

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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Abbreviations and **acronyms**

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 Traffic 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
CMM	Coal mine methane
EATL	Euro-Asian Transport Links
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EEA	European Energy Agency
EfE	Environment for Europe
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
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
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IFI	International financial institution
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITF	International Transport Forum
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OTIF	Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail
PPP	Public-private partnership
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
RID	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TEM	Trans- European Motorways

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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/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
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
UNESWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
Note: \$ are US dollars	

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“UNECE contributes to many of the products and services that we use almost every day: from safer cars, fresh fruit and cleaner air to a protected environment and easier border-crossing. These achievements have made UNECE a go-to source for improving global public goods and services, with more than 100 countries beyond the UNECE region benefitting from its work.”

Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

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



The year 2012 was largely defined by the negotiations on the review of the reform, as decided by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-fourth session in 2011. These were at the centre of the agenda of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) throughout the year and in the first weeks of 2013. On 4 February, EXCOM endorsed the draft outcome document, which will be submitted to the Commission for approval at its sixty-fifth session (9-11 April 2013).

When EXCOM adopted the modalities of the review process in September 2011, we probably did not expect the review to last until the beginning of 2013. However, ambassadors unanimously agree that this was the fastest review process that they have ever known, and this is something we can all be proud of.

I am sincerely grateful to all the members of EXCOM for their dedication in this journey, as well as to the secretariat for its highly professional support.

The outcome document is a very balanced, “transparent and results-oriented compromise”, which will set UNECE on solid ground for the future.

During this intense process, EXCOM developed a certain style of consultation, a certain quality-level of multilateral diplomacy and has proved that mutual respect, trust and transparency are the best methods and style to achieve a common goal. This is a lesson we should all reflect on—both member States and the secretariat.

In addition, by adopting guidelines on procedures and practices for UNECE bodies—which was in a way a by-product of the consultations—EXCOM has made a valuable contribution not only to UNECE but to other bodies in the United Nations system.

The outcome of the review process has clearly strengthened the role of EXCOM itself in terms of its operational decision-making, oversight and assessment functions. I believe that this was needed and that it will increase the coherence of UNECE in delivering as one.

The outcome document is not an end in itself. It is an important element in the further development and modernization of UNECE as a pan-European platform for dialogue in constant search of new, efficient, effective and transparent means of international cooperation for the common good.

The implementation of the outcome document is now in the hands of Executive Secretary Alkalaj and his team in the secretariat. I wish them all success, and I am confident that my successors, as Chair and in the Bureau, will continue to closely cooperate with them in this endeavour.

Uglješa Zvekić
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Serbia

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Introduction by

the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



Last year was rich in events and developments in our organization. Two main processes shaped the year 2012 for UNECE: the review of the 2005 UNECE reform, and the global debate on the post-2015 development agenda following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in June 2012.

The outcome document of the review of the 2005 UNECE reform was endorsed by the UNECE Executive Committee on 4 February 2013 and is the result of intensive and lengthy negotiations and compromise by our member States.

The Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” puts considerable emphasis on the importance of regional action in the implementation of sustainable development. UNECE is uniquely placed for this role. It has relevant expertise and, most importantly, experience in many areas which have been identified as crucial in the Rio+20 outcome and in the Secretary-General’s Five-Year Action Agenda including greening the economy, sustainable energy, sustainable transport, water, sustainable forest management, gender, statistics, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable development goals.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been high on the agenda throughout 2012. In February, UNECE hosted PPP Days 2012, a global policymaking event on PPPs, organized in cooperation with the World Bank Institute and the Asian Development Bank. UNECE also launched a fruitful cooperation with the United Nations Office at Geneva to explore the potential of PPPs as a procurement mechanism for the renovation of the Palais des Nations, the European headquarters of the United Nations. Finally, in November, UNECE signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health of the Philippines to establish a Specialist PPP Centre on Health in Manila under the auspices of UNECE’s International PPP Centre of Excellence.

The UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing held on 18-20 September 2012 in Vienna concluded with the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration “Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing”. In the Declaration, member States made a commitment to meet the individual and societal challenges resulting from population ageing and set specific priority policy goals to be achieved by 2017.

The Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for Central Asia (SPECA), held on 27-28 November 2012 in Bangkok, drew on the successes and challenges of regional economic integration in Asia. At a side event of the SPECA Governing Council, participants expressed support for the development and implementation of projects facilitating regional economic cooperation between Afghanistan and Central Asian countries within the framework of SPECA.

Other important achievements in 2012 included the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol to include national emission reduction commitments for main air pollutants to be achieved by 2020 and beyond; the adoption of more stringent emission requirements for heavy duty vehicle engines; a joint UNECE–FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, defining ways in which the UNECE forest sector can contribute to the development of a green economy; and a variety of events dedicated to the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

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Throughout the year, UNECE member States with economies in transition continued to be the primary beneficiaries of UNECE's technical cooperation activities. By assisting those countries to adopt and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations, we helped them to foster their integration into the regional and global economy and thus more effectively achieve sustained growth and sustainable development.

In 2012, we made renewed efforts in our cooperation with other United Nations bodies to ensure that we effectively "deliver as one". At the global level, UNECE cooperates closely with partners such as FAO, UNCTAD, UN DESA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNIDO, WHO, WIPO and WTO. Cooperation with United Nations country teams and UNDP has also been strengthened.

Outside the United Nations family, we worked on further strengthening ties in our region and beyond, with, among others, the European Union, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

As the deadline for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, contributing to the formulation of a post-2015 development framework that will shape development efforts for the future will be a major undertaking for UNECE. As the most diverse and advanced region in the world, the pan-European region is well placed to contribute to the global debate and share lessons learned and best practices on building inclusive, sustainable and stable societies. UNECE will provide a regional perspective to the post-2015 development agenda through the preparation of an inter-agency report by the Regional Coordination Mechanism, an inter-agency mechanism, chaired by UNECE. This report will serve to inform the global consultations, in particular the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2013. UNECE has been also contributing to thematic consultations on water and energy.

With the entry into force of the amendments opening access to all UN Member States on 6 February 2013, the UNECE Water Convention has become truly global. The International Year of Water Cooperation launched in Paris on 12 February 2013 provides a good opportunity for UNECE to raise awareness about the Water Convention and to strengthen transboundary water cooperation worldwide.

The sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe to be held in Geneva from 9 to 11 April 2013 will discuss, inter alia, "Enabling the shift to a sustainable future" during its high-level segment. Panel discussions will focus on the follow-up to Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda, as well as on the role of innovation in creating a dynamic and competitive economy. The results of the latter panel will serve as a regional input to the 2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review on the theme of "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs".

The Commission will also be called upon to adopt the outcome document of the review of the 2005 UNECE reform, renewing trust among member States, and between the secretariat and member States. As a follow-up to the Commission session, UNECE will work on the implementation of the outcome document.

As Executive Secretary, I will ensure that transparency and accountability remain the guiding principles of the work of the secretariat, and that UNECE continues to service its member States with the utmost professionalism guided by the principles of good governance.

Sven Alkalaj
Under Secretary-General

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Promoting innovation and competitiveness

There are vast differences in innovation capacity and competitiveness across economies. This is because innovation in the modern economy is a complex process. It requires the public and the private sectors to work in partnership; it requires significant financial resources, a long time horizon, and a considerable appetite for risk. It also needs an infrastructure capable of sustaining an elaborate division of labour, such as roads, and of supporting key public services, such as health and education, without which innovation cannot flourish and companies cannot compete successfully. At the same time, innovation and innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships (PPPs) are key to developing and operating such infrastructure in an efficient manner. Innovation will therefore thrive only in countries offering a legal, regulatory and policy framework which enables, facilitates and encourages entrepreneurship, risk taking and long-term investment, including through public-private partnerships. This framework needs to be tailored to the level of the economic development of each country.

The UNECE subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration promotes innovation and competitiveness by identifying and disseminating international good practices and policy recommendations, and by providing policy advice and capacity-building services to member States with economies in transition. It focuses on national innovation systems, financing of innovative activities, support for entrepreneurship and enterprise development, the role of intellectual property in the innovation process, and on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development.

New policy recommendations on the regional dimension of innovation and on the balance of intellectual property and competition policy in promoting innovation were among the thematic highlights of UNECE's work in this area in 2012, as well as the PPP Days 2012 and the launch of the International PPP Specialist Centre on Health. UNECE also continued its work on innovation and green technologies and further expanded its national policy advisory services through national Innovation Performance Reviews and PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations.

Intellectual property protects the innovative companies temporarily from competition by imitators

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The regional dimension is playing an increasing role in national innovation strategies. The economic dynamism of regions, which is based on their own assets and skills, can make an important contribution to overall innovation performance. The degree of regional diversity differs significantly across countries, and economic growth is regionally uneven. Some regions within each country often account for most of the observed expansion in output. Globally, a few selected hubs concentrate most innovation activity across the world. Regionally tailored innovation policies can be a way to preserve the competitive advantage of more advanced regions and to exploit the underdeveloped potential of those that are lagging behind.



In recognition of this growing and under-appreciated importance of the regional dimension, UNECE has developed a new set of good practices and policy recommendations on “Building Strategies for Regions of Innovation”. In cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the topic was further discussed at the 2012 Economic Forum of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), highlighting the main drivers and challenges of regional cooperation, and identifying experiences, including from outside the UNECE region, that could be adapted to the needs of Central Asia.

Intellectual property can play an important role in the innovation process, as it protects the innovative companies temporarily from competition by imitators. Intellectual property thus allows innovators to earn higher profits and to cover the often substantial costs and risks which innovation entails. This can be a powerful incentive for undertaking innovation in the first place.

At the same time, competition can also be a powerful driver of innovation because a company which introduces new, better or cheaper products is able to set itself apart from its less innovative competitors.

Competition law and policy on the one hand, and intellectual property law and policy on the other, are thus aligned in their goal of promoting innovation.

The economic dynamism of regions can make an important contribution to overall innovation performance

But certain uses of intellectual property rights may weaken competition, and unfettered competition may weaken innovation. Using the tools of competition law and intellectual property law in a balanced way in the interest of promoting innovation is thus a constant policy challenge. As part of its work on intellectual property, UNECE therefore developed a new set of good practices and policy recommendations on “Intellectual Property and Competition Policy as Drivers of Innovation”.

These good practices and policy recommendations were the basis for two major capacity-building events which UNECE organized together with the Israeli Intellectual Property Office and the World Intellectual Property

Organization in Israel, and with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Within a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on “Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”, UNECE held a Joint National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, in Bishkek, November 2012. The events supported policymakers from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to deal with issues on innovation policy for climate change adaptation and financing of green technology infrastructure projects using PPPs.

Recent UNECE work on entrepreneurship and enterprise development was made available to a wider audience through a new UNECE publication *Fostering Innovative Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Policy Options*, issued in March 2012. This puts together good practices on fostering innovative enterprises in the

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UNECE region and highlights some policy actions that may be required to this end in emerging market economies of the region, focusing particularly on the commercialization of research and development, and industry-science linkages.

The highlight of UNECE's work on PPPs this year was undoubtedly the hosting of **PPP Days 2012** jointly with the World Bank Institute and the Asian Development Bank. This is the premier event at global level on PPP, taking place every two years, and this was the first time it was hosted by UNECE. More than 800 policymakers and senior PPP executives from the private sector from over 70 countries came together for four days of intense discussions on good practices for the institutions and governance in PPPs, the new financial challenges facing PPPs, as well as national projects pipelines for prospective investors. UNECE used the event inter alia to create and showcase training materials on PPP case studies and to consolidate a unique partnership with the international financial institutions in the field of PPP capacity building.



Another major development was the establishment of the **UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence** to identify international PPP best practice, assist governments to implement these practices successfully in better project delivery, encourage shared learning especially between countries new to PPPs and those with mature PPP programmes, and establish international sectoral PPP "Specialist Centres". The first sectoral specialist centre was launched in October 2012. The International PPP Specialist Centre on Health in Manila, the Philippines will be the international focal point in the identification, collection, analysis and dissemination of PPP best practices in the area of healthcare.

The Team of Specialists on PPPs was invited by the United Nations Office at Geneva to provide advice on the use of the PPP model in the renovation of historical buildings in the context of the Strategic Heritage Plan to renovate the Palais des Nations. Preliminary recommendations formed part of the substantive segment of the seventh session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration held in December, dedicated to the role of PPPs in the renovation of buildings.

Innovation Performance Reviews and PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations are the main way in which UNECE translates the above work into concrete policy advice at the national level.

Based on the accumulated insights from the policy discussions which take place every year at the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the Innovation Performance Reviews study the national innovation systems of the requesting countries in detail and benchmark them against international good practice. They assess the innovative capacity of enterprises and academic institutions, the quality of innovation support institutions and intermediaries such as business incubators, science parks or business angels, the incentives and disincentives arising from the general business climate, as well as the institutional set-up, quality and coherence of innovation policy. The reviews lead to policy recommendations tailored to the situation and needs of the country being reviewed. In follow-up, UNECE provides advice and capacity building to governments and other innovation stakeholders to assist with the implementation of these policy recommendations.

In 2012, Ukraine became the third UNECE member State to undertake an Innovation Performance Review, after Belarus and Kazakhstan in 2010-2011. In 2012 UNECE worked inter alia with the National Agency for Technological Development of Kazakhstan and the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus to advance implementation of selected policy recommendations.

Both reviews had found that linkages and the connectivity between various components of the national innovation system were still relatively neglected. The effectiveness of public intervention was also often

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limited by the underdevelopment of innovation services and market infrastructure. There was a need to develop further the systemic view of the national innovation system emphasizing linkages and going beyond the primary focus on technological forms of innovation. In the case of Belarus, it was also recommended that the scope of innovation policy be broadened beyond a narrow focus on science-based technological innovation, to strengthen the horizontal (i.e. multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-departmental) aspect of innovation policy and to improve the entrepreneurial culture and business climate. One key aspect in this regard is the financing of innovative enterprises and high-risk innovative projects, and UNECE provided dedicated policy advice and training on this to policymakers, academics, science-park managers and staff of small and medium-sized enterprises.



As part of its policy advisory work in PPPs, UNECE conducted a national Readiness Assessment Consultation for Belarus, and organized implementation workshops in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova as follow-up to a readiness assessment conducted in 2011. Readiness assessment consultations are participatory policy advisory services in which a team of international UNECE experts consults with

lead and line ministries, municipal authorities, and private-sector operators to assess the enabling environment for the successful undertaking of PPP projects in the requesting country, and identifies sectors where potential PPP projects could be undertaken. Fact finding missions for readiness assessment consultations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were also undertaken in 2012. First results were discussed with the respective Governments at a Joint National Seminar and the Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies, held in Bishkek in November 2012.

Innovation Performance Reviews assess the quality of innovation support institutions and intermediaries such as business incubators, science parks or business angels

The way ahead

The demand for policy advice and capacity building is growing. Based on the Innovation Performance Reviews of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and the PPP Readiness Assessments of Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan, UNECE will work with its partners in these countries to undertake national policy advisory, implementation and capacity-building activities. Additional extrabudgetary funding will be raised to accommodate requests from other countries for Innovation Performance Reviews. UNECE will continue to work with the SPECA member States on building their capacity to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation. Within this project, additional PPP Readiness Assessment Consultations are planned for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Under the PPP Centre of Excellence, four additional specialist centres will be established in 2013.

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ENVIRONMENT

The Future We Want: Putting the outcomes of Rio+20 to work

Starting in 2011, in the months leading up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20 Conference), the Environment subprogramme's activities were directed towards ensuring UNECE input into the Conference's discussions and outcome. Governing bodies of all the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and processes looked at how their work could support and advance the sustainable development agenda, including through public participation and decision-making in environmental matters, education for sustainable development and strategic environmental assessment.

At Rio, a small delegation from the Environment subprogramme actively participated and gave keynote speeches at a number of side events. Some of these events were organized by the Environment subprogramme in partnership with countries and other relevant stakeholders, including the daylong event on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

In addition, a number of bilateral meetings were held with ministers or heads of delegation to promote UNECE environmental instruments and activities and to ensure that a regional perspective was included in the Rio+20 outcome.

In follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference, the various components of the Environment subprogramme are moving forward to put the Rio outcomes to work, as set out below.

