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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Twenty-ninth session

Geneva, 6–8 November 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on
Wednesday, 6 November 2024*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau.
3. Sustainable development in the region.
4. Preparations for the seventy-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe.
5. Follow-up to the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and preparation of the mid-term review of the Conference's main outcomes.
6. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.
7. Environmental performance reviews.
8. Cross-sectoral activities.
9. Regional advisory services and collaboration activities.
10. Multilateral environmental agreements.
11. Strategic foresight.
12. Presentation and exchange of views on the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the online registration form (<https://indico.un.org/event/1007281/>). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the Security and Safety Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>).



13. Annual programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2025 and outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2026.
14. Criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events.
15. Calendar of meetings.
16. Election of officers.
17. Other business.
18. List of decisions.
19. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy will open the twenty-ninth session. The Committee will then be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/2024/1). The provisional time schedule is presented in information paper No. 1.¹

2. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau

2. At its twenty-eighth session (Geneva, 1–3 November 2023), the Committee mandated its Bureau to follow up on the Committee's decisions, including by preparing the documents and reports necessary for the Committee's work at its next session.²

3. During the intersessional period, the Bureau worked by means of electronic consultations and met in Lisbon, on 4–5 June 2024.

4. The Committee will be invited to consider the outcomes of the Bureau's work under the respective agenda items, as presented in document ECE/CEP/2024/3.

3. Sustainable development in the region

5. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the main developments at the regional level regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the key outcomes of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region (Geneva, 13–14 March 2024), submitted as the contribution of the ECE region to the high-level political forum on sustainable development 2024 (New York, 8–17 July 2024).

6. The Committee may wish to consider, as appropriate, the information provided.

4. Preparations for the seventy-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe

7. The Committee will be briefed on the preparatory work for the seventy-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe, to be held in Geneva in 2025.

¹ Information and materials for the meeting are available on a dedicated web page on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/29th-session-committee-environmental-policy>).

² ECE/CEP/2023/2, para. 81.

5. Follow-up to the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and preparation of the mid-term review of the Conference's main outcomes

8. The ministers at the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022) (Nicosia Conference) stated the following in their Declaration:

We will explore the way forward for the pan-European region, including through innovation, nature-based solutions and engagement with the private sector. The future regionwide approach to sustainable infrastructure should provide the basis for common goals, targets and criteria for policymaking, financing, performance monitoring and replicability of practices that best suit domestic and transboundary needs.³

9. To fulfil the Nicosia mandate on the regionwide approach to sustainable infrastructure, at its twenty-eighth session, the Committee asked the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to prepare a document on the implementation of a regionwide approach to sustainable infrastructure in the pan-European region by providing the basis for common goals, targets and criteria for policymaking, financing, performance monitoring and replicability of practices that best suited domestic and transboundary needs, to be discussed by the Committee at its twenty-ninth session.⁴

10. The Committee will be invited to consider the document (information paper No. 2).

11. In their Declaration, ministers invited the Committee on Environmental Policy to convene a mid-term review in 2025 to assess progress in the implementation of the main outcomes of the Nicosia Conference.⁵

12. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee asked the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to prepare a document proposing the scope, format and modalities for organizing the mid-term review, which could be discussed by the Committee at its twenty-ninth session.⁶

13. The Committee will be invited to consider the proposed scope, format and modalities for organizing a mid-term review of the Conference's main outcomes, as presented in document ECE/CEP/2024/6.

14. Member States and organizations that have made commitments under the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy may wish to brief the Committee on progress in their implementation during Batumi Initiative on Green Economy pre-coffee chats.

6. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

15. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee endorsed the new mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for the period 2024–2028 and decided to extend the mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators until end-2025.⁷

16. The Committee also took note of the proposal made to convert the Joint Task Force into a Joint Working Group and decided to defer its decision until the next regular session of the Committee in November 2024.⁸

17. The Committee will be informed of the outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 18–19 April 2024). Furthermore, it will be informed of the decisions taken by the Joint Task Force on

³ ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/L.1, para. 9.

⁴ ECE/CEP/2023/2, para. 25 (b).

⁵ ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/L.1, para. 23.

⁶ ECE/CEP/2023/2, para. 28.

⁷ Ibid., paras. 35 (b) and 43 (b).

⁸ Ibid., para. 43 (a).

Environmental Statistics and Indicators at its twenty-first session (Geneva, 17–18 October 2024).

18. The Committee may wish to consider, as appropriate, the information provided.

7. Environmental performance reviews

19. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee adopted the Guidance on the conduct of the fourth cycle of environmental performance reviews (ECE/CEP/2023/6) and invited eligible countries to benefit from an environmental performance review while considering the provisions of the Guidance, to the extent possible taking into account the national context of each country under review.⁹

20. At its current session, the Committee will conduct peer reviews of the environmental performance of Tajikistan and Montenegro. The Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews will finalize the recommendations for the two reviews at a meeting to be held in Geneva from 9 to 12 September 2024. The Committee will consider the recommendations presented in information papers Nos. 3 and 4, with a view to their prospective adoption.

