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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Sixteenth session

Geneva, 28–29 October 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10.00 a.m. on
Monday, 28 October 2019

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the fifteenth session.
4. Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force.
5. Review of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators.
6. Ongoing and planned capacity-development activities.
7. Other business.
8. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

According to its terms of reference (ECE/CEP/2017/12, annex)¹ the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators assists the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their efforts to:

¹ Available from www.unece.org/index.php?id=45618.



- (a) Apply the Shared Environmental Information System principles and methodologies for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) core environmental indicators and data production in line with international statistical standards;
- (b) Analyse and communicate environmental data;
- (c) Develop capacity to implement the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;
- (d) Develop capacity for the compilation and integration of environmental data in support of measuring progress in the context of sustainable development and green economy initiatives.

The Joint Task Force also assists the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment in evaluating the application of internationally-accepted methodologies and statistical standards in data production and provides a forum for sharing experience on the communication of environmental information to users, in line with the ECE recommendations on statistical communication and the recommendations made by the Working Group.

The Joint Task Force is open to environmental experts and statisticians from all ECE member States.

The work is supported by the European Environment Agency, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Representatives of other international organizations dealing with environmental statistics are welcome to participate in the meetings of the Joint Task Force.

The sixteenth session of the Joint Task Force will be a two-day event, held from 28 October morning until 29 October 2019 afternoon.

1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

The secretariat will open the session and invite the Joint Task Force to elect its new Chair and up to two Vice-Chairs for a period of two years.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The new Chair will invite the Joint Task Force to adopt the agenda for its sixteenth session as set out in the present document.²

3. Adoption of the report of the fifteenth session

The secretariat will summarize the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the Joint Task Force (25–26 October 2018) as contained in the report of that session (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2018/2) and invite the Joint Task Force to adopt the report.

The secretariat will inform the Joint Task Force about the status of implementation of the decisions and recommendations that were made at the fifteenth session.

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

At its twentieth session (3–4 September 2018), the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment agreed to adjust the Shared Environmental Information System assessment framework (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/5) used to produce the

² Documentation for the meeting and other relevant information will be posted on the web page for the meeting on the ECE website: www.unece.org/index.php?id=50800.

mid-term review report and asked the secretariat to present a revised assessment framework during the next meeting of the Working Group. At its twenty-first session (6–7 May 2019), the Working Group decided that the revised framework, once approved, would be used for the final report on progress in the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System at the pan-European level for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/2).

The secretariat will inform the Joint Task Force about the progress made on the assessment framework and other related developments.

Furthermore, the secretariat will summarize the main outcomes of the Joint OECD/ECE Seminar on Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (20–21 February 2019) and the Fourteenth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (24–25 June 2019).

The secretariat will also inform the Joint Task Force about the progress of work on the waste statistics framework.

Other international organizations, including the European Environment Agency, OECD, UNEP and the United Nations Statistics Division, will be invited to give an update on their activities related to the production and sharing of environmental statistics and indicators.

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

At its fifteenth session, the Joint Task Force considered how the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators could be further revised and improved. It requested the secretariat to draft a workplan for the review of the guidelines and invited experts from the Joint Task Force and other expert communities to participate in the review.

At the current session, the Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the revised metadata sheets of those indicators that were reviewed with highest priority: A2 – Ambient air quality in urban areas; all indicators under theme D – Biodiversity; all indicators under theme G – Energy; and all indicators under theme H – Transport. The secretariat will present the progress made on the revision of indicators that were identified by the Joint Task Force as being of secondary priority for review: A1 – Emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air; all water resources and use indicators C1–C8 under theme C – Water; all indicators under theme I – Waste; and J1 – Environment protection expenditure.

The review of the remaining indicators will be launched by inviting members of the Joint Task Force to share their experiences in producing these indicators. Experts from specialized international organizations, for example the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, will be invited to present their related sets of statistics and indicators and provide guidance in the revision process.

At its twenty-first session, the Working Group agreed to stop using the environmental indicator production templates once the revision of the guidelines had been completed (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2019/2).

The Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss the process of phasing out the use of the production templates.

6. Ongoing and planned capacity-development activities

The secretariat and UNEP will report on ongoing and planned capacity-development activities related to environmental statistics, the Shared Environmental Information System and Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to present national capacity-development activities and identify concrete capacity-development needs.

7. Other business

The Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Members of the Joint Task Force wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

8. Closure of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions of the Joint Task Force, present the decisions and close the meeting. The report of the meeting will be finalized by the secretariat after the meeting and will be posted on the web page of the meeting in due course.

III. Organization of work

A detailed organization of work will be released closer to the meeting date and will be posted on the web page of the meeting.