Committee on Environmental Policy and follow-up to the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference

Noting the importance of the Rio+20 Conference for setting priorities and targets in the area of the environment, the Committee on Environmental Policy at its April 2012 session welcomed the informal

The Future We Want emphasizes the role of regional activities in advancing towards sustainable development

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input to Rio+20 prepared by the representatives of the governing bodies of UNECE MEAs and the Committee Chair. The Committee stressed the vital importance of keeping regional initiatives and perspectives in the Rio+20 outcome document. Critically, that concern was taken into account in the final document endorsed by the General Assembly, The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288, annex), which emphasizes the role of regional activities in advancing towards sustainable development.

Delegations also expressed their great appreciation for the outcomes of the Seventh "Environment for Europe" (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Astana, September 2011). The Committee agreed to organize a mid-term review in autumn 2013 to assess the implementation of the Astana commitments and provide renewed impetus to the process, as well as to support the preparations for the next ministerial conference. Following the meeting, the Committee commenced the preparations for the review, with input from countries and EfE partners.

Also at its April 2012 session, the Committee welcomed progress in relation to the work undertaken by the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme and with regard to environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting, and extended the mandates of the bodies in those areas, as set out in the relevant sections below.

Delegations also welcomed progress achieved in a number of cross-sectoral activities, in particular the implementation of the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development and the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment. In connection also with health and environment issues, the Committee mandated its Bureau to appoint the four members from the environment sector to the second term (2013–2014) of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board.

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution made further progress in 2012 on revising two of its most recent protocols: the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). In early May, the Convention's Executive Body adopted historic amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol. The new text of the Protocol now includes national emission reduction commitments for main air pollutants to be achieved in 2020 and beyond. The revised Protocol also includes — for the first time — emission reduction commitments for fine particulate matter, the pollutant whose ambient air concentrations notoriously exceed air quality standards throughout Europe.

Fine particulate matter includes both solid particles and liquid droplets found in air that are less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter. Also referred to as "respirable" particles, because they penetrate deep into the respiratory system, adverse health effects have been associated with exposure to fine particulate matter over both short and longer periods (a day to a year or more). Health effects of fine particles include coughing or difficulty breathing; chronic bronchitis; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Fine particulate matter is also responsible for environmental effects such as corrosion, soiling, damage to vegetation and reduced visibility (haze).

Adverse health effects have been associated with exposure to fine particulate matter



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Moreover, the Parties broke new ground in international air pollution policy by specifically including the short-lived climate forcer, black carbon (or soot), as a component of particular matter. Black carbon is known as a short-lived climate forcer because it has a strong warming effect but does not persist in the atmosphere as long as carbon dioxide (CO₂). However, recent research shows that black carbon is several hundred times more heat trapping than CO₂. Thus, in particular in the global context of glacier melting, reduced ice mass at the Poles, and with the knock-on effects on flora and fauna and sea-level rise, curbing black carbon emissions is a critical objective in tackling climate change.

In addition to ceilings on fine particulate matter, several of the Protocol's technical annexes were revised with updated sets of emission limit values for both key stationary sources of air pollution (such as factories and processing plants) and mobile sources (such as vehicles and non-road mobile machines and agricultural and forestry tractors).



One of the Convention's priorities is to provide assistance to countries in Southern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in ratifying and implementing various protocols under the Convention. To that end, the revised Gothenburg Protocol includes specific provisions on flexibilities to implement emission standards for these countries that should facilitate their ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

The revised Gothenburg Protocol will contribute to the green economy and outcomes of Rio+20 by setting obligations for Parties to take cost-effective measures to reduce harmful emissions, promoting the introduction of new and clean technologies, bringing economic and health benefits and preventing the loss of biodiversity.

The Convention continues to implement its overall strategic framework. Adopted in 2010, the Long-term Strategy for the Convention, inter alia, calls for strengthened interregional cooperation and outreach activities with ESCAP, other United Nations regional commissions and other institutions outside the UNECE region dealing with air pollution issues. In that connection, the Convention secretariat helped to develop and carry out a project that reviews existing and required capacities for addressing the adverse environmental impact of transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia. The project, led by the Russian Federation in collaboration with the ESCAP subregional office in Incheon (Republic of Korea), builds upon the experience and knowledge of the Convention. A follow-up project is foreseen for 2013-2014 that will look into both technical and policy aspects of transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia.

The revised Gothenburg Protocol will reduce harmful emissions and promote the introduction of new and clean technologies

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

The Rio+20 Conference has reconfirmed that water is at the core of sustainable development, as it is closely linked to a number of key global challenges, such as food security and sustainable agriculture, protection of human health, sustainable cities and human settlements, protection of biodiversity and prevention of desertification and land degradation. This underlines the importance of adopting an intersectoral approach to water resources management, which characterizes the work carried out under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and its Protocol on Water and Health.

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Meetings of the Parties to the Water Convention are held once every three years, and in 2012, the sixth session was held in November, in Rome. In the Convention's twentieth anniversary year, the Rome session marked a new and important step in the Convention's evolution into a global legal framework for transboundary water cooperation, with the adoption of a decision to facilitate accession by non-UNECE countries to the Convention.

The Meeting of the Parties also adopted a decision on support to implementation and compliance, establishing an Implementation Committee that will ensure tailored assistance to prevent water-related disputes and support countries in their efforts to implement the Convention.

*Water is at the core of
sustainable development*

A further key outcome was the adoption of model provisions on transboundary groundwaters. Considering the key strategic importance of groundwater resources and their vulnerability, such provisions aim to promote the sustainable use, management and protection of transboundary groundwaters through cooperation.

The programme of work for the period 2013–2015 includes continuation of successful activities, such as the work on adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, National Policy Dialogues under the European Union (EU) Water Initiative and support to implementation through technical assistance and capacity-building. But it also includes new areas of work to respond to emerging challenges — such as work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and on the benefits of cooperation — as well as activities related to the opening and implementation of the Convention outside the UNECE region, including synergies with the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

Also in view of the Convention's globalization, Parties decided to strengthen cooperation with partners and adopted decisions on cooperation with the Global Environmental Facility and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Protocol on Water and Health

In *The Future We Want* countries confirmed their commitment to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and to the progressive realization of access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation for all. The Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention is a key instrument to support countries in achieving these objectives and it will also be an important tool for the achievement of the sustainable development goal on water to come.

A main product of the work under the Protocol on Water and Health in 2012 was the publication, *No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region*.¹ The publication highlights significant inequities in access to water and sanitation in the region and provides guidance on how to redress them, showcasing successful policy and practical measures that have been taken by Governments, water operators and civil society. The good-practice guide was officially launched at the sixth World Water Forum (Marseille, France, March 2012). Work in this area under the Protocol is continuing with the development and testing of a self-assessment tool — a scorecard — to be used by Governments and other stakeholders to establish a baseline, track progress and prompt discussion on further actions to be taken to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation.



¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.II.E.5. Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=29170>.

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Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

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 (Protocol on PRTRs) are currently the only international legally binding instruments that flesh out Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment

and Development and promote environmental democracy. As such, the success of these two regional instruments was central for the Rio+20 Conference negotiations and its outcomes. The Future We Want outlines a global framework for sustainable development, building on green economy, and includes many references to Principle 10. During the Conference, the Aarhus Convention secretariat, in cooperation with numerous partners, organized, coordinated and provided input to a number of side events, including an event on Principle 10 in the context of governance, "Choosing Our Future: Open and Participatory Sustainable Development Governance", and "Green Growth and Sustainable Development: Regional Perspectives", which sought to promote Principle 10 in the context of a green economy.

At the September 2012 meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, a thematic session on promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums, led by France, was attended by more than 100 delegates from Governments, non-governmental and international organizations, international financial institutions (IFIs), academia, business and industry. At that meeting, Parties further committed to take concrete actions to actively promote the principles of the Convention in the initiatives to be put in place as a result of the Rio+20 Conference, in particular in the new high-level forum on sustainable development and in the upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). They also committed to identify concrete actions to promote the principles of the Convention in the processes, policies and projects of IFIs, namely the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank. Furthermore, they reaffirmed their commitment to systematically promote the principles of the Convention in all international forums dealing with matters relating to the environment.

The Convention has continued to attract attention of countries outside the UNECE region. To that end, Parties offered their support to the development of a regional instrument on Principle 10 for Latin America and the Caribbean, led by Chile, and welcomed an initiative on promoting access to justice in environmental matters in Japan. Furthermore, the secretariat organized a mission to Mongolia, which expressed its interest in joining the Convention. The mission was led by the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties (Netherlands) and included representatives of Italy, Kazakhstan, Norway and Poland. The recent discovery of rich natural resources in Mongolia has attracted unprecedented attention by large multinational investors and this has raised public concern as to the health and safety, environmental and social hazards associated with mining activities. In a series of bilateral meetings and multi-stakeholder events attended by some 100 participants, environmental and social concerns with respect to the exploitation of Mongolia's natural resources were discussed and the usefulness of the Aarhus Convention as a tool for greening the economy and ensuring sustainable development was showcased.

Over the past year, the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee has continued providing valuable assistance to Parties in achieving compliance with the Convention. In four intensive meetings in 2012, the Committee discussed issues of compliance concerning Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and United Kingdom, as well as the EU.

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During this period, the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making, led by Ireland, advanced in the preparation of recommendations for developing national frameworks on public participation and for designing and carrying out public participation processes on a day-to-day basis. Two workshops on the subject matter were organized jointly with the secretariats of the Protocols on Water and Health and on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

For its part, the Task Force on Access to Justice, led by Sweden, continued furthering the implementation of the access to justice pillar, in particular in relation to issues of standing, costs and remedies. In addition, the Central Asian Meeting “Implementing the Aarhus Convention today: Paving the way to a better environment and governance tomorrow” (Almaty, May 2012), organized jointly by UNECE and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), featured a session devoted to high-level members of the judiciary.

Also during this period, the role of the Protocol on PRTRs in measuring progress in reducing pollutants, critical for advancing sustainability and ensuring the success of a green economy, has been increased. The work in 2012 focused on strengthening cooperation among countries in order to strengthen their capacity for developing pollutant release and transfer registers and providing reliable data regarding release and transfer of pollutants across the region. Exchange of know-how and technical assistance has been a priority, and several surveys that sought to identify needs and match demands for assistance to existing expertise were completed in 2012. The surveys’ results will further inform training activities, among others the workshop for the development of PRTRs in South-Eastern Europe in 2013.

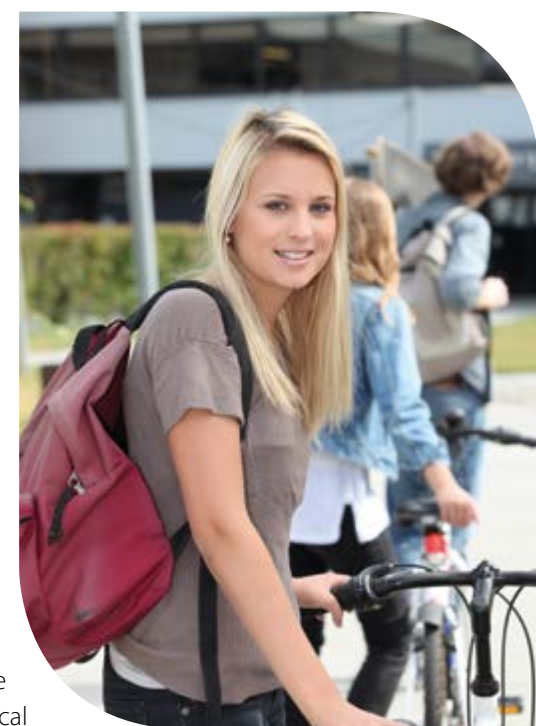
Parties adopted a decision to facilitate accession by non-UNECE countries

Important steps have been taken towards streamlining activities under the Convention and its Protocol and developing synergies with other UNECE MEAs and relevant international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, OSCE, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, GRID Arendal, Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d’Information, Aarhus Centres and the European ECO Forum. To this end, the secretariat is servicing a region-wide inter-agency capacity-building coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and a global international coordinating group for the Protocol on PRTRs. In addition to capacity-building activities, particular emphasis has been given to the development and use of electronic tools, such as online reporting and databases on thematic case studies, and sharing of information through the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and PRTR.net.

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

In 2012, with the accession of Denmark and Portugal to the Protocol on Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Protocol) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), the number of Parties to the Protocol grew to 25. Poland and Portugal also ratified the second amendment to the Espoo Convention.



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The year was work-intensive for the Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol, which held three meetings to draft its findings and recommendations on three submissions brought before it in 2011 by Parties having concerns about other Parties' compliance with their obligations under the Convention and further to its own initiative. The Committee also continued to consider information from a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Two of the compliance submissions and several of the information-gathering cases concerned planned construction of nuclear power plants or reactors near a frontier between two Parties.

Given the growing concerns related to the impacts of nuclear energy-related activities, at its first session (April 2012) the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment supported the development of guidance and exchange of good practice on the application of the Convention in this field. The Convention's secretariat also convened a dedicated session at an Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment to collect and discuss good practice. The annual seminar in the Baltic Sea region (Tallinn, September 2012) organized under the Convention and the Protocol also touched upon nuclear energy activities, although its main focus was the active construction of off-shore wind farms in the Baltic Sea and developments regarding extraction of shale gas.

At its first session, the Working Group also adopted a revised questionnaire to assist Parties in reporting on their implementation of the Convention, and — for the first time — on their implementation of the Protocol, during the period 2010–2012. This first reporting by the Parties to the Protocol is expected to bring valuable information on the level of implementation of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in the UNECE region and to help identify shortcomings and further assistance needs.

The Convention secretariat will shortly start implementing a large subregional project, "Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood", together with OECD, UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). This EU-funded project will promote the use of SEA as an essential planning tool for sustainable development, allowing the secretariat to assist Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the implementation and ratification of the SEA Protocol in 2013–2016.

To make use of synergies with other UNECE MEAs, a workshop on public participation in SEA (October 2012) was organized jointly with the Aarhus Convention. The workshop discussed good practice recommendations to guide the implementation of the Protocol with respect to public participation.

Outreach activities continued with the workshop on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context in Eastern Asia (Seoul, June 2012), which was co-organized with the Korean Environmental Institute to promote the Convention and the Protocol in that region.

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), with the participation of industry, has fostered the development and implementation of safe operation technologies and safety techniques or services to continuously improve prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents, and thereby contributed to greening the economy. Membership of the Convention remained at 40 in 2012.



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The secretariat will start a project to promote the use of SEA as an essential planning tool for sustainable development in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

The year has seen a continuing focus on developing both good practice in industrial safety and strengthened international cooperation. One example of this dual focus was a trilateral training session on the evaluation of safety reports, including a joint on-site inspection of a hazardous installation, held in October 2012 for Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Participants planned, carried out and assessed their own on-site inspection. The event is expected to help the countries further develop their national systems for the prevention of major industrial accidents.

Another ongoing trilateral project in the Danube Delta involving the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine is addressing hazard and crisis management with a focus on oil terminals. This work has led to an initial draft of UNECE regional safety guidelines for oil terminals.

At the biennial meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in November 2012 in Stockholm, a number of important decisions were taken to strengthen the Convention. In particular, the Parties decided to proceed with drafting an amendment to align the Convention with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

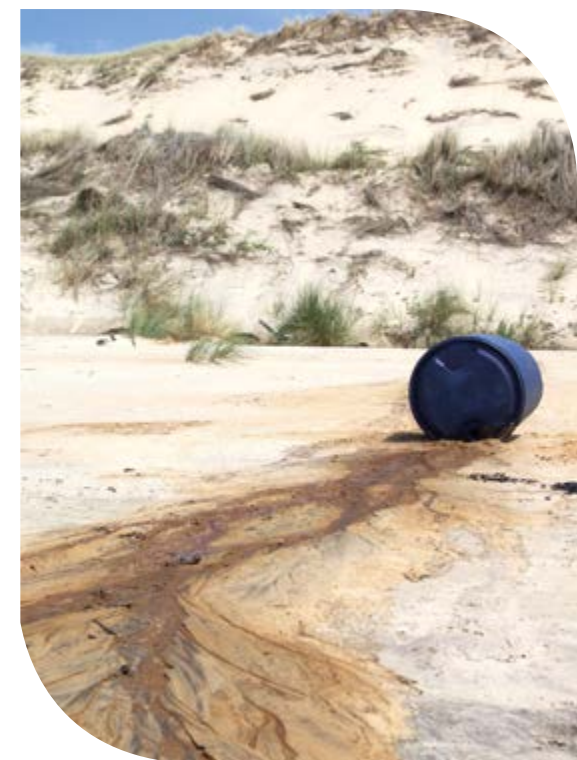
The Conference of the Parties also decided in November to adopt a long-term sustainable financial mechanism that should make funding more predictable, and adopted a workplan for 2013–2014, including the allocation of resources for its implementation. In addition, the meeting discussed actions to support ratification of the Convention's Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (not in force).

Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties reviewed the results of a consultation of the Convention's points of contact and a communication exercise under the UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification System. These activities, carried out just before the Rio+20 Conference, recognized the importance of early warning systems as part of effective disaster risk reduction.

UNECE collaborated closely in 2012 with UNEP and the Joint Environment Unit (JEU) of UNEP and the Office Coordinating Humanitarian Affairs in the development of a three-hour introductory course on industrial accidents. The training course is available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/pubs/onlinetraining2013>. UNECE, UNEP and JEU expect to continue this successful cooperation by developing a three- to five-day face-to-face training workshop to help authorities, operators and the public to understand better industrial accidents.

Monitoring and assessment

The Rio+20 Conference outcome document, The Future We Want, stressed the importance of monitoring, the collection of integrated and scientifically based data, access to information and the production of indicators to support decision-making processes and measure progress towards sustainable development, including greening the economy. In particular, countries committed to mobilizing financial resources and capacity-building, particularly for developing countries to collect and produce such data and to make it available. In that regard, UNECE, under its Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme, has continued working closely with the secretariats of its MEAs and relevant United Nations bodies and international institutions to build the capacities of countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the South



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Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation in environmental monitoring, production of harmonized indicators and publication of assessments.

Furthermore, pursuant to the decision taken at the 2011 Astana EUE Ministerial Conference, the UNECE Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, at its annual session, considered efforts that it could undertake to contribute to the development and establishment of a regular assessment and reporting process, including developing the Shared Environment Information System (SEIS). The Working Group stressed the need to improve cooperation and coordination among all relevant partners in the process of developing SEIS, as well as to establish a regular assessment throughout the pan-European region. The Committee on Environmental Policy, at its April 2012 meeting, underscored that the Working Group and the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators should both be actively involved in the development of SEIS.

At its annual session in November, the Working Group discussed the latest developments in environmental monitoring at the national and subnational levels, as well as progress made by countries in implementing the Guidelines for the Preparation of Indicator-based

Environment Assessment Reports. It decided to launch national-level assessments of assessments produced over the past five years on a variety of environmental themes, such as air pollution, biodiversity, climate change and waste, using the Europe's Environment — An Assessment of Assessments methodology in order to identify gaps in the national assessment reports and to improve them in the future. During the session, participants were informed about the latest developments in information systems for environmental monitoring in Bulgaria and Kazakhstan, as well as Ukraine's experience with online data visualization of environmental monitoring from space, via satellite imagery.

The Working Group also prepared draft guidelines on biodiversity monitoring, which are being developed with a view to assisting the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and interested countries of South-Eastern Europe in the development of plans and strategies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation objectives across policy sectors and in assessing progress in achieving policy targets and the effectiveness of conservation measures. In addition, the Working Group considered the possible scope, focus and main elements for guidelines on monitoring chemical contamination of soil to be developed by the secretariat during the next biennium.

Throughout the year, the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators continued efforts to improve environmental data collection and reporting in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, and to promote comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the region. At its two meetings held in 2012, the Task Force reviewed a set of 12 out of 36 indicators covered by the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and considered a series of additional water, biodiversity and agri-environmental indicators, that might be included in revised Guidelines. The discussions were based on national contributions to dedicated questionnaires. The Task Force agreed to revise the last indicator on waste, to consider six additional water indicators not already covered and to start preparing a revised text of the Guidelines.

With the participation of industry, the Industrial Accidents Convention, has fostered the development and implementation of safe operation technologies and safety techniques

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The United Nations Statistics Division, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), the secretariats of relevant MEAs, the European Environment Agency, International Energy Agency, OECD, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Regional Environmental Centres for Central Asia and the Republic of Moldova and a number of NGOs actively participated in the Task Force discussions.

Morocco underwent its review mission at the end of 2012 and the EPR report will be peer reviewed in autumn 2013

Environmental Performance Review Programme

At Rio+20, Heads of State and Government resolved, among others, to promote the science-policy interface through inclusive, evidence-based and transparent scientific assessments. They further underscored that broad public participation and access to information are essential to the promotion of sustainable development. These two objectives are at the heart of the UNECE EPR Programme, which in 2012 promoted a continuous dialogue among UNECE member States on environmental governance, the efficiency of environmental policies and the cost-effectiveness of environmental measures. It also served as a platform

to stimulate the greater involvement of the general public in environmental debates and to encourage and promote public participation in decision-making on environmental issues and policies. Moreover, the UNECE EPR Programme began to transfer its knowledge and expertise to other United Nations regional commissions, and to undertake reviews in countries outside the UNECE region.

In meetings in Ashgabat in March and Geneva in April 2012, the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews reviewed the environmental performance of Turkmenistan, Albania and Romania, and drafted recommendations to those countries to help them improve. The Committee on Environmental Policy subsequently adopted the recommendations, following a peer review. The Committee also adopted the Expert Group's proposed amendments to the content of the third cycle of EPRs and renewed the mandate for the Expert Group for the next biennium, 2013–2014.

The Committee on Environmental Policy also endorsed the request of Croatia to undergo a second EPR, which will complete the second round of EPRs, and the request of the Republic of Moldova to undergo its third EPR, which marked the start of the third EPR cycle. The preparatory missions to Croatia and the Republic of Moldova took place in 2012; the review missions are planned for the spring 2013 and the EPR reports will be peer reviewed in autumn 2013.

The launch event of the second EPR of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was held in Skopje in March 2012 and was attended by a wide audience, including the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning and representatives of ministries, international organizations and NGOs. The launch event of the second EPR of Uzbekistan, held in Tashkent in June 2012, was equally successful and was also attended by a diverse audience.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the UNECE EPR Programme has attracted the attention of other international bodies, leading to requests for a transfer of know-how to other United Nations regional commissions. The first such transfer took place following Morocco's request to UNECE that it conduct an EPR. UNECE proposed to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) that it cooperate on the project, and UNECA confirmed its preparedness to cooperate through its subregional office for North Africa, which will participate in all phases of the EPR



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process and support the preparation of the chapters on agriculture and energy. Morocco underwent its review mission at the end of 2012 and the EPR report will be peer reviewed in autumn 2013.

Also in 2012, the EPR secretariat undertook a self-evaluation on the procedural steps for the preparation and conducting of EPRs. The self-evaluation covered all phases of the review process and, based on the most important findings and conclusions, a series of recommendations have been made which will be integrated into the workplan of the review process.

The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) gained renewed impetus from the Rio+20 preparatory process, which resulted in the specific mention of sustainable transport as a means to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities and urban-rural linkages in the Rio outcome document, The Future We Want. A need to focus on urban mobility was highlighted

at Rio by the recognition of the “importance of mixed-use planning and of encouraging non-motorized transport, including the promotion of pedestrian and cycling infrastructures”.

In 2012, continuing in the tradition of the Amsterdam Declaration (2009), THE PEP “Staffette” or relay race passed the baton of best practices from Kiev to Moscow, convening a capacity-building workshop, “Sustainable development of urban transport: Challenges and Opportunities” in June 2012. The year finished with THE PEP 2012 Symposium, in support of Amsterdam Goal 3 (Reduction in emissions of air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and noise) on the topic of “Green and health-friendly mobility for sustainable urban life”. The Symposium was followed by the tenth session of the THE PEP Steering Committee, which launched the preparations for the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, to be held from 16 to 18 April 2014 in Paris, hosted by the Government of France.

THE PEP gained renewed impetus from the Rio+20 preparatory process

Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

At the Rio+20 Conference, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives again underscored the importance of education for sustainable development (ESD) and resolved to promote ESD and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education during and beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014).

The UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development is the regional implementation pillar of the United Nations Decade. In 2012, the member States of the UNECE Strategy for ESD adopted ambitious action priorities for the Strategy’s third phase of implementation (2011–2015):

- To promote an ESD school plan in every school by the end of phase III.
- To reorient technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and green economies.
- To incorporate ESD into teacher education.

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The Steering Committee on ESD also continued to promote educator competences for ESD. It mandated the UNECE Expert Group on Competences for ESD to develop tools for policy and practice workshops on ESD competences. These tools were finalized and directly piloted in Central Asia in 2012. Activities to strengthen capacity for realizing the action priorities are going to be continuously carried out throughout implementation phase III.

In 2013, UNECE, in cooperation with UNESCO, will hold consultations for the European and North American region to determine priorities for action on ESD following the United Nations Decade.



Environment and Security Initiative

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) provides an innovative solution for addressing complex problems of the twenty-first century. ENVSEC partner agencies (UNECE, UNEP, UNDP, OSCE and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as an associated partner), with their specialized and complementary mandates and expertise in environment, development, economics and security, assist the Governments of Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the

Southern Caucasus and Central Asia in drawing together the disciplines required for sustainable development. Examples of economic sectors where ENVSEC is active are the mining and forest logging sectors, where it makes a contribution to the development of a green economy.

The MEAs administered by UNECE are an important pillar of ENVSEC activities and provide added value to the partnership. In 2012, the activities implemented by UNECE under ENVSEC included work on dam safety in Central Asia; activities regarding water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; joint research on transboundary impacts in the Danube Delta; and capacity development within the Industrial Accidents

Convention's Assistance Programme in South-Eastern Europe — all of which contribute to security in a broad sense, sustaining and advancing economic, environmental and social well-being.

Regional Adviser on Environment

The UNECE Regional Adviser on Environment implements technical cooperation activities and provides policy advice in close collaboration with the secretariats of the UNECE environmental conventions. The work aims at improving management of shared water and other natural resources, as well as strengthening cooperation on common environmental problems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. The project work undertaken in 2012 has focused on the development of transboundary water cooperation in basins such as the Dniester, Kura, Drin and Aral Sea. In 2012 the Regional Adviser was also engaged in the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management. Overall, the work addresses environmental sustainability and promotes conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and regeneration of natural resources, as requested in the Rio+20 outcome document, The Future We Want.

Participants at the Rio+20 Conference resolved to Integrate sustainable development more actively into education

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Projects were implemented in 15 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe with direct benefits for the lives of millions of people, who as a result are protected against dam failures and enjoy improved water quality, among others.

Most of the activities were organized within the framework of technical cooperation projects managed and/or implemented by the Regional Adviser. Three important results aimed at broadening and improving transboundary water cooperation can be highlighted:

- The joint institutional structure for sustainable management of the Drin River Basin has been strengthened.
- The bilateral treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin was negotiated and signed by the riparian countries, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.
- Bilateral environmental and hydrology cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya Basin has been initiated.



Projects were implemented in 15 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe with direct benefits for the lives of millions of people

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FORESTRY & TIMBER

Sustainable and innovative forest products at the heart of the green economy

2012 - International Year of Sustainable Energy for All: The role of wood energy in the UNECE region

Recognizing the importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the General Assembly designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. In 2011, the International Year of Forests successfully helped the global community to focus on the vital importance of forests to the sustainability of our planet. The International Year also provided a great opportunity for highlighting the importance of wood energy in the renewable energy mix.

Wood is the principal source of renewable energy in the UNECE region, accounting for about half of all renewable energy consumption. In addition to addressing climate change and renewable energy commitments, wood energy has the potential to create new job opportunities in rural areas by stimulating wood harvesting and processing. It also supports the development of wood fuel markets and thus increases trade opportunities. Strong political support has seen wood energy markets grow notwithstanding the economic downturn and the resulting sharp decline in demand for other forest products. With this in mind, during 2012 the Forestry and Timber subprogramme has worked towards improving knowledge and understanding of the role of wood energy in the UNECE region.

Two major events were organized in 2012. A policy debate on the positive and negative aspects of using wood for energy purposes was held in May 2012. This debate examined how the increasing demand for wood for energy purposes has led to competition with other uses of wood, such as for wood products.

A capacity-building workshop on "Improving wood energy data for better policymaking" was held in June 2012, with the support of the French Ministry of Agriculture, the French Ministry of Sustainable Development

Wood accounts for about half of all renewable energy consumption

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and the FAO Forestry Department. Participants discussed the reliability of current wood energy data and identified a range of weaknesses and constraints. Countries shared experiences, tools and solutions for improving data with the objective of increasing the number and quality of responses to the second ECE/FAO Joint Wood Energy Enquiry, launched in September 2012.

Additionally, a network of correspondents and experts was set up to improve communication between stakeholders at both the national and international level. Better data will enable Governments and international actors to make better-informed choices and recommendations. Results from this workshop are available at <http://www.unece.org/forests/jwee-workshop-2012.html>.

The 2012 work on wood energy under this subprogramme shed some new light on the complexity of wood energy markets. It confirmed the need to adopt a comprehensive forest-policy framework that would address the economic, environmental and social dimensions. It also highlighted that the assortment of woods used for material and energy uses had increased and that the mobilization of wood in the region had expanded beyond national and regional boundaries, thus requiring the uniform adoption of rules and regulations for all types of wood. The wood energy market was dynamic and required new investments in infrastructure and human resources.



The mobilization of wood in the region has expanded beyond national and regional boundaries, thus requiring the uniform adoption of rules and regulations for all types of wood

Sustainable and innovative forest products - a green revolution

UNEP has identified forestry as one of the 10 sectors capable of driving a transition to a low-carbon future and of providing green jobs – if backed by investment and forward-looking government policies. In addition, many commentators on forestry and environmental matters acknowledge the role of wood as a “green material” that is vital in the fight to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Nonetheless, wood has yet to gain this image with the general public, policymakers and the construction industry. Wood tends to have an image as being a “traditional” material, without relevance to modern technologies and applications. The Forestry and Timber subprogramme has been actively working towards changing this perception.

Sustainable forest products were the theme of the 2012 annual session of the Timber Committee, with a special focus on the life-cycle assessment of wood products and the promotion of wood’s green credentials. Another challenge for the Forestry and Timber subprogramme is to ensure that the forest sector is well informed about and well represented in green economy discussions.

The *UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review 2011-2012* was released in August 2012. This flagship publication, which provides general and statistical information on markets for forest products in the region, formed the foundation for the market segment of the October 2012 meeting of the Timber Committee. The Committee subsequently adopted a “market statement” summarizing the latest developments in markets for forest products, along with detailed forecasts for production and trade for over 30 countries in the region.

Work began on life-cycle assessments in order to respond to the growing interest of member countries in using these as a tool to evaluate the environmental impact of various wood products (e.g. wood for construction or pellets for energy production). As part of the Timber Committee week, a workshop entitled

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“The Green Life of Wood – Assessing its Environmental Impacts from Cradle to Cradle” brought together a wide range of stakeholder experts to discuss the sustainability of wood and wood products; potential impact of wood building on greenhouse gas emissions; cascaded use of wood; atmospheric benefits of using wood products; issues related to wood energy exports from North America to Europe; and using life-cycle assessments to demonstrate the sustainability of wood.

Action for a greener and stronger sector

In its policy work, the Forestry and Timber subprogramme also continued its efforts to strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the region. It organized several events aimed at further developing the “Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a green economy”. A second Stakeholder Meeting took place in March 2012, to help refine the plan and identify potential actors.

Later in the year, a side event entitled “What is your priority action for the forest sector in a green economy?” was held in Rio de Janeiro at the time of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). This event, organized in collaboration with the Governments of Finland, Sweden and Turkey, examined how sustainable production and consumption of forest-based bio-products were potential game changers in moving towards a greener economy. In September, two side events were organized in parallel with the session of the FAO Committee on Forestry, both focused on the increasingly important role of forests and forest industries in building the green economy.

Because of their consultative nature, these meetings provided valuable inputs to consolidating the Action Plan. Member States and stakeholders will meet again in 2013 to finalize the Plan before it is presented for endorsement at the next joint session of the Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (Metsä2013) in Romanievi, Finland.

