

Annual Report 2014



UNITED NATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADN	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
ADR	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
AETR	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport
AGN	European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance
AGR	European Agreement on Main International Arteries
ATP	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CEVNI	European Code for Inland Waterways
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EATL	Euro-Asian Transport Links
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EfE	Environment for Europe
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative

EPR	Environmental Performance Review
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IFI	International financial institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
NGO	Non-governmental organization

OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PPP	Public-private partnership
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
RID	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TEM	Trans-European Motorways
TER	Trans-European Railways
THE PEP	Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme
TIR	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets
UN	United Nations
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	United Nations Development Account

UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Introduction by the Chairman of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



2014 was a year with a substantial agenda on which the Executive Committee (EXCOM) had to deliver. Over the course of 2014, the Executive Committee has managed to resolve all the pending issues related to the implementation of the outcome of the reform review as adopted in 2013.

We agreed on a new and ambitious sustainable energy programme and dealt with the major task of finding a new structure for the former Committee on Trade and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. We adopted the inspiring Geneva Charter for Sustainable Housing. We agreed on new programmes of work and updated terms of reference for various committees across UNECE. Finally, we also endorsed a new procedure for reviewing and approving extrabudgetary projects.

Delegations had sometimes diverging views on many of these issues, which is understandable given the heterogeneity among our 56 different member States. But thanks to our shared commitment to the work of UNECE and willingness to be flexible, we were able to find solutions and set the course for UNECE. As a result the secretariat can now safely steer this organization, with member States giving direction instead of taking the driver's seat.

In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the inspiring leadership of the UNOG Acting Director-General, Michael Møller, and the Executive Secretary, Christian Friis Bach, and for the high professionalism of UNECE staff.

UNECE is a member States-driven organization and this puts a great responsibility on EXCOM. We have to continue to make sure — together with the secretariat — that UNECE stays focused on key priorities in order to be able to respond to new regional developmental challenges and to get the maximum benefit out of this great organization for all our member States.

Looking at 2015 and beyond, there will be no shortage of new items on our agenda. As we are about to embark on the most ambitious development agenda ever, as expressed by the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNECE will have an essential role to play in providing practical standards and agreements to implement part of the SDGs and develop indicators to measure progress. At the same time, technological developments are opening the door to a revolution in transport systems, in energy production and consumption, in the way we use, or choose not to use, the available resources on our planet. All these new developments demand strong responses from the UNECE member States.

With the reform review now fully implemented, we have cleared the path for UNECE to concentrate on the implementation of the SDGs over the coming years. It is only by taking the best from the combined forces of our member States and the secretariat that we will be able to make a valuable contribution to the sustainable development agenda, regionally and globally.

Let us continue to work together to make these results visible and tangible for our member States, our capitals and our citizens.

Roderick van Schreven
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands

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Introduction by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



The year 2014 witnessed a deeply tragic armed conflict in the heart of Europe with several thousand casualties and hundreds of thousands of refugees. It reminds us that 70 years ago the United Nations arose out of the ruins of war in Europe. The United Nations, like the League of Nations before it, was established to ensure that armed conflict of that scale would never happen again.

The failure to maintain peace in Europe is also a failure for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) which was established because “constructive economic cooperation was essential to the maintenance of peace” – to quote the unanimously adopted resolution 1 at its sixth session in 1951.

We have, as yet, been unable to ensure sufficient economic cooperation in the UNECE region to maintain peace. On the contrary, while there are deep geopolitical roots to a number of the recent conflicts in Central Europe, these conflicts started as disputes over trade agreements and economic cooperation. It is time that we reinvigorate our efforts to achieve the historical mandate of UNECE.

The past year brought change to UNECE. Change in leadership and change towards a strong focus on accountability, transparency, participation and equality. This will strengthen our performance and impact. The most visible sign may be the new website with the addition of an “Open UNECE” section with increased transparency and visibility. Other important steps include a new evaluation

policy and new procedures for external funding, project management and communication. A number of new partnerships have been established with our member countries, international organizations, the private sector and civil society.

As shown in this annual report, all programmes brought concrete results during the past year. New norms, standards, recommendations were added and existing ones further developed. Our many conventions and legal instruments were improved and increasingly implemented. UNECE helps countries to cooperate. It improves the lives of citizens every day throughout our region and beyond.

Looking towards the future we are strongly committed to the vision and agenda represented by the expected global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If adopted, the SDGs will underline how economic, environmental and social factors are crucial to ensure peace and progress. With our diverse and linked programmes of work, UNECE is a unique sustainable development organization and we are fully engaged to ensure that UNECE will make a strong contribution to this historic vision.

UNECE works from a strong conviction that when countries develop and share common norms, standards and conventions, it facilitates cooperation and connectivity which paves the way for progress and peaceful coexistence. We work to fulfil our historic mandate and we are determined to do more and even better in the years to come. We remain

dedicated to building the constructive economic cooperation, which is essential to the maintenance of peace.

I would like to extend my warm thanks to our Chair, Vice-Chairs and member States in EXCOM for their strong leadership, to Michael Møller, Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva for taking such good care of UNECE in the transition, and not least to all delegates and experts, as well as to all my colleagues in UNECE for their hard work, commitment and impressive achievements in the past year.

Christian Friis Bach
Under-Secretary-General of the
United Nations
Executive Secretary of the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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UNECE endorses new global code of practice for the handling and packing of shipping containers for transportation by sea and land (CTU Code)



UNECE and FAO launch *Forests for Fashion – Fashion for Forests* initiative on International Day of Forests



UNECE adopts more accurate fuel efficiency and CO₂ test for new cars (WLTP)



Acting Director-General of UNOG
Michael Møller takes on functions of
Acting Executive Secretary of UNECE



European Ministers of Transport, Health and Environment adopt Paris declaration for healthy and sustainable mobility



UNECE presents Environment Performance Review of Morocco, the first Review of a country outside the region



UNECE and partners launch initiative to save lives at level crossings on International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD)



UNECE helps Greece improve its trade competitiveness



Parties to the Aarhus Convention adopt the Maastricht Declaration, which recognizes transparency and access to information as being essential in building a sustainable future



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon appoints Christian Friis Bach as Executive Secretary of UNECE



Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) becomes global instrument



UNECE Symposium on meat gathers experts from all around the world



Regional Ministerial Consultation calls for strong and participatory accountability for the post-2015 agenda at all levels



UNECE delegates agree on a Charter on Sustainable housing



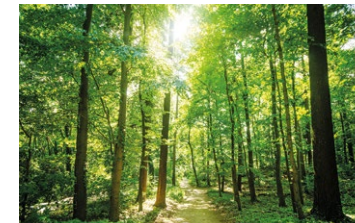
Christian Friis Bach is officially sworn in as UNECE Executive Secretary by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at Town Hall meeting with staff



Launch of Innovation Performance Review of Armenia



UNECE member States adopt recommendations on Carbon Capture and Storage on the road to the Paris Climate Conference



Sustainable management increases Forests' carbon sequestration function in the UNECE region



Launch of the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Georgia



Member States issue urgent call for action to achieve gender equality at Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting



The Executive Secretaries of the five UN Regional Commissions issue joint call for action to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy



Parties widen coverage of harmful chemicals of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents



Adoption of new code to reduce Ammonia emissions on 35th anniversary of UNECE's Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution



UNECE publishes first ever Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics

The emerging Post-2015 Development Agenda: A blueprint for more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies for all

“Those of us engaged in
crafting the post-2015
development agenda are
privileged. We can leave a
legacy that we can be truly
proud of”

*Secretary-General at the
General Assembly stock-taking event*

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“The proposed SDGs are the most visionary goals ever set by mankind. We can indeed be the first generation of people to eradicate the most extreme poverty. It would be a historic achievement. And it can be done. UNECE stands ready to contribute to its implementation in the region”

Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE

In 2014, the United Nations Member States took an important step to fulfill a key mandate of the Rio+20 Conference – to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The General Assembly’s Open Working Group and the Secretary-Generals synthesis report have proposed 17 SDGs and 169 targets covering a wide range of sustainable development issues. While the proposal will be further negotiated by Member States in 2015, this represents the main basis for the future development agenda. Together with other expected outcomes on means of implementation (financing for sustainable development, technology transfer, trade), climate change and disaster risk reduction, it will eventually form the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a new framework that succeeds the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) upon their expiration at the end of 2015.

The proposed SDGs reflect an ambitious and transformative agenda, a paradigm shift in international development that has the potential to put the world on a more sustainable path and ensure a life of dignity for all. The proposal is based on the MDGs and continues their unfinished work on eradicating poverty and hunger, health, education and gender equality. At the same time, it breaks new ground with goals on inequality, energy, water, sustainable growth and industrialization, decent jobs, innovation, infrastructure, urbanization, sustainable consumption and production, ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition, the proposed agenda is underpinned by goals on

peaceful and inclusive societies and effective institutions and means of implementation to ensure that governance and partnership structures are in place that help make the post-2015 development agenda work.

While the MDGs were of limited relevance for the UNECE region as a whole, the post-2015 development agenda is designed as a universal framework for all countries, regardless of their level of development. With its mix of high-, middle- and low-income countries and diverse experiences in balancing economic and social progress with environmental sustainability, the UNECE region has contributed substantially to the elaboration of the proposed SDGs. As part of the United Nations System and in cooperation with the other United Nations entities in the region, UNECE has provided support and expertise to the intergovernmental process in the Open Working Group in numerous ways.

Looking ahead, the post-2015 development agenda, once adopted, will bring a significant strengthening of the foundation of UNECE’s work. Already today UNECE has an extensive and diversified work programme which is focused on contributing to sustainable development by means of concrete and results-oriented activities that address the needs of countries of the region and beyond. The UNECE activities presented in this report are closely related — directly or indirectly — to many of the areas covered by the proposed goals and targets. Good examples are our standards for road safety

and transport, which can help meet the proposed target to reduce deaths from traffic accidents, and energy standards which are important to ensure sustainable energy for all.

UNECE stands ready to help countries achieve the future SDGs by translating them into concrete measures – norms, standards, guidelines, instruments, policies. As an institution with different sectors under one roof, UNECE has a competitive edge to promote cross-sectoral work and tackle interrelated challenges. The new framework will also provide an enhanced focus for UNECE to reaffirm its role as a regional platform for shared learning and exchanging best practices between different countries and subregions on advancing towards sustainable development.

UNECE is also well placed to provide means of implementation for the future SDGs, including through public-private partnerships, sharing of norms and standards within and beyond the region, capacity-building, trade facilitation, collaboration on access to science, technology and innovation, engagement of various stakeholders, and data and monitoring.

The post-2015 development agenda will consist of a set of high-level political commitments, which are not legally binding. Taking responsibility for achieving progress and answering to constituencies in a transparent way — in other words accountability of all relevant actors — is therefore considered crucial to implement the post-2015 development framework. The accountability and review mechanism remains

to be determined by Member States. As discussed at the Regional Ministerial Consultation on Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Geneva, 15-16 September 2014), there is an emerging view that the accountability mechanism for the post-2015 agenda should be multi-layered, involving mechanisms as well as new partnerships at the national, regional and global level. UNECE has solid experience with Environmental Performance Reviews, Innovation Performance Reviews and surveys that can become core elements in a regional review mechanism. Moreover, the Aarhus Convention which ensures citizens access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice can help to promote public participation and accountability.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is a major juncture for the entire international community and will guide its actions until 2030. UNECE looks forward to accompanying the remaining process of formulating the new agenda and to servicing its member States. It will continue working with its partners for sustainable development and the improvement of people’s lives in the region and worldwide.



“We must be ready for change. A universal agenda will require significant changes from all countries”

Martin Dahinden, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation

“The proposed goals and targets are truly indicative of a global consensus that we are confident will not only stand the test of time, but that with hindsight will also prove remarkable in its depth and breadth as well as its transformative reach and impact”

Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group

“Countries in the same region share similar challenges and are likely to make greater progress by collectively addressing them”

Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning

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**Economic cooperation
and integration
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Innovation is the single most important driver of sustainable economic growth

During 2015, the role of innovation policy in achieving a wide range of SDGs will become a major focus of our work

The Economic Cooperation and Integration programme supports economic development by promoting innovation and public-private partnerships (PPPs) for investment in infrastructure. Based on an international policy dialogue, we identify good practices, develop policy recommendations and standards, advise governments, and build capacity to implement policy reforms.

This work will become even more relevant from 2015 onward, as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put innovation and infrastructure development firmly at the centre of the international policy agenda.

Innovation

Smart specialization for sustainable development and innovation in the public sector

Innovation is the single most important driver of sustainable economic growth. In order to flourish, innovation needs supportive regulatory frameworks and policies, the quality of which varies widely in the UNECE region, as does innovation performance. UNECE draws on this variety to identify good practices on selected innovation policy issues. In 2014, we have added to our growing portfolio with good practices on smart specialization strategies for sustainable development and a guidebook on *Innovation in the Public Sector*. These reflect cutting-edge thinking from leading experts and offer action-oriented guidance to Governments.

Innovation Performance Reviews have significantly improved the innovation environment in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine

Since 2010, UNECE has carried out Innovation Performance Reviews in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and, most recently, Armenia, assessing innovation policies against international best practice, developing policy recommendations and assisting Governments with implementation. A Review of Tajikistan has been initiated. These Reviews have resulted in significant improvements in the regulatory and policy frameworks of these countries.

Based on UNECE's analysis and recommendations, Belarus has improved the legal protection of intellectual property, the system of public financing for innovation, and the transfer of foreign technology. Kazakhstan has incorporated UNECE policy recommendations into its Concept of Innovation Development which provides the main orientation for innovation policy up to 2020, has completely re-written its legislation on venture capital financing, and has drafted a new "Strategy for International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation". Ukraine has improved the governance of its innovation programmes, and has increased financial support for incubators, business parks and innovation centres.

Greening the economies of Central Asia

Drawing on the results of a UNECE project on promoting innovative green technologies, policymakers from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan met under the auspices of the Project Working Group for Knowledge-based Development of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to discuss ways of using innovation policy to reduce the environmental impact of economic development. As a result, five national networks and one regional network of stakeholders and policymakers have been created.

Getting innovation policies right is increasingly important for competitiveness and sustainability

Improving the regulatory and policy framework for innovation is critical for the UNECE region, both in order to successfully compete in the global economy and to meet the challenges of sustainable development. This is reflected in the growing list of countries who have requested Innovation Performance Reviews. It is also reflected in the draft Sustainable Development Goals where the proposed Goal 9 is fostering innovation. During 2015, the role of innovation policy in achieving a wide range of SDGs and, in particular, the contribution of the UNECE region to achieving SDG 9, will become a major focus of our work. UNECE will co-host an international conference in 2015 with the Government of Israel to explore these issues,

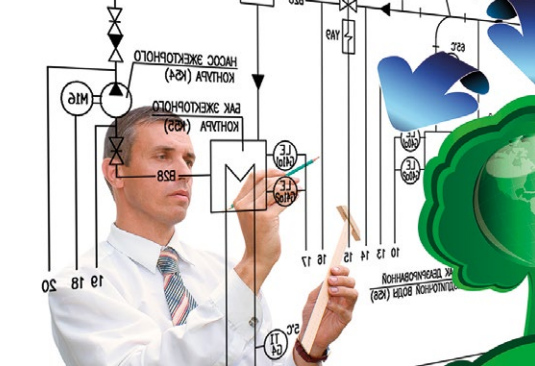
and the Government of Azerbaijan has expressed an interest in organizing a conference with UNECE on the promotion of green technologies.

Public-Private Partnerships

Standards on public-private partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

Meeting the SDGs, including universal health coverage, safe drinking water and sanitation, sustainable energy for all and access to education, will require massive infrastructure investments. According to the World Investment Report 2014, the global capital requirements will amount to some \$75 trillion by 2030. There is a considerable financing gap between this total and what Governments themselves are able to provide, hence the interest in PPP arrangements as a contribution to closing this gap. Unfortunately PPPs are far from simple and generally Governments lack the capacity to develop and deliver projects and are reluctant to take a "leap in the dark". They need the confidence that comes from information contained in empirically proven, high quality international standards and recommendations. Such standards need to refer to both the most appropriate project models and the procedures and rules that underpin an effective enabling environment.

UNECE, using its intergovernmental machinery for producing standards, its vast network of experts from both the public and private sectors, and its strategic partnerships with key stakeholders,



UNECE is an emerging global leader in developing international best practices, recommendations and standards in PPPs

Meeting the SDGs will require massive infrastructure investments

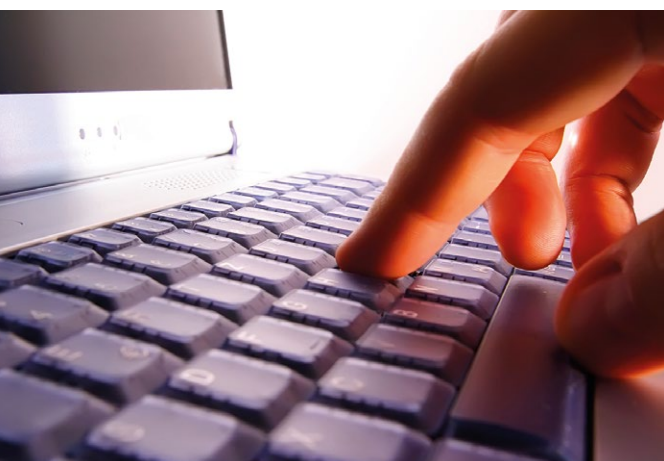
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An international standard on zero tolerance to corruption in PPP procurement should be ready in 2015

such as the World Bank, is an emerging global leader in developing international best practices, recommendations and standards in PPPs.

International best practices

As a first stage in the development of standards, UNECE has set up six associated centres under the auspices of the interested Governments in order to identify international best practices in health (the Philippines), water and sanitation (India and other countries as part of a cluster), renewable energy and energy efficiency (Morocco), PPP policy, laws and institutions (France), roads (India), and in small scale economies (Aruba). The collection of case studies and experiences forms the basis for the development of best practices.

Project Teams developing the PPP standards

Using international best practices, Project Teams have started work in the following three areas, where international standards are expected to be ready in 2015:

- Zero tolerance to corruption (ZTC) in PPP procurement.
- Feasibility of certification of PPP agencies complying with ZTC principles; and
- PPPs in health policy.

Implementation of best practices and standards

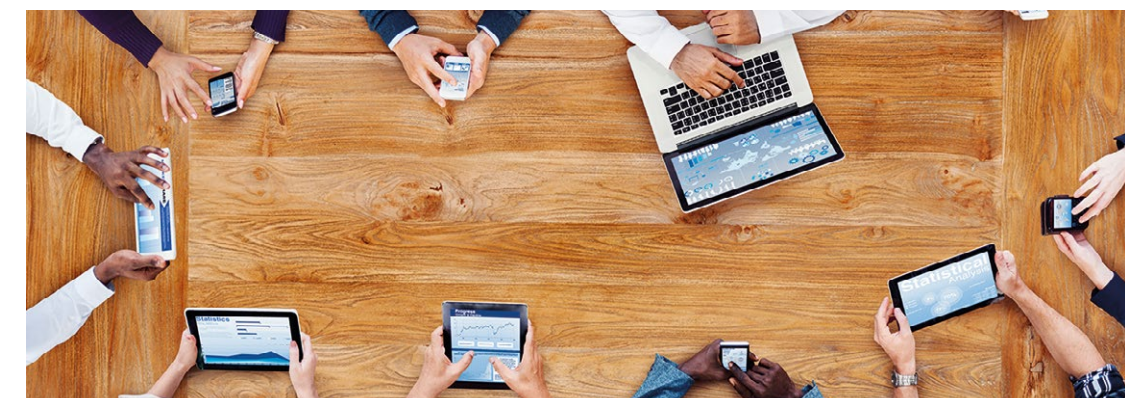
The UNECE PPP Business Advisory Board, consisting of 25 high-level business persons, was established in 2014 to assist countries with PPP implementation by:

- providing advice on the enabling environment (laws and institutions);
- reviewing of project pipelines;
- empowering national PPP champions.

Cooperation with global PPP partners

In cooperation with the World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Islamic Development Bank, UNECE launched in 2014 the International Centre of Excellence on PPPs in water and sanitation to develop PPP standards.

UNECE has been asked by the World Bank to be a strategic partner and co-host in "PPP Days 2015". This is the premier global meeting for public sector PPP practitioners, providing a forum for those charged with developing and implementing PPP programmes to share best practices and their project ideas with the private sector. The last edition of PPP Days was hosted by UNECE in Geneva in February 2012 together with the World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank, in cooperation with the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, and attracted over 700 delegates from 90 countries.



