,488	1,336,964	1,724,840	1,413,169	1,822,752
Islamic Development Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168,000	0	0	48,750	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Union for Conversation of Nature (IUCN)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99,000	13,936	0	0	0	0	0
JFEJI-CICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,389	0	0	0	0	0
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	269,906	591,327	549,631	1,026,445	1,468,114	670,808	658,510	195,913	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	0	0	0	283,368	41,603	69,743	124,503	0	0	0	92,523	0	0	0
OIER Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,091	0	0	0	0	0
Tsinghua University	0	0	0	0	0	0	178,771	0	0	150,180.89	0	78,924	0	0
University of Geneva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,856	15,707	0	0	0	0	0
AFRIQUIA GAZ	0	0	0	13,613	14,227	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank of International Settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botas A.S. (Türkiye)	14,035	0	25,839	14,111	14,227	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CEPI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDF FRANCE	32,059	35,714	32,298	35,278	35,763	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

EFTA European Free Trade Association	0	0	0	0	5,777	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EGAS - EGYPTIAN NATURAL GAS	12,698	14,648	12,745	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essent N.V. (Netherlands)	28,070	29,296	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESSILORLUXOTICA SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106,723.59
Europaforum Wien	0	26,667	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Business Congress (EBC)	126,050	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAIL (India) Limited	0	0	0	0	35,808	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GasTerra B.V. (Netherlands)	36,415	17,711	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAS NATURAL FENOSA SDG, Barcelona, Spain	16,030	35,422	34,853	35,278	35,278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAZ DE FRANCE	69,577	111,588	34,076	34,031	35,568	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAZPROM	34,993	35,422	34,076	35,278	35,568	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geoplin	14,566	14,169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HELVETAS	0	0	30,654	0	61,247	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INA - Industrija Nafte (Croatia)	0	29,121	13,941	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JSC KazMunaiGas Exploration Production-KazMunayGas	0	0	0	33,206	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOL Hungary	14,035	14,286	13,941	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Moldovagaz	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAFTOGAZ OF UKRAINE	14,035	14,169	13,775	13,559	14,305	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Grid Company Plc (UK)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OMV Gas Gmbh (Austria)	26,364	28,338	27,261	56,483	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physikalish Tech Metrologieinstitut (PTB)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	127,500	400,000	0	0	0
Plinacro Ltd, Croatia	0	0	13,630	13,282	14,207	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plinovodi D.O.O. Slovenia	0	0	13,630	13,613	14,227	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polish Oil & Gas Company	14,035	14,286	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Donation (Gas Centre)	42,622	164,379	52,120	52,120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanofi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	268,240.34
Shell Energy Europe (Netherlands)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.N.G.N. ROMGAZ SA	14,035	14,169	13,941	13,282	14,227	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Socar- State Oil Company Of Azerbaijan Republic	0	18,598	34,853	33,202	35,760	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SONATRACH	20,951	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Srbijagas (Serbia)	14,035	14,648	13,049	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statoil (Norway)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEG (Tunisia)	13,999	14,835	13,901	13,282	14,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWISSGAS	29,132	28,338	27,882	28,223	28,454	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S&P Global Inc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55,600
Toyo University	0	0	0	0	27,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Institute of French International Legal Experts (IFEJI) & The Confederation	0	0	0	0	0	43,293	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States Energy Association (USEA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	348,937	0	0
Wintershall Holding AG (Germany)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beijing Sindicatum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148,868	0
World Nuclear Association	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	198,786	170,000	0
UNDP	0	112,000	90,000	219,567	451,644	493,698	584,644	421,482	1,545,693	55,000	0	3,000	
UNDP MPTF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,532,761	1,622,768	1,350,800	1,778,630
UNEP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
UNESCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33,000	22,000	5,000	2,000	
UN Foundation	323,823	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNFPA	67,000	96,000	187,195	346,065	20,844	140,130	112,350	59,706	114,490	0	0	2,260	0
UNOPS	0	313,538	353,564	17,717	0	0	57,613	146,669	113,348	191,761	112,062	69,801	179,785
ONE UN Albania	0	0	0	0	0	49,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNIDO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	569,719.79	881,433	537,335	427,808	148,393.56
FAO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0
ILO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0
IOM-Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0