Wood is a “green material” vital in the fight to mitigate the effects of climate change



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Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

The Action Plan is intended to improve the contribution of the forest sector in the UNECE region to the emerging green economy. In particular, it is intended to:

- (a) Define the ways in which the region's forest sector can or could contribute to the development of a green economy, and monitor progress
- (b) Share and promote best practice in this field, building on cooperation between all actors at both the national and international level
- (c) Promote the development and implementation of policies for the forest sector which are effective in achieving society's goals, efficient in the use of resources and equitable
- (d) Communicate the achievements of the forest sector in the region to the public, policymakers and other sectors.

The Plan proposes a series of objectives for the forest sector in the region, and possible actions to achieve these objectives.

It is not a work programme, but includes actions to be carried out by all actors, including Governments, research, private sector and civil society and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. It is meant to inspire action and provide the basis for many organizations' plans and activities focusing on forests in a green economy.

The UNECE region has many important international and regional forest-sector-related initiatives and instruments. One special feature of the Action Plan is that it focuses on the forest sector's contribution to the green economy, not on the broader question of sustainable forest management. It is also intended to be a contribution to the movement towards a green economy at the global level, by articulating and developing the potential contribution of the forest sector.

Capacity-building in Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia

In September 2012, the Lviv Forum on "Forests in a Green Economy for countries in Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia" contributed to raising awareness and promoting the concept of the green economy in the forest sector in the region. This Forum was a country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests and was organized by the Governments of Ukraine and Switzerland, with the support of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and other stakeholders.

Because of the participatory nature of the meeting, it was particularly effective in identifying regional challenges and forest-related issues both within and outside the region. Other capacity-building initiatives are being pursued in close collaboration with FAO and its subregional offices in Budapest and Ankara. Ongoing communications with these partners are facilitating the sharing of experiences and best practices throughout the region on themes such as climate change, wood energy and corporate social responsibility.

The challenge is to continue to improve links with experts in countries with economies in transition through mechanisms such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). At the same time, the need for coordination and cooperation requires collaboration with key partners in order to achieve programme goals. These key partners include FAO, industry and trade associations, universities, NGOs and other forest-sector stakeholders, in addition to various UNECE subprogrammes (including sustainable energy, environment, housing and land management).

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Streamlining forest-based reporting

The Forestry and Timber subprogramme has made significant advances this year in harmonizing forest-based reporting. As several processes are dealing with international reporting for forests and forest management in the UNECE region, the need for cooperation between these processes has never been greater.

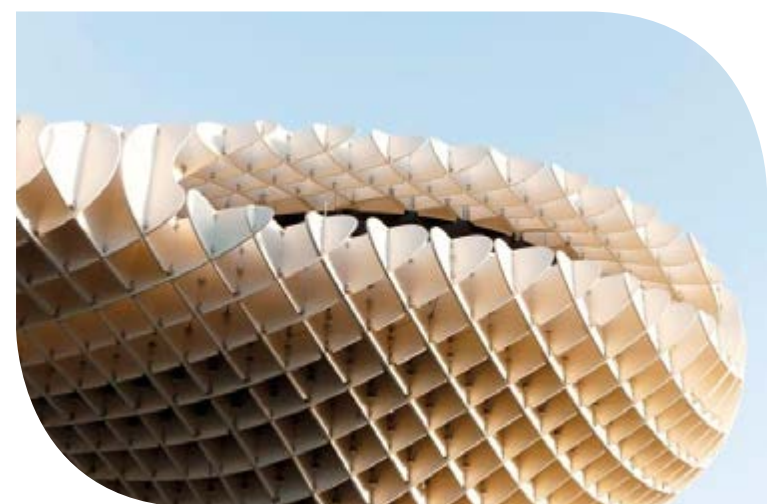
Some, such as the State of Europe's Forests, comprise both data collected from countries and analysis of information. Others include only reporting on specific aspects, such as wood-energy use. Efforts included a series of meetings organized to help improve the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (a new initiative developed jointly by FAO, UNECE, Forest Europe, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa). Global reporting is now coordinated with and integrated into pan-European reporting processes.

The growing interaction between forest-reporting processes and organizations has fostered collaboration tailored to the needs of countries. A periodic, jointly produced bulletin is currently being developed aimed at improving cooperation on monitoring and reporting among actors in the pan-European region.

The road to Metsä2013

After the success of the 2011 International Year of Forests, the Timber Committee recommended that a second European Forest Week should be organized in 2013, from 9 to 13 December, in parallel to the joint session of the FAO European Forestry Commission and the UNECE Timber Committee (Metsä2013).

The Week will focus on the contribution of forests and forest products to a green economy. It will provide a unique outreach opportunity to raise the visibility of the forest sector and the multiple services that forests contribute to our daily lives. The week, and the joint session, will bring together a variety of stakeholders from forest and non-forest sectors to contribute to improved forest-management practices and policies, and to support realizing the full potential of forests and forest products for meeting the social, economic and environmental needs of the region.



Metsä2013 will provide a unique outreach opportunity to raise the visibility of the forest sector and the multiple services that forests contribute to our daily lives



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GENDER

Supporting Effective Gender-sensitive Policymaking and its Implementation

In 2012, UNECE made an important step towards applying a gender lens in all programmes of work. It provided a platform for policy dialogue and exchange of knowledge and best practices through a number of events and strengthened capacity for women's empowerment in the region.

Strengthening the gender dimension of the UNECE subprogrammes

UNECE is committed to the goal of the international community to improve the situation of women, fight discrimination and assist member States in implementing equal rights and opportunities for women and men. In line with its mandate to mainstream gender in all programmes of work, UNECE has updated its policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women. While this policy follows the key principles of gender mainstreaming, it is based on the specific objectives and activities of the UNECE subprogrammes: it has adopted a UNECE Gender Action Plan for 2013-2014 at cross-sectional and divisional levels as part of the United Nations System-Wide Gender Action Plan (SWAP)¹.

Women's economic empowerment is at the centre of UNECE's work on gender. In 2012, it continued to contribute to promoting women's access to resources and expanding women's economic opportunities and independence through supporting entrepreneurship development.

Building partnerships to close the entrepreneurship gender gaps in the UNECE region

The UNECE Gender and Economy Programme and the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division in cooperation with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan jointly organized the Third Regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs in the UNECE region in November 2012 in

¹ The UNECE Gender Action Plan is available at: www.unece.org/gender

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Baku. The Forum highlighted the importance of overcoming the gender gaps in entrepreneurship in the region for sustainable job creation, economic growth and social development. Policymakers, female and male entrepreneurs and academics, as well as representatives of international organizations exchanged good practices and lessons learnt on how to overcome the remaining barriers to women entrepreneurs in various areas. They addressed issues on access to finance, regulations and administrative procedures, access to education, providing knowledge and skills, building networks and supportive institutions as well as physical and social infrastructures supportive to successful business. Participants also discussed how to better mobilize resources to build partnerships in setting up and expanding innovation-based enterprises. They emphasized the role of well-performing R&D and education systems, adequate funding for start-ups, support from Government at central and regional levels, as well as mentoring schemes introducing scientists and inventors into active entrepreneurship.



Capacity-building to support women entrepreneurs in the UNECE region

Since 2006 more than 300 women entrepreneurs have received training on ICTs and support systems

As in previous years, UNECE collaborated 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 in organizing biannual training workshops for professional women from Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. These workshops focused on two main topics: support systems for women entrepreneurs at national and local levels (April-May 2012) and information and communication technologies (ICTs) (December 2012).

Since the first jointly organized workshop in 2006 on Microcredit and other Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs, more than 300 women entrepreneurs from government institutions and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) support agencies, NGOs dealing with small business support and development, women's business associations and academia have received training on ICTs and support systems for women entrepreneurs. In May 2012 the capacity building activities expanded with a new programme tailored towards the needs of women entrepreneurs from South-East Europe.

Looking ahead: challenges for 2013

- UNECE will continue to work in the area of women's economic empowerment with the member States from the region as well as in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the regional commissions and other partners in the wider United Nations system to increase women's economic opportunities at the regional level.
- It will further strengthen networking and collaboration between women's business associations across the UNECE region as a follow up to the Declaration of the Third UNECE Forum for Women Entrepreneurs, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas.
- The most important challenge for 2013 will be to secure resources and partnerships to sustain UNECE's work to enhance women's economic empowerment in Central Asia and South-East Europe, and provide support to women's business associations in delivering services to women entrepreneurs in the region.

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HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Caring for the future of our cities

Major Trends in 2012

At the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, member States affirmed the role of sustainable cities and human settlements in achieving sustainable development. In the conference outcome document, *The Future We Want*, Governments committed themselves to working towards:

“improving the quality of human settlements ... so that all people have access to ... housing” and to promoting “sustainable development policies that support inclusive housing and social services; a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women and the elderly and disabled”

This strengthens the Housing and Land Management subprogramme’s mandate by emphasizing the political importance of creating sustainable urban planning and housing policies. And in response to these developments, the Committee on Housing and Land Management strengthened its focus on contributing to a green economy through support for reduced carbon emissions and pollution; the promotion of social inclusion, and “green job” creation.

The economic and financial crisis continued to affect Europe in 2012. Housing programmes in many UNECE member States faced budget cuts and reduced human resources. The Committee, therefore, placed more emphasis on activities in support of: (a) better functioning, more transparent real estate markets; and (b) increased public and private investments in housing.

At the Rio+20 Conference, member States affirmed the role of sustainable cities in achieving sustainable development

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Activities in 2012

Promoting climate neutral cities

In 2012, the Committee prioritized support for resource efficient and low carbon urban development. The study *Climate Neutral Cities: How to Make Cities Less Energy and Carbon Intensive and More Resilient to Climatic Challenges* was presented for discussion at the Rio+20 Conference. At many UNECE events during the year, the study served as the basis for exploring the role cities can play in sustainable development and the transition towards a green economy.

Enabling energy-efficient residential sectors

Increasing energy efficiency in residential buildings provides multiple benefits:

- Increased climate change mitigation through the reduction of emissions
- Reduced energy bills and energy poverty, and increased energy security through decreased energy consumption
- Regeneration of the built environment through the retrofitting and refurbishment of deteriorated housing stock, thus improving living standards
- Support to the green transformation of the economy through the creation and promotion of green jobs.

Throughout 2012, the Housing and Land Management subprogramme continued to emphasize the importance of an energy-efficient housing sector.

Following the publication in 2011 of the *Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region*, which provided a framework for Governments to overcome barriers to energy efficiency investments in the residential sector, member States requested that work be undertaken to (a) assist countries in the preparation of national action plans for energy efficiency in the residential sector and (b) develop a casebook of best practices on energy efficiency.

At the request of the Government of Montenegro, and working with the Montenegrin authorities, the subprogramme prepared the *National Action Plan of Montenegro for Energy-efficiency Measures in the Residential Sector*. Targeting this country's specific needs, the National Action Plan identifies over 50 actions. These were related to energy-efficiency infrastructure and legislation; financial infrastructure; energy performance standards and technology use; access to affordable and energy efficient housing; and capacity-building, education and awareness-raising. The *National Action Plan* was completed in February 2012 and is the first practical spin-off from the *Action Plan for Energy-Efficient Housing in the UNECE Region*. The Government is using this document as a basis for preparing its *National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2013-2015*, and in particular for producing a chapter on energy-efficiency measures in the housing sector.

UNECE continued to emphasize the importance of an energy-efficient housing sector

The Government of Georgia has indicated interest in drawing up in 2013 its own *National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency Measures in the Residential Sector*.



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UNECE has also begun work on a casebook of best practices on energy efficiency in the residential sector. The book will offer good-practice examples of energy-efficient residential buildings from across the region to illustrate and support the 170+ recommended actions in the regional *Action Plan*.

Identifying ideas and approaches to sustainable housing and urban development: the Green Economy seminars

To examine how Governments could apply green economy principles to the housing and land management sectors, the secretariat organized seminars. These seminars addressed: energy efficiency in the housing sector; the use of sustainable building rating systems; approaches to the greening of real estate markets; and concepts and initiatives to promote sustainable urban development. Member States will use the outcomes of the seminars to draw up the Strategy and Targets for sustainable housing 2014-2020 in the UNECE region.

Strengthening economies through more stable real estate markets

The experts that make up the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) provide advice to member States on real estate policies. During the past year, they have been promoting REM's flagship publication, *Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets: Principles and Guidance for the Development of a Country's Real Estate Sector*, both within and beyond the UNECE region.

At the invitation of Governments, REM and associated experts have conducted roundtable discussions to examine the *Policy Framework* and to explore how changes in real estate laws can help economies to grow. In 2012, roundtables like this took place in Moscow; in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as part of the Rio+20 Conference; in Naples, Italy; and in Rome. Based on these discussions, national Governments, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, develop laws and action plans to promote more stable and greener real estate markets.

In the coming year, REM will complete guidelines for evaluating property and market risk for real estate backed financial products. This document will provide guidelines for risk assessment which can help to restore confidence in real estate markets and the financial sector.

Promoting transparent land administration for more secure homes

The Working Party on Land Administration consists of experts from UNECE member States who come together to set policies and explore solutions to land-administration challenges. In 2012 the Working Party hosted two workshops: "Supporting Global Economic Recovery: The Role of Land Registration Authorities" in London, in October, to mark the 150th anniversary of Her Majesty's Land Registry. Participants explored the changing role of land registration agencies as they met modern challenges, such as a tightening in lending for property purchase, changing shifts in market priorities, and the promotion of economic growth through data sharing.



The Committee placed more emphasis on activities in support of better functioning, more transparent real estate markets

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The second, "Informal Development, Property and Housing", was held in Athens in December. It looked at technological, policy and market solutions to the problems that result from informal homebuilding which is done without authorization from a land registry.

The Working Party also began a project to develop benchmarks for land-administration systems by issuing a questionnaire to national Governments to gather information on aspects of their land-administration systems such as data transparency, fees and land coverage. This information will be used to help countries assess their land-administration systems and to target priorities for improvement and policy change. In 2013, the Working Party will cooperate with land-registration agencies throughout Europe to analyse and apply the conclusions from this study.



Strengthening national capacities for housing and land-management policy formulation and implementation

In 2012, cities and rural settlements continued to face ongoing environmental, economic and social challenges. These problems varied throughout the UNECE region and included:

- A lack of sustainable housing policies and legislation
- Inefficient management of the existing housing stock
- Energy inefficient and environmentally unsound dwellings.

As a result of climate change, human settlements also faced increased climatic variability and natural disasters, the consequences of which were often amplified by the above problems.

Country Profiles provide targeted recommendations on housing and land management policies

To help address these issues, the Housing and Land Management subprogramme works with Governments to prepared Country Profiles on the Housing and Land Management sectors. These Profiles provide country-targeted recommendations on housing and land management policies. Major housing challenges in countries in transition also included the lack of effective policies and legislation, inadequate property rights, a shortage of affordable housing, and deteriorating housing stock.

Ukraine

The Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Ukraine was at the centre of this year's Country Profile preparations. A fact-finding mission with a team of international and national experts took place in March.

Housing-policy reform is high on the Government's agenda and several State programmes and policies have been put in place to address the housing situation. An in-depth analysis by UNECE revealed that currently several departments were involved in implementing State housing programmes. To be successful, these programmes should be coordinated and use unified rules and procedures. The Country Profile, therefore, recommends establishing a single agency for the programmes.

In addition to a well-structured institutional, legal and policy framework, the analysis also identified the crucial role that a well-functioning financial framework could play in improving the country's low levels

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of energy efficiency and housing affordability. The Country Profile recommends an approach that would increase housing affordability and sustainability through:

- Stimulating financing for housing construction, both by the State and the private sector
- Attracting financial resources for renovations to increase energy efficiency
- Increasing the availability of land for residential construction.

The Country Profile will be issued in 2013.

Tajikistan

The Country Profile of Tajikistan was completed in 2011. Since then, the Government has been working to implement the recommendations. For instance, it adopted an Urban Development Code in October 2012, in compliance with one recommendation. UNECE is preparing additional follow-up activities to support the implementation of the policy recommendations.

Kyrgyzstan

The launch event for the Country Profile of Kyrgyzstan took place in February 2012. Following Country Profile recommendations, the Government has already initiated a national programme on affordable housing and submitted a draft Housing Code to Parliament for approval. It is also establishing a State mortgage lending agency.

