

# Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

## Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 18-19 April 2024

Palais des Nations Salle V, Geneva

## Provisional timetable

Time (CET/Geneva time)	Thursday, 18 April 2024
10:00-10:15	<b>1. Adoption of the agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Opening statement by the Chair, Ms. Maia Javakhishvili (Georgia)</li><li>- Opening statement by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Chief of Section, UNECE</li><li>- Adoption of the agenda (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2024/1)</li></ul>
10:15-10:45	<b>2. Adoption of the report of the twenty-fifth session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation of the outcomes of the 25th session, Christine Kitzler, UNECE</li><li>- Adoption of the report of the 25th session</li><li>- Presentation of the status of implementation of the decisions and recommendations made at the 25th session, Christine Kitzler, UNECE</li><li>- Discussion, questions and answers</li></ul>
10:45-12:45	<b>3. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Report on the decisions made by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-eighth session on 1-3 November 2023 related to the Working Group, Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE</li><li>- Overview on implemented activities to support the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference by the Working Group, Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE</li><li>- Report on expressions of interest to lead or co-lead an activity or work area</li><li>- Discussion including on lead agencies or countries for other programme areas and activities</li></ul>

	<p><b>3. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference (continuation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of draft timetable of activities for 2025 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2024/4), Katerina Nikolovska, Vice-chair of the Working Group</li> <li>- Discussion and approval of the draft timetable of activities</li> <li><i>Comfort Break, 10 min</i></li> <li>- Introduction to the outline of the revised publication "Environmental Monitoring and Reporting", Johannes Mayer, Vice-chair of the Working Group</li> <li>- Discussion and approval of the outline (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2024/3)</li> <li>- Discussion on the establishment of a drafting group for the publication "Environmental Monitoring and Reporting" and next steps</li> <li>- Presentations by international and regional organizations on initiatives and projects that relate to the activities of the Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relevant developments at the European Environment Agency including the SOER 2025, Bert Jansen and Tobias Lung, European Environment Agency</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Questions and answers</li> </ul>
12:45-13:00	<p><b>4. Resource Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of information on the financial resources available, Nick Bonvoisin</li> <li>- Update on the foreseen external evaluation of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE</li> </ul>
<b>13:00-15:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
15:00-16:15	<p><b>5. Developments in environmental monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Global Framework for Chemicals and its global monitoring, Pierre Quiblier, UNEP</li> <li>- Use of geospatial information to complement environmental monitoring, Sara Venturini, Group on Earth Observations (GEO)</li> <li>- Development and uptake of novel environmental monitoring and quality assurance methods in Finland, by Saku Antilla, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)</li> <li>- Developments and planned activities to enhance air quality monitoring, assessment and reporting, by Austria and Georgia (topic co-leads)</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>
16:15-18:00	<p><b>6. Developments relating to environmental information systems and reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview on the annual review report of the environmental theme "air" (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2024/5), UNECE</li> </ul>

- Discussion and approval of the review report
  - Introduction to the reporting template of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) review of the theme “waste and circular economy” and the regional training on the production and use of waste and circular economy statistics and indicators, by Dimitrios Meimaris, UNECE consultant and UNECE secretariat
  - Questions and answers
  - Discussion on the next steps and proposal for data submission for selected indicators together with the SEIS questionnaire
  - Discussion and agreement on the annual SEIS review theme for 2025 and possible theme for 2026
  - Overview on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) implementation in Serbia and developments related to the implementation of PRTRs and SEIS in synergy, Nebojša Redžić, Serbia
  - Italian Environmental Information System (SINA) in the framework of national and international networks. Lessons learned from SEIS reporting, Alessandro Lotti, ISPRA
  - Presentation of the Global Ecosystems Atlas, Global Heat Resilience Service and GeoGLOWS, Madeeha Bajwa and Martyn Clark, Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
  - Discussion
- Closure of Day 1
- Oral summary of conclusions and decisions of the Working Group, by the Chair of the Working Group

Time (CET/Geneva time)	Friday, 19 April 2024
10:00-11:15	<p data-bbox="391 340 1439 414">7. Regular pan-European environmental assessment and environmental reporting to strengthen environmental policy</p> <ul data-bbox="406 425 1420 1097" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="406 425 1420 604">- Roundtable discussion on implemented and planned activities to support the implementation of the monitoring, reporting and assessment related outcomes of the Nicosia Ministerial Conference and the seventh pan-European environmental assessment, UNECE member States (and UNECE Secretariat)</li> <li data-bbox="406 616 1420 683">- Draft concept for the 8<sup>th</sup> pan-European environmental assessment (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2024/6), Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE</li> <li data-bbox="406 694 1420 772">- Discussion on next steps regarding the 8<sup>th</sup> pan-European environmental assessment</li> <li data-bbox="406 784 1420 896">- Presentation of the template for the reporting exercise under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and provision of guidance, Maike Salize, UNECE secretariat</li> <li data-bbox="406 907 1420 1019">- Overview of activities supported by the secretariat and international and regional organizations related to environmental assessment and reporting at the national level, UNECE, UNEP and EEA</li> <li data-bbox="406 1030 1420 1097">- Discussion of relevant issues related to environmental assessment and reporting</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="462 1108 766 1142"><i>Comfort Break, 10 min</i></p>
11:15-13:00	<p data-bbox="391 1153 1439 1198">8. Sharing and integration of economic, social and environmental data</p> <ul data-bbox="406 1209 1428 1870" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="406 1209 1428 1276">- Overview on global and regional environmental policy events in 2024, by international organizations <ul data-bbox="462 1288 1364 1377" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="462 1288 1364 1332">- Overview on UNECE events, Christine Kitzler, UNECE</li> <li data-bbox="462 1344 1364 1377">- Relevant outcomes of UNEA-6, Wondwosen Asnake Kibret, UNEP</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="406 1388 1428 1456">- Recent developments pertaining to data integration to support SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting <ul data-bbox="462 1467 1428 1590" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="462 1467 1428 1545">- Circular economy matrix lab and monitoring of plastics, Lars Mortensen, European Environment Agency</li> <li data-bbox="462 1556 1428 1590">- Discussion, questions and answers</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="406 1601 1428 1713">- Overview on ongoing work at the UNECE Statistical Division to measure circular economy and update on the revised Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators, Michael Nagy, UNECE</li> <li data-bbox="406 1724 1428 1792">- Overview on ongoing work at the UNECE Statistical Division related to climate-change-related statistics, Malgorzata Cwiek</li> <li data-bbox="406 1803 1428 1870">- Data needs for Climate Change Mitigation and Monitoring a Just Transition, Arthur Denneman, Statistics Netherlands</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by international partners on recent developments in applying new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and Earth observation for environmental monitoring and assessment</li> <li>- Using remote sensing, satellite imagery and other tools and technologies to monitor the environment in Central Asia, tbc</li> <li>- Discussion, questions and answers</li> </ul> <p><i>Comfort Break, 10 min</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report by international organizations on initiatives and extrabudgetary projects related to the Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU4 Environment - Water Resources and Environmental Data programme, Johannes Mayer, Environment Agency Austria</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Discussion on how the work that was presented on environmental information, data and indicators can better support the development of integrated assessments, reporting on and implementation of SDGs and other activities of the Working Group</li> <li>- Discussion on relevant topics for the 27th session of the Working Group</li> </ul>
<b>13:00-15:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
15:00-17:30	<p><b>9. Progress in environmental monitoring and assessment, including institutional and regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on major actions taken since the previous meeting, by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Spain (online), Ukraine, Uzbekistan on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The production of environmental reports, analyses and assessments based on environmental information and indicators, including through the use of the Shared Environmental Information System.</li> <li>- The modernization and upgrading of national monitoring networks</li> <li>- Improvements in data quality assurance and control, as well as the management of data.</li> <li>- Improvements in data policy and institutional and regulatory mechanisms and technical solutions for data exchange between various ministries and agencies (ministries of environment, environment agencies and ministries of agriculture, energy, health, industry, transport, water and statistical offices) and with other users, including the public.</li> <li>- The implementation of recommendations regarding environmental monitoring and assessment made in national environmental performance reviews.</li> <li>- Developments at country level to enhance digitalization and digital transformation related to environmental information and the use of new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and Earth observation for environmental monitoring.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cross cutting developments such as integrating a gender perspective into environmental monitoring and assessment activities</li> <li>- Discussion, questions and answers.</li> </ul>
17:30-17:45	<p><b>10. Other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Please inform the secretariat of items of other business as soon as possible.</i></li> </ul>
17:45- <b>18:00</b>	<p><b>11. Closure of the meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oral summary of conclusions and notes taken by the Working Group, by the Chair of the meeting.</li> <li>- Date of next meeting.</li> <li>- <b>Closing of the meeting.</b></li> </ul>