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Environment

How UNECE addresses environmental challenges

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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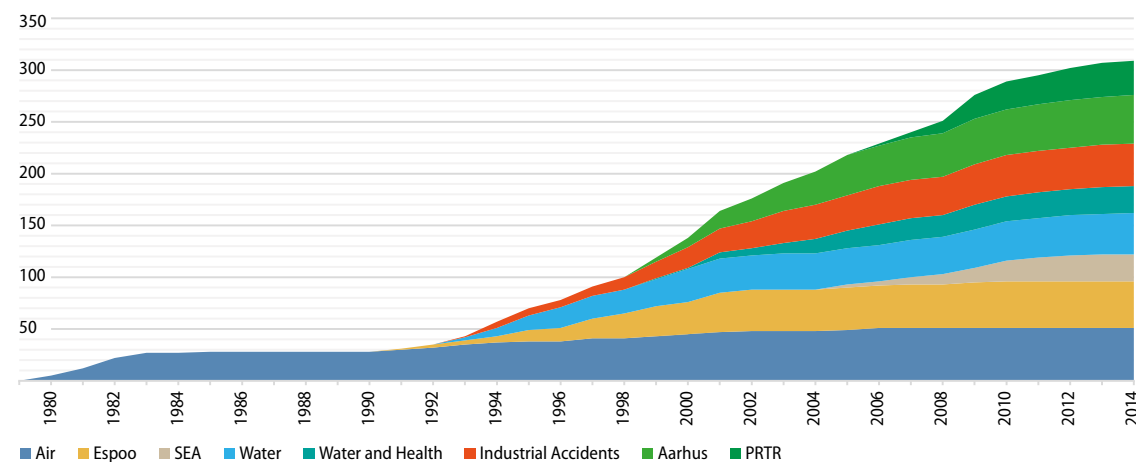
Greening the region

The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) started preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe (EFE) Ministerial Conference, which will be hosted by Georgia in Batumi in June 2016. CEP agreed the two Conference themes — “greening the economy in the pan-European region” and “improving air quality for a better environment and human health” — and the holding of a high-level segment on education for sustainable development (ESD). CEP also decided to work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on a pan-European strategic framework for greening the economy for review at the Conference.

In its oversight role, CEP:

- Appointed new environment members to the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (2015-2016).
- Welcomed the move of the Astana Water Action online, with the launch of a dedicated website (www.unece.org/env/awa) to share knowledge about and track progress on sustainable water resources management across the region.
- Adopted targets and performance indicators for a region-wide Shared Environmental Information System.
- Welcomed good progress by the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) (see fig. 1).

Figure 1
A 20-year boom (Number of Parties to UNECE MEAs)



UNECE increasingly focuses on enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation and solution-oriented exchanges to continue the reduction of air pollution across the region

A new ozone injury smartphone app has been developed so users can upload photographs of ozone damage to vegetation together with their location coordinates

Cleaning the air for human and ecosystem health

To continue the reduction of air pollution across the region (fig. 2), UNECE increasingly focuses on enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation and solution-oriented exchanges. In 2014, Parties to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) exchanged information on regulatory, economic, voluntary and educational abatement measures. A thematic session organized in cooperation with the UNECE Transport Division highlighted air pollution abatement measures in the road transport sector, including policies to shift the transalpine freight traffic from road to rail and national programmes for environmentally friendly mobility.

Transboundary cooperation, participation and outreach

Typically, fine particulate matter pollution, which caused major problems in Paris in 2014, is perceived as a local problem. However, analysing information from 2,000 monitoring sites, one of the Convention’s scientific centres showed the importance of transboundary cooperation in addressing such local pollution, which often largely originates from international sources.

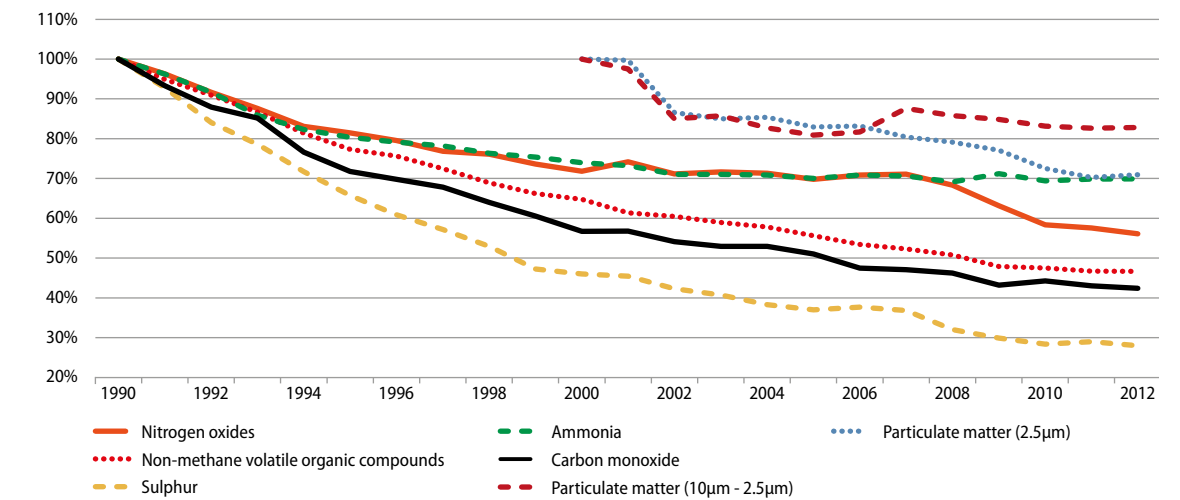
To collect information on ozone damage to vegetation across the region, a new ozone injury smart-phone app was developed so users can upload photographs of ozone injury together with their location coordinates.

Air pollution, health and climate policies

An emerging issue was highlighted in a report by the Convention’s Task Force on Health — the adverse effects of residential heating with wood and coal on human health. While promoted in climate and renewable energy policies, residential wood burning leads to higher emissions of particulate matter, carbon monoxide and persistent organic pollutants. One of the priorities in 2015 will be the continued promotion of the ratification of the amended Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, which contains emission reduction commitments for fine particulate matter.

The World Health Organization now classifies air pollution in general, and particulate matter specifically, as the world’s largest single environmental health risk. About 600,000 deaths in the European region in 2012 were attributable to air pollution; the majority (482,000) caused by outdoor air pollution.

Figure 2
Emission trends in the region (excluding Canada and the United States) since 1990



Source: Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections.

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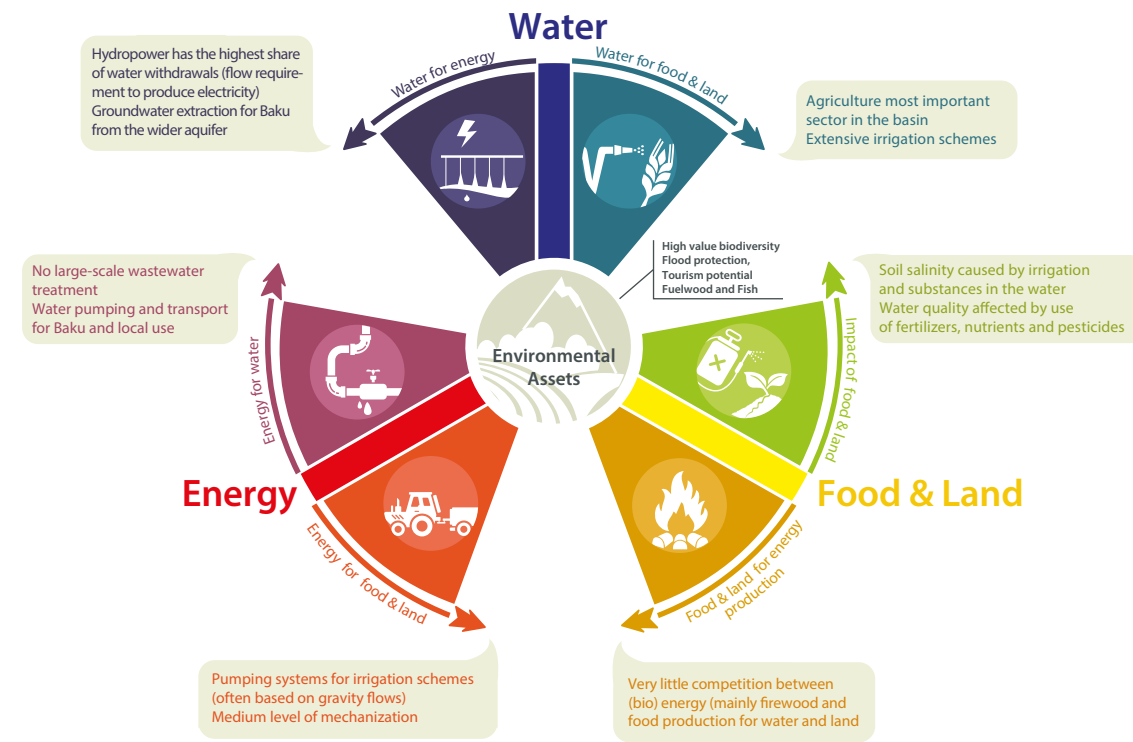
Water on the global agenda

Working in the framework of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and its Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE was very involved in developing *A Post-2015 Global Goal for Water: Synthesis of key findings and recommendations from UN-Water*, presented to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parties agreed that the Protocol would be a key instrument for implementation of a water SDG.

An integrated approach to water cooperation

For a more holistic approach to water resources management, Parties agreed to develop an assessment methodology that looked at the whole water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus at the basin scale. The first assessment, begun in 2014 in the Alazani/Ganikh River Basin and based on a consultative, intersectoral process, resulted in a comprehensive picture of the resource use and management situation in the basin (see fig. 3). It also highlighted some concrete opportunities to improve intersectoral coordination and transboundary cooperation on issues such as irrigation and wastewater treatment. A similar assessment was carried out for the Sava Basin, which looked at the compatibility of plans for increased irrigation with planned and existing hydropower. An assessment of the Syr Darya Basin was also begun, and in 2015 the approach will be replicated in other basins, within and beyond the region.

Figure 3
Alzani/Ganikh pilot assessment showing overlapping sectoral water use



A harmonized legal regime

With the entry into force in August of the United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of Transboundary Watercourses, UNECE is promoting synergies in the implementation of the complementary United Nations and the UNECE water treaties. A comparative legal analysis developed under the Water Convention will be published early in 2015.

Water and climate change

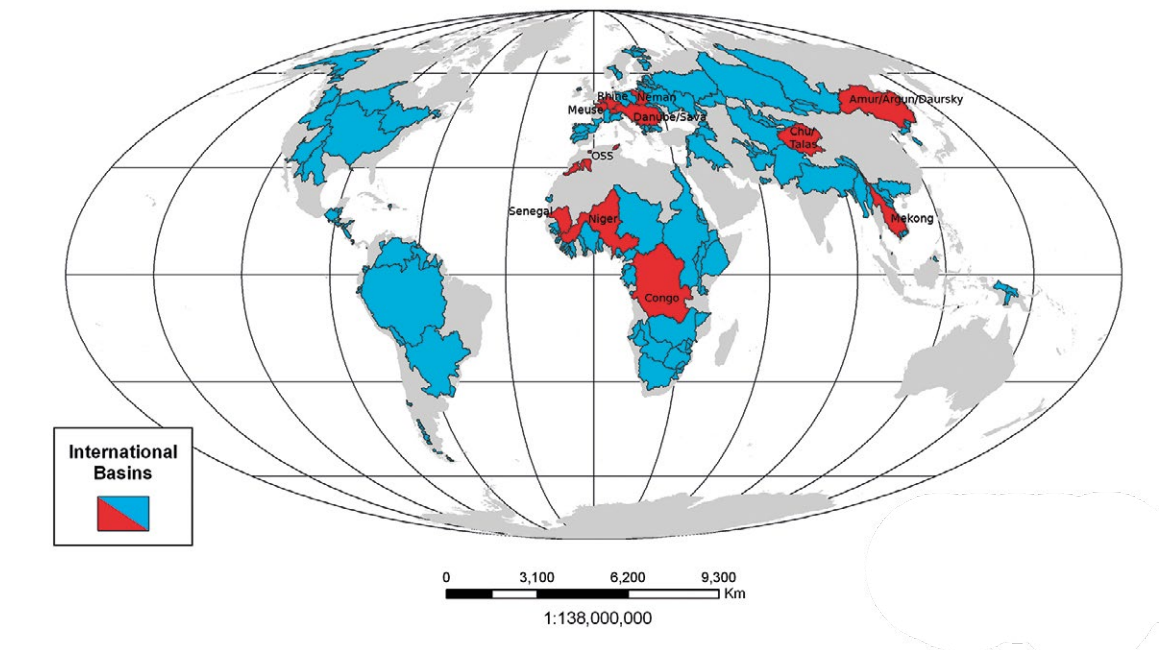
Transboundary adaptation strategies were developed under pilot climate change projects implemented by UNECE under the Environment and Security Initiative in the Neman and Dniester River Basins. In the Neman Basin, Belarus and Lithuania have been negotiating a technical protocol for regular data exchange and the creation of a joint commission. These basins are sharing their experience in the global network of 14 basins working on climate change adaptation (fig. 4) supported by UNECE and the International Network of Basin Organizations.

Access to water and sanitation for all

Under the Protocol on Water and Health, using the *Equitable Access Score-card* to assess whether everyone has the same ability to access water and sanitation has raised awareness of this issue and prompted new initiatives. Hungary and the Republic of Moldova began to conduct equitable access self-assessments in 2014.

Figure 4
River basins with ongoing climate change projects

International River Basins



Source: Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database
Oregon State University, 2009

Mollweide World Projection
WGS 1984 Geographic Coordinate System

Note: Basins in the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation are shown in red.

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The Maastricht Declaration calls for the protection of environmental activists and whistle-blowers

.....
Recommendations to Parties this year include how to prevent prohibitive costs in environmental cases

Putting people at the centre of sustainable development

Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers meeting in the Netherlands adopted the Maastricht Declaration, calling for the protection of environmental activists and whistle-blowers, adequate product information and the use of social media in communicating environmental information.

Engaging the public

Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters will help officials to engage the public in complex decision-making in areas such as nuclear activities or climate-change policies, and will facilitate the participation of vulnerable groups, rural communities and the foreign public.

Improving compliance

The Convention's Compliance Committee provided a number of targeted recommendations to Parties this year, including on how to prevent prohibitive costs in environmental cases, and Parties adopted 14 new decisions on non-compliance by Parties. (See fig. 5)

Figure 5
Issues and Parties in non-compliance in 2014



Sustainable investment

The Aarhus secretariat consulted with EBRD on its draft guidelines on ensuring public access to environmental information for private operators providing public services, such as waste management.

Removing barriers to justice

A meeting gathering together public authorities, judges, legislators, policymakers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) helped countries promote national multi-stakeholder dialogues on access to justice and a case-law database was developed to share good practices and analytical material.

Progress on the Protocol

Parties to the Protocol submitted their first national implementation reports, providing insights into numerous common challenges, including integrating emission data from agriculture activities, transport and products — such as plastic bottles — into pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs).

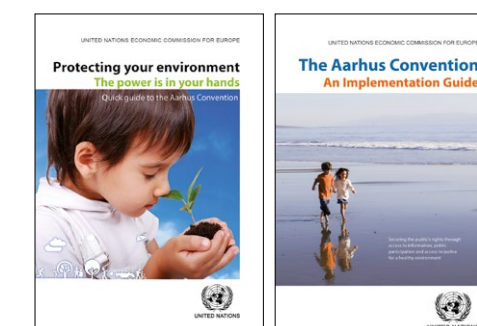
Replicating achievements and building partnerships

The secretariat worked with a number of partners to build synergies and provided advisory support to a number of countries, notably assisting Latin American and Caribbean countries in the development of a regional instrument on environmental rights and the establishment of PRTRs.

Hot off the press

A quick guide to the Aarhus Convention — *Protecting your environment: The power is in your hands* — explains how the Convention works and how it can help people in their daily life. It will be made available electronically in the six official United Nations languages and a mobile app is in the works.

The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide is an essential reference for policymakers and legislators as well as members of the public seeking to exercise their rights. The second edition (2014) takes account of a decade of practical experience in the Convention's implementation, with practical examples and valuable insights from the Aarhus Compliance Committee.



“The Aarhus principles are an important instrument in striking the right balance between people, planet and profit. The Aarhus Convention is still the world’s only legally binding international agreement on environmental information, participation and justice”

Ms. Wilma Mansveld, Minister for the Environment, Netherlands at the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention



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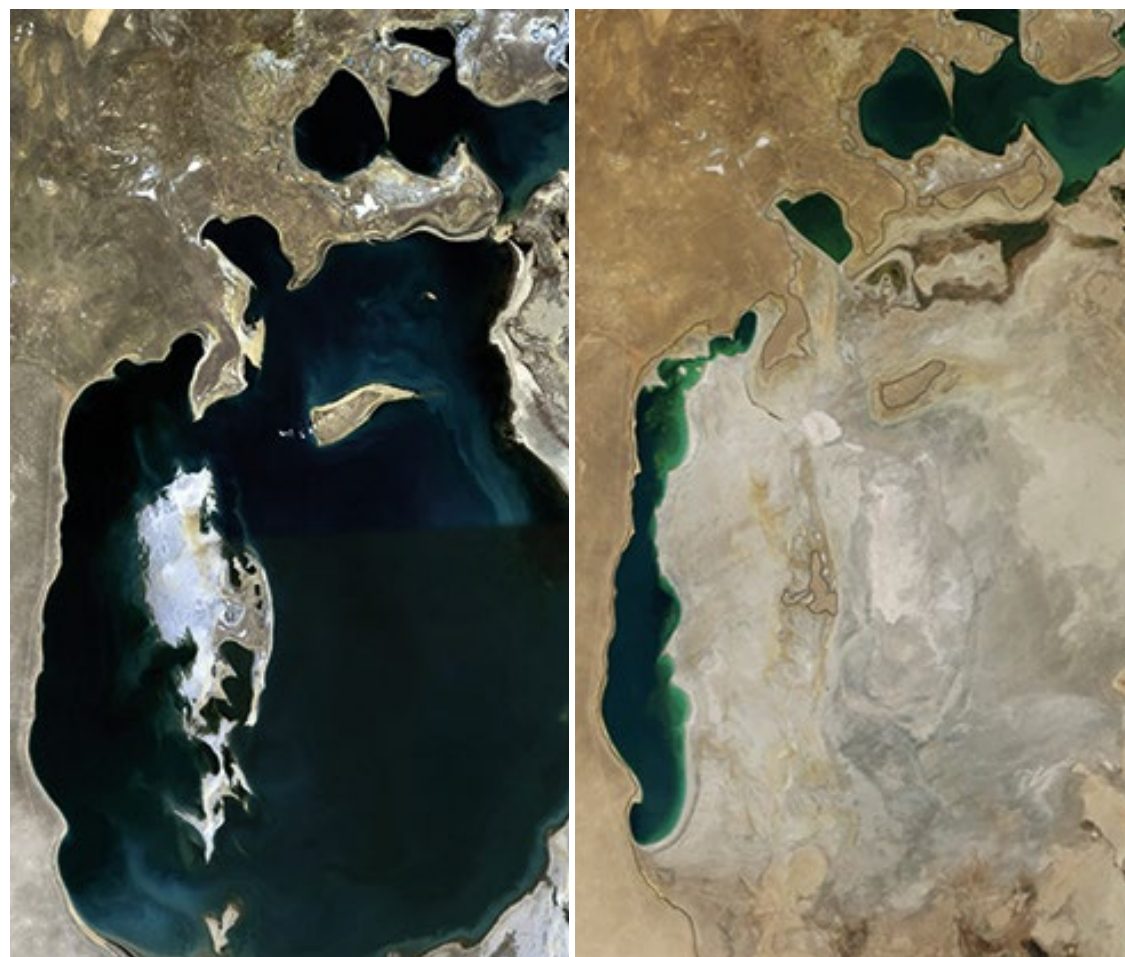
SEAs could have made a difference in the Aral Sea Basin where development plans were not assessed to ensure sustainable growth

Taking responsibility for the future today

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) is the only binding international instrument on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and transboundary consultations, ensuring cooperation on projects such as nuclear installations and oil refineries. The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment promotes the development of procedures to identify the potential environmental impact of projects even earlier, usually at the planning stage, taking into account the cumulative effect of ongoing and proposed activities.

An example where strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) could have made a difference is the Aral Sea Basin, where development plans were not assessed to ensure sustainable growth (see fig. 6).

Figure 6
The Aral Sea in 1989–2014



Source: Producers Cunningham, 2014.

Parties clarified that certain upgrades to nuclear-related activities should be subject to the provisions of the Convention

Technical assistance

With funding from the European Union (EU), numerous activities were carried out to strengthen the environmental assessment capacities of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Extensive legislative reviews were carried out in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, in consultation with experts, governmental actors and civil society stakeholders, to enable targeted assistance. A similar exercise will take off in 2015 for Belarus and Ukraine, and the Russian Federation and Central Asia will follow.

Beyond the region

Since June 2014, the Protocol on SEA is open to accession by United Nations Member States outside the UNECE region without the prior approval of the Parties. On 26 August 2014, the Espoo Convention also became open for countries from outside the region.