ITU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	ITU	0
UN Women	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	0		0
UNHCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0		0
UNICEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	0		0
WHO Regional Office for Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0		0
WMO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000		0
JOINT SDG FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240,500		0
Grand Total	**13,018,759**	**13,877,243**	**14,387,676**	**14,761,314**	**15,125,284**	**14,925,050**	**14,244,584**	**16,380,883**	**17,074,988**	**20,104,551**	**19,908,165**	**18,540,779**	**18,095,548**		**25,679,206**

UNECE extrabudgetary active trust funds, 2023

Title of the project	Project ID	Expenditures (US$)
UN Edifact	956I-ECE	2,553
Implementing UN Development System Reform: Strengthening communication, information dissemination and knowledge management of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) for Europe and Centra Asia	ECE-E376	2,992
Road Safety Phase VII	ECE-E385	1,082,685
Secretariat to the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund (Phase 4)	ECE-E407	1,430,626
Towards 2030: Strengthening mechanisms for peer learning and policy exchange on sustainable development in the UNECE region (RFSD 2023)	ECE-E412	102,345
Increasing Awareness for Road Safety	ECE-E413	57,723
Project title: Building a road safety culture among private sector	ECE-E426	486
Aarhus Convention	ECE-E104	1,709,586
Industrial Accidents Convention	ECE-E106	643,303
To strengthen the implementation and ratification of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and its protocols in countries of Eastern, South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE-E112	387,235
ESPOO Convention	ECE-E115	398,976
The PEP	ECE-E126	51,888
Water Convention	ECE-E133	2,061,429
Protocol on Water and Health	ECE-E150	418,675
Environmental Performance Review	ECE-E205	348,731
Mobile sources of Air Pollution (CLRTAP-LPA)	LPA-E907	96,574
Financing of the Implementation of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution	LRA-E908	1,890,716
Voluntary Contribution towards funding of effect-oriented activities under the Air Convention	LUA-E910	772,090
Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA)	ECE-E280	36,135
Enhancing strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environment impact assessment in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	ECE-E311	534,689
EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia (2019-2022)	ECE-E341	115,128
Environment for Europe	ECE-E342	17,586
Support to the implementation of the UNECE Air Convention in the EECCA region – phase III	ECE-E380	231,737
Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health	ECE-E381	0
EU4Environment in Eastern Partnership countries – Water Resources and Environmental Data by UNECE	ECE-E393	743,894
UN-Water Inter-Agency Cooperation	ECE-E394	121,151
Increasing awareness and accession to the Water Convention	ECE-E397	944,363
Strengthening the capacity of UNECE member States in the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development (ensuite of E285)	ECE-E403	211,247
Trans-European Motorway	ECE-E206	40,013
Trans-European Railway	ECE-E208	66,291
Transport International Routier (TIR)	ECE-E211	1,521,839
Enhancing Regional Transport Infrastructure Connectivity and Establishment of a Transport Geographical Information System (GIS) Database	ECE-E272	19,769
Facilitate and support the full computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR)	ECE-E296	233,259
Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to develop sustainable urban mobility policy on car-sharing and car-pooling initiatives	ECE-E324	89,946
Raising awareness on adaptation of transport infrastructure to changing climate and design and implementation of effective adaptation measure	ECE-E343	714
Safer and cleaner used vehicles for Africa	ECE-E358	8,541
Enhanced adaptation of transport systems to climate change	ECE-E367	54,108
Improving the knowledge and increasing uptake of CTU Code	ECE-E377	68,015
Building resilient, climate adaptive and economically viable transport infrastructure networks	ECE-E387	86,162
Safe helmets for Rwanda: building institutional capacity to support local manufacturing of helmets	ECE-E389	657
Promoting a better understanding of trends and developments surrounding Electrical Vehicles and their charging infrastructure through capacity-building and the development of knowledge products	ECE-E408	50,668
Building resilient, climate adaptive and economically viable transport infrastructure networks – Phase II	ECE-E409	19,207
Safer and Cleaner Used Vehicles for Africa and Asia (Phase 2)	ECE-E418	18,931
Motorcycle Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) Advocacy Campaign in the ASEAN countries	ECE-E419	40,653
Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 SNA	ECE-E264	225,237
Strengthening statistical capacity of the CIS countries for providing high quality statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs	ECE-E326	42,175
Modernising Statistical Production Phase 3	ECE-E331	119,756
Supporting the integration of geospatial and statistical data across the UNECE region	ECE-E399	28,991
International Centre of Excellence on PPPs: development and implementation of PPP standards and recommendations	ECE-E267	196,717
Promoting innovation policy capacities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	ECE-E317	354,007
Reinforcing the innovation ecosystem in the UNECE region to promote innovation and digital technologies for sustainable development and for the circular economy transition	ECE-E388	542,426
Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane - Phase II	ECE-E276	335
Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050	ECE-E355	34,604
Implementation of the UNFC and UNRMS	ECE-E357	872,811
Sustainable hydrogen production in the UNECE region and its role in the development of a hydrogen ecosystem and export potential	ECE-E382	149,969
Improving national capacity on renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) technologies for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and households in North Macedonia (UNECE component of Green Finance Facility to improve air quality and combat climate change in North Macedonia project)	ECE-E398	44,065
Strengthening Georgia's food and energy resilience (UNECE component of the Joint SDG Fund Development Emergency Modality – Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance project in Georgia)	ECE-E404	7,851
Addressing the compounded food and energy crisis in Ukraine through innovative technologies and adaptive agricultural practices (UNECE component of the Joint SDG Fund Development Emergency Modality – Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance project in Ukraine)	ECE-E406	43,436
Preparation Phase of the project "Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high-performance buildings	ECE-E410	271,770

