

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Twenty-sixth session

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

Information paper no. 11

Decisions taken by the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (informal record)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its seventeenth session (26 October 2020), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators took decisions and made recommendations as informally recorded below.

I. Opening, and adoption of the agenda

1. The Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators approved the adoption of the agenda of its seventeenth session as set out in document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2020/1.

II. Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the sixteenth session of the Joint Task Force

2. The Joint Task Force approved the adoption of the report of the sixteenth session of the Joint Task Force (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/2).

III. Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force

3. The Joint Task Force:

(a) Took note of the information provided on ongoing developments with relevance to the work of the Joint Task Force;

(b) Invited its members, representatives of international organizations, and other initiatives and projects to provide regular updates to the Joint Task Force on recent developments in implementation of their activities.

IV. Review of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

4. The Joint Task Force agreed with the general structure of the revised guidelines as proposed by the Secretariat, using the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics as the overall framework and structure.
5. The Joint Task Force noted the importance of harmonizing the indicators with the European Environment Agency/Eionet indicator system.
6. Regarding the content of the guidelines, the Joint Task Force decided to follow up in two parallel ways:
 - (a) The Secretariat will lead one expert group together with the chair and vice chairs to continue the review of the guidelines, taking into account all comments that were expressed during the meeting and those made in writing, and prepare a new version of the revised guideline materials. All materials will be shared with the Joint Task Force to comment on;
 - (b) A second expert group consisting of members of the Joint Task Force and led by one of the member States will be established to review the list and number of all indicators and to propose new indicators as needed. Suggestions for which country is to take the lead are welcome and should be submitted to the Secretariat.
7. The Joint Task Force requested the secretariat to share all revised documents with it for written feedback shortly after the meeting.

V. Data needs, statistics and indicators on environment and health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

8. The Joint Task Force:
 - (a) Took note of information provided on data needs, statistics and indicators on environment and health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic related to its own activities;
 - (b) Invited its members, international organizations and partners to provide it with regular updates on recent developments related to environment and health statistics, indicators and data.

VI. Other business and closure of the meeting

9. The Joint Task Force took note of the information provided on the pan-European environmental assessment and confirmed its readiness to provide input and feedback on the selection of indicators for relevant chapters.
10. The Joint Task Force adopted the decisions taken during the session.
11. The next meeting of the Joint Task Force will be held from 18 to 19 October 2021 in Geneva.
