Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

**Working Group on Environmental
Monitoring and Assessment**

Twenty-fifth session
Geneva, 2-3 May 2023

Palais des Nations Salle XIX, Geneva and online (hybrid format)

Provisional timetable

Time (CET/Geneva time)	Tuesday, 02 May 2023
09:30-09:45	1. Adoption of the agenda - Opening statement by the Chair, Ms. Maia Javakhishvili (Georgia) - Opening statement by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Chief of Section UNECE - Adoption of the agenda (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2023/1)
09:45-10:00	2. Election of the Chair and Vice Chairs
10:00-10:30	3. Adoption of the report of the twenty-fourth session - Presentation of the outcomes of the 24th session, Christine Kitzler, UNECE - Adoption of the report of the 24th session - Presentation of the status of implementation of the decisions and recommendations made at the 24th session, Christine Kitzler, UNECE - Discussion, questions and answers
10:30-12:15	4. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference - Report on the decisions made by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its special session on 3-4 October 2022 and relevant outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial conference (5-7 October 2022, Nicosia) regarding the activities of the Working Group, Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE - Presentation of the new mandate and terms of reference (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2023/3), Johannes Mayer, Vice-chair of the Working Group - Discussion including on lead agencies or countries for programme areas and activities - Approval of the new mandate and terms of reference

	4. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference (continuation)
	- Presentation of draft timetable of activities for 2024 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2023/4), Katerina Nikolovska, Vice-chair of the Working Group
	- Discussion and approval of the draft timetable of activities
	Comfort Break, 10 min
	- Presentations by international and regional organizations on initiatives and projects that relate to the activities of the Working Group,
	- Overview on the new Eionet Structure and recent EEA developments, Bert Jansen, European Environment Agency
	- Overview on EEA's support to climate and energy monitoring by the Energy Community, Per Wretlind, European Environment Agency
12:15-12:30	**5. Resource Requirements**
	- Presentation of information on the financial resources available, Nick Bonvoisin
	- Information on an external evaluation of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme and expected financial implications, Nick Bonvoisin
	- Consideration of the 5-year outline of activities of the Working Group for the period 2024-2028 (Informal Document 1) and discussion on next steps
12:30-14:30	**Lunch break**
14:30-15:45	**6. Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment**
	- Overview on preparations of the SEIS review of the theme "air" and outline of the report (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2023/5), Johannes Mayer, Vice-chair of WGEMA
	- Discussion and approval of the outline
	- Introduction to the reporting template of the SEIS review of the theme "air", by Dimitrios Meimaris, UNECE consultant
	- Introduction to the regional training on air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators (4-5 May 2023), Dimitrios Meimaris and Adriana Oropeza, UNECE consultants
	- Questions and answers
	- Discussion on implementing the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference related to SEIS and open data, Christine Kitzler, UNECE

15:45-17:20	7. Regular pan-European environmental assessment supported by the Shared Environmental Information System and open data and streamlining reporting obligations in environmental policy
	- Overview of the assessment-related outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE
	- Discussion on next steps and specific activities in support of implementation of the recommendations of the assessment and outcomes of the Conference
	- Possible approaches for the 8th pan-European environmental assessment based on lessons learned from the latest assessment, Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE
	- Presentation of the template for the third reporting exercise under SDG indicator 6.5.2 and provision of guidance, Iulia Trombitcaia, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE
	Comfort Break, 10 min
	- Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, its monitoring framework and national and global reporting mechanisms, Jillian Campbell, Convention on Biological Diversity
	- Discussion of relevant issues related to environmental assessment and reporting
17:20-**17:30**	Closure of day 1
	- Oral summary of conclusions and decisions of the Working Group, by the Chair of the meeting.

Time (CET/Geneva time)	Wednesday, 03 May 2023

09:30-12:30	**8. Sharing and integration of economic, social and environmental data with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
	
	- Overview on global and regional environmental policy events in 2023, by international organizations
	
	- Presentations by the secretariat and international partners on recent developments and key messages pertaining to environmental monitoring and reporting
	
	  - Presentation of the Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwater publication and on the process to develop a new publication on good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange, by Erik Salminen, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE
	
	  - Discussion, questions and answers
	
	  - Overview on ongoing work at the UNECE Statistical Division to measure circular economy, Michael Nagy, UNECE
	
	  - Overview on the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) 7 process, next steps and linkages to the 7th and 8th pan-European environmental assessments, by Matthew Billot, UNEP
	
	  - Discussion, questions and answers
	
	Comfort Break, 10 min
	
	- Presentation by international partners on recent developments in applying new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and Earth observation for environmental monitoring and assessment (making use of the potential of data, technology and digitalization)
	
	  - Use of earth observation for environmental monitoring, Marc Paganini, European Space Agency (video)
	
	- Discussion, questions and answers
	
	- Report by international organizations on initiatives and extrabudgetary projects related to the Working Group
	
	  - EU4 Environment - Water Resources and Environmental Data programme, Johannes Mayer, Environment Agency Austria
	
	  - Joint UNEP/UNECE presentation on current and planned projects including on capacity development, Tomas Marques, UNEP and Christine Kitzler, UNECE
	
	  - Update on the Revision of the UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators, by Michael Nagy, Statistical Division, UNECE

	- Discussion, questions and answers
	- Discussion and possible approval of the suggested update of the publication *Environmental Monitoring and Reporting: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia,* overview by Christine Kitzler, UNECE
	- Discussion on how the work that was presented on environmental information, data and indicators can better support the development of integrated assessments, reporting on and implementation of SDGs and other activities of the Working Group
	- Discussion on relevant topics for the 26th session of the Working Group
	- Discussion, questions and answers
12:30-14:30	**Lunch break**
14:30-17:15	9. Progress in environmental monitoring and assessment, including institutional and regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level
	- Presentation on major actions taken since the previous meeting, by countries on:
	- The production of environmental reports, analyses and assessments based on environmental information and indicators, including through the use of the Shared Environmental Information System.
	- The modernization and upgrading of national monitoring networks
	- Improvements in data quality assurance and control, as well as the management of data.
	- Improvements in data policy and institutional and regulatory mechanisms and technical solutions for data exchange between various ministries and agencies (ministries of environment, environment agencies and ministries of agriculture, energy, health, industry, transport and water) and with other users, including the public.
	- The implementation of recommendations regarding environmental monitoring and assessment made in national environmental performance reviews.
	- Developments at country level to enhance digitalization and digital transformation related to environmental information and the use of new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and Earth observation for environmental monitoring.
	- Cross cutting developments such as integrating a gender perspective into environmental monitoring and assessment activities
	- Discussion, questions and answers.
17:15-17:20	10. Other business
	- *Please inform the secretariat of items of other business as soon as possible.*

17:20-**17:30**	11. Closure of the online meeting
	- Oral summary of conclusions and notes taken by the Working Group, by the Chair of the meeting.
	- Date of next meeting.
	- **Closing of the meeting.**