



**Twenty-sixth session**  
Geneva, 9-10 November 2020

# Committee on Environmental Policy

Agenda Item 5: Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

## Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators



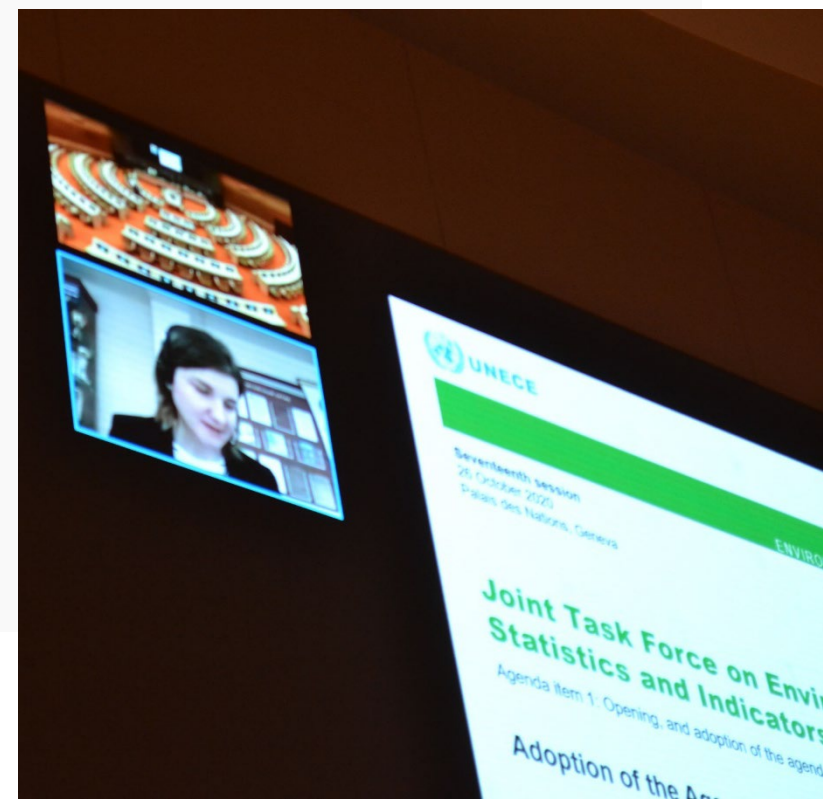
# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## ENVIRONMENT



### 17<sup>th</sup> session, 26 October 2020

- Over 60 participants online, 1 in meeting room
- Session report being drafted – decisions in Information paper no. 11
- Two main substantive topics:
  - Review of UNECE environmental indicators
  - Data for the pandemic



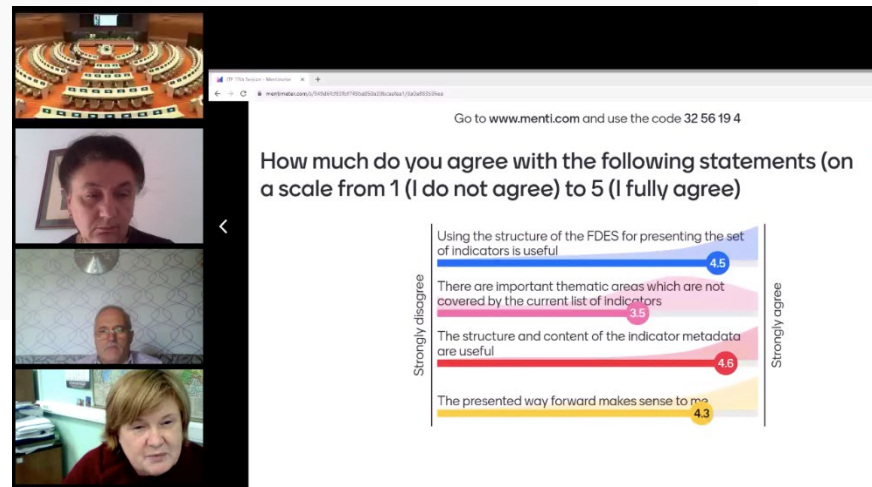
## Review of UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators (1/2)

- Joint Task Force had requested secretariat to revise the guidelines to inform better the new global policies, link them with statistical frameworks and increase user-friendliness of metadata
  - Metadata – the descriptions of the sets of data and indicators
- Joint Task Force agreed with general structure of the revised guidelines as proposed by secretariat, using *UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics* as the overall framework and structure
  - Helps to link production of indicators & statistics with internationally agreed framework
  - Benefits from core set of climate change-related indicators adopted by Conference of European Statisticians
  - Provides definitions of, and clear distinctions between, *environmental data*, *environmental statistics* and *environmental indicators*
- Joint Task Force noted importance of harmonizing indicators with European Environment Agency/Eionet indicator system
  - Though revising the organization of UNECE indicators, original aim of harmonized use of the Eionet indicators is maintained



## Review of UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators (2/2)

- Rationalization of indicators would result in expansion from 120 to about 160 indicators
  - Some of the existing indicators hide multiple indicators
  - Filling “placeholders”
- Metadata ready for 42 indicators
  - So far, 28 also in Russian – a new resource
  - Being stored in a bilingual database
- Joint Task Force decided to follow up with two parallel expert groups:
  - Review the guidelines
  - Propose new indicators



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How much do you agree with the following statements (on a scale from 1 (I do not agree) to 5 (I fully agree))

Statement	Score
Using the structure of the FDES for presenting the set of indicators is useful	4.5
There are important thematic areas which are not covered by the current list of indicators	3.5
The structure and content of the indicator metadata are useful	4.6
The presented way forward makes sense to me	4.3



## Data needs, statistics & indicators on environment & health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (1/2)

- Presentations by WHO experts
  - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Statistics relevant to COVID-19, by Dr Richard Johnston, WHO
  - COVID-19 & the benefits of contact with nature for mental health: Early findings, by Mr Mathew White, University of Vienna
- Presentations by member States to share experience in producing and sharing information on COVID-19 and its use for policymaking
  - Mr Gerry Brady, Statistics Ireland
  - Mr Mike Ackermans, Statistics Netherlands
  - Assessing air quality changes in large cities during COVID-19 lockdowns: The impacts of traffic-free urban conditions in Almaty, Kazakhstan, by Ms Nassiba Baimatova, Kazakh National University



## Data needs, statistics & indicators on environment & health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (2/2)

- Accurate daily and time series statistics are needed on a pandemic
- Quality of time series data needs to be reviewed and maintained by statisticians
- National Statistical Offices (NSOs)
  - Often have required skills and legal basis
  - Can respond quickly by adding questions to existing data collection and accessing administrative data
  - Should develop Internet household data collection on environmental behaviors
  - Should make more use of real-time & short-term data on air quality, private & public transport trends and domestic segregation of waste
- Collection of health statistics by health agencies and NSOs should be well integrated  
*(Statistics Ireland)*
- Joint Task Force took note of information provided related to its own activities
- Joint Task Force invited its members, international organizations & partners to provide regular updates on developments in environment & health statistics, indicators & data
  - Establishes a longer-term link



# Thank you!

Ekaterina Poleshchuk

Chair of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators