





Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a **successful 2019**

The secretariat of the UNECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season and thank you for all your support throughout 2018. We can look back at a very productive year and much progress that would not have been possible without your commitment and contributions. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.



SEASON'S GREETINGS
MEILLEURS VŒUX
С НАИЛУЧШИМИ ПОЖЕЛАНИЯМИ





Fifteenth Session of the **Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators and Statistics**

We are happy to report that the fifteenth session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators was successfully held on 25 to 26 October 2018 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The first day of the session principally consisted of a review of progress in establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment, focusing on the draft mid-term review of SEIS and the SEIS assessment framework.

The session also covered the UNECE Statistical Database, its data flows and main products, as well as national Sustainable Development Goal reporting platforms and a discussion on how SEIS could be aligned accordingly. The first day moreover included a discussion on the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and what amendments are needed to make the guidelines more useful. Finally, the Joint Task Force was informed about the progress of the Task Force on Waste Statistics, in particular, on the draft report produced by that Task Force.

The second day of the session focused largely on the need to further amend the SEIS assessment framework and the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators. The Joint Task Force agreed on the next steps to be taken in not only revising the UNECE set of environmental indicators but also adjusting the metadata and revising the SEIS self-assessment questionnaire.

Country representatives and international organizations, including, amongst others, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), presented topics ranging from waste statistics to SEIS relevant projects (e.g. ENI-SEIS II East) and the streamlining of environmental reporting to news from the OECD GREEN Action Task Force.

All documents and presentations from the Joint Task Force session can be found here <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47527>



The **SEIS Mid-term Review:** Updates and revisions

Following up on decisions made during the twentieth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (3–4 September 2018), and in preparation for the twenty-fourth session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy on 29–31 January 2019, the secretariat has submitted an updated and revised version of the mid-term review report on the establishment of the SEIS.

The mid-term review report on establishing a SEIS in Europe and Central Asia demonstrates that many countries have continued to harmonize relevant environmental data flows and improve their readiness to report on the state of the environment and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Even though much work remains, the report is a significant step forward in tracking progress on commitments made at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, held in Batumi (Georgia) in 2016.

The draft mid-term review can be found here
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50063>

Reviewing the **SEIS** **assessment framework:** Working visit of UNECE and UNEP Europe colleagues to EEA in Copenhagen

Following up on decisions made during the fifteenth session of the Joint Task Force, UNECE, UNEP and EEA meet in Copenhagen in December 2018 to continue the work on the SEIS assessment framework. The aim of the meeting was to consider a revised SEIS self-assessment questionnaire as prepared by the secretariat. This included considering a new set of questions, the SEIS performance scores, comparability issues between the 2016, 2018 and planned 2020 performance scores, the distinction between mandatory and non-mandatory questions and steps needed to increase participation in the final SEIS review leading up to the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

The Secretariat will share the revised SEIS assessment framework with members of the Working Group and the Joint Task Force (as well as other expert communities) for commenting at the beginning of 2019. It is expected that revisions made to the SEIS self-assessment questionnaire will be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group in May 2019.



Upcoming Events

Twenty-fourth session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy
29–31 January 2019, Geneva
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50063>

Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
20–21 February 2019, Geneva
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50357>

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region
21–22 March 2019, Geneva
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49755>

Twenty-first session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.
6–7 May 2019, Geneva.
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50823>

Regional capacity-building workshop on the use, harmonization and streamlining of indicator-related methodologies
8 May 2019, Geneva.
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50826>

Sixteenth session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators and Statistics.
28–29 October 2019, Geneva.
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50800>

The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment was established in 2000 by the Committee on Environmental Policy to serve as an instrument for UNECE member States to provide recommendations, propose action plans, and improve coordination of international initiatives concerned with environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.

For more information on the Working Group please visit:

<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment>

Disclaimer: This is not an official publication of the United Nations. This newsletter is only distributed electronically to members of the Working Group and interested individuals and organizations wishing to receive information about the Working Group. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official position of the United Nations or the views of its Member States.