Nuclear-related activities

Parties made nuclear energy activities a particular focus in 2014, mandating the elaboration of good practice recommendations to assist countries in the practical application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities. Parties also clarified that certain upgrades to nuclear-related activities should also be subject to the provisions of the Convention.

Enhancing industrial safety in the region

A living industrial safety treaty

In December 2014, Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents amended the treaty to align it with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The amendment expands the categories and lists of hazardous substances covered by the Convention. Parties also agreed to negotiate further amendments, among others, to strengthen public participation provisions.

Guidance documents

In 2014 *Safety guidelines and good practices for tailings management facilities* were published, and the following guidance was finalized this year for publication in 2015:

- Indicators and criteria serving as benchmarks in implementing the Strategic Approach (user-friendly and flexible format) (jointly with Zoi Environment Network)
- Safety guidelines and good industry practices on oil terminals
- Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters
- Guide on hazard rating methodologies (jointly with the EU Joint Research Centre)

Workshops will be held and expert advice provided

to assist countries in applying the guidance. Starting in 2015, new guidance will be developed in the areas of land-use planning and the siting of hazardous activities.

10 Years of the Assistance Programme

The Convention's Assistance Programme, which turned 10 this year, carried out projects in Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, helping these countries to develop indicators and criteria to measure their progress in industrial safety. Turkmenistan also benefited from a joint capacity-building effort with the Water Convention, among others, to prevent accidental water pollution.

A key focus of the Programme in 2015 will be enhancing hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta. Joint table-top and field exercises among the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine are expected to strengthen those countries' cooperation in preparedness and response to potential oil spills in the Danube.

A Summary of the Convention in Cartoons

In 2014, a book of cartoons illustrating the Convention and its application was published to raise awareness about the Convention and its benefits among all interested stakeholders.

Monitoring and assessment — the foundation of meaningful environmental governance

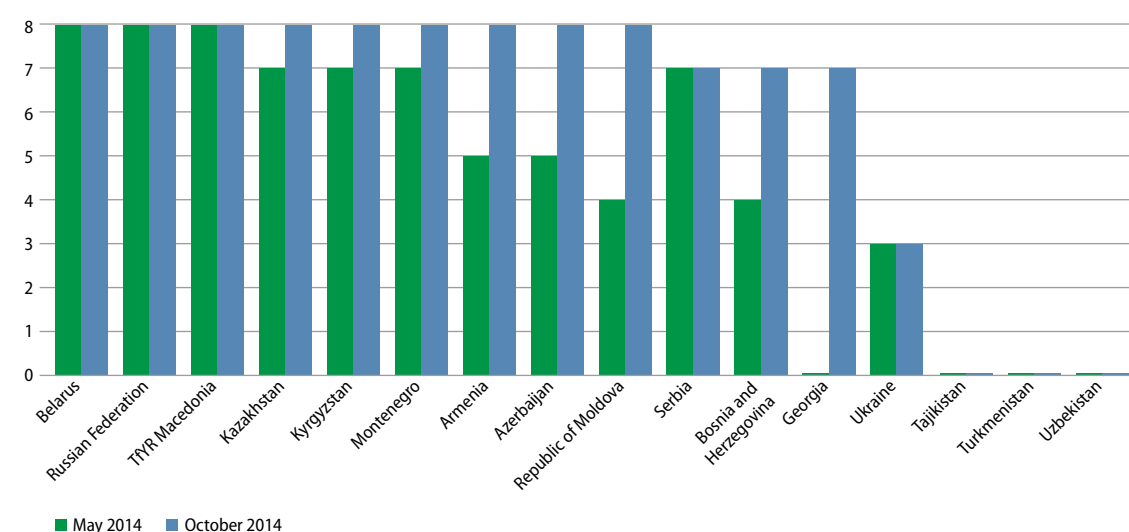
Many UNECE countries had no experience in producing or sharing environmental indicators just a few years ago. In 2007, the Programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment began assisting 16 target countries to produce and share eight core environmental indicators in areas such as water, air pollution and climate change. Progress in 2014 has been strong (see fig. 7). The Programme is now working with the target countries to expand the original core set of indicators.

Over the past year, the Programme provided technical assistance and training, shared good experience and knowledge, and increased collaboration among national statistical offices, ministries of environment and other stakeholders on environmental assessment issues. In particular, it:

- Produced guidelines on using biodiversity and soil monitoring indicators as national environmental policy tools.
- Provided a platform — the Group of Friends of SEIS — to agree performance indicators and targets to assess progress in the establishment of SEIS in the region.
- Held thematic workshops on the production of water indicators (May 2014) and air-related indicators (November 2014).

- Held a workshop on how to communicate with the public and policymakers via Indicator-based Environment Assessment Reports (November 2014).

Figure 7
Number of indicators published online



Harmonizing and strengthening environmental governance

Two Environmental Performance Review (EPR) reports were launched in 2014 at events attended by representatives of government, NGOs, academia, the mass media and international organizations. In May, the first EPR of Morocco, undertaken by UNECE in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), was launched in Rabat, where a Moroccan Minister for Environment recognized the need for improvements in many areas covered by the review, such as waste management and soil degradation, but also areas where recommendations were already being addressed.

In June, the third EPR for the Republic of Moldova was launched in Chisinau. The Moldovan Minister of Environment recognized the value of the EPR recommendations in critical areas such as wastewater treatment and biodiversity loss, and agreed that cooperation with other ministries, the private sector and civil society was needed to address challenges in those areas.

EPRs of Montenegro and Serbia were also finalized, with peer reviews carried out in the Committee on Environmental Policy.

A review team visited Georgia in 2014 to undertake interviews and site visits for a third EPR. Experts visited protected areas, as well as a cement plant, the agricultural area around Dedoplistqaro and the Batumi port and oil terminal.

Countries that have undergone EPRs



Transport choices for health, environment and prosperity

In 2014, Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) members adopted the Paris Declaration, "City in Motion: People First!" Through it, members committed "to integrate transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies". The Declaration also provides for the development of a pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion and the launch of THE PEP Academy, a new implementation mechanism linking science, policy and practice and building on experience already gained.

New manual for national policymakers

In 2014, a new step-by-step manual on National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans for policymakers and planners was developed. According to a THE PEP questionnaire, four out of 19 reporting countries confirmed that they have such plans in place and eight are currently planning or developing one.

THE PEP Relay Race

To date, seven Relay Race workshops have been held to "pass the baton" of best practices and lessons learned from city to city on how to encourage an integrated policy approach to sustainable and healthy urban transport and mobility.

At the Relay Race workshop in Kaunas, Lithuania, in September 2014, UNECE presented its transport evaluation tool, ForFITS, and a preliminary analysis

of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the town, along with an evaluation of different transport policies in terms of CO₂ reduction. The workshop was attended by 196 participants from the Lithuanian environmental, health and transport sectors at the national and local levels.

Seven Relay Race workshops have been held to "pass the baton" of best practices and lessons learned from city to city



THE PEP

Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

4^e réunion stratégique ministérielle
transport, santé et environnement

Du 14 au 16 avril 2014 Paris - La Défense

La ville bouge :
place aux usagers

www.thepep.org

Thinking sustainably

Taking stock of a decade of ESD

The UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development is the regional implementation pillar of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014). National reports submitted this year show that most States now have ESD programmes in place, and that major progress has been made in elaborating ESD strategies, policies and legislation throughout the region. However, challenges remain, such as the need to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of ESD programmes within and among countries.

ESD in 2015 and beyond

Work under the UNECE Strategy will not end with the end of the Decade. Leaders at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in November 2014 called for the launching of a Global Action Plan on ESD. Regionally, UNECE Strategy members also voiced their strong support for continuing the work beyond 2014, in particular as ESD is positioned to be a key tool for achieving an SDG on education, expected to be adopted as part of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. To assess progress made and chart the way forward, a high-level session of UNECE education and environment ministers will be held at the EFe Conference in Batumi in 2016.

ESD is positioned to be a key tool for achieving an SDG on education, expected to be adopted as part of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

1.6 The Competences table	HOLISTIC APPROACH <i>Integrative thinking and practice</i>	ENVISIONING CHANGE <i>Past, present and future</i>	ACHIEVING TRANSFORMATION <i>People, pedagogy and education systems</i>
Learning to know <i>The educator understands...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The basics of systems thinking ▶ Ways in which natural, social and economic systems function and how they may be interrelated ▶ The interdependent nature of relationships within the present generation and between generations, as well as those between rich and poor and between humans and nature ▶ Their personal world-view and cultural assumptions and seek to understand those of others ▶ The connection between sustainable futures and the way people think, live and work ▶ Their own thinking and action in relation to sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The root causes of unsustainable development ▶ That sustainable development is an evolving concept ▶ The urgent need for change from unsustainable practices towards an advancing quality of life, equity, solidarity and environmental sustainability ▶ The importance of problem setting, critical reflection, visioning and creative thinking in planning the future and effecting change ▶ The importance of preparedness for the unforeseen and a precautionary approach ▶ The importance of scientific evidence in supporting sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Why there is a need to transform the education systems that support learning ▶ Why there is a need to transform the way we educate/learn ▶ Why it is important to prepare learners to meet new challenges ▶ The importance of building on the experience of learners as a basis for transformation ▶ How engagement in real-world issues enhances learning outcomes and helps learners to make a difference in practice
Learning to do <i>The educator is able to...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Create opportunities for sharing ideas and experiences from different disciplines/places/ cultures/ generations without prejudice and preconceptions ▶ Work with different perspectives on dilemmas, issues, tensions and conflicts ▶ Connect the learner to their local and global spheres of influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Critically assess processes of change in society and envision sustainable futures ▶ Communicate a sense of urgency for change and inspire hope ▶ Facilitate the evaluation of potential consequences of different decisions and actions ▶ Use the natural, social and built environment, including their own institution, as a context and source of learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Facilitate participatory and learner-centred education that develops critical thinking and active citizenship ▶ Assess learning outcomes in terms of changes and achievements in relation to sustainable development
Learning to be <i>The educator is someone who...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Is inclusive of different disciplines, cultures and perspectives, including indigenous knowledge and world-views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Is motivated to make a positive contribution to other people and their social and natural environment, locally and globally ▶ Is willing to take considered action even in situations of uncertainty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Is willing to challenge assumptions underlying unsustainable practice ▶ Is a facilitator and participant in the learning process ▶ Is a critically reflective practitioner ▶ Inspires creativity and innovation ▶ Engages with learners in ways that build positive relationships
Learning to live together <i>The educator works with others in ways that...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Actively engage different groups across generations, cultures, places and disciplines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Facilitate the emergence of new world-views that address sustainable development ▶ Encourage negotiation of alternative futures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Challenge unsustainable practices across educational systems, including at the institutional level ▶ Help learners clarify their own and others world-views through dialogue, and recognize that alternative frameworks exist

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Assistance was given for negotiation of a treaty between Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Kura River, a key source of drinking water for the two countries

Transforming risks into cooperation

Within the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) partners, UNECE carried out numerous activities in 2014 to ensure countries cooperate in managing their shared natural resources.

Water cooperation

A climate change vulnerability assessment was undertaken for the Chu-Talas Basin (shared by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan), and transboundary adaptation strategies were developed for both the Dniester (shared by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) and Neman Rivers (running through Belarus, Lithuania and the Russian Federation). In the Dniester Basin monitoring and ecosystem restoration started as part of a climate adaptation response. Following dam accidents in Kazakhstan, legal and technical advice was provided to increase the safety of existing water infrastructure in Central Asia. Assistance was also given for negotiation of a treaty between Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Kura River, a key source of drinking water for the two countries.

Improving environmental democracy and governance

Regional studies with targeted recommendations to improve access to environmental justice were developed for six countries in South-Eastern Europe, and several projects were carried out for Belarus, including a post-project environmental analysis for a chalk mining operation bordering a Ukrainian national park.

Prevention, detection and response to industrial accidents

Experts were trained on how to prepare industrial safety reports in four countries in South-Eastern Europe and a comparative analysis of hazard and crisis management legislation, policy and institutions was produced for the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

Sound advice helps bridge the divide in transboundary basins

The project work undertaken by the Regional Adviser on Environment in 2014 continued to focus on the development of transboundary water cooperation, including in support of EU National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management. In Central Asia, regional cooperation on dam safety and water quality was the focus.

Technical cooperation projects managed and/or implemented by the Regional Adviser were implemented in more than 15 countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Three key results can be highlighted:

- Bilateral environmental and water cooperation was further developed between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the Amu Darya Basin through the raising of funds and organization of expeditions and bilateral meetings.
- Projects implemented jointly with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving



the Aral Sea, led by Uzbekistan, and the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development, led by Tajikistan, accelerated the implementation of Aral Sea Basin Programme 3.

- Continued funding from the Global Environmental Facility International Waters Programme was secured for projects to develop transboundary water cooperation in basins such as the Chu-Talas between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and in the Drin between Albania, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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Forests contribute in uncountable ways to human life and to sustainable development

Why are forests a good area for “testing” the green economy? The ecological functions and ecosystem services that forests provide are undeniable: from water purification to carbon storage, from conserving biodiversity to providing food, forests contribute in uncountable ways to human life and to sustainable development. Technology has allowed the creation of new forest products using materials and composites made from wood pulp and fibres, having competitive market prices, and with a more sustainable production cycle. This has resulted in job increases in the forestry sector and to an expansion of the green economy based on forest products, from building and heating, to fashion and bio-plastics.

Actions by member States and private actors

The Rovaniemi Action Plan

The challenge is how to enhance this contribution, while strengthening the sustainability of the forest sector, increasing its economic input and preventing environmental damage. To meet this challenge, member States decided to take “action” in the area of Forests and the Green Economy. This resulted in the adoption of the Action Plan in Rovaniemi, Finland, in December 2013, during the joint session of the UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry with the European Forestry Commission (EFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Action Plan describes how the forest sector in the UNECE region could lead the way towards a green, bio-based economy at the global level.

It reflects a vision for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy based on five pillars:

1. Sustainable production and consumption of forest products
2. A low carbon forest sector
3. Decent green jobs in the forest sector
4. Long term provision of forest ecosystem services
5. Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy

The seventy-second session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

The session took place in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation, in November 2014 and focused on implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.

Inputs from participants were very diverse, ranging from discussing the most recent developments in forest product markets to presenting data collection and monitoring processes, from member State reports on implementation of the Action Plan at the national level to presentations on innovative, sustainable wood-based fibres and textiles.

Delegates also discussed forest resource assessment and reporting issues, as well as the role of forests in the post-2015 development agenda. A draft study on progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the challenges for the sector in the UNECE region was presented. The study will be issued in early 2015 as a contribution to the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Actions in the Caucasus and Central Asia

Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in Central Asia and the Caucasus – another example of the Rovaniemi Action Plan

The UNECE-FAO UNDA project, “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in Central Asia and the Caucasus” is a two-year capacity building initiative to assist countries in the region to develop context specific strategies in order to harness the forest sector’s potential. The UNDA project provides capacity building activities on green economy principles, policy drafting, wood energy, data collection and monitoring. It ensures that the five pillars of the Rovaniemi Action Plan are reflected, and collects stakeholder input using participatory methods.

The project is being implemented in seven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (non-pilot countries), Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (pilot countries). The pilot countries are assisted in developing new forest policies and a Green Economy Action Plan as described below.

Georgia is developing a national Green Economy Action Plan for the Forest Sector based on inputs from local and national workshops. Georgia adopted a Forestry Concept (new forest strategy) in December 2013, and has used it as the starting point for examining how to further develop and link forestry to green growth.

A UNDA project assists countries in the region to develop context specific strategies to harness the forest sector’s potential

Within Central Asia, **Kazakhstan** has been a leader in developing strategies on how to make the transition to a greener economy. The Forestry Committee in Kazakhstan has set up a working group to develop a full forestry strategy: Kazakhstan’s Forest sector Development Programme 2020. Currently under development, it will outline how forestry can be developed in a way that is focused on the green economy principles.

The Forestry Agency of **Tajikistan** has initiated the development of a new forestry strategy and national forestry programme (2016-2025) with the support of the UNDA project and several international partners. A first draft is under development and is scheduled to be submitted to the Government by the end of 2014.



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Forests for Fashion aimed at raising awareness on the environmental impacts of different fibres

Actions for the public

Forests for Fashion

Communication is of key importance in sharing knowledge and raising awareness on forest ecosystems and their crucial role in sustainable development. Every year, the International Day of Forests provides an important communications opportunity and in 2014 the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section celebrated the day by addressing a complex, yet crucial, theme: the relation between the fashion and forest industries.

The topic was chosen in order to deliver an unambiguous message about sustainability because this is a sector where vertical alliances are needed with production and finishing companies, many of which are aiming to reduce the ecological footprints of their products. Analysing the impacts, synergies and underdeveloped potential for cooperation between the forestry and fashion industries, the Forests for Fashion project aimed at raising awareness on the environmental impacts of different fibres, which is low among the general public.

To explore further existing synergies and the potential to improve sustainability through joint action between fashion and forest industries, the Forests for Fashion initiative gathered together experts, producers, designers, entrepreneurs and artists in a roundtable conference.

An innovative Fashion show further highlighted environmentally friendly fabrics in garments produced by international designers and gave great visibility to the initiative. The outreach campaign for this event reached a larger than usual audience with articles in over 100 magazines, such as Vogue UK and Vogue Italy, leading fashion blogs, and daily newspapers. Forest for Fashion also reached new, untapped pockets of the public that are usually not touched by United Nations events and initiatives.

The Environmental Impacts of different fibres

Synthetic fibres, which are made from fossil fuels and use environmentally damaging manufacturing processes, are the most popular fibres worldwide. The second most popular fibre, cotton, is grown in very large monocultures and is a major user of pesticides which could be causing severe land degradation.

At present, together with recycled fibres, modern wood-derived fibres represent the only potential source of sustainable clothing. With likely future limitations on the supply of fossil-fuel-derived oils for the production of synthetic fibres, the environmental downsides of cotton, and a lack of other viable alternatives, dissolved-pulp fibres offer the greatest hope for a sustainable clothing material that is sufficient to meet global needs.

Sustainable Development Goals – A forest perspective

Forests play an essential role in achieving sustainable development, the green economy and poverty eradication. Forests are the key land ecosystem ensuring the preservation of biodiversity and are an important source of renewable materials. Hence, they are essential to both Sustainable Development and related Goals (SDGs). Soundly formulated goals and targets will guarantee that forests enhance their role in sustaining the environment and people's livelihoods.

The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the EFC at their joint meeting therefore stressed the importance of properly reflecting the role of forests in the SDGs.

To support this objective two workshops were organized on "Forests and Sustainable Development Goals: a regional view", to exchange views and developed ideas on how to strategically include forests in the SDGs.

Participants developed a set of updated targets and corresponding indicators based on existing indicators in the forestry and related sectors. Conclusions were made available to member States, as contributions to their discussions within the Open Working Group, and to the relevant organs within the United Nations system.



Forests are the key land ecosystem ensuring the preservation of biodiversity

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The integrated programme of work continuously evolves to address emerging issues related to sustainable forest management

Actions by the secretariat

New integrated programme of work

In line with the continued efforts of the United Nations System to enhance coherence and “deliver as one” UNECE and FAO formalized their sixty-year old partnership in an agreement to support the implementation of the joint UNECE/FAO programme of work for forestry and timber. This was done in order to ensure a coordinated and effective long-term response to challenges in the pan-European region related to the sustainable development of forests, including climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and sustainable forest management.

The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section supports the activities on forestry and the forest sector in the UNECE region and works to implement the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work whose overall goal is to “support member countries and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to sustainably manage and use UNECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society”.

The integrated programme of work, adopted in December 2013 in Rovaniemi, covers many traditional topics related to forest products and services and continuously evolves in order to address emerging issues related to sustainable forest management. At this time, new elements include:

- Linkages between sustainable forest management and a green economy
- Innovation in the forest sector
- Enhanced emphasis on wood energy and payments for ecosystem services
- Interactions between forest policies and other sectors
- Adaptation to climate change
- Forest health and weather disturbance-related issues
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity and environmental issues into the different areas of work

UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review 2013-2014

Highlights

Despite improving conditions in the five years since the economic crisis hit bottom in 2009, production output for the major forest products in the UNECE Region (Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America) are still 10-15 per cent below the average annual output for the four years preceding the crisis (2004-2007).

The consumption of industrial roundwood in the UNECE region was 984 million m³ in 2013, 1 per cent higher than in 2012 and 17 per cent more than in 2009. Prices for wood raw materials increased tremendously.

China has become a key alternative market for sawnwood producers in Canada, Europe and the United States. Apparent sawn softwood consumption rose by 5.2 per cent in North America in 2013 and by 8.8 per cent in the CIS. In Europe demand dropped for the third consecutive year, by 1.7 per cent.

Wood energy consumption in the UNECE region increased and accounted for 10.5 per cent of primary energy production in the EU27. North American exports of wood pellets to the EU reached a new high of 4.6 million tonnes in 2013 with strong continuing investments, and Russian pellet production remained at 1.5 million tonnes in 2013.



Wood energy accounted for 10.5 per cent of primary energy production in the EU27

Gender

An urgent call for action: achieve gender equality in the UNECE region

“Beyond the enforcement of legislation, we have to recognize that the elimination of gender-based violence requires a change of mind and of mindsets. We need to create a paradigm shift, this issue is NOT just a woman’s issue”

HRH Crown Princess Mary of Denmark

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“Let’s work together to boost the Beijing agenda. And let’s work together to shape the new Sustainable Development Goals and agenda so that every girl and woman can live in safety and with dignity”

Christian Friis Bach,
Executive Secretary of UNECE

“Pressure is intensifying for world leaders to deliver on decades of promises and commitments to gender equality. As the first of the regional reviews, it is up to you now to kick start this process”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,
Executive Director of UN Women

“Allocate sufficient public budgets to achieve the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action!”

Sascha Gabizon,
Executive Director, Women in Europe for our Common Future

In 2014 UNECE’s work for gender equality in the region ranged from hosting a high-level meeting for the 20-year regional review of the Beijing Platform for Action, capacity building workshops for member States, to promoting gender mainstreaming in the UNECE subprogrammes.

The Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting

More than 500 stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, the private sector and international organizations met on 6-7 November 2014 to review progress and setbacks in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the past 20 years. The meeting was preceded by the Beijing+20 Geneva NGO Forum whose recommendations provided a voice from civil society to the deliberations at the Meeting.

Co-hosted by UNECE and UN Women and co-chaired by the Netherlands and Azerbaijan, the Meeting reviewed the long-term trends and barriers to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the UNECE region. Participants looked at the situation of women in the twelve critical areas of concern focusing on five thematic clusters: closing gender gaps through economic and social policies, women’s representation in economic and political decision-making, elimination of violence against women, gender

justice and gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda.

The needs of women from vulnerable groups, such as women refugees, victims of trafficking and autistic women were also represented at the Meeting through side events.

UNECE member States reported significant legislative progress, but implementation of laws has lagged far behind. The disproportionate impact of the recent financial and economic crises on women has hampered efforts to reduce inequalities across the region. Women continue to dominate among the poor in many countries. Violence against women remains a pervasive problem. Discriminatory stereotypes persist and deter women’s full participation in the economy and in policy decision-making. Participants discussed the reasons behind these trends and shared experiences and best practices in addressing these challenges.

What needs to be done?

It was widely agreed at the Meeting that all stakeholders have crucial roles to play to make further progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Governments, as part of their continued commitment to empowering women, must implement policies and actions that promote gender equality. Quotas to increase women’s representation on corporate boards and in politics, gender targets in companies applying for public procurement contracts, and initiatives to promote women’s entrepreneurship,

were among the measures discussed. Governments must also make sure that the relevant legislation is enforced, provide sufficient funds to national and local gender mechanisms, and step up efforts to collect sex-disaggregated statistics in order to better monitor progress and challenges. Gender considerations must be mainstreamed through all policymaking, including budgeting, labour and social policies.

The private sector must commit to eradicating the gender pay gap and to increasing women’s presence in the managerial ranks and on corporate boards.

Civil society and academia, along with other stakeholders, must work to eradicate discriminatory stereotypes, which so often burden solely women with housework and childcare duties. These stereotypes also constrain the occupational choices of both women and men.

Men and boys must also play their part in achieving gender equality, as violence against women and harmful stereotypes cannot be eradicated without a strong commitment from both genders.

Collaboration between stakeholders has proven to be a critical factor in the areas where progress has been made. All countries agreed that this collaboration must continue. Countries also issued a strong call for a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality and targeted gender indicators throughout the entire post-2015 development agenda.



Women continue to dominate among the poor in many countries

Companies applying for public procurement contracts should have gender targets

Discriminatory stereotypes constrain the occupational choices of both women and men

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Beijing+20

Regional Review Meeting

6 – 7 November 2014
Palais des Nations,
Geneva
Room XVII

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for sustainable development in the UNECE region

- Empowering women and girls
- Preventing and eliminating gender-based violence
- Ensuring gender justice
- Achieving gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda



Co-hosted by UNECE and UN Women

As a follow-up to the Meeting, the co-chairs' conclusions, together with the civil society recommendations from the NGO Forum, will be submitted to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, as a regional input to the global Beijing+20 review in March 2015.

Supporting women's entrepreneurship development in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

To promote women's economic empowerment, UNECE continued to strengthen women entrepreneurs' skills and knowledge on how to use various tools as well as information and communication technologies to set up and expand businesses. In cooperation with the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre in Haifa and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two training workshops were organized for professional women from Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia in January and April 2014.

Discussions on key steps in the implementation of policies towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women were at the centre of a meeting of the Working Group on Gender and Economy held on 5 November 2014 within SPECA. Representatives of SPECA countries shared examples of gender-sensitive economic policies in Central Asia, identified priorities and discussed setbacks in the implementation of gender mainstreaming in their national policies, including barriers to women's entrepreneurship development.

Reflecting the gender dimension in the UNECE work programme

Having successfully implemented the first Gender Action Plan (GAP) in 2012-2013, UNECE continued to strengthen the gender dimension in its work. A new GAP was developed for 2014 – 2015 which aims at improving UNECE's performance in line with the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality (SWAP). UNECE has advanced in achieving gender parity and organizational culture. Another area of progress is knowledge development and communication; UNECE has reached out to more and diverse networks of women's business associations, women entrepreneurs, agencies and institutions, and exchanged experience and best practices in initiatives, tools and policies to promote the advancement of women in the region. Internal efforts were focused on strengthening accountability within UN SWAP, empowering women in sectors of UNECE work, including environmental activities, mainstreaming gender in population policies and in national statistics of member States. To facilitate the integration of a gender dimension in UNECE's environmental subprogramme, lunchtime seminars on gender mainstreaming were launched with discussions on how to better include women's needs in environmental policymaking.

Looking forward: challenges for 2015

- Priority will be given to the follow-up of the Beijing+20 regional review meeting, including providing a regional perspective to the global review at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- UNECE will continue to promote the reflection of a gender perspective in the work of the sectoral committees through the various activities considered in the UNECE Gender Action Plan for 2014-2015.
- UNECE we will further strengthen cooperation with member States to exchange experience and knowledge in the area of women's economic empowerment, including women's entrepreneurship development in the region.



UNECE has advanced in achieving gender parity and organizational culture

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Housing and land management

Making cities a better place to live in

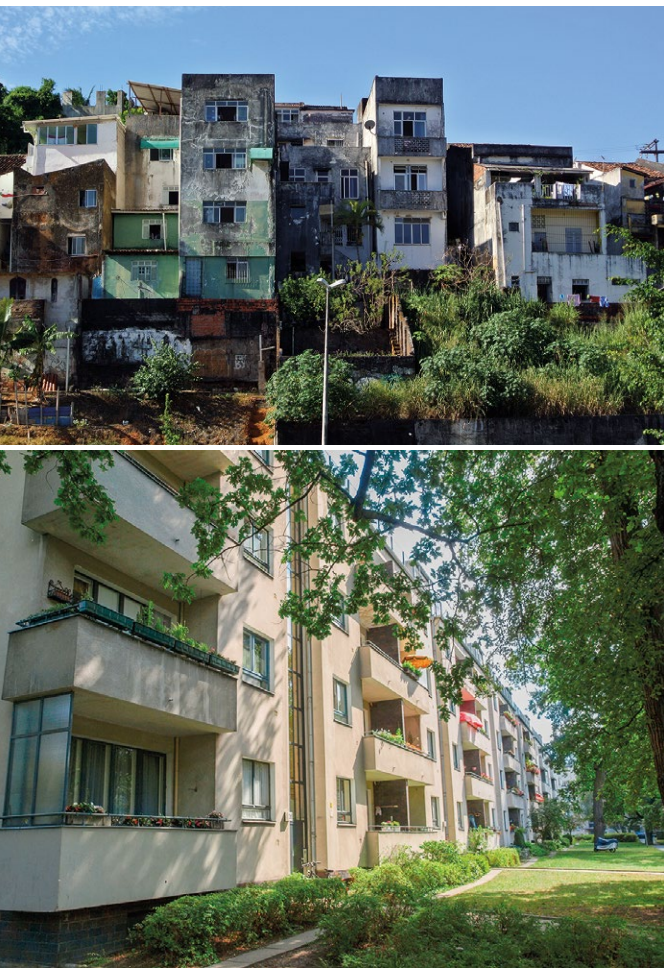
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The global financial crisis has made access to decent and affordable housing increasingly difficult for a growing share of the population

Increased urban sprawl has reduced the land available for other uses. Uncontrolled urbanization has created or expanded informal settlements whose residents may lack security of tenure, infrastructure, water, sanitation and other public services. Climate change and natural disasters have caused economic and social losses and affected people's lives and assets. The global financial crisis has made access to decent and affordable housing increasingly difficult for a growing share of the population. At least 100 million low- and middle- income people in the region are overburdened by housing costs. In addition, housing cost makes up an increasing percentage of household income and other basic human needs, such as food and adequate healthcare, are also becoming increasingly unaffordable.

The Housing and Land Management Programme works to help countries address and overcome these complex challenges. Much of this work is focused on assisting member States to implement the *Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing in the ECE region and the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE Region 2014-2020* in support of the post-2015 development agenda. If approved, the proposed post-2015 SDG, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", will mark an important turning point globally, regionally and nationally for sustainable urban development and the work of UNECE in this area.

Inter-agency and interregional cooperation

The Committee on Housing and Land Management is increasing cooperation and synergies with other United Nations and international organizations and agencies. Such cooperation includes work on joint projects, studies, capacity building events with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN-Habitat, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), FAO, Housing Europe Association, International Union of Tenants, the World Bank and many other organizations.

The Committee is identifying the priorities for the region for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which will take place in 2016. In 2015 the Committee will complete as an input to HABITAT III the regional study *Challenges and Priorities in Housing and Urban Development*.

Implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the UNECE Region 2014-2020

The Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the UNECE Region for the period 2014-2020 recognizes the key role that housing plays for the well-being of the region's citizens, as well as its important role in climate change mitigation. The Strategy promotes member States to engage to develop policies and legislation to reduce energy use in the housing sector, to introduce more effective management of multi-family housing estates and to improve the condition of the housing stock. Increasing investments in innovation and new technologies for energy efficiency in housing will also stimulate the economy, offer new job prospects, especially for young generations. The Committee worked in 2014 to develop approaches to monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategy at the national level.

Energy efficient housing

Energy efficiency is one of the key priorities of the Committee and national workshops on energy efficient and affordable housing were organized in Albania, Armenia, and Tajikistan. In November the Committee held regional workshop *Energy efficiency for sustainable housing* as part of the fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Tunisia organized by UNECE with ESCAP and ESCWA. The workshop addressed the long-term environmental impact of energy efficiency in the housing sector as well as appropriate financial mechanisms, legislative frameworks and policies for providing access to sustainable energy, especially for low-income and vulnerable groups. It also focused on raising awareness about energy-efficiency measures in buildings and encouraging decision-makers to embrace innovation and encourage cooperation in order to provide citizens with access to a higher quality of life.

Exhibition *Greener and smarter homes: energy efficiency in buildings*

The exhibition organized to celebrate World Habitat Day in October 2014 in the Palais des Nations included examples of cost and energy-efficient technologies in buildings. The exhibition was co-organized by the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management; the United Nations Office at Geneva; the public service organization SIG, a provider of utility services for the Canton of Geneva; and Energy Cities (European Association of Local Authorities in Energy Transition).

Increasing investments in innovation and new technologies for energy efficiency in housing will stimulate the economy and offer new job prospects, especially for young generations

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Smart cities reinforce cooperation between different stakeholders in the public and private sectors

Housing cost overburden leads to decreased investment in maintenance

Smart Urban Solutions

To promote the “new urban agenda” the Committee joined forces with a range of partner organizations, including UN-Habitat, the Organization for international Economic Cooperation, the Austrian Environment Agency, universities, organizations from the private sector and NGOs to elaborate smart cities indicators and smart city profiles. An open platform will be developed for sharing best practices and experiences. Definitions of a “smart city” were debated at the Land administration systems for smart cities workshop in May 2014.

What is a smart city?

A “smart city” is a city that is dynamic in implementing sustainable initiatives. It is a city which is able to provide affordable and healthy housing, and reduce its consumption of energy and emission of pollutants. It supports green, inclusive, healthy, compact, smart and resilient human settlements; promotes investments in its different sectors; and effectively manages its financial resources. The smart city has an integrated approach to planning and building, and works toward environmentally clean, affordable public transportation, higher air and water quality and efficient waste management. It embraces a sustainable management of urban land as well as transparent land and property registration. Its efficiency is improved by the use of innovative technologies and ICT within the different sectors. Furthermore, smart cities reinforce the cooperation between different stakeholders in the public and private sectors including national and local authorities, academia, NGOs, and city inhabitants.

Study on Social Housing

In several countries there is a lack of rental housing, in some a lack of housing designed to meet special needs such as those of the elderly and people with disabilities, and in others there is a general housing shortage. In addition, an increasing part of the population is finding it difficult to afford housing-related costs such as electricity, heating and water utility bills. Housing cost overburden leads to decreased investment in maintenance which in turns causes health hazards such as asthma, allergies, tuberculosis, and lung cancer all of which contribute to increased mortality. To respond to

Data interoperability between government agencies could increase citizens’ well-being

increased concerns about the lack of affordable housing, a study on social housing was elaborated which identifies key challenges and important trends in social housing in the region and provides recommendations on future policies which could help member States to improve access to adequate, affordable, healthy and good-quality housing for all.

Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

The country profiles continue to be a tool for Governments to use in analysing their policies and strategies on housing, urban development and land management, as well as the institutional and financial frameworks for these sectors. The Government of Ukraine agreed to prepare a national action plan to implement its Country Profile’s policy recommendations. In Tajikistan, UNECE assisted the Government in completing its action plan and implementation has already begun. This action plan for Tajikistan includes activities on energy efficient housing, construction standards, and city planning taking into account risks from natural disasters.

Land administration

The Working Party Land Administration works to promote and improve land administration and land management in the UNECE region including through improving security of tenure, raising capacity of land registries and promoting sustainable land use policies. During 2014 the

Working Party worked on benchmarking land administration systems in the UNECE region as well as analysing recent achievements and major challenges in developing real estate infrastructure from a technical, organizational and innovative perspective. A workshop, *The socioeconomic potential of land administration services*, held in Copenhagen in May 2014, explored different aspects of open data in land registration systems and how data interoperability between government agencies could increase citizens’ well-being. The Working Party also organized sessions on interregional experiences with land administration organizations at the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, in March 2014 in Washington, DC. It undertook two land administration reviews in 2013 and 2014, in the Republic of Moldova and in Uzbekistan.

Priorities for 2015

Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

The Charter was agreed by the Committee at its annual session and UNECE will make a decision on its approval in spring 2015. The Charter has four principles: environmental protection; economic security; social inclusion and participation; and cultural identity. The Charter supports policies and actions and encourages international cooperation at all levels. It also represents a commitment by member States to address these issues and provides clear guidelines and benchmarks for assessing progress.

The Charter provides a blueprint to better living conditions

The Charter will be an important input to the HABITAT III conference in 2016 and will also be an important tool for supporting implementation of the relevant SDG on cities and human settlements. This practical contribution to the post-2015 development agenda provides a blueprint to better living conditions, reduced emissions and environmental impact and more green jobs in the housing sector.

Standards

A task force on building codes and standards related to energy efficiency in buildings, including manufacturing of building materials and energy performance requirements, will launch its work in 2015. The work will include standards related to the use of materials and on the identification of other possible standards for sustainable buildings, beyond energy efficiency; potentially including standards for the resilience of buildings to natural disasters and other construction codes to support smart cities, as well as healthy and barrier-free housing.

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Population Lessons about active ageing

**“Years wrinkle the skin,
but to give up enthusiasm
wrinkles the soul“**

Jacky Simpson, lead dancer of the Magic Movers

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Older Georgians invited to participate in an essay contest to share their experiences on ageing showed they have a lot of wisdom to share

Active ageing has been at the heart of the work of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing, serviced by the Population Unit. Since its creation in 2008 it has carried out a wealth of activities to implement the principles of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS). Its focus in 2014: developing a Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Georgia, preparing a Policy Brief on innovative care strategies, taking the Active Ageing Index into its second phase and advocating for a society for all, with a special event on the International Day of Older Persons.

Ageing in Georgia: pointing the right way

At the request of the Georgian Government, a Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing was prepared in the course of 2014. Based on an in-depth evaluation of the policy-framework and practice with participation from different stakeholders, recommendations were developed to strengthen implementation of MIPAA/RIS in the country. A national interdisciplinary working group was created to discuss drafts of the Road Map, provide comments, and later develop a corresponding action plan. The Road Map with its numerous recommendations was presented to the Working Group on Ageing at its November meeting.

Alongside the research for the Road Map, older Georgians were invited to participate in an essay contest, sharing their experiences on ageing in Georgia, their lessons to the youth and to policymakers. The ten

best essays received an award during a ceremony at United Nations House in Tbilisi in July 2014. The contest showed that Georgia's older people, often overlooked, have a lot of wisdom to share. Their essays gave them a voice. And their portraits taken by award-winning photographer Mzia Lekveishvili gave them a public face. These portraits, together with essay quotes, were exhibited at the Palais des Nations during three weeks in November. For those passing through the exhibition, it provided food for thought on questions such as how we can achieve inclusive development, and leveraging the contributions of all members of society, even the most vulnerable ones.

Innovative and empowering strategies of care: strategies and good practices

Work on a new issue in the series of Policy Briefs on Ageing focused on innovative approaches on care that empower users by including them to a greater extent in the design, implementation and provision of care services. The Brief suggests ways to arrange care services in line with the needs and capabilities of the users. The strategies covered refer to the role of the user, the scope of care services, the use of technology and ways of cooperation between stakeholders. Good practice examples from across the region illustrate how such approaches have already become common practice: In the Danish Frederica model, older people are trained to perform basic care tasks themselves thereby rehabilitating them to function independently. The project

explicitly opposes the stereotype of irreversible physical decline and dependency of older people and advocates for strengthening preventive and rehabilitative aspects of care. In a joint Finnish-Estonian project, a touch screen device enables older people in remote areas to follow broadcasts and interact with other users, thereby making it a social media tool. This highlights that care services have to go well beyond nursing and assisting sick and frail people; they should help users to live as independently as possible and enhance their physical, social and mental well-being. The Brief also contains a checklist and a bibliography for further reading.

Active Ageing Index: gaining recognition at different levels

The Active Ageing Index (AAI), first released in 2012, is a tool that measures to what extent the potential of older people is used in terms of their participation in economic and social life, and independent and secure living. The index also captures to what extent the environment older people live in enables them to age actively. During the second phase of this joint AAI project with the European Commission, which will continue through to the end of 2015, the index coverage has been extended geographically and over time. AAI results for 28 EU countries were launched in November 2014. At the same time, AAI is being calculated for non-EU countries, including Canada, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. For all countries, results will be available for the years

Care services have to go well beyond nursing and assisting sick and frail people

2008, 2010, and 2012, to track the trends in the overall index as well as by each of its four domains.

In 2014, the index gained more recognition as an evidence-based tool for policymaking. Countries like Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia are using it as a starting point to shape or adapt their active ageing policies. Moreover, some countries (e.g. Italy, Poland and Spain) have started applying AAI at the subnational — regional and even local — levels to better understand and target the needs of each region or municipality. A peer review in Poland, carried out in October 2014, helped to gather feedback from countries about the national and subnational implications of AAI. A wiki page devoted to the index offers the most recent AAI results for 28 EU countries.



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1 October each year marks the International Day of Older Persons

.....
Nobody grows old by living a number of years, people grow old only by deserting their ideas

The joy of dance: marking the International Day of Older Persons

Every year, 1 October marks the International Day of Older Persons, which in 2014 was under the motto 'Leaving No One Behind: Promoting a Society for All'. Inviting the Magic Movers, a dance group of older ladies from the United Kingdom, the Population Unit decided to make this a special occasion. "Life is about everyone having an opportunity to pursue a better future whatever age they are", said Jacky Simpson, art director of the group in her speech ahead of the performance. "We all need one another in order for life to have the correct balance."

The Magic Movers are not professionals; they dance for pleasure, meeting twice a week in a community hall. They exercise body and mind, thereby promoting healthy lifestyles. As older dancers they provide a role model and a positive image of ageing. And so all the spectators at the Palais des Nations joined into the dance and got swept away to the tunes of Michael Bublé, Glen Miller and Ronan Keating.