Developing a Strategy and Targets for Sustainable Housing 2014-2020

The Bureau of the Committee on Housing and Land Management prepared a draft strategy and presented it to the Committee at its September 2012 session. The Committee approved a work plan for the further elaboration of the strategy. The work plan includes a large-scale consultation with member States and stakeholders on the content of the strategy. Following the Committee session, the secretariat sent a questionnaire to member States and stakeholders to collect their views on the major challenges they are facing in housing and land management and on their priorities for the future. The replies to the questionnaire will provide important background information for the further development of the strategy.

Building partnerships

UNECE continued to build partnerships with key stakeholders in 2012.

UNECE and the World Bank increased their cooperation to address housing and land-management challenges in the UNECE region. They jointly organized a REM Round Table in January in Moscow and the World Bank presented its land-management projects in Central Asia at a workshop organized by the Working Party on Land Administration in London in October.

Preparations are under way for a joint Working Party/World Bank workshop on land management in Bishkek in April 2013. UNECE and the World Bank are also planning to work together on future Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management.

UNECE co-organized with OECD two workshops on compact and climate neutral cities. With UN-HABITAT, cooperation continued on organizing capacity-building events on affordable and energy-efficient housing. UNECE is also working together with UN-HABITAT and the City of Vienna to prepare the casebook of best practices on energy efficiency in the residential sector.

Real-estate policy can lead to greener homes and to environmental and economic sustainability



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The 2013 Ministerial meeting will define future policy directions

The European Land Registries Association became a partner in the UNECE land-registration-systems benchmarking study. UNECE has also developed partnerships with the European Union Land Information Service and the International Federation of Surveyors to work jointly to improve land administration and land management.

Cooperation was also established with CECODHAS Housing Europe, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Norwegian Refugee Council Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre).

Looking ahead - priorities for 2013

Ministerial Conference 2013

A meeting of ministers from housing and land management agencies throughout the UNECE region, will take place in October 2013 in Geneva. The last Ministerial meeting was in 2006. At that time, the ministers adopted a Ministerial Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the UNECE Region. The Declaration reconfirmed the goals and challenges contained in the UNECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2000.

The 2013 Ministerial meeting will assess progress in the implementation of the commitments undertaken by member States and define future policy directions for UNECE's work in housing, urban development, land management and real estate markets.

Strategy for Sustainable Housing to guide the Committee's work

The Strategy on Sustainable Housing and its Targets for the period 2014-2020 will be completed in 2013 and presented to the Ministerial Meeting on Housing and Land Management for adoption. When adopted, it will help member States set their own targets for achieving socially, environmentally and economically sustainable systems for housing, urban management and land administration. It will also guide the Committee's programme of work for developing tools and activities to assist member States in building and safeguarding a sustainable housing sector that is environmentally friendly, contributes to economic development and fosters social cohesion.

Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management

The Country Profile for Ukraine will be completed in 2013. Work on the Country Profile requested by the Republic of Moldova is expected to begin soon. UNECE will also undertake a preliminary mission to plan the Country Profile requested by the Russian Federation. The launch event for the Country Profile for Tajikistan is scheduled for May 2013. The Government of Croatia has also requested the preparation of a Country Profile. The methodology used for preparing the country profiles will also be reviewed in order to take into account past experiences and new developments.

Casebook of best practices on energy efficient housing

A casebook on good practices for energy-efficient housing in the UNECE region will be prepared in 2013. Intended to be practical, it aims to be a reliable source on what is and has already been working in the field of energy efficiency at the community level and above. It will underline the viability of energy-efficient housing and increase the awareness of national stakeholders in order to, eventually, create demand for the energy-efficient retrofitting and construction of new residential buildings. Training activities in UNECE member States on energy efficient and affordable housing will also continue in 2013.

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Land administration and management

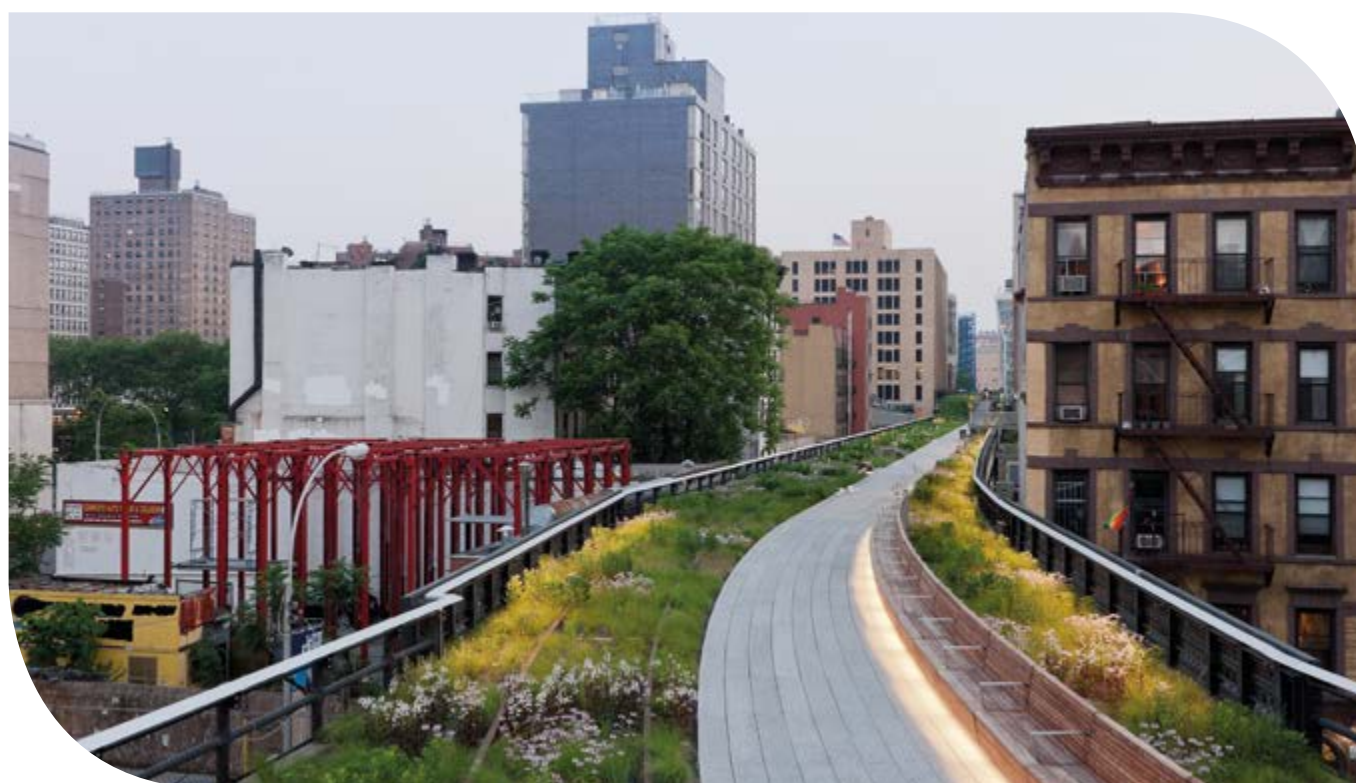
The Working Party will promote the conclusions and lessons learned from its 2012 workshops on the role of land-registration authorities in economic recovery and on addressing informal settlements. It will also hold two workshops in 2013. The first, to be held in Bishkek in April, will examine the challenges of developing a land-registration system, the second, to be held in Uppsala, Sweden, in May, will review the role of e-governance in land administration. The Working Party will also begin using the results of its survey on benchmarking to produce policy-oriented publications for the benefit of member States. At the eighth biennial session of the Working Party, to be held in Bishkek, representatives from throughout the UNECE region will come together to agree upon land-administration policy priorities for the Working Party for 2014 and 2015.

Real Estate Market Advisory Group

The Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) will continue advising Governments on real estate policy reform. In early 2013, a roundtable discussion will be held in Athens, in cooperation with the Government, to discuss how real estate markets can create wealth and how to restart the flow of foreign investment into the Greek real estate economy.

Another roundtable discussion will take place in the United States. It will focus on the role that real estate policy played in the recent financial crisis and to what extent REM guidelines on the evaluation of risk could be useful for the Government. REM will also continue work on a new set of policy guidelines which focus on how real estate policy can lead to greener homes and to environmental and economic sustainability.

Member States set their own targets for achieving socially, environmentally and economically sustainable systems for housing, urban management and land administration



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Building the Future We Want

Video-Exhibit - 24 September- 15 October 2012

To mark World Habitat Day 2012 and the annual session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, which featured in-depth discussions on sustainable housing, UNECE organized a series of exhibits and activities.

On World Habitat Day, ambassadors and high-level United Nations officials presented and discussed examples of sustainable housing practices throughout the region.

A yurt, provided by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan, was installed in the gardens of the Palais des Nations. The yurt, a traditional home for many people in Central Asia, represents the quintessential sustainable house: it is energy efficient, is made of recyclable and green materials, and has a nearly zero ecological footprint.

UNECE also organized the video exhibit, "Building the Future We Want", which displayed photos of sustainable buildings with green designs from countries in the UNECE region. The video featured sustainable buildings from 25 countries, including the:

- **Green Lighthouse** in Copenhagen, which is the first carbon-neutral public building in Denmark;
- **Efficiency House Plus with Electric Mobility** in Berlin. This house is more than just a single-family home. It is a micro power plant, resource depot, research project, platform for dialogue and, last but not least, a contribution to improving the quality of the built environment;
- **High Line** in New York City, a unique public park using green roof technologies, which resulted from the concerted action of citizens to rehabilitate an urban neighbourhood; and
- **United Nations Strategic Heritage Plan** to green the Palais des Nations in Geneva

Owing to the great interest expressed by UNECE member States, the exhibition will be travelling around the region. To discover more about sustainable buildings from the UNECE region, the video exhibit is available at the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcDnWftZDoo&feature=plcp

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POPULATION

Moving ahead on active ageing

Since its establishment in 2008 the UNECE Working Group on Ageing has assisted member States in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in the UNECE region. The Madrid Plan, adopted in 2002, is the policy-framework on ageing within the United Nations system. At the UNECE level it was translated into a Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) containing ten commitments that guide the work on ageing within member States. In 2007, countries were asked to report on progress made in realizing this framework for the first time. The second review process, initiated in 2011, dominated the work of the UNECE Population Unit during 2012, culminating in the Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna.

Ministerial conference on ageing

The overwhelming success of the 2012 Ministerial Conference illustrates that population ageing remains high on the agenda for UNECE member States. Under the motto "Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing", close to 500 participants, many at ministerial level from 50 UNECE member States, discussed achievements and remaining challenges in response to population ageing. Representatives of international organizations, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders also participated actively in the discussions.

Based on the accounts submitted by UNECE member States as part of the second review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation, a synthesis report was launched at the Conference, highlighting key trends in the region. Most member States reported major progress in policy areas such as mainstreaming ageing, reforming social protection systems, and further developing health and care systems. However, they also indicated that main challenges remain in these areas, especially in implementing reforms on social

Population ageing remains high on the agenda for UNECE member States

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protection systems and further developing systems of health and care as well as adjusting labour markets.¹

The Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Conference outlines four priority areas that will characterize the third cycle of implementation of MIPAA/RIS (2013-2017), namely to maintain longer working life and encourage ability to work; to promote participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons; to safeguard dignity, health and independence in older age; and to maintain and enhance intergenerational solidarity.

Preceding the conference an NGO forum and a scientific forum took place both concluding with a declaration that was presented on the ministerial day of the Conference.



Active ageing

*2012 was designated
European Year for Active
Ageing and Solidarity
between Generations*

With 2012 being designated as European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, this theme inspired much of the work carried out during the year. UNECE published a working paper *Active Ageing and Quality of Life* early in the year. Using education as an example, the paper argued that investments in active ageing, both at the individual and at the societal level, have the potential to change ageing trajectories. At the same time, promoting active ageing should not lead to the exclusion of frail older people. Ageing needs to be embraced in its diversities within countries and across the region.

One issue of the UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing published in 2012 was also dedicated to *Active Ageing*. Policy Briefs are designed to outline major strategic approaches, while also showcasing good practice examples of MIPAA/RIS implementation in the region. The Brief argued that enhancing the physical and mental well-being of individuals may help people to be healthier and less dependent as they age. Creating a conducive environment for active ageing at the societal level will allow people to become more responsible for their own active ageing. The Policy Brief suggests strategies in the areas of the world of work, social inclusion and health and adds many good practice examples from across the region.

UNECE has collaborated with the European Commission's Directorate General on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research to develop an Active Ageing Index. The Index – designed as a dashboard of indicators – aims at providing policymakers with a tool that will indicate unused potential for active ageing, thus pointing to specific domains for policy interventions in promoting active and healthy ageing. The work performed has benefitted from the advice of an international group of experts convened by the secretariat.

Review of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action

The regional commissions, under coordination of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), were mandated by the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), adopted in 1994. UNECE has been

¹ The synthesis report which also contains a statistical annex can be found at: http://www.unecce.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/country_rpts/Synthesis_report_complete_final_updated_.pdf.

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coordinating the Global Survey within the region. The comprehensive questionnaire addresses a large variety of issues related to population ageing. UNECE is in charge of collecting the responses on the basis of which a regional report will be prepared in early 2013. This regional report will provide an input to the Secretary-General's global report to the Commission on Population and Development.

Generations and gender programme

The Population Unit continues to administer the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP). The GGP, initiated by UNECE in 2000 and now run by a consortium of twelve leading demographic research organizations, is a two-pillar programme consisting of internationally comparable, theory-driven, large sample panel surveys and a contextual database. In combination these pillars are designed to shed light on factors influencing contemporary demographic trends, including family-building behaviours, migration, and relationships between generations and between the genders. Data are available free of charge upon online application via <http://www.ggp-i.org/data/data-access.html>. The contextual database can be found at <http://www.ggp-i.org/contextual-database.html>.

The secretariat updated and improved the functionality of a bibliographic database of GGP-based research. The database which is searchable online has almost doubled the number of entries in the course of the year, increasing from 500 to 850.

Furthermore, the Population Unit coordinates the GGP International Working Group, composed of focal points from country teams. A meeting of this group was organized in 2012 in Stockholm to discuss progress in data collection and plans for the future. As coordinator of this group, the secretariat has played an important bridging function between those in charge of programme management and development and

Promoting active ageing should not lead to the exclusion of frail older people



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those responsible for the implementation of the programme in the countries. UNECE has continued to provide support for the fundraising endeavours of countries seeking to implement the GGP.

The work ahead

By adopting the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration, UNECE member States committed themselves "to sustaining the Working Group on Ageing as a long-term intergovernmental body within the UNECE framework for the implementation and monitoring of RIS/MIPAA". Meeting in November 2012 the Working Group on Ageing discussed how to put the priorities outlined in the 2012 Ministerial Declaration into action and it defined its programme of work for the next five-year cycle.

A work priority during 2013 will be the completion of the review of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action. A regional conference is planned in July 2013 to discuss the outcome of the review in the region and to identify the post-2014 agenda in the population area. UNECE, in collaboration with partners, will continue the work on sustaining the GGP programme. New data will be harmonized and made available to data users online, as they are being submitted by participating countries.



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SPECA

Working for strategic regional cooperation

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.

In accordance with the recommendations of the follow-up meeting of the 2010 SPECA Economic Forum “Developing a Plan of Action to Strengthen Stability and Sustainable Development of Afghanistan through Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia (RECCA)” (June 2011 in Ashgabat), UNECE stepped up efforts to actively involve Afghanistan in regional cooperation with Central Asia. It deployed a Liaison Officer to Tajikistan who worked as a member of the Afghan-Tajik Task Force preparing the Fifth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan that took place in March 2012 in Dushanbe. The Dushanbe Declaration of RECCA contains several projects to be implemented in the SPECA framework.

The “Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference” on 14 June 2012 in Kabul adopted a list of seven confidence building measures. SPECA figures as a participating United Nations agency or existing mechanism in four of them.

Two SPECA projects with the involvement of Afghanistan started in 2012: one on improving joint watershed management of the upper Amu Darya and one on strengthening economic cooperation between Afghanistan and its Central Asian neighbours. A side event of the SPECA Governing Council in Bangkok in November 2012 reviewed implementation of relevant decisions of high-level international meetings and SPECA governing bodies on supporting regional economic cooperation between Afghanistan and Central Asia and called for more donor support to projects implemented in the framework of the Programme.