Energy Connectivity in Central Asia	ECE-E420	17,746
Strengthening national capacities to reduce coal mine methane emissions from active (CMM) and abandoned (AMM) coal mines and to measure and manage methane emissions across the natural gas value chain	ECE-E424	23,991
Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system	ECE-E293	31,939
Enhancing transparency and traceability for more sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector	ECE-E320	354,650
Strengthening the capacity of the SPECA to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through subregional cooperation	ECE-E333	11,232
Enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through strategic cooperation among the SPECA participating States	ECE-E360	113,314
Fostering Resilient, Diversified and Sustainable Value Chains in the Eurasian Region after COVID-19	ECE-E378	93,588
Building Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Trade in the SPECA subregion	ECE-E379	0
Strengthening national capacities of the UNECE member States for the implementation of the Roveniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (RAP)	ECE-E260	861
Long-term European Timber Trends and Prospects	ECE-E351	85,440
Assessment of the Forest Damage/Disturbance in the ECE region	ECE-E368	3
Strengthening cooperation and national capacities in selected UNECE countries for sustainable forest management	ECE-E374	145,142
Strengthening communication and outreach on forests, forest products and climate change in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region	ECE-E401	8,931
Improving the collection, processing and dissemination of information on forests and sustainable forest management in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	ECE-E402	29,670
Forests and Forest Knowledge for Resilient, Low-Carbon Urban and Rural Communities	ECE-E416	18,815
Improved communication on the potential of forests in the era of climate change	ECE-E422	23,394
Improved sustainable urban development in 17 Norwegian cities	ECE-E340	608
Improve capacities of UNECE member States in developing evidence-based policy measures to meet their commitments under MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration: Ageing (Phase III)	ECE-E345	173,190
Human Settlements	ECE-E350	36,797
Enhance the capacity of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia in developing and implementing policies and strategies for sustainable housing and sustainable smart cities (Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Housing and Sustainable Smart Cities for the CIS countries)	ECE-E391	7,594
UNECE Ageing Policies Database	ECE-E411	16,815
Forum of Mayors: Strengthening capacities of UNECE member States on sustainable urban development, housing, and land management	ECE-E415	94,640
Enhancing urban planning in the cities of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv in Ukraine by supporting to the implementation of the new master plans and facilitating investments in sustainable urban infrastructure	ECE-E423	531,070