21. Furthermore, the Committee will consider the recent and planned activities under the Environmental Performance Reviews Programme.

8. Cross-sectoral activities

22. The Committee will be invited to consider a document prepared by the secretariat detailing the recent developments, plans for the future and expected decisions by the Committee with regard to cross-sectoral activities under the auspices of the ECE Environment subprogramme (ECE/CEP/2024/4).

9. Regional advisory services and collaboration activities

23. The Regional Adviser will brief the Committee on regional advisory services in environment and on cooperation with other international organizations, including United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams.

10. Multilateral environmental agreements

24. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee welcomed the information provided on progress made by the multilateral environmental agreements managed by the Environment subprogramme and underscored the importance of ECE multilateral environmental agreements to foster implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, mitigate and adapt to climate change, reduce disaster risks, prevent and reduce pollution, support the green energy transition and sustainable deployment of renewable energies, protect biodiversity and promote a circular economy.¹⁰

25. The Committee will be briefed on recent developments/achievements under each of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (information paper No. 8).

26. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided.

⁹ Ibid., para. 55 (c).

¹⁰ Ibid., para. 13 (b)–(c).

11. Strategic foresight

27. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee asked the secretariat to further reflect on how to develop/implement strategic foresight at the subprogramme level and prepare a proposal to be discussed by the Committee at its twenty-ninth session.¹¹

28. The secretariat will brief the Committee on the matter.

29. The Committee may wish to consider, as appropriate, the information provided.

12. Presentation and exchange of views on the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

30. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee welcomed the information provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the preparatory work for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024) and invited the UNEP Europe Office to continue to inform the Committee of relevant developments under the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.¹²

31. The Committee will be briefed on the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP and the session outcomes.

32. The Committee will be invited to consider information provided and exchange views on the outcomes of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.

13. Annual programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2025 and outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2026

33. In line with the “Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes”,¹³ approved by the Executive Committee at its 115th meeting (Geneva, 5 March 2021),¹⁴ the Committee will be invited to adopt the draft programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2025 (ECE/CEP/2024/5) and recommend that it be approved by the Executive Committee. The programme of work is based on the ECE proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect. 20)) and follows the annual budget format approved by General Assembly resolution 77/267 on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: review of changes to the budgetary cycle, of 30 December 2022.¹⁵

34. Based on the sequential review procedure, the Committee will also be invited to consider the “Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2026” (information paper No. 5) and to provide recommendations on those components, as necessary. Those recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2026.

¹¹ Ibid., para. 17 (c).

¹² Ibid., para. 66.

¹³ Informal document No. 2021/8, available at <https://unece.org/115th-excom-meeting-5-march-2021>.

¹⁴ See Chair’s conclusions (EXCOM/CONCLU/115), para. 39. Available at <https://unece.org/116th-excom-meeting-17-may-2021>.

¹⁵ A/RES/77/267.

14. Criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events

35. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee:

(a) Decided that the document “Countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events”,¹⁶ approved at its twenty-seventh session, should remain in force for another year;

(b) Requested the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a document:

(i) Reviewing the effectiveness of the present mechanism for providing financial support for participating in meeting and events adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy in 2013;

(ii) Reviewing also possible adjustments to the current mechanism, for example, by taking into account inflation index;

(iii) Reviewing further possible alternatives that could be considered instead of the current mechanism and providing recommendations to the Committee at its next regular session.¹⁷

36. The Committee also recommended that all the countries consider including the cost of participation of their delegates to the Committee and other relevant meetings in their national budgets, as the decision of the Committee next year might affect their eligibility for financial support for participation in meetings and events.¹⁸

37. At its current session, the Committee will be invited to consider a document on countries eligible for financial support to participate in meetings and events (information paper No. 9).

15. Calendar of meetings

38. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee approved the proposed schedule of Committee and Bureau meetings until 2026.¹⁹ The Committee will be invited to review its schedule of meetings for 2025–2027 (information paper No. 6).

16. Election of officers

39. The Committee will be invited to elect a Chair and other members of the Bureau. A list of proposed candidates will be circulated by email in advance of the meeting (information paper No. 7).

17. Other business

40. The Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose subjects for discussion under this item are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

18. List of decisions

41. Each morning, the Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions and decisions of the Committee from the previous day. The list of decisions will be finalized before the closure of the meeting.

¹⁶ Available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/CEP-27_EligibilityCriteria_IP.8.e.pdf.

¹⁷ ECE/CEP/2023/2, para. 74 (a)–(b).

¹⁸ Ibid., para. 74 (c).

¹⁹ Ibid., 76 (a).

19. Closure of the meeting

42. The Chair will close the meeting. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized by the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, for circulation to the Committee after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the meeting website.