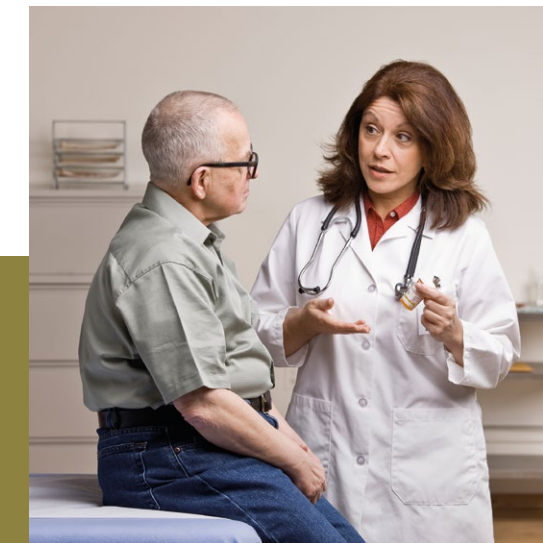
With Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, and UNECE Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach joining the group for a picture, the Magic Movers were themselves moved about the commitment they felt at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, to making the world one that is worth living in for all generations. "Nobody grows old by living a number of years, people grow old only by deserting

their ideas. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Think about it!" appealed Jacky Simpson at the end of her speech. With her words, she also motivated United Nations staff to keep up the momentum in adjusting societies to the new realities of ageing, in the years to come.

Priorities in 2015

Work in all key areas of population and ageing will continue in 2015, combining policy, data and advocacy. A topical focus in 2015 will be on ensuring dignity of people with dementia, with a new Policy Brief providing strategic advice and good practice examples. Half way through the current reporting cycle, the Working Group will start preparing the next review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS which will culminate in a Ministerial Conference in 2017 in Turkey. Thinking ahead will help to keep the focus on the four areas prioritized in the 2012 Vienna Declaration: longer working lives; participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion; health and independence in older age; and intergenerational solidarity. The substantive work in the Working Group will continue to evolve around these areas.

A topical focus in 2015 will be on ensuring dignity of people with dementia



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Revival of regional and continental trade is the single most important potential engine for positive change in the region

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was founded by the Presidents of four Central Asian States and the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP in 1998 by the Tashkent Declaration. Today it counts seven members: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNECE and UNESCAP provide support to SPECA.

The 2014 SPECA Economic Forum, in Ashgabat, focused on improving connectivity between Afghanistan and Central Asia in the light of the Afghan chairmanship of SPECA during 2014 and the beginning of Afghanistan's Transformation Decade.

A study on regional connectivity was presented by UNESCAP and the discussion that followed highlighted that SPECA countries, being either landlocked or double landlocked, share an interest in improving regional connectivity. Revival of regional and continental trade is the single most important potential engine for positive change in the region. In this context, regional cooperation with Afghanistan provides a multitude of advantages for Central Asia: it offers a market for energy and local products; alternative, cost-efficient routes to world markets; and a transit route from energy-rich Central Asian countries to the energy-deficient South-Asian subcontinent.

Strong support was expressed for an active role by SPECA in developing unified regional regulatory frameworks and approaches as well as in building

the capacity of countries to operate regional infrastructure in an efficient way. SPECA member and observer states include some of the world's largest energy exporters as well as the world's largest energy importers. Bridging this divide will require visionary investments in energy infrastructure and cooperation with regional bodies such as the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in order to place SPECA within a larger geographical framework stretching from the Caucasus to China and South Asia.

At the same meeting UNECE presented four project proposals in order to support connectivity between Afghanistan and Central Asia by reducing barriers to trade, improving transit for goods, and improving joint watershed management of the upper Amu Darya water basin by Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. SPECA countries were encouraged to work with the UNECE secretariat in order to identify donors and obtain funding for these projects.

The 2013 SPECA Governing Council adopted terms of reference for SPECA. Complemented by the terms of reference of the six SPECA project working groups, this established clear, unified objectives, procedures and rules of decision-making for the Programme as a whole.

Participants in the 2014 Governing Council noted that:

- The region has the potential to become an important transport hub between Europe and Asia;
- During its Transformation Decade, Afghanistan would like to become a catalyst for regional cooperation and SPECA offers an excellent framework for this;
- SPECA's greatest strength is its combination of policy and practical, expert level work. It hosts strategic discussions on regional cooperation and at the same time provides technical assistance in many areas where such cooperation faces challenges, including the efficient and safe operation of regional transport infrastructures and the identification of bottlenecks.

The region has the potential to become an important transport hub between Europe and Asia

SPECA's greatest strength is its combination of policy and practical, expert level work



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Reliable and objective official statistics are crucial for evidence-based decision making and accountability

MDG monitoring has revealed that many important data and knowledge gaps still persist

If important data gaps persist Governments' ability to take action towards SDGs may be compromised

Reliable and objective official statistics are crucial for evidence-based decision making and accountability. UNECE through the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)¹ brings together chief statisticians and experts to develop high quality official statistics.

During the last decade, monitoring progress towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has required notable investment in statistical capacities. As a result, we know much more now about progress towards better quality of life, particularly concerning the most vulnerable people. UNECE has supported countries by providing training and collecting data on all eight MDGs through the UNECE Statistical Database. Despite significant progress, MDG monitoring has revealed many important data and knowledge gaps that still persist.

In 2015, United Nations Member States will commit to an ambitious initiative on the post-2015 development agenda and related SDGs with its 169 targets and even higher number of indicators. Achieving these goals and targets will require integrated social, economic and environmental data. The Conference has provided significant input into designing a monitoring framework for

¹ The Conference is composed of the Heads of the national statistical organizations in the UNECE region with the participation of Australia, Brazil, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and South Africa. The major international organizations active in statistics in region also participate in the work, such as the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), OECD, CIS-Stat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, etc.

SDGs with the *CES Recommendations for Measuring Sustainable Development*, which was used as a reference in developing the indicator framework for reporting on SDGs.

UNECE contributed to the process of developing SDGs through many consultations and participation in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators and in the Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. These groups assessed the feasibility of measuring SDGs. Considering that the majority of low and middle income countries could only provide data on 20 per cent of MDG indicators, statisticians are concerned about the challenge. Monitoring progress towards SDGs calls for significant investment in official statistics, also in statistically advanced countries, and requires effective collaboration between international organizations at regional and global levels.

The need for a data revolution in how statistics are produced is evident. In 2014, UNECE hosted a consultative meeting for international organisations based in Geneva as an input to the Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. International organizations need to work in collaboration with Governments, civil society, private companies and researchers to measure SDGs, but also to improve the statistical literacy of all users. If important data gaps persist, Governments' ability to take action towards SDGs may be compromised.

Towards better measurement of migration, climate change and gender equality

To keep abreast of emerging topics the Conference organizes high-level seminars at its plenary sessions. In 2014 the focus was on how official statistics could differentiate from other data that do not necessarily present an impartial view of reality. The Conference agreed that the value of official statistics lies in being accurate, objective and impartial. As a follow-up, CES members are engaging to define how to measure the costs and value of official statistics.

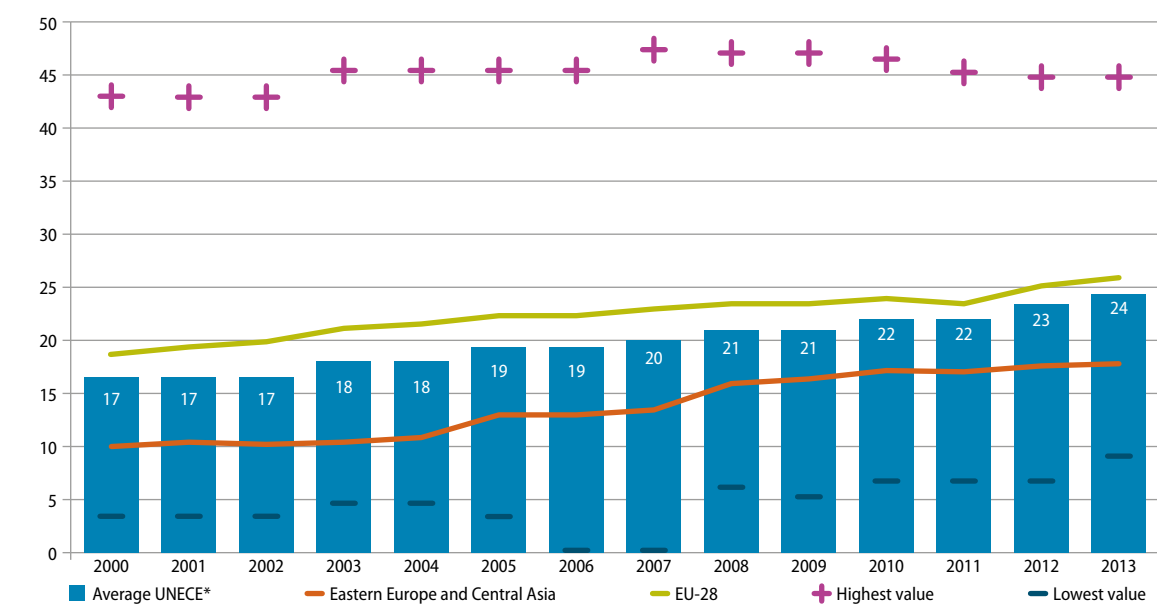
Migration is high on the agenda of UNECE member States. The Conference has actively advanced the measurement of migration. In 2014, the focus was on how to better measure migration and its new forms and develop mechanisms to support the application of related international guidelines and to react to emerging challenges.

In April 2014, CES endorsed the first *Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics* aimed at official statisticians, developed in close collaboration with major partners, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Recommendations are recognized as an important achievement towards closer involvement of official statisticians in the reporting on greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. The aim is also to improve existing official statistics and provide more geospatial data for analysing climate change, its social

and economic impacts, population vulnerabilities and adaptation efforts.

In recent years the demand for statistical information by gender has grown considerably. Gender disaggregated data inform the public of the changing roles of women and men, and help formulate policies and monitor changes. CES endorsed a framework for *Gender Equality Indicators* which groups gender indicators by topic and promotes comparability. The UNECE Statistical Database offers some quick statistics and charts for monitoring gender equality, as indicated below.

Facts and figures: A Gender Equality Indicator – share of women in parliaments



The value of official statistics lies in being accurate, objective and impartial

Gender disaggregated data inform the public of the changing roles of women and men



Some statistical standards should be adapted to reflect changing economic reality

Population and housing censuses represent the foundation of statistical systems

UNECE regularly publish articles on the economic and social development in the region using data of the Database. The Database is also a source for publications, such as *UNECE Countries in Figures*, next release in early 2015. The Database contains key statistics on the economy, population, education, employment, work-life balance, health, crime, transport and forestry, and indicators on MDGs, migration, globalization and gender. It offers quick statistics in English and Russian with maps, graphs, country rankings and profiles.

Investing in statistical capacity

In 2014, UNECE finished the first round of Global Assessments of national statistical systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. Global Assessments, carried out in collaboration with Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association, provide a thorough analysis and recommendations for improving countries' capacity in official statistics.

Global Assessments also engage national authorities and international organizations in statistical development towards country-specific priorities. Some major donors, such as the World Bank, develop their capacity building programmes using findings of the Global Assessments. As of 2015 "rotating scheme assessments" will be started to assess countries' progress towards achieving the recommendations of Global Assessments. A new UNDA project, launched in 2014, supports strengthening countries' capacity for sustainable

development of statistics in line with Global Assessments.

Global Assessments of national statistical systems as a tool for statistical development have now started to expand to Asia and the Pacific. At a seminar held jointly with ESCAP, in Mongolia, a number of countries of Asia and the Pacific expressed interest in engaging in such assessments.

Forthcoming statistical guidelines

The Conference is a driving force for developing statistical guidelines and recommendations, often with global impact. Diversity of countries in the UNECE region provides a good basis for launching work in new areas and providing guidance to both developed and developing statistical systems. Task forces are currently finalizing guidelines.

A Guide to Measuring Global Production, to be issued in 2015, deals with global production arrangements that challenge the compilation of economic statistics. These arrangements are getting more complex due to increased international fragmentation of production and the appearance of new types of producers. The Guide tackles issues that may impact the way in which gross domestic product is compiled. It calls for adapting some statistical standards to reflect changing economic reality, for instance the classification of economic activities. As globalization evolves at an accelerating pace, UNECE will facilitate the collection and

Census is a costly and complex exercise

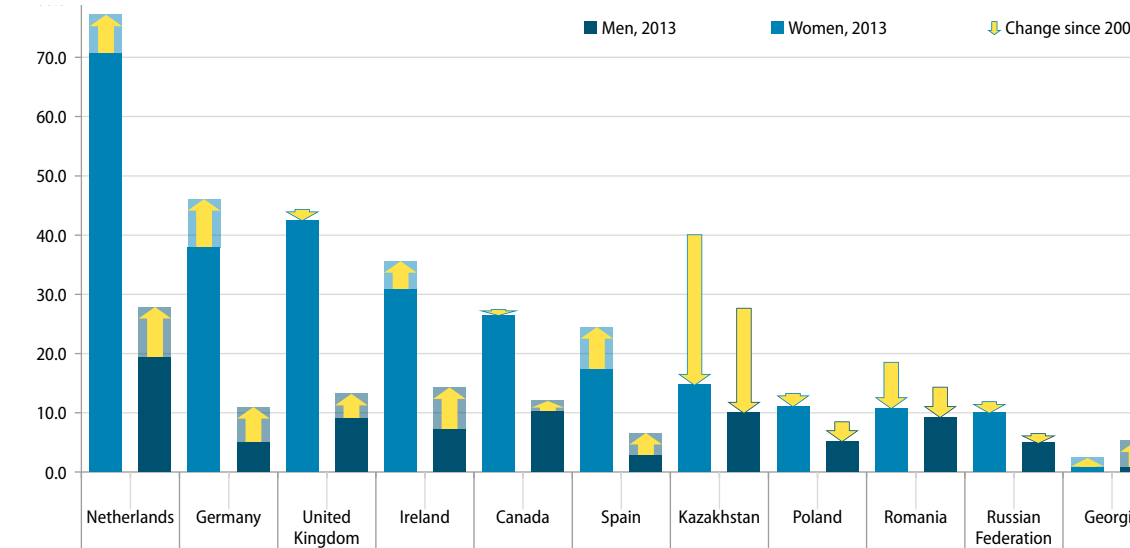
exchange of new countries' experiences in dealing with global production arrangements in statistical production.

International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers will be issued in 2015. Business registers are at the core of modernizing statistical production – they provide the frame and baseline information for all economic statistics. The guidelines are an example of work undertaken by the Conference with a global impact.

The *Framework for Measuring Quality of Employment* to be issued in 2015 will provide practical guidance on how to measure quality of working life. The Framework defines quality from the viewpoint of an employed person and provides a toolbox of indicators to better respond to growing interest in measuring wellbeing at work.

As international migration continues to grow so does the need to better assess its impact on countries and migrants themselves. *Guidelines on Statistics on Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrants*, to be finalized in 2015, will respond to policymakers' need to know how migrants are integrating and what their socio-economic conditions are like.

Facts and figures: Part-time work increases in the UNECE region



Promoting innovation in census taking

UNECE coordinates the preparation of *CES Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses*. The Recommendations will guide census work in all UNECE member States and provide input to the global United Nations Census Recommendations. Population and housing censuses represent the foundation of statistical systems with baseline information for planning public services at national and local levels and producing statistics.

The year 2014 marked the end of the 2010 round of censuses – 95 per cent of UNECE countries, a record level, conducted a census in this round. This was a significant improvement over the 2000 round when the level was 87 per cent.

Over the years, CES Census Recommendations have guided census taking and spread innovative methodologies. Census is a costly and complex exercise. Moreover, countries' concerns about quality, respondent burden and privacy issues need to be tackled. The Census Recommendations inform statisticians on alternative census methodologies, highlighting their advantages, disadvantages and conditions. Over one third of countries used data from registers either as the only source or in combination with a limited field data collection in the 2010 round. In the 2000 round only one sixth used such innovative methods. The 2020 Census Recommendations will put emphasis on the use of multiple data sources, such as registers and internet, and exploiting geographic information systems and new technologies for census data collection.

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Emerging topics on the agenda of official statisticians

The response of official statisticians to the SDGs will be an important topic for the Conference as a reporting and monitoring mechanism needs to be set up. Expectations are high on what the statistical community can deliver for SDG monitoring, but the challenge is huge. Statisticians should be ready to provide baseline data for 2015 and start reporting as of 2016.

Modernization of statistical production and managing for efficiencies will be a focus of work in 2015 as it closely relates to the call for data revolution. Decreasing budgets force statisticians to seek common, exchangeable tools and solutions to improve efficiency.

In 2014, the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau identified the following topics for new international work in statistics:

- **Good practices on how to make population projections need to be shared.** Projections are essential for gauging future demand for food, water, energy and services and they alert policymakers to major trends affecting economic development and welfare. However, their accuracy is often debated and they are difficult to compare due to different sources and methods used.

- **Measuring extreme events and disasters calls for instantaneous data** from statistical offices, e.g. on population, businesses and infrastructure in the concerned region. The World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will address these data gaps in March 2015, in Japan.
- **Various leading, composite and sentiment indicators attract media attention:** country rankings on competitiveness, gender gap, environment friendliness, etc. Some of them are produced by statistical offices, but even when they are not, statistical offices are often asked for advice on their interpretation. A seminar in 2015 will consider the role of official statisticians and communication challenges related to these indicators.
- **Unpaid household work** is not fully taken into account in policymaking due to lack of information. Unpaid household work may be measured through time-use surveys, as described in the *CES Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys*. A group of experts will develop guidelines for valuation of these services which is challenging for statisticians.

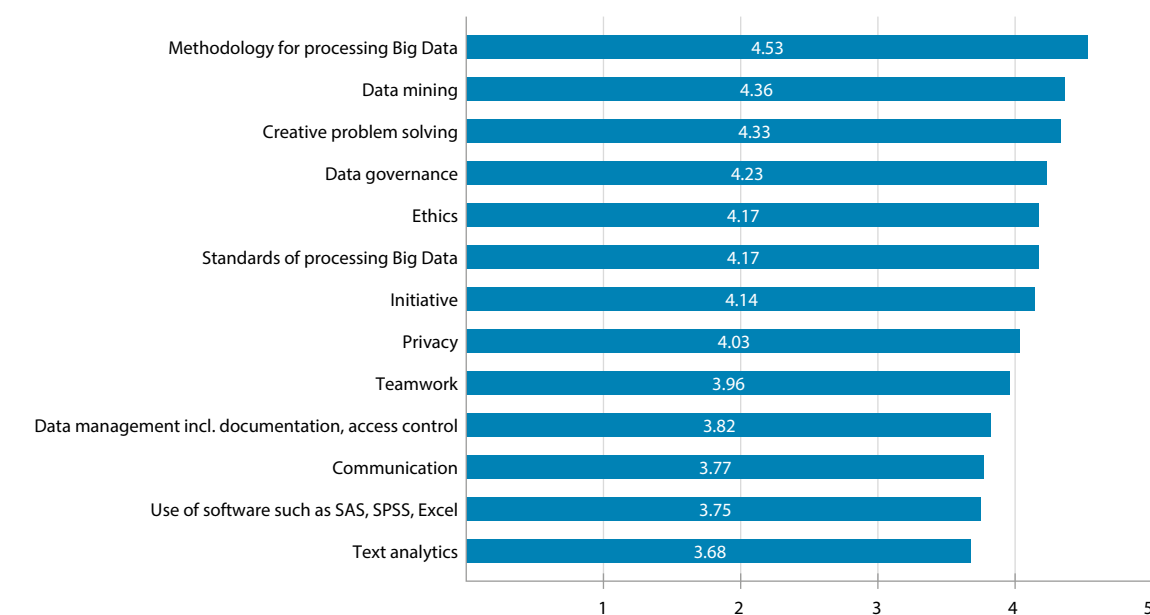
Big Data often fail to cover the most vulnerable populations

Statisticians call for ethics in using Big Data

SDGs will challenge statisticians at a time when an intensifying data revolution brings new opportunities but also poses challenges. As part of data revolution, timelier and more detailed information is needed. Big Data are generated everywhere: through sensors gathering weather observations, social media posts, digital pictures and videos, purchase transaction systems, cell phone signals, etc. Converting huge volumes of data into meaningful information is a challenge. Increasing data availability also raises expectations to get real-time data on SDGs. Yet Big Data only cover a fraction of the necessary data for SDG monitoring and often fail to cover the most vulnerable population.

Using Big Data comes with a range of risks. Privacy could be at stake and information might not always be used for the good. Poor quality data can mislead. Applying the Fundamental *Principles of Official Statistics*, originally developed by the Conference of European Statisticians, and adopted by the General Assembly in 2014, is therefore now all the more important. These Principles underline the significance of objective information for our societies and the need to ensure that decisions are based on reliable data.