UNECE has stepped up efforts to actively involve Afghanistan in regional cooperation with Central Asia

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The 2012 SPECA Economic Forum, "Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia by Sharing the Asian Experience", held in November in Bangkok, was the third Economic Forum dealing with the topic of how the experience of other regions could be adapted to the specific conditions and needs of Central Asia. The first two, held in Berlin and Moscow respectively, discussed the European and Eurasian experience in economic cooperation and integration. This series of discussions was intended to stimulate joint thinking of member countries that could ultimately lead to a step by step, bottom-up process of building economic cooperation and integration organizations and institutions in Central Asia.

The seventh session of the SPECA Governing Council held in November in Bangkok conducted a preliminary discussion on the "Proposal on Further Strengthening the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia". The Proposal suggests using SPECA more effectively to raise the awareness of policymakers and experts about the benefits of regional cooperation in enhancing the ability of their countries to successfully achieve the United Nations development goals and other relevant priorities set forth by United Nations summits. SPECA offers a framework in which regional aspects of the post-2015 Development Agenda or the Rio+20 output priorities can be effectively discussed and recommendations on relevant follow-up activities and projects be made. The Proposal contains a comprehensive set of concrete ideas on how to increase further the effectiveness of the Programme and in particular ownership by its member countries.

Following up the decision of the Governing Council, the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP plan to visit the capitals of SPECA member countries in 2013 to undertake consultations on the Proposal. It is expected that the eighth session of the Governing Council to be held at the end of 2013 will take a decision on the Proposal.

The six SPECA Project Working Groups (water and energy, transport and border crossing, trade, statistics, knowledge-based development, and gender and economy) continued to implement the 2012-2013 work plan that contains over forty projects. Priority activities include implementation of the second phase of the

1.7 million euro programme "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia", funded by the Government of Germany through GIZ. Also the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing is prioritizing projects identified by the Group of Experts on Euro Asian Transport Linkages of total costs of \$215 billion on road, railroad and inland waterways transport, and the Project Working Group on Trade is coordinating trade-related assistance by developing further the SPECA Aid for Trade initiative and implementing the Baku Ministerial Declaration on Aid for Trade.

SPECA offers a framework in which regional aspects of the post-2015 Development Agenda can be effectively discussed



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STATISTICS

Statistical information for effective policymaking

The UNECE Statistical Division works with member countries to improve national statistical information needed for effective economic, social and environmental policymaking, and for assessing the progress against international development goals. The work in this area is governed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), 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 the 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. Furthermore, the work responds to the global initiatives of the General Assembly and the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The CES addresses the current priorities of member countries in a flexible and coordinated way. Flexibility is ensured by using teams of specialists created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output and time frame. The work leads to outputs such as standards, guidelines and recommendations on statistics, which often have a global impact.

Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region is one of the key tasks of the CES.

The Conference and its Bureau provide a platform for coordination of international statistical work. Efficient coordination is important to avoid duplication of work, find synergies, use resources efficiently and reduce the burden on national statistical offices. There are several mechanisms to ensure this coordination in practice, the main ones of which are the regular meetings of the Conference and its Bureau, the CES seminars exploring the foundational issues of statistical systems and emerging topics, in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas, and the Database of International Statistical Activities.

The methods and technologies to manage confidentiality have significantly improved during the last decade, and more countries allow access to microdata

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The topics for the CES seminars are selected by member countries and address issues of current interest to the Heads of national statistical organizations. In 2013, the first seminar will deal with challenges in providing access to microdata for research purposes. The methods and technologies to manage confidentiality have significantly improved during the last decade, and more countries allow access to microdata. At the same time, the growing availability of microdata increases the risk of disclosure. This seminar will focus on how to deal with the strategic challenges in balancing the growing demands for access to micro-data for research purposes with the requirements of statistical confidentiality.

The second seminar of the Conference in 2013 will discuss the challenges in implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and measuring sustainable development

in follow-up to Rio+20. The newly adopted standard SEEA makes it possible to understand the linkages between economy and environment and to provide data for economic policymaking taking into account the environmental concerns. Its implementation in the conditions of budget restrictions poses many challenges related to coordination across many different organizations in a country, data availability, lack of standards, etc. The Rio+20 Summit resulted in growing policy attention to sustainable development and reiterated the need for its monitoring, in particular in the context of the discussion on post-2015 development goals. The seminar will provide a forum for top managers of statistical offices to discuss the activities related to Rio+20 follow-up.

Globalization poses challenges to the compilers of statistics in all countries

In 2013, the international statistical work in three areas will be reviewed in-depth. The first topic, entrepreneurship, is gaining increasing political attention given the role of entrepreneurs in stimulating economic growth. This calls for development of statistical methodology for measuring entrepreneurship which crosses the boundaries of statistical areas and requires combining data on business demography and performance with characteristics of individuals and households.

The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is open data. The topic was selected for a review in response to the exponentially growing availability of data from different sources, such as government data, administrative registers, web databases, etc. Making use of the increased data supply is an opportunity but also a challenge for official statistics. It raises strategic issues such as how to respond to the competition from private sector and research organizations, and how to deal with methodological issues related to confidentiality, processing, linking and managing large data sets.

The third in-depth review will be about political and other community activities, including volunteering. This area is increasing in importance in societies. Apart from the International Labour Organization (ILO) manual on the *Measurement of Volunteer Work*, many scattered initiatives exist. None of them brings together the measurement of community activities, the role of third sector, volunteering, good governance and social capital.

In addition, the three in-depth reviews carried out at the end of 2012 on population ageing; banking, insurance and financial statistics; and poverty statistics will lead to follow-up work in 2013.

The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an annually updated Database of International Statistical Activities as a tool for coordination. The database is a compendium of the annual statistical programmes of international



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organizations within the UNECE region. The 2013 issue will be available online to be used by countries and international organizations to foster cooperation and avoid duplication of effort.

Economic statistics

UNECE is working with the countries to further develop and promote implementation of international standards and recommendations to improve the quality and comparability of economic statistics, particularly in the areas of national accounts, globalization, price statistics, business registers and short-term statistics.

It promotes the implementation of the new global standard: 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) which provides a comprehensive framework for producing economic accounts adapted to the new policy needs and

the fast changes in the global economy. This work is part of the Global Implementation Programme for the 2008 SNA, mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The work is undertaken in consultation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts which coordinates globally the implementation of the standard. In 2013, UNECE will continue to support the implementation of 2008 SNA in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia by providing methodological guidance and training workshops. In addition, the preparations for the biennial Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts in 2014 will begin.



Globalization, in terms of growing cross-border movement of people, capital, goods and services, has a significant impact on the economy and poses challenges to the compilers of

statistics in all countries. In 2011, the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the guide *The Impact of Globalization on National Accounts*. In accordance with the priority areas for future research highlighted by *the Guide*, a new Task Force was established at the end of 2011 to work on the conceptual and measurement challenges posed by global production. The Task Force will address the unresolved conceptual issues arising from the 2008 SNA and the Balance of Payments Manual revision 6 in relation to global production and develop further guidance on implementation aspects. The Task Force plans to prepare a draft report by October 2013.

UNECE, in cooperation with ILO, IMF and other partners promotes the implementation of international standards and recommendations on Consumer Price Indices (CPI). The biennial meeting of the Expert Group on Consumer Price Indices in June 2012 confirmed the need for a revision of the existing CPI Manual (2004) to reflect technical and methodological developments over the previous decade, for example on calculation practices and the use of and developments in electronic data collection methods. The revision of the CPI Manual will be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics, of which UNECE is a member, and be discussed at the CPI Expert Group meeting in 2014. UNECE will continue its work on other short-term economic statistics, such as compilation of industrial production statistics and supporting the practical implementation of seasonal adjustment in national statistical offices.

UNECE supports the development of statistical business registers, which are indispensable for efficient data collection and for the production of business statistics. At the request of countries, the CES Bureau set up a Task Force to develop international guidelines on statistical business registers. The Guidelines will focus on the use of business registers to integrate economic statistics and improve the efficiency of the statistical

The policy relevance of demographic statistics is further accentuated by the growing implications of population ageing on all spheres of society

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production process and will therefore also address issues raised by the High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics.

Social and demographic statistics

In recent years, the need to measure people's well-being and social environment has increased. The policy relevance of demographic statistics is further accentuated by the growing implications of population ageing on all spheres of society. The 2012 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing reinforced the call for improved statistics on ageing. Many major policy documents, including the Beijing Platform of Action and the Millennium Declaration, emphasise the importance of gender equality and call for improving its measurement. Preparations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the General Assembly is providing an impetus for strengthening international efforts to improve the measurement of migration. The review of the UNECE statistical activities by the Executive Committee noted that work on social statistics related to measuring well-being, poverty and social inclusion should be considered of high priority. UNECE activities in social and demographic statistics aim at improving statistics related to all these areas of high policy relevance. Work in 2013 will focus on population and housing censuses, population ageing, migration, gender, time-use and crime statistics.



Population and housing censuses represent the very foundation of statistical systems, providing baseline information on the population and the housing stock which is used to produce other statistics, and for planning public infrastructure and services. However, if carried out in the traditional way, censuses are the most complicated and expensive statistical operation that a country undertakes. There are increasing concerns over costs, data quality, respondent burden and privacy which challenge the conduct of future censuses in many countries. There is therefore room for further work on innovative methods of census taking, making use of registers and other sources. UNECE coordinates the work done in many countries on the modernization of censuses through increasing use of registers and other solutions that improve their efficiency.

Censuses are the most complicated and expensive statistical operation that a country undertakes

In 2013, UNECE will undertake a regional review of the 2010 round of censuses based on an on-line survey, and start the revision of the *Conference of European Statisticians Census Recommendations* in preparation for the 2020 census round. Based on the results of the survey, new task forces composed of national census experts and coordinated by UNECE will revise the CES census recommendations and prepare a version for the 2020 census round by the first half of 2015. The activities are carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UNFPA and Eurostat. UNECE will also participate in the international monitoring mission for the population and housing census planned in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013.

In **migration statistics**, UNECE aims at improving availability, quality and international comparability of migration data in the member countries, in response to the strong demand for more and better data on migration. In 2013, subject to the approval of the CES Bureau, UNECE will start new work on the measurement of circular migration, with the aim of agreeing on the international statistical definition of this phenomenon and the harmonization of its measurement. The topic has high policy relevance as the Global Forum on Migration and Development sees the promotion of circular migration as one of the keys to international migration's contribution to development.

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Two existing Task Forces are scheduled to complete their work in 2013: on improving migration and migrant data using household surveys and other sources, and on measuring the socio-economic conditions of migrants. To enhance the use and exchange of migration data among countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, UNECE will continue to improve its Clearing House on Migration Statistics. A full-scale update will be carried out in 2013.

Many major policy documents, including the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration, emphasise the importance of gender equality, which requires measurement of progress towards this goal as well as measurement of women's and men's different roles and different access and control of resources. UNECE work on **gender statistics** includes sharing knowledge and experience at biennial work sessions, developing guidelines and indicators, collecting and disseminating data and building capacity in member countries. In 2013, the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality will complete its work on a set of indicators to describe gender inequalities and to monitor gender-relevant policies.



This set of indicators serves as the regional framework in the capacity-building project on gender statistics that UNECE is carrying out together with two other regional commissions and UNSD in 2012-2014. The project aims to strengthen the capacities of and links between producers and users of statistics to monitor, measure and analyse progress in achieving gender equality. The activities in 2013 include: a subregional workshop, national level stakeholder consultations to formulate national action plans; and pilot national data collection that addresses selected data gaps using common instruments. In this context, UNECE will continue promoting the use of its major outputs in gender statistics: the *Manual on gender statistics*, multimedia training tools and the survey module on violence against women.

Time-use surveys provide indispensable data on quality of life and well-being and shed light on unpaid work, living conditions and gender equality. Time-use statistics have a particularly important

role in current international efforts to enhance the measurement of social progress beyond the use of GDP. The need for better harmonization and timeliness of time-use statistics has led to the establishment of a Task Force on Time-use Surveys which in 2013 will complete work on guidelines for harmonizing time-use surveys and improving comparability of time-use statistics.

Crime statistics is an area where international comparability is very difficult to achieve, because data are collected mainly for national purposes and depend largely on the legislation and the justice systems of the different countries. To overcome these difficulties, UNECE works in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the European Commission. The UNECE Task Force on Crime Classification has developed the principles and framework for an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. In 2013, it will further elaborate case studies of defining and classifying selected offences with a view to developing a full international classification of crimes for statistical purposes.

Population ageing has a profound impact on a broad range of economic, political and social processes, affecting all domains of society. The corresponding statistics thus cut across a broad range of topics and are in high demand by policymakers; however, they remain dispersed and have gaps and inconsistencies. Subject to the approval of the CES Bureau, a joint Task Force of statisticians and policymakers will start in 2013 to develop recommendations to statistical offices for improving and harmonizing the collection and dissemination of ageing-related data. This will lead to a dashboard of indicators recommended to statistical offices for regular production of data based on existing data collection mechanisms.

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High quality statistical information is crucial to formulate adequate and evidence-based policies and monitor their implementation

UNECE has been leading the work on measuring **quality of employment** jointly with Eurostat and ILO to respond to the demands for data on the qualitative aspects of employment from the workers' perspective, beyond traditional labour force statistics. UNECE published in 2010 the report on *Potential indicators for measurement of quality of employment* which provided the underlying concepts and structure for the quality of employment indicators. In February 2012, the CES Bureau established a new Task Force on Measuring Quality of Employment to review the conceptual structure of measuring quality of employment, revise the set of indicators, and develop operational definitions and guidelines. In 2013, the Group of Experts on Measuring Quality of Employment will meet to discuss the first part of the draft report.

Sustainable development, environment and climate change statistics, and Millennium Development Goals

At its 2011 spring session the Commission emphasized the importance of good quality statistical data to address the growing concern about sustainable development. High quality statistical information is crucial to formulate adequate and evidence-based policies and monitor their implementation. However, many different approaches and indicator sets exist in this area. The Commission therefore requested the Conference to develop recommendations and agree on a common framework for measuring sustainable development within the realm of official statistics.

A Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force is working towards harmonizing the approaches to measuring sustainable development. The work follows up from a conceptual framework based on the capital approach (published in 2009) which focuses on monitoring the economic, environmental, human and social capital left for future generations. The framework is extended to cover the issues of current well-being, quality of life and the international aspect of sustainable development. A thorough analysis of available data and indicators helps to identify indicators that have a sound conceptual basis and are relevant for monitoring the implementation of national sustainable development strategies. The resulting report is expected to be finalized in 2013. Furthermore, UNECE will promote the application of the framework for measuring sustainable development, taking into account the follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference and the development of the post-2015 development goals. This work will have a particular focus on countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The CES seminar in 2011 explored the measurement of human capital as a major driver of economic growth, sustainability and productivity. Many conceptual and measurement problems need to be solved before countries can develop official statistics in this area. As a follow-up to the CES seminar, a stock-taking report of the leading initiatives and main problems and issues in measuring human capital is planned to be presented at the 2013 CES plenary session.

Close attention to environmental issues has increased the demand for high quality statistics to strengthen environmental monitoring. In response, the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians launched in 2009 a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of **environmental statistics** in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. In 2013, the joint Task Force will continue to review methodologies and produce time series of selected environmental indicators from the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The work is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency. In 2013, the Statistical Division will also promote the implementation of the newly adopted standard, the System

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of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in the region and will evaluate the data availability and capacity of statistical offices to produce the necessary data.

Under a UNDA project, capacity building will be undertaken in the East European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on environmental sustainability. In 2013, a desk study on the state of environmental statistics in specific areas, e.g. waste statistics and agri-environment statistics, will be completed, and priority issues will be addressed in the planned two workshops. The activities will be coordinated with UNSD, European Environment Agency and Eurostat.



The Rio+20 Summit has emphasized that climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority. There is an increasing need for new information to support analysis of climate change. A UNECE survey showed that many statistical offices are involved in the work related to greenhouse gas emission inventories, and many produce other statistics related to climate change. The Conference, therefore, set up a Task Force to identify priorities for the further development of **climate change related statistics** in national statistical offices. In 2013, the Task Force will finalize a report analysing user requirements and proposing measures to make the wide range of existing environmental, social and economic statistics more useful for analysing the impact of climate change and for producing greenhouse gas inventories.