UNECE-led projects funded from the United Nations Development Account

Project title	Sub-programme	Budget (USD)	Target countries	Implementing Partners	Objective
2023N Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA participating States in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	ECI	483,316	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	ESCAP, UNCTAD	Strengthen institutional capacities of the landlocked SPECA participating States to harness innovation as a driver of sustainable growth and regional integration
2023O Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in selected countries in the UNECE Region	Housing, land management and population	465,000	Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro	UN-Habitat	Strengthen capacity of national and local governments to develop and implement coherent policies and approaches for smart sustainable urban development in selected countries in the UNECE region
2124O Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity (trade and transport nexus) in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Western Balkans	Transport	528,000	Western Balkans, Central Asia and the Caucasus with focus on Albania, Georgia and Uzbekistan	UNECE, ITC-ILO	Develop the capacity of member States to implement sustainable mobility and connectivity policies, specifically by increasing the knowledge base and skills of institutional and sectoral stakeholders in relation to UN inland transport and trade legal instruments.
2124N Accelerating the transition towards a Circular Economy in the ECE region	ECI	549,000	Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan	UNECE, UNEP, ESCAP, FAO, UNDP, RCs, UNCTs	Support target countries in accelerating transition to circular economy in traceability of products along international value chains; sustainable public procurement; and the management of waste.
2225M Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa	Environment, Energy, Forests and Forest Industry	700,000	Montenegro, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Algeria, Namibia	ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, UNEP, UNU-INWEH, WHO/ Europe, RCs, UNCTs	Strengthening capacities in target countries in resilient natural resource management using the food-water-energy nexus approach to advance the post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery.
2225N Enhanced capacities of selected countries in the ECE region for pandemic-resilient, sustainable cross-border trade and transport	Trade	430,000	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	ESCAP, RCs, UNCTs, UNCTAD, UNDP	Strengthen and green supply chains and enhance their resilience and inclusivity, based on harmonization and digitization of trade and transport information flows in selected transition economies, using UN standards.
2326N Circular forest product value chains and nature-based solutions in Central Asia and the Caucasus	Forests and Forest Industry	500,000	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Georgia	ESCAP, UNDP, FAO, RCs, UNCTs	Improve knowledge and capacity to advance inclusive and resilient post-pandemic rural development and forest landscape restoration through circular forest product value chains and nature-based solutions in selected countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus.
2326O Equitable access to water and sanitation services for all and in all settings and strengthened climate-resilience in the water and sanitation sector	Environment	500,000	Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Turkmenistan	WHO/ Europe, RCs, UNCTs	Strengthen the capacity of policymakers and water and wastewater operators in target countries in the UNECE region to develop and implement policies and measures aimed at ensuring equitable access to climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services for inclusive COVID-19 recovery and enhanced resilience in the water and sanitation sector.

UNECE-implementing partner projects funded from the United Nations Development Account

Project title	Sub-programme	Budget (USD) UNECE share	Target countries	Partners	Objective
2023D Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies in Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	Statistics	212,800	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cameroon, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Seychelles, Senegal, Zimbabwe	ECA, UNCTAD, UN Women	To develop a coherent approach to measuring the impact of trade on gender equality using official statistics and building on the existing statistical data and capacity of countries
2023P Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda	Housing, land management and population	107,412	Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Jordan, Cambodia, Morocco, Philippines	ECLAC, UN-Habitat, ECA, ESCAP, ESCWA	To support the development of urban policies and action plans in target countries responsive to communicable diseases outbreaks, build future resilience to shocks and stresses, and redesign urban policies and action plans that can capitalize on the lessons learned from the COVID19 crisis
2124A Towards integrated national financing framework	Economic cooperation and integration	229,950	Burkina Faso, Belarus, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Zambia	DESA, UNCTAD, ECLAC, ECA, ESCWA, ESCAP	To support selected countries to mobilize and align financing with national sustainable development priorities, in particular in the context of addressing the significant impacts of COVID-19 on both SDG-related financing needs and on availability of public and private financial resources for such expenditure and investment
2225A Statistics and Data Project - Resilient and agile National Statistical Systems (NSS) to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better	Statistics	320,000	Georgia, Kazakhstan and Moldova (UNECE region)	DESA, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNEP, UNODC, UNCTs	To strengthen the capability of NSS of target countries to collect, process and disseminate data and statistics to inform COVID-19 recovery policy and to enhance the resilience and agility of NSS of target countries to respond to emerging economic, social and environmental data needs in times of crises and disasters through the use of innovative data sources, advanced data acquisition methods and modern technologies, while ensuring a path towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda
2225J Voluntary local reviews: evidence for greener, resilient and sustainable urban recovery in Eastern European and Central Asian countries in transition	Housing, land management and population	90,002	Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Serbia	UN-Habitat, ESCAP, DESA	To advance socio-economic recovery and SDG localization in selected Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries in transition by harnessing the potential of Voluntary Local Reviews
2225Q Strengthening energy policies of Countries with Special Needs to build back better from COVID-19	Sustainable energy	193,625	Armenia, Micronesia, Federated States of, Kiribati, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Maldives, Uzbekistan	ESCAP, ECLAC, DESA	To improve the capacity of policymakers by supporting them to develop SDG 7 roadmaps that enable the delivery of both the sustainable energy transition and the economic recovery from COVID-19