Fact and figures: Statistical offices are starting to use Big Data



Combining traditional statistical data with Big Data provides new possibilities for rethinking the way official statistics are produced. The UNECE High-Level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services has worked over the last four years to rethink statistical production by developing common standards that harness technological advances, new types of data, including Big Data, and enhance statistical services. In 2014 a High-Level Group project on Big Data focused on privacy, quality and partnership issues, and tested the use of Big Data for official statistics in a shared environment with some member States. The testing illustrated improvements (timeliness, cost etc.) that could be obtained using Big Data. Furthermore, the High-Level Group supported many countries in starting to use the new *Common Statistical Production Architecture*. Work is also on the way to develop a global catalogue for statistical services so that statistical offices around the world could share product ideas instead of each “reinventing the wheel” nationally.

The way the statistical community works is changing

Pressures caused by emerging needs for almost real-time data and the opportunities provided by the data revolution evolve fast, so the way the statistical community works is also changing. Tightening budgets make organizing face-to-face meetings increasingly challenging. Recently UNECE has tested “agile” approaches to quickly bring experts from all over the world together to virtual meetings.

New work began in late 2014 to develop a wiki repository of case studies on using common standards for statistical production. These standards were developed through UNECE-led international collaboration. For example, the Generic Statistical Business Process Model and Generic Statistical Information Model are becoming widely used. Through wiki platforms statisticians can post their

Recently UNECE has tested “agile” approaches to quickly bring experts together to virtual meetings from all over the world

questions and engage in dialogue with colleagues in other countries to find out more about each country’s problems, solutions and lessons learned. UNECE has over 60 wikis in regular use of over 1000 international experts who share material and experience on particular statistical topics and develop statistical guidelines and recommendations at the request of the Conference.

Statistical tools are now also developed through either face-to-face or virtual “sprint” sessions carefully focused, intensive working gatherings of short duration. These sessions condense the development process into 1-2 weeks of hands-on work instead of several months and are useful for practical tasks, for example to revise a glossary of statistical terms and to explore ways to use Big Data. “Sprinters” focus on seeking solutions to one specific problem at a time. Participants are also assigned “homework” allowing rapid progress. Almost-complete products are opened up to public feedback for finalization. These “virtual sprints” also promote widespread use of UNECE outputs through engagement of experts from statistical offices worldwide.

Sustainable Energy

Redirecting the energy system towards a sustainable outcome

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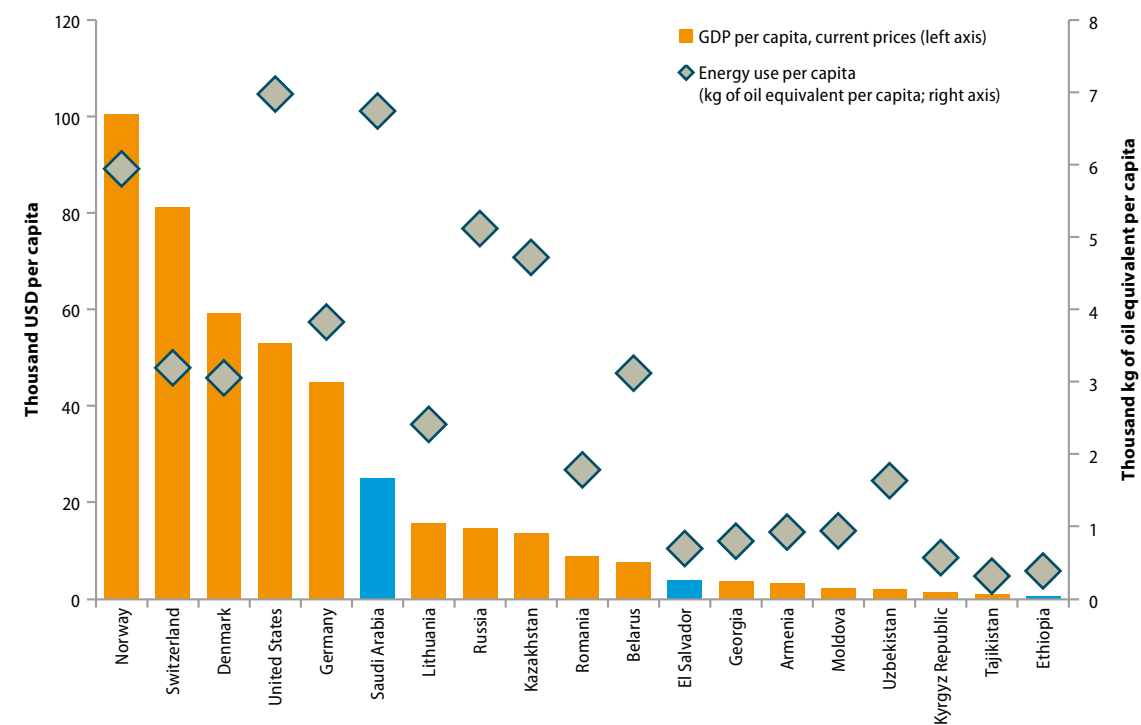
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Securing access to sustainable energy is essential for ensuring quality of life, hence its explicit inclusion in the sustainable development goals. Use of energy per capita varies one-hundred-fold between the world's poorest and richest countries, and the UNECE region comprises countries across the whole spectrum. Access to modern energy services in many countries is insufficient or declining, the costs of energy services are rising, and greenhouse gas emissions are increasing. The UNECE's sustainable energy subprogramme is designed to attain sustainable energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. The subprogramme promotes dialogue and cooperation among Governments, energy industries and other stakeholders with a focus on energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, natural gas, classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources, and energy security. UNECE is working to redirect the energy system to sustainable outcomes through normative instruments such as minimum performance standards that are needed to incite investment.

Energy resource endowments and supply costs vary substantially across the UNECE region. Renewable energy sources are important in some cases, while elsewhere natural gas, coal or nuclear power are significant. Data on energy intensity and energy productivity point to enormous potential to improve how energy is produced, transformed, transmitted

Energy use per capita versus GDP per capita



and consumed. Redirecting energy to sustainable outcomes requires a systems perspective cities, industry and small consumers integrating their demand for energy services with networks providing other basic needs; renewables supported by natural gas; storage and transportation connecting through networks; coal, natural gas and oil reducing their carbon footprint while ensuring access to reliable and affordable supply. Integrating demand centres efficiently with available sources of energy supply could meet the sustainable development goals related to energy.

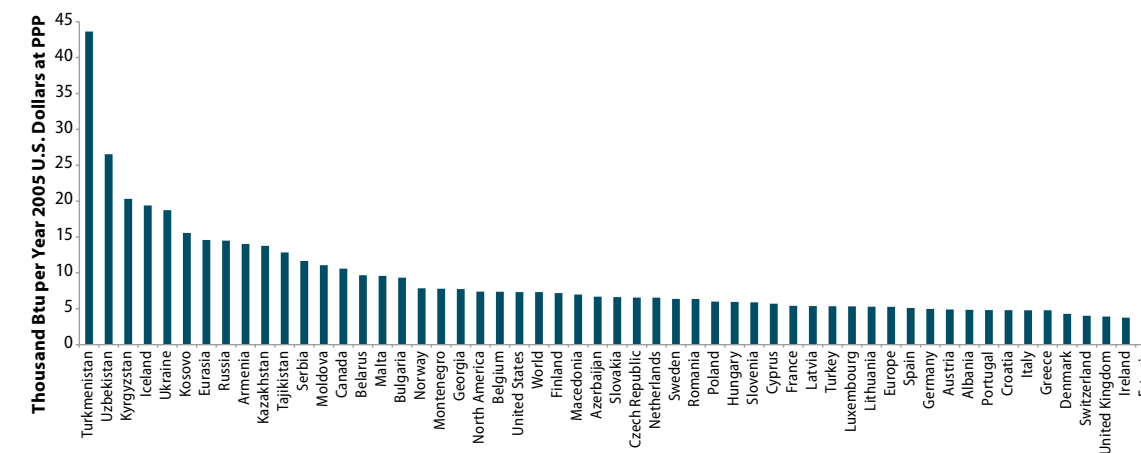
Access to modern energy services in many countries is insufficient or declining

Energy resource endowments and supply costs vary substantially across the region

Energy efficiency: creating conditions for improving energy productivity

Improving energy efficiency contributes to energy security, a better environment, quality of life and economic well-being for all. It is the best way of getting more out of existing resources, supporting economic growth and reducing energy costs, thus directly influencing energy productivity. Despite the multiple benefits, however, improving energy efficiency remains difficult. The barriers include but are not limited to: low energy tariff policies, direct and indirect subsidies, general lack of public awareness and education about the long-term economic and societal benefits, and lack of investment capital for end-users. UNECE assists countries in enhancing their energy efficiency. It helps countries to explore opportunities to improve energy efficiency and energy productivity by identifying best practices and developing relevant standards and by providing technical capacity assistance to implement them. It also assists countries in overcoming financing barriers by providing training courses on business planning for energy efficiency projects.

Energy intensities across the UNECE region



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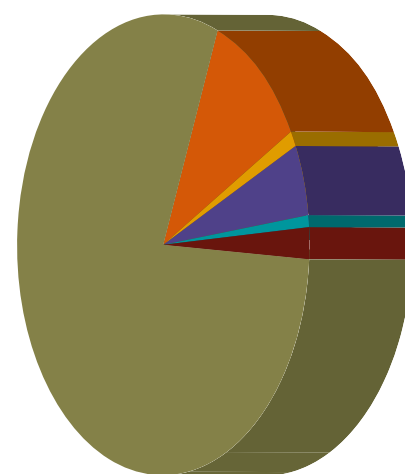
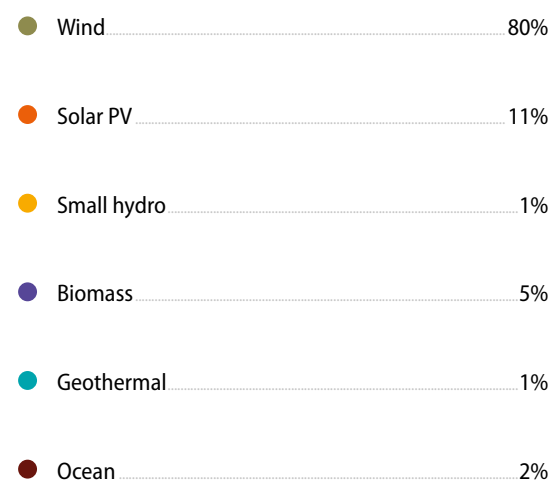
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Renewable energy: clean, replenishable, and local

Renewable energy technologies are promoted to reduce the carbon footprint of the energy sector, to improve energy security by diversifying the energy mix, to encourage innovation and high-tech manufacturing, and to foster energy access in rural and remote areas. Renewables are integrating into the global energy mix as they become cost-competitive with conventional resources. Wider uptake of renewables requires addressing barriers to fair competition with conventional technology without resorting to long-term subsidies, implementing stable long-term energy policy frameworks and deploying appropriate financial mechanisms. The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is working to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. In 2014 UNECE explored the state of development of renewable energy and the challenges that renewables face in the region. The Group of Experts began work on development of relevant best practice guidance and standards that could contribute to increasing the uptake of renewable energy. It noted that there are serious gaps in the availability and the quality of data and will work to improve both going forward.

Status of Renewable Energy in the UNECE region



Renewable energy technologies reduce the carbon footprint of the energy sector and improve energy security by diversifying the energy mix

Natural gas: facilitating transitions

Natural gas' share of the global energy mix is growing because of development of unconventional gas resources and advances in liquefied natural gas (LNG) technology. The benefits of using more natural gas include lower greenhouse gas emissions relative to other fossil fuels, synergies with intermittent renewable energy and support of energy system resilience worldwide. The Group of Experts on Gas provides a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable production, distribution and consumption of gas in the region. It is working to reduce gas leaks in the gas value chain, define best practices for the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy, address barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel, and improve the prospects for LNG to transform regional or local natural gas markets into an efficient, global market.

The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is engaged in projects to capture and use methane in operating coal mines which contributes to mitigating climate change and improves safety in mines. In 2014 the Group of Experts updated and disseminated its *Best Practice Guides for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines* and prepared case studies on the application of the best practice guidance in specific coal mines. The group is working to establish an International Centre of Excellence on coal mine methane to serve

as a platform for education and dissemination of good practices in coal mine methane management throughout the world.

Clean electricity production from fossil fuels: facing the CO₂ challenge

Over 60 per cent of electricity generation in the UNECE region comes from fossil fuels. Despite rapid development of renewable and other advanced energy technology, fossil fuels will remain the most important energy source in the region for the foreseeable future. The Group of Experts on Clean Electricity Production focuses on activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel-fired power plants, as well as on regulatory and policy dialogue and the development of best practice guides. The work in 2014 focused on assessing carbon capture and storage (CCS), and UNECE member States endorsed a specific set of recommendations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on how CCS, including CCS for enhanced recovery of hydrocarbons, can positively contribute to net climate change mitigation outcomes as part of the policy portfolio established to support the post-2015 instrument. The group is assessing the efficiency of the existing fleet of coal-fired power plants with a view to achieving more efficient fuel-combustion outcomes.

Over 60 per cent of electricity generation in the UNECE region comes from fossil fuels

Fossil fuels will remain the most important energy source in the region for the foreseeable future

UNECE member States endorsed a set of recommendations to UNFCCC on how carbon capture and storage can contribute to net climate change mitigation

UNFC accounts for social and environmental impacts in addition to simple economics



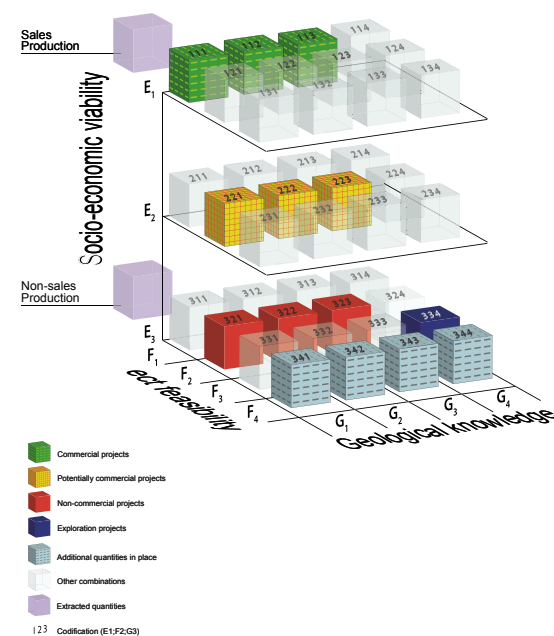


UNFC accounts for social and environmental impacts in addition to simple economics

Resource Classification: putting diversity into a single framework

The United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) unifies the different energy resource classification systems into a single framework. UNFC accounts for social and environmental impacts in addition to simple economics, which allows the effects of projects to be compared on a common basis. UNFC-2009 became operational in 2014 and a number of countries have confirmed their intent to apply UNFC-2009 at the national level. The Expert Group on Resource Classification is rolling UNFC out globally. The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate mapped the Norwegian Resource Accounts of 2013 — a total of 800 projects — to UNFC-2009 using the petroleum bridging document contained in UNFC-2009. Training workshops are a key component of the UNFC-2009 outreach programme, with events held in 2014 in Bangkok, Geneva, Johannesburg and Washington, D.C.

The bridging document with the National Energy Action/International Atomic Energy Agency Uranium Classification was finalized in 2014. Work is underway to include renewable resources, and generic specifications to apply UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources were issued for public comment in 2014. Commodity-specific specifications for bioenergy, geothermal and for hydro, solar and wind are under development. Finally, work to allow the use of UNFC-2009 to classify injection projects such as for carbon dioxide storage is progressing.



Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: a joint appeal to the world

The Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, in November 2014, was organized by the Government of Tunisia and the five United Nations regional commissions. The Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions affirmed in a Joint Statement that the objectives of energy sustainability were attainable and needed not to be in conflict with more short-term considerations, if the world embarked on a determined, collective effort. Their Joint Statement is a call for action to their respective member States, highlighting in particular three key components:

- Energy efficiency in most countries needs to improve more quickly
- Renewable energy policies need to be redesigned
- Equitable access to modern energy services requires mobilizing adequate resources

The statement is a roadmap for achieving the objectives of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and for greening the energy sector and the economy as a whole. The statement underlines the importance of joint global action spearheaded by the regional commissions.



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Technical Cooperation Making a difference in people's lives

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Improving people's daily lives is at the heart of UNECE technical assistance. By helping its member States' capacity to accede to, adopt and implement its legal instruments, norms and standards, UNECE supports their efforts to achieve sustained growth and sustainable development, and integrate in the global economy.

Bringing changes at the country level

To maximize the development impact of its technical assistance at the country level, UNECE participates in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and One UN. As of 2014, five countries in the UNECE region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova) have fully or partly implemented One UN programmes, while the remaining twelve countries have implemented UNDAF programmes. To ensure integrated and coherent support to these processes, UNECE effectively coordinates its technical cooperation assistance with United Nations Country Teams and Resident Coordinators, other United Nations resident and non-resident entities and international organizations.

Currently UNECE is involved in strategic planning processes in eleven countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to develop their UNDAFs for a new 2016-2020 cycle. It leads the

efforts of the United Nations Inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity in support of UNDAF and One UN processes in the UNECE region by coordinating the participation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and International Trade Centre (ITC).

In all programme countries, UNECE supports upstream policy and operational work to create an enabling environment for the implementation of the internationally agreed goals, including the MDGs, as well as to meet countries' obligations under international conventions and frameworks. This ensures strong country ownership and support to UNECE's capacity building and institutional strengthening activities.

Boosting regional cooperation

UNECE is uniquely placed to contribute to cross-border and transboundary cooperation, through a number of regional and interregional initiatives. In 2013, UNECE carried out 202 advisory missions and capacity-building activities (workshops, training and seminars) and implemented 31 projects including seven projects funded from UNDA. The countries that benefited the most from technical cooperation activities were those of Central Asia and Eastern Europe, at 17 and 11 per cent respectively, followed by countries of the Caucasus (4 per cent) and South-East Europe (3 per cent). However, about 65 per cent of technical cooperation activities were

interregional and involved two or more subregions. Most regional advisory services (advisory missions, capacity building and projects) were provided by the Regional Advisors funded from the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation.

Providing global public goods

Access to basic services such as sustainable and affordable energy, affordable and sustainable housing, improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation, etc. was a key element of UNECE's technical cooperation support to reduce poverty and improve quality of life. To this end, UNECE promoted global partnerships, including through public-private partnerships and collaboration with other United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, exchange of best practices and national experiences among countries facing similar challenges. Most of these activities were funded from the UNDA aimed to support the efforts of United Nations Member States to achieve international development goals, as well as extra budgetary resources.

A more transparent, accountable and open UNECE

2014 represented an important year for UNECE to become more transparent, accountable, and open to its member States and the public.

A major result in this respect was the launch of an online Project Monitoring Tool to provide "real-time" information about progress on project implementation and to ensure accountability to the donors and member States. Efforts to make it as comprehensive and accessible as possible will continue in 2015.

In 2014 the Executive Committee approved the Evaluation Policy, which aims to promote organizational learning, improve programme performance, and ensure accountability of the secretariat to the member States. Under the new policy, all projects with a budget at or above \$250,000 are subject to internal evaluation. To this end, at least 2 per cent of the project budget should be set aside at the planning stage, for conducting the evaluation at the end of the project cycle.

UNECE is uniquely placed to contribute to cross-border and transboundary cooperation

An online Project Monitoring Tool provides real-time information on project implementation

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Funding

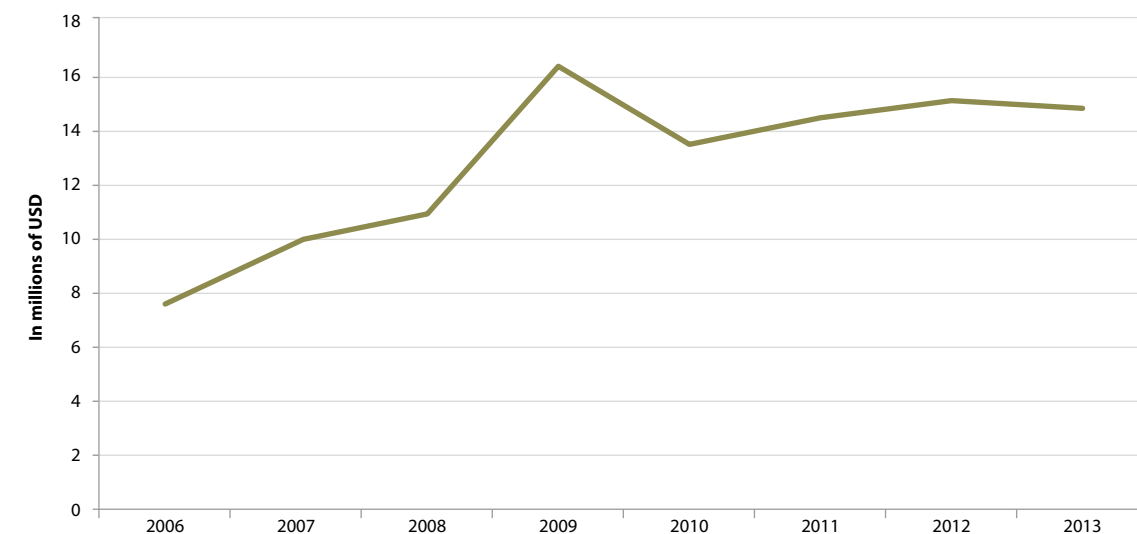
In 2013 total extrabudgetary contributions to UNECE technical cooperation projects reached \$14.76 million and total extra budgetary expenditures reached \$18.95 million. An analysis of the general trend of extra budgetary resources shows that voluntary contributions have almost doubled since the 2005 reform and have remained relatively stable despite the global financial and economic crises. The steady increase in extra budgetary resources over the last few years confirms the continued support that member States are giving to UNECE technical cooperation.