UNECE will provide support to its member countries in measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The work will be conducted in close collaboration with the regional commissions and UNSD. In 2013, UNECE will organize a subregional workshop and advisory missions on the monitoring of MDGs. The UNECE database of MDG indicators will be further developed as a tool for resolving discrepancies of data from different sources. Specific attention will be given to the persistent data gaps, insufficient use of official national data, and discrepancies among indicator values compiled by national, regional and international agencies. The results will feed into the development and monitoring of post-2015 development goals and other work of the Inter-agency Expert Group on MDG Indicators.

Streamlining statistical production

In response to demands from heads of national and international statistical organizations, UNECE established a High-level Group on Business Architecture in Statistics in 2010. Subject to the decision of the Bureau, this group will have a renewed mandate to oversee and coordinate international work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. The Group coordinates the activities of relevant expert groups in the UNECE region to ensure that they are working towards common goals. This coordination is based on a vision for industrializing the future production and products of official statistics, which was endorsed by the CES in June 2011, and a strategy to implement that vision, endorsed by the CES in June 2012.

The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on software sharing and on the management of statistical information systems. A wiki platform contains an inventory of statistical software and other materials available for sharing to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences between statistical organizations. The aim is to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production

There is an increasing need for new information to support analysis of climate change

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systems. Topics to be considered during 2013 include the impact of the “open data” movement, and the practical implementation of the Generic Statistical Information Model, which is due to be released at the end of 2012.

Statistical data editing is currently a very resource-intensive activity for national statistical organizations. It includes the validation and correction of incoming data, and methods to deal with missing data. In line with the vision for industrializing statistical production, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2013.

Statistical data confidentiality is another important topic for official statistics. An expert group meeting will be organized on this topic in autumn 2013. In addition to the high-level CES seminar on access to microdata, this meeting will consider the implications of new methods and technologies, as well as the impact of initiatives such as “open data” and “data without boundaries”. A wiki site documenting good practices in statistical confidentiality and microdata access will be maintained and enhanced.

A Steering Group on **statistical metadata** is developing a set of standards and good practices in the form of a Common Metadata Framework. The efficient management and use of statistical metadata – the information that describes and defines statistical data – is recognized as an important topic by the CES. As well as organizing an expert group meeting in spring 2013, the main tasks will be to further enhance the documentation of metadata standards and good practices. The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool, mostly published only in electronic format, so that it can be rapidly updated to reflect new ideas and technologies. It includes the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, an important tool for standardization and benchmarking of statistical production that has rapidly become a global standard, and has been adopted by the major partners of UNECE.

UNECE promotes sharing experience and good practices on human resources management and training in national statistical offices. Based on the outcome of an international workshop on this topic in September 2012, a compilation of best practices will be produced in 2013. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

A Steering Group on statistical dissemination and communication will organize an expert meeting in summer 2013 to mark the completion of the four-part *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics for discussion include possible guidelines for the use of social media, and the communication implications of the streamlining and modernization of official statistics.

UNECE provides mechanisms for communication to facilitate exchanges of ideas between national and international statistical organizations. Examples include facilitating the implementation of the Generic Statistical Information Model by statistical organizations, and on-going work to harmonize standards between the statistical and data archive communities.



A wiki site documenting good practices in statistical confidentiality and microdata access will be maintained and enhanced

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Capacity building activities

UNECE aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe to implement international standards and guidelines. Particular attention is paid to promoting the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that provide the basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems.

The UNECE capacity building activities include:

- (a) Training workshops;
- (b) Global assessments of national statistical systems;
- (c) Advisory services provided by UNECE experts to address country specific needs.

The capacity building activities are carried out in coordination and in partnership with other international organizations, in particular with UNESCAP, UNSD, Eurostat, European Free Trade Association (EFTA), OECD, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, PARIS21, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, World Bank, IMF, WHO and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

UNECE, together with Eurostat and EFTA, conducts global assessments of national statistical systems of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. The purpose is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. This helps the national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and the international donors to focus their technical cooperation activities on the identified needs. Global assessments recently conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine are expected to result in action plans to improve national statistics according to the recommendations. In 2013, the partner organizations (EFTA, Eurostat and UNECE) will organize a major event for East and South-East European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries, including Turkey, to discuss how to support, monitor and coordinate the implementation of the recommendations provided in the global assessments.

The planning of UNECE capacity building activities is based on the findings of global assessments and the needs of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. In 2013, UNECE will organize subregional workshops and advisory services to address current challenges in economic, social and environment statistics, streamlining statistical production and improving the indicators for monitoring the achievement of the MDGs. The capacity building will be supported by promoting the exchange of national good practices at subregional level, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the establishment of networks of experts.

The SPECA Programme Working Group on Statistics meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and coordinate donor activities. UNECE will work in 2013 on the development and fund-raising of three capacity building programmes: on economic statistics, including the implementation of the 2008 SNA; regional migration statistics; and streamlining statistical production of SPECA countries. These projects would complement the on-going capacity building activities in the region.



UNECE aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe

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UNECE statistical database

UNECE provides a unique statistical database offering a wide range of information on member countries via free on-line English and Russian interfaces. This database provides the source data for the popular *UNECE Countries in Figures* publication, as well as regular short articles on the economic and social development of the UNECE region, published in the *UNECE Weekly* newsletter. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2013.

Particular emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to the United Nations system, such as progress towards the MDGs (under a mandate from the 2005 UNECE reform), and issues relating to gender equality. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues, and helps identify priorities for methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2013. In this respect, the database is a strategic resource for the whole UNECE.



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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Towards achieving a sustainable energy future

Access to clean, efficient energy underpins prosperity, security, health, and quality of life. In order to improve access to modern energy services, reduce waste, and address the health, environmental and security consequences of unsustainable energy, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative and declared 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The objectives of the initiative include:

- providing universal access to modern forms of energy,
- doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements, and
- doubling the share of renewable energy, all of this by 2030.

Meeting the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) goals obliges changes in virtually all sectors of the economy, from how we supply energy to how we use it. The change calls for an “energy revolution” with unprecedented levels of systems planning, coordination and a shared vision addressing energy infrastructure, technology, policy, finance and market considerations. Achieving the goals will require trillions of dollars in global investment through a new level of public-private cooperation and coordination, since public initiatives and funds alone are not sufficient. Achieving these goals will deliver extraordinary global economic, environmental and security benefits. UNECE is working in support of these goals, as described below.

The “clean energy revolution” needed to meet the SE4All objectives would be as profound as the energy revolution experienced between 1850 and 1920, when coal replaced traditional energy sources, or to the period since 1920 marked by the diversification of both end-use technology and energy supply sources. The difference is that it would need to happen in 20 years instead of 70.

2012 was the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All

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Buildings account for a third of total energy demand, and improving their efficiency and applying renewable energy solutions could reduce both global energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The building sector is growing rapidly, especially in developing countries and in urban settings. It offers the largest, most cost-effective and long-term opportunities for energy efficiency, with considerable co-benefits.

Transport currently accounts for a little over a quarter of global final energy consumption and is growing rapidly. Three quarters of the transport sector's energy use is for road transport, virtually all of which is powered by petroleum-based products used in internal combustion engines. Improving the fuel efficiency of road vehicles is the single measure that holds the largest potential for increasing the sector's efficiency.

Industry represents around one quarter of final energy consumption globally. The adoption of existing protocols for energy management, with effective implementation and regular reporting, could achieve significant savings. Use of high-efficiency industrial equipment can also greatly increase efficiency at low cost.

Nearly two fifths of the world's primary energy is used for electricity and heat production, and electricity's share of final consumption is growing inexorably. Improving efficiency and expanding the use of renewables in this sector is critical to meeting the SE4All objectives. The average efficiency of coal-fired power plants in the world is currently 28 per cent. The most efficient conventional coal-fired technology can operate at 38.5 per cent efficiency, but new coal technologies exist with efficiencies over 45 per cent. Another approach for reducing the environmental footprint of coal-fired generation is the development of carbon capture, use and storage technology. Governments worldwide are exploring its economic and technical challenges. Yet another approach would be to substitute coal-fired generation with gas-based generation using combined-cycle gas turbines which are more thermally efficient. Increased use of combined heat and power can also improve energy efficiency.

Achieving these goals will deliver extraordinary global economic, environmental and security benefits

A fifth of the world's electricity generation comes from renewable sources. Of this, more than 80 per cent comes from hydroelectricity, 7 per cent from biomass and waste, 7 per cent from wind, and smaller shares from geothermal and solar. The costs of some renewable technologies – notably solar photovoltaics and wind – are falling and their supply chains are reaching considerable scale. There is considerable potential for future growth. An important opportunity for increasing the share of renewable electricity are "smart" grids, which can enhance the share of intermittent

electricity generation by coordinating supply and demand information while at the same time reducing the need for storage. Smart technical components combine with intelligent management practices and market signals to enable sustainable energy outcomes by solving systems integration and management questions.

The environmental challenges for the energy sector are enormous. Changes will not come overnight and policy responses must be bold if the world is to get on the path to a sustainable future. There is a need to:

- address market failures that hinder improvement of energy and carbon intensities
- invest in end-use energy efficiency
- improve the efficiency of existing coal-fired power stations
- progressively switch to natural gas



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- pursue and develop projects that cost-effectively capture and store carbon since all projections show that countries with coal will continue to use it for several decades
- if countries wish to maintain the nuclear option, the nuclear sector will need to meet increased safety obligations while being cost competitive
- develop new technology including renewable energy so it can contribute to cost-effective attainment of environmental goals.

In sum, each technology has a role to play, there is no single solution. UNECE's work is expected to have a direct, material impact and to catalyze or accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy future.



Major developments in 2012

Energy Efficiency

To assist countries to enhance their energy efficiency and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy investment projects UNECE, through its Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme, undertakes activities related to:

- policy reforms
- capacity building
- systematic exchanges of experience, and
- development of self-financing projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2012 capacity building activities were implemented through several business development courses in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, and in Astana and Almaty, in which project developers and owners from the respective countries were trained on preparation of business plans and other necessary documents for submission to financial institutions for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The Third International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development was held at Issyk Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan in September 2012, organized by UNECE in cooperation with the Government of Kyrgyzstan, UNESCAP, and the UNDP/Global Environment Facility (GEF). Participants from 22 countries reaffirmed their support to the SE4All objectives, assessed progress made to date and the gaps that still exist in implementing policies and legislation for facilitating market formation in energy efficiency and access to cleaner energy. Five projects of the EE21 Programme, including interdivisional cooperation activity on Energy Efficiency in Housing, contributed to the organization of the Forum and a Workshop on Case studies on energy efficiency financing and promotion of advanced energy efficiency technologies was held.

The priority for 2013 is organization of the Fourth International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development, recognized as a substantive input into capacity building for sustainable use of energy, including access to energy, energy efficiency and cleaner energy production in Central Asia and neighbouring regions.

A fifth of the world's electricity generation comes from renewable sources

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Global Energy Efficiency

The Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE 21) is led by UNECE and jointly implemented by the other United Nations regional commissions. Its first completed sub-project on cooperation between the United Nations regional commissions on energy efficiency for climate change mitigation was reviewed in April 2012 and further sub-projects are being implemented.

Funded by the Russian Federation the sub-project on Analysis of Advanced Technologies in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Framework of the GEE 21 Project and Preparation of Recommendations on its Application with Special Emphasis on Central Asian Region started its implementation in early 2012.

The Inception Meeting of experts and Governmental officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was held in May 2012. The meeting facilitated mutual understanding and arrangements among all parties participating in the national studies.

In the course of 2012 four national studies were completed. They provided an analysis of the following issues:

- Specific economic and energy conditions of Central Asian countries
- National energy policy frameworks
- End-uses of energy in each sector of the national economies
- Most appropriate energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) technologies for each country
- Barriers to investments in relevant advanced EE and RE technologies
- The need of coordinated policy to harmonize national programmes in the field of EE and RE development
- International cooperation in the Central Asian region in EE and RE
- The role of EE and RE in assisting to resolve existing water/energy problems.

The outcomes of the national studies were presented at the Third International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development.

Funded by UNDA the interregional sub-project on Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development also started implementation in the first half of 2012.

A training course on financial engineering and business planning will be undertaken in the framework of this project consisting of two consecutive sessions organized by UNECE and UNESCAP in the first half of 2013. The training courses will build local capacity and serve the needs of local experts (primarily project developers and owners) to prepare investment projects and to enhance their knowledge of equity participation in projects, mezzanine and third party financing. Three national case studies (Georgia, Montenegro, and Tajikistan) will be prepared within this project, each containing the following elements:

Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to mitigate climate change and achieve sustainable energy goals



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- Analysis of policy reform that has transformed one or more economically attractive investment projects into a bankable project which has been financed
- An assessment of the "scaled-up" potential environmental, economic and financial impact of the case study for selected projects or "classes" of projects including reductions of greenhouse gas emissions
- Recommendations on new reforms to introduce market based energy systems based on the case study.

Priorities for 2012 and 2013 will be implementation of the interregional project funded by UNDA on Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development, and development of a new UNDA project together with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Western Asia (ESCWA) on Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

Resource Classification

Activities continued in 2012 on the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC). UNFC is the only classification system in the world that is applicable to both conventional and unconventional sources of minerals, petroleum and uranium. This is particularly important with regard to unconventional resources that are treated sometimes as minerals (solids) and sometimes as petroleum (liquids). Through its project-based approach and by covering all extractive activities, the UNFC provides a global communication tool for consistent reporting for these activities, regardless of the commodity type and extraction methodology.

The UNFC is developed and promoted by the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Classification. Its meetings provide a unique gathering of stakeholders interested in reserve and resource classification and reporting. Minerals, petroleum, uranium, renewables and financial reporting experts from 26 countries (including from Asia, Africa, Central Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America) participated in the 2012 meeting. Cooperation and collaboration with key stakeholders was strengthened in 2012, in particular with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which continued with its detailed efforts to map the uranium classification system to the UNFC. This involved a series of workshops in Egypt, Finland and Portugal, as well as missions to Peru and Tanzania to assist the Government experts in these countries to undertake detailed case studies on the UNFC. The Ibero-American Programme for Science, Technology and Development is facilitating understanding and application of the UNFC to uranium resources in Latin America.

Two additional workshops were held in 2012. The Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-east Asia organized an event in cooperation with UNECE and UNESCAP, in February in Bangkok. Government representatives from the minerals and petroleum sectors from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam participated. The Chief of UNESCAP Energy Security and Water Resources Section noted: "Implementing the UNFC will help the UNESCAP region with accurate resource assessments that will promote enhanced energy security and sustainability".

A national UNFC workshop was organized by the Ministry of Energy of Mexico, the National Hydrocarbons Commission, and the Mexican Geological Survey in Mexico City in September in cooperation with UNECE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC). UNECLAC has offered to assist with dissemination of the UNFC in Latin America. Both workshops offered the first occasion that the minerals, petroleum and uranium sectors from the participant countries had cooperated together.

Because it has been designed as a framework classification, the UNFC provides a vehicle for accurate communication in global markets

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Significant progress was also made in Europe in 2012. UNFC is now referenced in the European Commission INSPIRE Directive on Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe, notably in the “Data Specification on Mineral Resources – Draft Guidelines” issued in July. Implementation of EuroGeoSource, an EU co-funded project, progressed with the eleven EU project member countries using the UNFC to harmonize their energy and mineral resource data. The project involves development of a data portal that allows Internet access to aggregated geographical information on energy and mineral resources. The European Coal Resources project, which involves classification and mapping of coal and coal bed methane in the European Union, will ensure that its outputs are compatible with the UNFC. The European Commission Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry maintained its support for the UNFC in its work on the supply of raw materials, where there is a need for common terminology and a harmonized resource classification.

