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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Special session

Nicosia, 3–4 October 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the special session

**To be held at the Filoxenia Conference Centre, Nicosia, starting at
3 p.m. on Monday, 3 October 2022**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:
 - (a) Conference outcomes;
 - (b) Conference agenda.
3. Environmental performance reviews.
4. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.
5. Annual programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2023 and outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2024.
6. Other business.
7. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The Reform Plan of the “Environment for Europe” process (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1) adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy in 2009, and subsequently endorsed by ECE, mandated the Committee to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences. In accordance with the Reform Plan, which stipulates that special sessions of the Committee may be scheduled, if needed, in the year



prior to the Conference,¹ the Committee agreed at its special session (Geneva (hybrid), 9–12 May 2022) to organize a special session in Nicosia, from 3 to 4 October 2022.²

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

2. The Chair of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy will open the special session. The Committee will then be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/S/2022/5). The provisional time schedule is presented in information paper No. 14.³

2. Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

3. The Committee prepared the Nicosia Ministerial Conference at its twenty-fifth,⁴ twenty-sixth⁵ and twenty-seventh⁶ sessions (Geneva, respectively, 13–15 November 2019, 9–10 November 2020, and 3–5 November 2021), and one special session⁷ (Geneva, 9–12 May 2022). The remaining issues to address for the Conference are the finalization of the draft ministerial declaration and the consideration of last-minute organizational issues related to the Conference agenda.

(a) Conference outcomes

4. At its special session in May 2022, the Committee invited its Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to further develop the draft of the ministerial declaration, based on follow-up comments and revisions to the draft in track changes received by 30 June 2022 from Committee members and observers, and to submit it as an official document to the Committee at its special session in October 2022.⁸

5. The Committee will be invited to work on the draft ministerial declaration (ECE/CEP/S/2022/7) prepared by its Bureau with support from the secretariat, with a view to submitting it to the Nicosia Conference for adoption.

(b) Conference agenda

6. The Committee will be invited to consider any last-minute organizational issues related to the Conference agenda and the organization of work that might arise.

3. Environmental performance reviews

7. At its current session, the Committee will conduct peer reviews of the environmental performance of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. The Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews will finalize the recommendations for the three reviews at a meeting to be held in Tbilisi from 12 to 16 September 2022. The Committee will consider the recommendations presented in information papers Nos. 15, 16 and 17, with a view to their prospective adoption.

8. At its twenty-fourth session (Geneva, 29–31 January 2019), the Committee renewed the mandate and terms of reference of the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance

¹ ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, para. 12 (b).

² ECE/CEP/S/2022/2, para. 68 (b).

³ 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/info/Environmental-Policy/Committee-on-Environmental-Policy/events/369000>).

⁴ ECE/CEP/2019/15, paras. 16–30.

⁵ ECE/CEP/2020/2, paras. 16–35.

⁶ ECE/CEP/2021/2, paras. 18–43.

⁷ ECE/CEP/S/2022/2, paras. 16–50. Advance edited version available at <https://unece.org/documents/2022/06/reports/report-committee-environmental-policy-its-special-session-advance-edited>.

⁸ Ibid., para. 44.

Reviews for 2019–2022 (ECE/CEP/2019/12, annex).⁹ Document ECE/CEP/S/2022/9 contains a review of the Expert Group’s achievements for the mandated period and presents, in an annex, a draft decision on the renewal of the Group’s mandate for a further four-year period. The Committee will be invited to adopt the mandate and terms of reference for the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for 2023–2026 and to transmit them to the ECE Executive Committee for approval.

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

4. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

10. At the Committee’s previous special session, a representative of the secretariat informed the Committee of the need to extend the mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators until the end of 2023. The Committee decided to address this matter in the current session.¹⁰ In order to allow the Committee on Environmental Policy to also consider and approve a new mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment before the expiry of its current one (ECE/EX/2017/L.2 and ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/4, annex) at its regular session in November 2023, an extension until the end of 2023 is also required for the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group.

11. The Committee will be invited to endorse an extension of the mandates and terms of reference of the Working Group (ECE/EX/2017/L.2 and annex to document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/4) and the Joint Task Force until the end of 2023 (ECE/CEP/S/2022/8) to allow the two bodies to present new draft mandates and terms of reference after the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022) to the Committee and, in the case of the Joint Task Force, the Conference of European Statisticians, and request the secretariat to submit this decision on extensions to the ECE Executive Committee for approval.

12. The Committee will also be invited to decide to allow for further consultations on the possible establishment of a standing body on environmental statistics under the Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians and to support the proposal to seek additional resources to fulfil the expectations of the member States in the area of environment statistics and indicators and to cover a wider geographical scope and emerging policy themes.

5. Annual programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2023 and outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2024

13. In line with the “Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes”,¹¹ approved by the Executive Committee at its 115th meeting (Geneva, 5 March 2021),¹² the Committee will be invited to adopt the draft annual programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/CEP/S/2022/10) and recommend that it be approved by the Executive Committee. The programme of work is based on the ECE proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6 (Sect.20)). It reflects the annual format presented in 2020 in line with General Assembly resolution 72/266 on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations,¹³ with enrichments reflecting General

⁹ ECE/CEP/2019/2, para. 59.

¹⁰ ECE/CEP/S/2022/2, paras. 64–65.

¹¹ Informal document No. 2021/8, available at <https://unece.org/115th-excom-meeting-5-march-2021>.

¹² See Chair’s conclusions (EXCOM/CONCLU/115), para. 39. Available at <https://unece.org/116th-excom-meeting-17-may-2021>.

¹³ A/RES/72/266.

Assembly resolutions 74/251 on programme planning¹⁴ and 75/243 on programme planning.¹⁵

14. 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 2024” (information paper No. 18) 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 2024.

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

6. Other business

16. 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.

7. Closure of the meeting

17. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions and decisions of the Committee and 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 web page.

¹⁴ A/RES/74/251.

¹⁵ A/RES/75/243.