Extrabudgetary expenditures accounted for 86 per cent (\$18.95 million) of total technical cooperation spending in 2013.

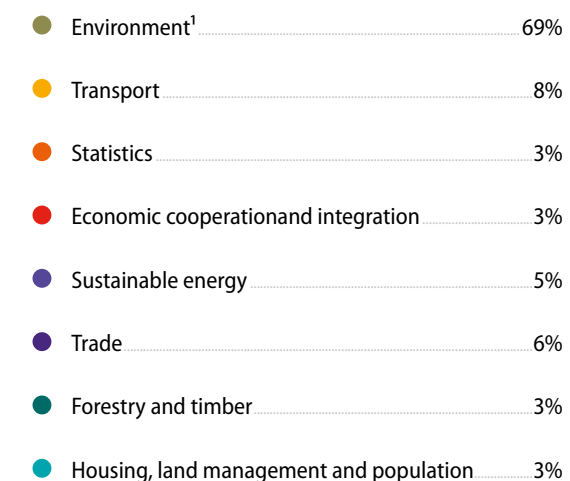
Voluntary contributions have almost doubled since the 2005 reform and have remained relatively stable despite the global financial and economic crises

Access to basic services such as sustainable and affordable energy was a key element of UNECE's support to reduce poverty and improve quality of life

General trend in extrabudgetary contributions in 2006-2013

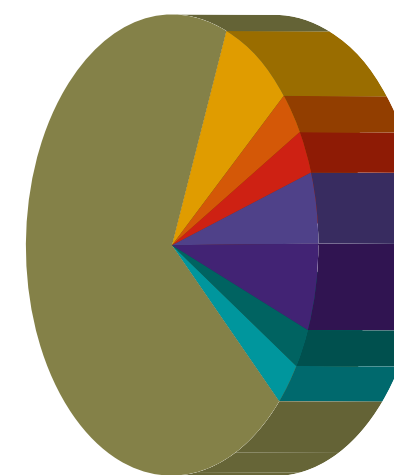


Total expenditures under extrabudgetary resources in 2013, by use¹



¹ Including expenditures for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

The environment subprogramme accounted for the largest portion (69 per cent) of extrabudgetary expenditures. However, this included expenditures from Trust Funds for the MEAs. Excluding these, the subprogramme had a more modest share – 24 per cent. The shares of the other subprogrammes were lower: 19 per cent for transport, 15 per cent for trade, 12 per cent for sustainable energy, 8 per cent for statistics, 8 per cent for housing, land management and population, 8 per cent for economic cooperation and integration, and 6 per cent for forestry and timber.



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Trade

Bringing down barriers to trade

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Tajikistan integrated UNECE's recommendations into its national Aid for Trade action plan and its WTO post accession plan

UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade are based on the UNECE evaluation methodology:

- Capture behind and at-the-border barriers to trade,
- Highlight the interplay between the identified barriers and their impact on export competitiveness,
- Provide detailed recommendations that could be turned into action plans, and
- Identify areas for joint-action with international or regional organizations as well as other countries.

During the past year UNECE finalized a study on *Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade* for Tajikistan. Work was also initiated on a study for Kyrgyzstan amid preparations for launching similar studies in Albania and the Republic of Moldova.

Tajikistan (2014)

The results of the study were used to update the National Aid for Trade action matrix for integration into the country's UNDAF. Tajikistan requested assistance in implementing the recommendations pertaining to the establishment of institutional mechanisms to support public-private dialogue on trade facilitation issues; development of the country's system of standardization, technical regulations and quality assurance; and development of inland transport. Tajikistan also integrated the recommendations into its national Aid for Trade action plan and its World Trade Organization (WTO)

post accession plan. The study will also be used to support discussions under the UNECE Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention.

The secretariat also uses the findings and recommendations emerging from these studies to inform UNECE member States' discussions over national priorities for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and areas requiring joint action at the regional level, and for the identification of areas where further recommendations and guidelines are needed or further support to beneficiary countries. Currently UNECE is assisting Belarus, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to develop project proposals that implement priority recommendations emanating from the national assessment studies.

UNECE has also helped Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan develop national action plans for addressing Aid-for-Trade priorities in the areas of trade facilitation, standardization and agricultural quality standards. Efforts are underway to integrate these plans into the UNDAF for these three countries.

Regulatory cooperation and standardization policy

The 2014 session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies discussed how authorities can use the expertise embodied in international standards to facilitate international trade, promote the transition to greener and more sustainable modes of production and consumption, and protect workers, consumers and the environment from hazards.

The debate on market surveillance allowed an exchange of experience on how to react to the challenge posed by the proliferation of cheap, low-quality goods that exclude fair competition because they ignore regulations and therefore often pose a serious threat to human health and safety, generate pollution and cause environmental degradation. As a result, it was recommended that UNECE continue to promote consensus and develop best practice on how to enhance the credibility and sustainability of market surveillance actions.

The first of a series of modules was developed for the integration of standards education into university and professional development programmes. This Education on Standards Initiative represents the first step in making standardization part of the curricula of universities, higher-education establishments and vocational training schools.

When using standards in the public sphere, it is important to provide public access to parts of

standards that are referenced in regulations without compromising the intellectual property contained in the standards themselves. A consensus was reached on how to address this matter resulting in the unanimous adoption of a revised Recommendation D on "Reference to Standards".

Because risks can sometimes acquire global proportions, risk management also needs to be put into a global context, with an increasingly crucial role to be played by international organizations. To protect people, the environment and economic activities from hazards, it is a prerequisite to have in place a sound regulatory framework in which economic operators, policymakers and other stakeholders work together in a coherent manner and based on a clear analysis of risks.

The best practice for risk management developed by the Working Party is based on UNECE's recommendation Managing Risks in Regulatory Frameworks and is documented in the UNECE publication *Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks*. Recently pilot projects have begun for implementing this best practice in Brazil, Mongolia and Nigeria.

Additionally, following the adoption of Recommendation P on Crisis Management within a Regulatory Framework, close collaboration has taken place with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), in the preparation of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan (14-18 March 2015). At this Conference UNECE will

The proliferation of cheap, low-quality goods that ignore regulations often pose a serious threat to health and safety

Public access to parts of standards that are referenced in regulations should not compromise the intellectual property contained in the standards themselves



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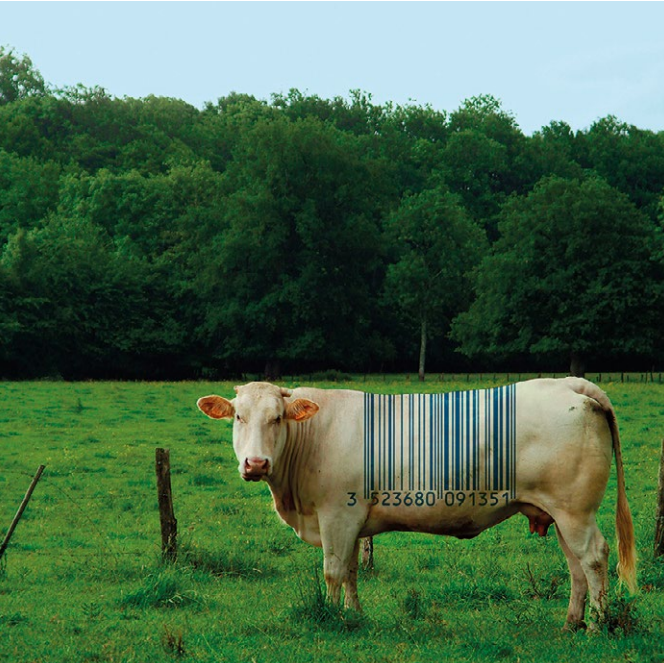
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co-organize a working session on *Standards for disaster risk reduction including building codes*, with the International Standards Organization and the International Electrotechnical Commission.

UNECE contributed to UNIDO's regional training courses in Warsaw for authorities from Central European countries on the use of standards and conformity assessment options in regulatory practice.

Challenges for 2015

In 2015 the growing demand for expert assistance, already seen in 2014, is expected to continue, leading to a substantial increase in activities thanks to the partnership with UNISDR. It is also anticipated that member States will increasingly engage in activities related to education in the field of standardization.

In meeting these challenges, the secretariat will further develop partnerships with all major organizations engaged in standard-related activities, such as the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee, the OECD Working Party on Consumer Product Safety, ISO, IEC and the International Telecommunication Union, as well as all organizations participating in the Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS network) which supports standards for development, and, in particular, UNIDO.

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

In November 2014 the Working Party adopted the Geneva Understanding as the internationally agreed platform for UNECE's work on agricultural quality standards. It also adopted 11 revised standards, three new standards and six new recommendations coming from its Specialized Sections, as well as a new *Explanatory Brochure for Inshell Walnuts* and a *Guide to Seed Potatoes Field Inspection*.

UNECE held its first Meat Symposium in September 2014 which attracted experts from all over the world. As one result of the Symposium, the Specialized Section on Meat initiated discussions on a possible role for UNECE in beef meat eating quality research.

In 2014 the secretariat helped implement the agricultural component of the Greek trade facilitation reform, financed by the EU. As a result of these activities, Greece reformed their inspection and risk analysis systems, introduced authorized traders' schemes for agricultural exports and the electronic transmission of conformity assessment certificates to speed up the export of agricultural produce.

In another extrabudgetary project the secretariat and country experts put into operation a biotechnological laboratory at the A.G. Lorkh Institute for Potato Cultivation in the Russian Federation to produce disease-free source material for the multiplication of seed potatoes.

There is a possible role for UNECE in beef meat eating quality research

UNECE also launched new work, on improving agricultural supply chains in the Western Balkans and Central Asia

Trade facilitation can generate major benefits for the economy in terms of competitiveness and efficiency

More than 70 UNECE and non-UNECE economies have established a Single Window

The secretariat also launched new work, financed through UNDA, on improving agricultural supply chains in the Western Balkans and Central Asia. Under this programme, research will be undertaken to analyse priority food supply chains and new action plans will be developed in partnership with governmental organizations and the private sector in order to ensure ownership and increase impact.

UNECE helping countries to make real progress in Trade Facilitation

Over the last decade, trade facilitation has become a key factor in trade and economic development policy. This transition from a technical to a trade policy focus is due to the realization that trade facilitation can generate major benefits for the economy in terms of competitiveness and efficiency and can greatly enhance the participation of developing and transition economies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises in the global economy. Discussions on Trade Facilitation at the WTO and other forums have greatly helped this process, by bringing the issue into the highest level of political decision-making. Indeed, many countries are now looking at a much broader agenda for trade facilitation implementation, going beyond WTO definitions and taking a total trade transaction approach across the entire supply chain.

UNECE, through its Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), has developed a range of United Nations Recommendations and Standards for trade facilitation and these are implemented globally, saving Governments and business hundreds of millions of dollars annually. An example is UNECE Recommendation 33 on Establishing a Single Window — more than 70 UNECE and non-UNECE economies¹ around the world have established a Single Window

¹ World Bank Doing Business Report Data 2014. available at: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploretopics/trading-across-borders/good-practices>

using UNECE Recommendations on Single Window, Data Simplification and legal framework for Single Window —.

UNECE also supports countries in implementing these instruments. A recent example of work in this area is the assistance provided to the Greek Government to develop and implement a Trade Facilitation Roadmap. This project, undertaken at the invitation of the European Commission Task Force on Greece and funded through the European Commission, has resulted in tangible improvements in key performance indicators for trade and transport facilitation in Greece, as documented by the latest World Bank statistics:

- Between 2013 and 2014 the Greek ranking in trade facilitation competitiveness improved by eight positions (World Bank's Doing Business Report 2014).
- Greek ranking in logistics competence improved from 69 to 44 and in Customs from 94 to 28 from 2012 to 2014 (World Bank's Logistics Performance Index).
- The visible impact has also been expressed by private sector stakeholders: The Greek Express Carriers Association stated "We have seen more change in the last 1.5 years than in the 20 years before".

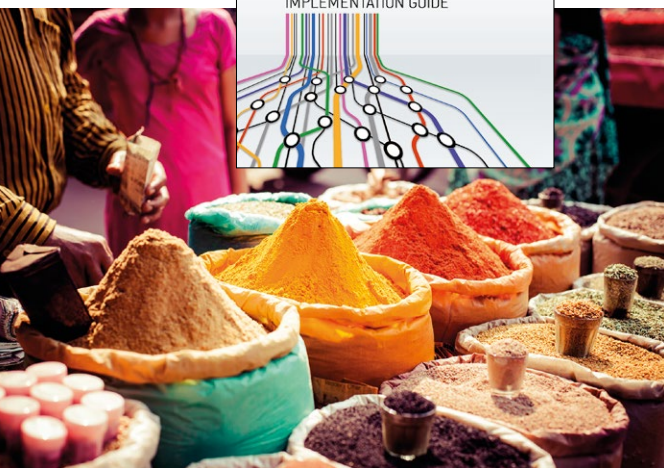
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TFIG is a web based interactive knowledge management tool for trade facilitation implementation used extensively in strategic planning

Another positive UNECE contribution in this area has been the *Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide* (TFIG). TFIG, a web based interactive knowledge management tool for trade facilitation implementation (tfig.unece.org), is used extensively by United Nations Member States in Trade Facilitation strategic planning. Developed in collaboration with other key international organizations, and financed by the Swedish Government, the Guide has become particularly important in helping countries determine their capacities and their needs vis a vis the implementing measures contained in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement reached in Bali in December 2013. For this purpose, the Guide has a full mapping from all the trade facilitation measures found in the Agreement to the instruments and tools available from key international organizations (such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), UNECE, UNCTAD, World Bank, etc.). Currently, the TFIG Website receives over 200,000 hits per month.

Other recent, significant contributions to trade facilitation from UNECE include:

- **Annex D+ Group at WTO.** UNECE is one of the Annex D+ organizations designated by WTO to support implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. The other organizations in this group are the World Bank, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WCO, the other regional commissions and ITC. The main objective is to coordinate assistance for implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and monitor delivery of the assistance.

- **The Joint United Nations Regional Commission Approach to Trade Facilitation.** This Joint Approach, chaired by UNECE, is designed to enable the regional commissions to present a joint (global) view on key trade facilitation issues – particularly from the regional and interregional level, and especially in relation to outreach and support.
- **Joint work with other United Nations organizations.** UNECE is continuously engaging with other international organizations such as UNCTAD, ITC and the Universal Postal Union for synergizing efforts and to exchange information on recent developments and respective activities.

Regional advisory services contributing to the development of the single window in transition economies

UNECE continued its assistance to Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation for trade facilitation and single window implementation in the Customs Union of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC). One major result was a decision by the EEC Council to endorse a framework for a strategic plan (Main Directions) for the development of Single Window for foreign trade in the three countries in April 2014². In September 2014, EEC established a Working Group to develop further and execute this strategic plan. A UNECE consultant provided technical support and a study on the alignment of the Integrated Information System for Mutual and Foreign Trade of the Customs Union with international standards.

In Ukraine UNECE continued to provide methodological advice and technical assistance to the Port Community System in Odessa, which is meant to serve as a pilot project for a national Single Window and other trade facilitation projects. More information on the system, operational since April 2013, and its results can be found at its website: www.singlewindow.org. To make even further progress

² Decision (in Russian) available at: <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/docs/Download.aspx?IsDlg=0&print=1&ID=5316>

in Ukraine, UNECE has supported the Government's establishment of an Interagency Working Group on trade facilitation. UNECE is currently cooperating with this Group and the Government of Ukraine to develop a National Trade Facilitation Strategy, in order to have a holistic, coherent approach to trade facilitation in Ukraine.

UNECE's support for other projects on trade facilitation and the Single Window continues in Uzbekistan, Albania, Armenia and Azerbaijan.



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The aim of the Inland Transport Committee is to develop inland transport in a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly way

The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is the only United Nations intergovernmental body dedicated to inland transport. Its overarching goal is to develop inland transport in a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly way.

The primary focus of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies is to administer the 58 United Nations conventions, agreements and other legal instruments which shape the international legal framework for inland transportation. This includes road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport, as well as road safety, facilitation of border crossing, dangerous goods transport and vehicle construction. ITC activities take the form of policy dialogue, regulatory work, analytical activities, as well as capacity-building and technical assistance. Its decisions have a direct impact on the daily lives of people and businesses throughout the world.

In 2014, much of the core work was dedicated to advancing sustainable transport and mobility. At the seventy-sixth session of the ITC in February 2014 the policy segment was dedicated to Innovations for Sustainable Mobility and Inland Transport in order to highlight the necessity of including these issues in the post-2015 Sustainable Development framework.

Historically, the ITC has actively strived through its regulatory and policy dialogue, analytical and capacity-building activities, to create a future of sustainability. A new UNECE regulation on Retrofit Emission Control Devices entered into force, an

important milestone on UNECE's journey towards minimizing the transport industry's effects on the environment, while a discussion paper on diesel engine exhausts strengthened the knowledge base and demonstrated that over the years technological innovations have significantly reduced the emissions of particulate matters from diesel vehicles unlike other polluting sectors. This also draws the attention to the importance of periodical technical inspection of the vehicle fleet already on the roads.

One of the major challenges of the transport sector is the introduction of information and communication technologies. UNECE has been paying special attention to the facilitation of policy dialogue and best practice information sharing on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). The Government of Belgium as co-organizer of the annual flagship ITS conference hosted the event in Brussels, where the benefits and challenges of automation, as well as of the broad use of Variable Message Signs were discussed. Before this, during the Geneva Motor Show UNECE joined forces with ITU and co-organised the *Future Networked Car Symposium* on 5-6 March.

The numerous innovative solutions for sustainable mobility and transport are expected to lead the way to a new revolution in personal and freight mobility thus reshaping the entire transport sector.

UNECE will support regional integration in all regions that have landlocked developing countries

ForFITS is a tool to monitor and assess CO₂ emissions from all inland transport modes

Accomplishments

Ten-Year Review of the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

UNECE actively supported the Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (Vienna, November 2014) which identified priority areas, policies and development initiatives to promote regional integration and transit cooperation for the benefit of landlocked developing countries. These will shape future work to be undertaken by the regional commissions and other stakeholders, with a view to supporting regional integration in all regions that have landlocked developing countries. UNECE organized a side event on border crossing facilitation that showed that African and Latin-American countries had a growing interest in benefitting from the TIR system or from similar arrangements, as well as from the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles.

THE PEP

The Paris Declaration *City in Motion – People First!* was adopted at the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP) (Paris, April 2014), where participating States reaffirmed their commitment to a new vision of green and healthy transport and mobility for sustainability, linking the promotion of health and sustainability to socio-economic justice (for further details, see page 38).

Analytical activities and related publications

In cooperation with the other regional commissions, UNECE completed the *Future Inland Transport Systems Project* (ForFITS) which includes a software tool to monitor and assess CO₂ emissions from all inland transport modes. The objective of the project, funded by UNDA, was to enhance international cooperation and planning towards sustainable transport policies with the goal of facilitating climate change mitigation.

Activities in 2014 included its use as a policy tool for countries and cities. A project funded by Environment Canada started to include non-road motorized machinery such as tractors in ForFITS projections. Thanks to THE PEP framework, the tool was used to assess CO₂ emissions in Kaunas city and also for the country of Lithuania; thanks to the Environmental Performance Review for Georgia a transport review was launched relying on ForFITS results. A separate and stand-alone project "SafeFITS" started with the aim of developing a road safety module and thus support the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Road Safety. This is funded by the International Road Transport Union.

In 2014 a study issued on *Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks* examined the effects of climate change on the transport sector and what must be done to adapt roads, railways, inland waterways and ports to climate changes. It included experiences on adaptation

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measures specific to a variety of transportation modes, and existing best practices in national policies for risk management and resilience enhancement.

A discussion paper on *Diesel Engine Exhausts: Myths and Realities* offers a balanced view of the debate about the harmful effects of diesel engine exhaust emissions on human health and the environment. It takes stock of recent studies on the harmful effects of diesel exhausts on public health, provides information about diesel emissions by different economic sectors — including inland transport — and gives an overview of recent policy developments on the reduction of pollutant emissions. The paper concludes that the majority of particulate matter emissions in European Union countries and in the United States of America are generated by sectors other than the transport sector – mainly the commercial, institutional and household sectors.

Transport Trends and Economics:

Three workshops were held in 2014 on:

- Good Practices and New Tools for Financing Transport Infrastructure: organized jointly with the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project, the Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects;
- Transport Trends and Economics in the Mediterranean region: sharing experiences among EuroMed and UNECE countries;
- Ports Hinterland connections and customs procedures: the case of the EU programme Med Net.

A paper on *Sustainable Public Urban Transport and Mobility in UNECE Capitals* mapped the urban networks of UNECE member States’ capitals and provided urban transport and mobility indicators along with best practices and successful regional examples so as to facilitate informed policy decisions.

Transport Statistics

Common methodologies and terminology developed for the harmonization of statistics include methodologies for the collection and compilation of statistics on road, rail, inland waterway and pipeline, as well as on road traffic safety in cooperation with Eurostat and the International Transport Forum (ITF).

A Common Questionnaire (UNECE/Eurostat/ITF) was disseminated online to streamline data collection procedures in the field of transport. Resolutions and recommendations to Governments on procedures and methodologies for the 2015 E-Road and Rail traffic censuses were also adopted by ITC.

Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance

The objective of the previous phases of the EATL project was to identify and prioritize the principal Euro-Asian road and rail routes for development and cooperation. EATL Phase III plans to make the nine road and nine rail EATL routes identified in Phase II fully operational through enhanced international cooperation. Thanks to the financial support by the Government of the Russian Federation, as well as by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the EATL Project

launched several tracks of cooperation, the results of which will be seen in 2015-16. Experts compared maritime with overland transport and identified types of cargos that could be alternatively transported by inland — especially rail — transport routes between Europe and Asia. Discussions continue on the tariffs and time schedules for the EATL routes.

A Review of the Transport and Logistics system of the Republic of Belarus was published in May 2014 and served as the basis for a national capacity-building round table held in Minsk.

The SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation is the key platform for consultations and agreements to promote international transport and integrate the Central Asian transport sectors. A questionnaire will collect basic statistical data on road transport flows through key border crossing points. As an integral part of activities related to road safety, an analysis of road safety management systems in the SPECA countries presented at a road safety workshop in Belgrade will serve as basis for a road safety management capacity building workshop scheduled for 2015.

A major conference on connectivity was jointly organized with the Government of Turkmenistan, UNESCAP and OSCE where Governments approved a declaration which later became the backbone of a General Assembly Resolution on the importance of improving the connectivity of nations and regions.

Road Transport

A proposal is being discussed for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS).

Progress was made in the implementation of the digital tachograph, a sophisticated monitoring device that monitors activity such as speed and time between rest periods. The tachograph is installed in all commercial vehicles registered in countries which are Contracting Parties to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). It became mandatory in 2010 and as of 2014 virtually all Contracting Parties had fully implemented the measures necessary to use it. This has a direct impact on road safety and is a key factor in assuring safe driving routines among professional drivers.

Road Safety

Sustainable transport and mobility requires that transport be safe, and improving road safety continues to be one of the priorities of ITC.

On 3 June 2014, International Level Crossings Awareness Day, ITC launched a film entitled *Saving Lives at Level Crossings* produced in partnership with the Swiss Federal Office of Transport and the International Union of Railways. The film targets policymakers and promotes a greater awareness of the risks associated with level crossings.

Also in June, a Road Safety Treaty Day was organized at United Nations Headquarters in New York in

collaboration with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the Regional Commissions New York Office and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). Focused on educating decision-makers on the United Nations legal instruments relevant to road safety and how to implement them, the programme included presentations on global road safety instruments such as the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic, the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals, the 1958 and the 1998 vehicle regulations agreements and the 1997 agreement on periodical technical inspection of vehicles, as well as international rules on the carriage of dangerous goods.

A Regional Road Safety Capacity-Building Workshop (Belgrade, October 2014) focused on core road safety management issues, including the development of national road safety strategies and the setting of realistic long-term road safety targets.

Under its global road safety conventions mandate, UNECE with UNECA and the International Center for Alcohol Policies organized a capacity-building regional workshop on improving road safety in Africa (Addis Ababa, November 2014), focusing on increasing the awareness of government officials concerning the United Nations international road safety legal instruments, and promoting effective approaches for preventing drink driving.

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A new international legal railway regime would allow transport goods from the Atlantic to the Pacific without having to stop at borders for reconsignment or any other reason

Methodology for developing a master plan on high speed trains has been approved

Rail Transport

In order to increase the effectiveness of rail transport from Asia to Europe and vice versa, work began in 2014 on developing a new international legal railway regime, while leaving the present two regimes untouched. Goods could then be transported from the Atlantic to the Pacific without having to stop at borders for reconsignment or any other reason, making rail transport a more competitive alternative to road and air.

At a workshop on how to increase the competitiveness of railways attention was given to:

- development of an international rail security observatory;
- negotiations on amendment proposals to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC), prepared in consultation with the European Railway Agency;
- railway infrastructure financing and PPP solutions for railways;
- the new convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.

Participants approved the methodology for developing a master plan on high speed trains, and reviewed the facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region in particular in relation to rail border crossings and harmonization of technical specifications of different railway systems.

Inland Water Transport

The fifth revision of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI), adopted in 2014, increases the transparency and the degree of harmonization of the inland navigation rules in the UNECE region and reinforces the institutional and regulatory framework at the pan-European level.

Other work in this sector focuses on the proposal of measures to make the profession of boatmaster more attractive; analysis of existing instruments; revision of UNECE-related Resolutions; local knowledge requirements; and procedures for expert training and examination.

Other secretariat work included the issuance of the third revised edition of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), the updating of information on inland waterways and ports of international importance, and an improved version of the web application dedicated to the Blue Book, based on the UNECE publication Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network.

Intermodal Transport and Logistics

ITC approved the global Code of Practice for packing of cargo in containers and other intermodal transport units, creating an updated set of guidelines. This is the joint result of cooperation between the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNECE and industry experts.

The Code of Practice will provide transport insurers with an authoritative basis for cargo insurance contracts

This will allow Governments as well as the transport and insurance industries to develop globally harmonized procedures and regulations for enhanced safety and efficiency in international container transport. While not mandatory, it can be expected that its provisions will soon be applied worldwide as it will provide transport insurers with an authoritative basis for cargo insurance contracts.

Border Crossing Facilitation and the TIR

In 2014 the continued problems with the application of the TIR Convention in the Russian Federation and measures introduced by Ukraine overshadowed the successes of the TIR Convention.

The problems started in September 2013 when the Federal Customs Service (FCS) of the Russian Federation announced that it would no longer accept the guarantee of the TIR Carnet, but would require that TIR operators obtain a separate, national guarantee for transports to, from and through the Russian territory. In addition, FCS decided to terminate the existing guarantee agreement with the national guarantee association, the Association of International Road Carriers (ASMAP). The original deadline for the termination of the agreement was set at 30 November 2014 but has since then been prolonged until 28 February 2015, pending the finalization of a tender procedure to select a new guarantee association. All TIR competent bodies, such as, in particular, the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) and its TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) have repeatedly stated that the FCS

Four new Vehicle Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement were adopted to further improve vehicles' safety and environmental performance

measures are in breach of the provisions of the TIR Convention. In October 2014 the situation got even more complicated by a decision of the State Fiscal Service (SFS) of Ukraine that customs office in Ukraine would no longer accept TIR Carnets issued by ASMAP of the Russian Federation. TIRExB, at its December 2014 session, expressed the view that this measure is in contradiction with the provisions of Articles 3, paragraph (b), 4 and 6 of the Convention.

In the course of 2014 the Government of the Russian Federation submitted various proposals to amend the TIR Convention with the aim, inter alia, of providing more transparency in the functioning of the international guarantee system and offering state budgets more certainty on compensation for infringements against the Convention. These proposals will be discussed in 2015.

Vehicle Regulations – World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations

In 2014 four new United Nations Vehicle Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement were adopted to further improve vehicles' safety and environmental performance. Two regulations, on retrofit emission control devices for heavy-duty vehicles, agricultural and forestry tractors and non-road mobile machinery equipped with compression ignition engines, and on motor vehicles with regard to their reusability, recyclability and recoverability, entered into force. A further two, on Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Vehicles front crash tests and on pole side impacts, were adopted and are under notification procedure.

The World Forum continued its activities to develop performance requirements for intelligent vehicle systems and driver assist systems for automated vehicles

Existing regulations were also updated with seventy amendments, adapting them to the most recent technological innovations and introducing more severe limits aimed at increasing both the safety and environmental performance of vehicles. Among these were an amendment which sets test requirements for the design of more pedestrian friendly car bodies and the mitigation of injury.

The World Forum continued its activities to develop performance requirements for intelligent vehicle systems and driver assist systems for automated vehicles and, thus, to pave the way for future autonomous vehicles.

The first phase of Worldwide harmonized Light vehicle Test Procedures (WLTP) was adopted in March 2014. The new WLTP test cycle better reflects real traffic conditions and provides more accurate information on fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions for both regulators and consumers. It is expected to replace in the near future the existing test cycle — the New European Driving Cycle (NEDC) — also for the purpose of pollutant exhaust emissions testing.

The World Forum concluded several years of work on the harmonization of the technical requirements for the construction and the performance of tyres, resulting in the adoption of a new global technical regulation.

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Comprehensive new testing provisions for equipment used to transport perishable goods were adopted

Canada will implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) by mid-2015

Transport of perishable foodstuffs

Some 48 countries are Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP), which is focused on international transport, but an increasing number of countries also transpose ATP provisions into their domestic legislation for refrigerated transport.

In 2014 comprehensive new testing provisions were adopted for equipment that can be used for both cooling and heating and a ban has been agreed on the use of insulated equipment with non-rigid walls (curtain-sided bodies) after an adequate transitional period.

Transport of Dangerous Goods and Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The United Nations has developed mechanisms for the harmonization of classification criteria of chemicals by types of hazard and the related communication tools (labels and safety data sheets) as well as for the harmonization of transport conditions for all modes. These are the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), commonly known as the Purple Book, and the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, which is commonly referred to as the Orange Book.

The GHS has already been implemented in many countries, either through national or EU legislation

applicable to workplace safety, environment protection or consumer protection, or through national standards. Canada will implement the GHS in the workplace by mid-2015, substantially harmonizing Canadian classification and hazard communication for workplace chemicals with those of all other countries that have already implemented the GHS.

The United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods adapt the GHS into a transport context, and address the transport conditions that are relevant for all modes, such as the listing of dangerous goods, packing, labelling, emergency response, and carriage in portable tanks and provides in the Manual of Tests and Criteria testing methods for substances and articles presenting physical hazards.

The transposition of the provisions contained in the United Nations Recommendations, which are updated every two years, into legally binding instruments ensures the availability of a consistent system of harmonized regulations at worldwide level intended to improve safety but also to facilitate international transport.

In 2014, international organizations dealing with transport of dangerous goods regulations by various modes transposed the provisions contained in the 2013 version of the United Nations Recommendations into their legal instruments in a coordinated way so that they may all be applied simultaneously as of 1 January 2015.

Many countries have developed national legislation for domestic inland transport of dangerous goods fully or partially based on the United Nations Recommendations. For example, the regulations applicable for domestic inland transport in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Malaysia and the United States of America are based on the United Nations Recommendations, and all EU countries are required by Directive 2008/68/EC to apply the requirements of the European Agreements concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID), Road (ADR) and Inland Waterways (ADN) to domestic traffic.

In addition to the requirements transposed from the United Nations Recommendations, ADR 2015 contains new and revised provisions specific to carriage by road, such as provisions for the use of additive devices for tanks and a revision of the contents of the instructions in writing to be carried in the vehicles.

The new amendments for the ADN include provisions for evacuating vessels in an emergency, among the options being the use a “safe haven” that can protect the crew for at least sixty minutes, and changes affecting the carriage of LNG as a cargo on board gas tankers.

The ADN Administrative Committee issued several derogations authorizing the use of LNG as a fuel for propulsion instead of diesel on a trial basis for a number of inland navigation vessels carrying dangerous goods, consistent with policies aimed at preserving the environment and reducing emissions. It also adopted model checklists for dry cargo and tank

vessels as required by Article 4 of the ADN to ensure that a representative proportion of consignments of dangerous goods carried by inland waterways are subject to monitoring.

Challenges for 2015 and beyond

Restoring the use of the TIR system on the territory of the Contracting Parties remains a major challenge. On the positive side however, the digitalization of the TIR system has started and significant progress is expected in 2015.

New legal instruments will be prepared — Unified Railway Law, a new International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail, the OMNIBUS agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus — and a number of important amendments – AETR, the Vehicle Agreement of 1958, Vienna Conventions.

In the area of policy dialogue, technical assistance and capacity building the following will require careful planning: (i) the further use and development of the ForFITS tool; (ii) the 2015 flagship event on ITS being planned in cooperation with the Government of France as potentially back-to-back to the ITS World Congress in Bordeaux; (iii) tangible results from the infrastructure projects (TEM, TER and EATL) can be ensured with adequate funding and synergies with ITC subsidiary bodies.

A joint UNECE-IRU electronic TIR system (eTIR) Pilot Project will begin in 2015, to be conducted between

the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, showcasing that the technical concepts of computerizing the TIR procedure are fully functional, thus contributing to the establishment of eTIR in the coming years. The UNDA funded project *Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration*, to be completed in 2015, is expected to support this process.

Over the past sixty years UNECE has been spearheading internationally agreed on solutions for improving road safety. This remains a key over-arching thematic issue practically for all ITC work. The mid-term Review of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) will take place in Brasilia in 2015, and a careful balance will have to be found between the mandated tasks and their visibility at a global level. In addition, a new UNDA funded project will support road safety improvement in Albania, Georgia, Costa Rica and the People’s Republic of Lao.

2015 will be the year for Governments to negotiate and agree on the SDGs. Inland transport is one of the most crucial areas where future interventions are warranted. The 2011 paper on Transport for Sustainable Development will be updated to global coverage as a result of cooperation with the other regional commissions, and the most relevant international organizations.

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Governing Bodies

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Mr. Vladimir SOKOLIN *(Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States)*

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Mr. Barry WORTHINGTON *(Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels)*

Mr. Ray PILCHER *(Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane)*

Mr. Tim FARRELL *(Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency)*

Mr. Francisco DE LA FLOR GARCIA *(Group of Experts on Gas)*

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Executive Committee

Working group on ageing

UN/CEFACT



[1] Not a subsidiary body of UNECE but serviced by UNECE secretariat. Its members consist of UNECE member countries that have ratified the Convention or the Protocol (Various Working Groups are established under these Bodies).

[2] Subsidiary body of ECOSOC serviced by UNECE secretariat.

[3] Established by an open-ended tripartite High-level Meeting of Transport, Health and Environment sectors of the region, in 2002. The Committee is serviced by the Environment Division and the Transport Division in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and by the World Health Organization/EURO Secretariat. It reports to the High-level Meeting.

[4] Established by the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, in 2005, the Committee is serviced by the Environment Division. It reports to the High-level Meeting.

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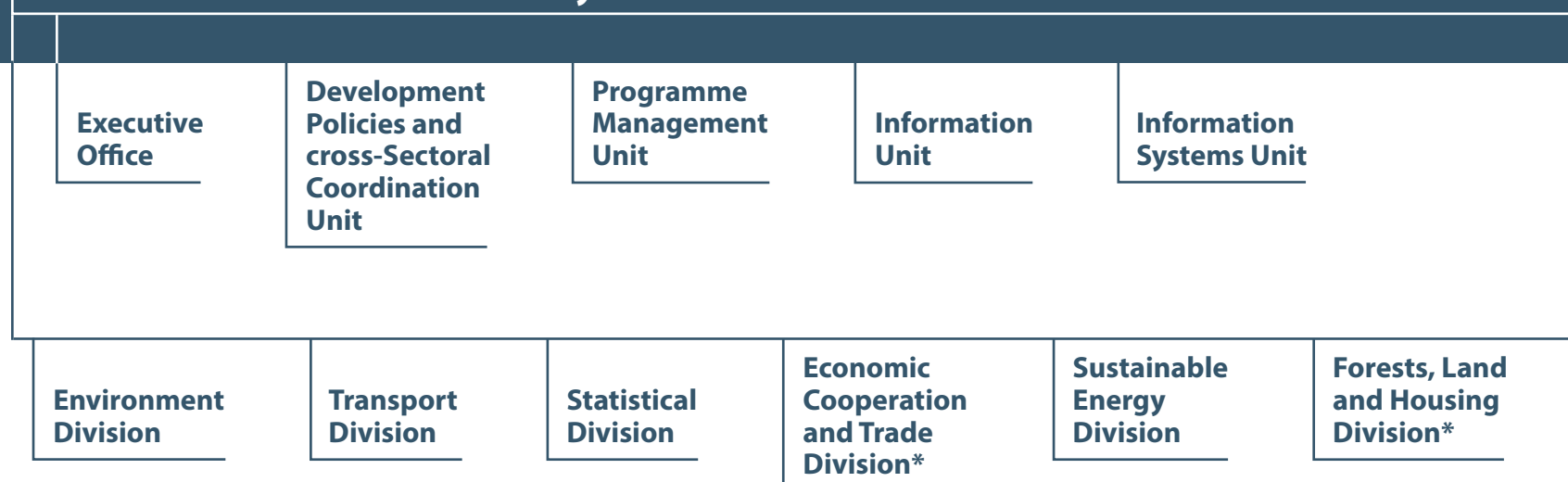
(As of 2 March 2015)

Albania	H. E. Ms. Filloreta KODRA	Iceland	H. E. Mr. Martin EYJÓLFSSON
Principality of Andorra	H. E. Mr. Enric TARRADO VIVES	Ireland	H. E. Ms. Patricia O'BRIEN
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United Kingdom	H. E. Ms. Karen PIERCE
United States of America	H. E. Ms. Pamela HAMAMOTO
Uzbekistan	Mr. Javohir NURMETOV a.i.

Secretariat

Office of the Executive Secretary



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Staff Resources

Type Of Budget	2014-2015	2016-2017
	(Total number of staff)	(Total number of staff)
Regular budget staff (section 20)	196	194
Regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC) staff** (section 23)	6	6
Extrabudgetary staff	30	29
Total	232	229

* Pending formal approval from UN Headquarters

** Six Regional Advisers

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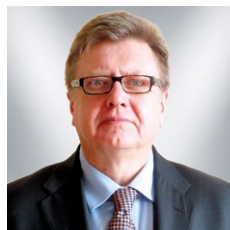
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Christian Friis Bach
Executive Secretary



Andrey Vasilyev
Deputy Executive Secretary



Parisudhi Kalampasut
Chef de Cabinet and Secretary of the Commission



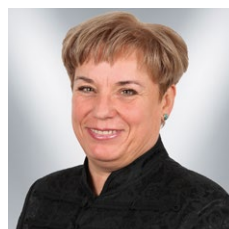
Monika Linn
Principal Adviser to the Executive Secretary



Programme Management Unit
Zamira Eshmambetova
Director



Environment Division
Marco Keiner
Director



Transport Division
Eva Molnar
Director



Statistical Division
Lidia Bratanova
Director



Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
Virginia Cram-Martos
Director



Sustainable Energy Division
Scott Foster
Director

Budget Resources United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

A. REGULAR BUDGET (in thousands of US dollars)				
TYPE OF BUDGET	2012-2013 Actual expenditures	2014 Allotment	2015 Allotment	2014-2015 Total Allotment
Regular Budget (Section 20)				
Post items	70'084.3	33'886.8	34'304.7	68'191.5
Non-Post items	3'727.4	2'314.0	1'929.9	4'243.9
Total:	73'811.7	36'200.8	36'234.6	72'435.4
B. EXTRABUDGETARY (in thousands of US dollars)				
TYPE OF FUND	2012-2013 Actual expenditures	2014 Estimates Expenditures	2015 Estimates Expenditures	2014-2015 Estimates Expenditures
Extrabudgetary				
General Trust Funds	8'063.8	3'637.4	3'821.8	7'459.2
Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	20'039.7	10'598.6	13'895.8	24'494.4
Total:	28'103.5	14'236.0	17'717.6	31'953.6
C. OTHER REGULAR BUDGET FUNDING (in thousands of US dollars)				
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 23)	2012-2013 Actual expenditures	2014 Allotment	2015 Allotment	2014-2015 Total Allotment
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	2'786.2	1'448.5	1'602.6	3'051.1
Other non-post items	713.6	259.9	391.9	651.8
Total:	3'499.8	1'708.4	1'994.5	3'702.9
United Nations Development Account (Section 35)	2012-2013 Actual expenditures	2014 Actual Expenditures	2015 Balance of allotment	2014-2015 Total Allotment
Non-post items	2'572.0	1'801.3	2'372.1	4'173.4
Total:	2'572.0	1'801.3	2'372.1	4'173.4

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