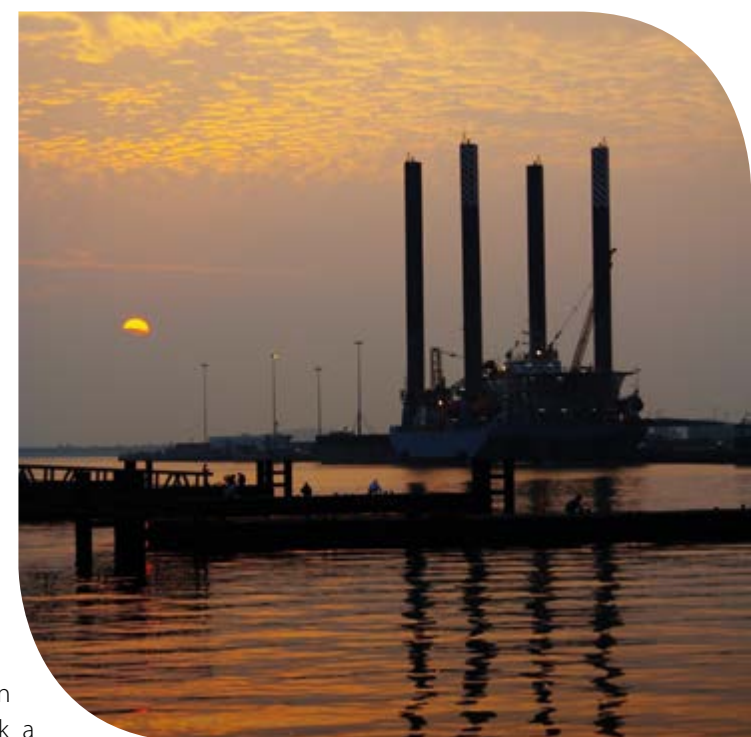
Going forwards, testing of the UNFC will be key to ensuring that it meets the needs of its users and remains current. The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, in cooperation with Statoil, undertook a detailed pilot study to classify the complete Norwegian petroleum project portfolio of 800 projects according to the UNFC. The results demonstrated that the UNFC offers enhanced capability over the NPD classification system.

Negotiations on the generic, and mineral and petroleum specific, specifications for UNFC continued in 2012, resulting in a draft text being released for public comment in October for a period of two months.

Specifications set out the basic rules that are considered necessary to ensure an appropriate level of consistency in the application of the UNFC. The priority for 2013 is the finalization of these specifications, as well as implementation of the global outreach and education programme developed as part of the UNFC Communications Strategy. It will be critical to secure funding to support wider, global application of UNFC as requested by the Economic and Social Council and to provide the necessary technical assistance to member States and industry in assuring coherence in the application of the UNFC between preparers, between countries and in relation to other economic information pertaining to energy.

The UNFC is currently being considered by the Expert Group for the classification of underground gas storage sites, including for carbon capture and storage. It is also being considered to map renewable energy resources, as demonstrated at a workshop organized by the industry-led Renewable Resources Working Group in London, in October 2012. Applying the UNFC to classify reserves of alternative energy would enable investors to easily compare diverse portfolios of both alternative and conventional forms of energy with a high degree of confidence in the underlying methodology and resulting metrics. This would allow the most efficient allocation of capital between companies, industries, geographies and technologies, thereby removing barriers to investment and aiding the development of a sustainable energy mix.

UNFC is now referenced in the European Commission INSPIRE Directive on Infrastructure for Spatial Information



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The progress made by the Expert Group on Resource Classification in 2012 highlights that the UNFC is a long-term activity with significant voluntary contribution and engagement from key stakeholders and with broad-based global support. Stakeholders must have confidence in the system, which therefore must be robust, long-lived, and developed through evolution. All stakeholders need assurance that on-going maintenance, technical advice and guidance will be provided, as well as periodic updates to ensure the system remains relevant, useful and efficient. A key challenge going forward is the development and implementation of the necessary governance structure and associated funding to ensure this is provided.

Natural Gas

UNECE gas activities aim, inter alia, at promoting wider use of natural gas – the cleanest of all the fossil fuels – thus reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.

In view of the on-going review process of the UNECE 2005 reform and at the request of member States, no new activities were launched in 2012. The twenty-second session of the Working Party on Gas accelerated work on the three regional studies currently underway: *Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia; Current State and Prospects of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the UNECE Region; and Use of Gas in Transport*. They were all completed in 2012 and are in the final stages of publication.

A final report on the study *Impact of the Liberalization of the Natural Gas Markets on Gas Demand and Prices in the UNECE Region*, was published in March 2012. A joint UNECE/ International Gas Union study on the *Use of Gas in Transport* was completed and report of the study was presented during the World Gas Conference in Kuala-Lumpur in June 2012 and at the twenty-third session of the Working Party on Gas in January 2013.

Gas Centre

In 2012 the Gas Centre highlighted different important issues such as: the future challenges for underground gas storage in Europe at a meeting hosted by Storengy in Paris (GDF Suez); the Role of the Balkans in the Security of Supply of Europe, held in Ljubljana; and international experience with Unconventional Gas Resources. Companies from all over the world, experts, academics, and representatives of governments met in Lausanne, in September to discuss the latter topic. Finally, experts from Eurogas, ENTSOG and the Council of European Energy Regulators met to consider the latest developments on the European Gas Market Regulation.

In 2013, a special event will be held in Baku with Socar (State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic) to discuss the role of the Caspian gas with respect to security of supply of Europe, and the role of natural gas in electricity production will be explored with EDISON/EDF in Italy. The Gas Centre's Industry Forum will consider the position of liquefied natural gas between Europe and Asia.

Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels

The principal fields of work in the coming years of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels include (a) securing an adequate energy supply at reasonable cost; (b) the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including through CO₂ capture, use and storage and (c) the management of energy demand intelligently to lower consumer bills.

The main on-going task of the Group of Experts in 2012 was to foster investment in cleaner electricity production. The principal tool for accomplishing this task was the project Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies, funded by UNDA. Workshops were

UNECE aims at promoting wider use of natural gas – the cleanest of all fossil fuels – thus reducing the carbon intensity of the economy

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held in China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Tajikistan and Ukraine and the final conference of the project was held in November 2012 in Kazakhstan. The Group of Experts will continue to be involved in this project through reviewing the most important deliverables which include a synthesis study that recommends the optimal framework for investment in clean fossil fuel technologies.

In addition, the Group looked into the issue of energy efficiency of power plants and the relative cost of upgrading power plants, when compared to other climate mitigating vehicles such as subsidies for renewable energy. A task force is conducting a literature review on this topic, the preliminary results of which were presented in November 2012 by the Group's acting Chair at the EURACOM meeting in Brussels and at the final conference in Kazakhstan.



Coal Mine Methane

The capture and use of coal mine methane (CMM) improves mine safety and provides an additional energy source for power or heat needed to run mining operations. Methane is a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Avoiding methane emissions therefore also contributes to mitigating climate change. There are many opportunities for CMM capture and use in the UNECE region, which accounts for 40 per cent of global CMM production.

The capture and use of coal mine methane improves mine safety and provides an additional energy source

In 2012, the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane was involved in initiating an extrabudgetary project on coal mine safety and life support systems, funded by the Russian Federation. The Group decided to roll over funds that remained unused from the previous project and create a pool of up to \$140,000 for the new one. The Group initiated implementation of

this project through possible engagement of parties from the Russian Federation, Poland and Germany, who would provide the expertise needed. The project is currently on hold at the request of the donor.

The Group also initiated collaboration with the Working Group on Coal coordinated by UNESCAP. To this end, the Group's views were presented at the Second session of the UNESCAP's Working Group on Coal held in September 2012.

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Putting people at the centre of sustainable development

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20, Brazil, June 2012) culminated in the adoption of the outcome document The Future We Want, which reaffirmed the principles of the Rio Declaration of 1992 and adopted the common vision on sustainable development for the future.

Most importantly, it recognized critical interlinkages between economic, social and environment development and put people at the centre of sustainable development. The outcome document also recognized the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and urged regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions, to play an active role in promoting sustainable development, including through harmonization of relevant development policies, plans and programmes, as well as capacity building, exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned.

The issue of enhancing the role of the United Nations in promoting sustainable development was further addressed through the Secretary-General's report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development (A/67/93), which reviewed efforts to improve the coherence, effectiveness and impact of the United Nations operational activities for development. The report recognized that responding effectively to the challenge of sustainable development would require a strategic repositioning of United Nations operational activities for development to ensure that they are relevant, coherent and fully aligned with national development priorities of recipient countries.

UNECE is well suited to contribute to addressing the challenge of integrating economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development through its technical cooperation activities. The central goal of UNECE's technical cooperation is to contribute to the development of national capacities in its member States with economies in transition. It is implemented in response to national development plans, policies and priorities, which constitute the key reference point for programming UNECE's technical cooperation activities.

People are at the centre of UNECE's technical cooperation

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Its technical cooperation is closely linked to its analytical and normative work. By assisting countries of the region to develop, accede to, adopt and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations, UNECE helps to foster their integration in the regional and global economy and thus more effectively achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

People are at the centre of UNECE's technical cooperation aimed at promoting their safe, healthy and environmentally sound lifestyles; improving their access to food, water and sanitation, energy and housing, technology and innovation; advancing sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable urban development, sustainable transport, etc.

In providing its technical cooperation services in 2012, UNECE focused on the implementation of demand driven activities at the national, regional and interregional levels.

UNECE technical cooperation assistance at the national level was focused on supporting country-led efforts to achieve international development goals. To better align its expertise and comparative advantage with national development priorities, UNECE has committed itself to active involvement in the UNDAF and One UN programmes.

During the reporting period, UNECE participated in 18 UNDAFs in its region. Technical cooperation activities, implemented within the framework of UNDAF, were aimed at promoting the implementation of UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards and building capacity in programme countries in such priority areas as environment and climate change, energy efficiency and/or clean energy, statistics, trade and trade facilitation, innovation and competitiveness, enterprise and public-private partnerships development. In implementing its UNDAF-related activities, UNECE built partnerships with such entities as UNDP, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP, UNIDO, International Trade Centre (ITC), FAO, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Trade Organization (WTO), etc. Particular attention was given to ensuring active engagement of national stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and NGOs.

Participation in UNDAF and One UN enabled UNECE to better align its support with the national development needs of UNDAF programme countries and the global development goals. It also helped to increase the impact and sustainability of its operational work, enhance country ownership and promote greater synergies in UNECE's work with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders.

UNECE country level technical cooperation was reinforced by technical assistance at subregional and regional levels. UNECE regional and subregional activities were focused on promoting regional cooperation and integration and thought to provide effective solutions to transboundary and cross border problems.

Less advanced subregions were primary beneficiaries of UNECE technical cooperation. In particular, Central Asia and Eastern Europe benefited the most, at 29 and 12 per cent respectively, followed by South-Eastern Europe (10 per cent) and the Caucasus (4 per cent). About 45 per cent of technical cooperation activities involved two or more subregions.



Half of UNECE's technical cooperation activities are of a subregional or regional nature and aim at promoting cooperation on transboundary issues

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Most of these activities were implemented in collaboration with other United Nations entities and international organizations. In particular, SPECA was implemented jointly with UNESCAP; the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) in collaboration with WHO; ENVSEC in partnership with OSCE, the Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, UNDP, UNEP and NATO; and the ESD Strategy in cooperation with UNESCO. A large number of activities were implemented in partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, such as CIS, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

The subregional approach to technical cooperation enabled UNECE to better promote linkages between national and regional development, optimize the use of limited resources, multiply the effect of its assistance and facilitate sharing of experience, lessons learnt and best practices among participating countries.

During the reporting period, UNECE was also involved in promoting sustainable, equitable and inclusive development through interregional cooperation under UNDA. Six UNECE-led projects implemented in 2012 with funding from the sixth and seventh tranches of UNDA were focused on strengthening the national capacity of participating countries in such areas as application of international standards for commercial agricultural products, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water quality, improvement of water and health, and reduction of trade barriers. Three of these projects as well as an additional one, approved for funding in 2012 under the eighth tranche of UNDA, were aimed at contributing to the green economy. Most of its UNDA projects have been implemented by UNECE in close collaboration with other United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), UNIDO, UNCTAD, WHO and UNEP.

Overall, UNECE carried out 120 advisory missions, 122 capacity-building activities (workshops, trainings and seminars) and implemented 36 various technical cooperation projects. Countries with economies in transition¹ were the major beneficiaries of the UNECE technical cooperation accounting for 85² per cent of activities. Mindful of the importance of sustainability, UNECE is increasingly relying on local expertise and using local contractual services in providing its technical cooperation services.

The UNECE technical cooperation activities were funded from the regular budget as well as from extrabudgetary resources. Extrabudgetary funding accounted for 85 per cent of all the UNECE resources for technical cooperation in the period under review. In 2011, Trust Fund contributions reached US\$ 13.87 million (a 6.5 per cent increase since 2010), mostly due to the higher contributions by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the European Commission. Although contributions by UNECE member States continued to decrease, they were the largest contributors and provided 67.8 per cent of the total extrabudgetary resources to UNECE in 2011. The top ten bilateral donors, by size of contributions, were: Russian Federation, Norway, Germany, Finland, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Italy, United Kingdom and Sweden.

UNECE experience shows that Delivering as One is the best modality for technical cooperation on green economy

¹ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

² Based on data from the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS).

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TRADE

Focusing on trade facilitation and electronic business throughout the region

During 2012, the UNECE's United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) strengthened its efforts to develop trade-facilitation recommendations and electronic-business standards thanks to a new, streamlined organizational structure aimed at timely delivery of products that are focused on stakeholders' needs.

During 2012, two new Single Window recommendations were added to the original Single Window Recommendation (33). They describe the modalities for simplifying and standardizing data (Recommendation 34) and for setting up the legal framework for a Single Window (Recommendation 35). Work is also under way on a Recommendation to support the interoperability between Single Windows located in different countries in order to allow more efficient exchanges of data and enforcement of mutual controls.

Two new Single Window recommendations were added

In response to the growing demand for standards on the authentication of trade documents, in collaboration with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and other parties, UN/CEFACT is revising Recommendation 14 on the Authentication of Trade Documents by Means other than Signature. The revision will provide an important tool for many member States wishing to replace manual signatures in the authentication of electronic business and trade documents.

While continuing work on other, on-going projects, in 2012 UN/CEFACT launched a number of new projects, including:

- Electronic interchange of fisheries catch data
- e-Laboratory observation report message
- Core Components and models of building blocks for health insurance in the field of reimbursement of claims

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- Destination Travel Information Process
- Alignment of Master Data for Metering Point and of Measured Data in the deregulated Energy Market
- An Open Data Interchange Framework

The full list of UN/CEFACT projects can be consulted at: www.uncefact.org

The Core Components Library, which serves as a lingua franca for electronic information exchange, was further enhanced with the addition of new data definitions and structures employed in the exchange of standardized messages in international trade. Updates were published of other widely used UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations, such as UN/EDIFACT—for electronic data interchange—and UN/LOCODE, for identifying over 80,000 trading locations.

Together with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), UN/CEFACT has launched a project to create a joint Technical Report that evaluates past experiences and describes a common technical framework that will engage other key players in standards development. This will also encourage greater consistency between technical specifications and standards and their greater effectiveness.

Support for Implementation and Outreach

UNECE launched its *Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide* in October 2012 (<http://tfig.unece.org/>). This is a “tool” to help countries and organizations streamline their trade procedures and increase the efficiency of their trading systems. The response to the Guide from implementers and organizations around the world has been enthusiastic. French and Russian versions will be available in early 2013.

The Guide is a web-based interactive tool for helping countries to simplify cross-border trade and was developed with support from the Swedish International Development Agency. It shows policymakers and implementers how to identify trade-facilitation measures and instruments that are relevant to their needs. For example, it offers suggestions about how to reduce waiting times at border crossings, how to set up a Single Window and how to make use of modern information technologies in trade.

UNECE continues to support the efforts of countries in the region and across the globe to implement Single Windows for import and export procedures.

The Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide offers suggestions about how to reduce waiting times at border crossings

The five United Nations regional commissions have recently adopted a joint approach to trade facilitation. This provides a platform for developing unified positions and provides a single voice on trade-facilitation matters with partners, user groups, donors and member States.

As its first project under this joint approach, UNECE is leading a UNDA project to help transition and developing economies participate more effectively in global supply chains. The project will identify strategies, business models and policy approaches to achieve this goal.

UNECE gave a particular focus on encouraging economies in transition to participate in its work on trade facilitation. As a result, the ministries of communication of 11 CIS countries nominated members to a “Regional Commonwealth of Communication” group to work jointly with UN/CEFACT. The CIS Interstate Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification also requested assistance in preparing proposals for a regional standardization programme on information standards based on UN/CEFACT tools.



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In cooperation with UNESCAP, UNECE supported the further development of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT), a community of national trade-facilitation experts from transition and developing economies. This project is funded through UNDA.

National needs-assessment studies

UNECE conducted a National Needs Assessment Study in Kazakhstan. This study examined the situation of trade facilitation and e-business in that country, with a specific focus on identifying the procedural and regulatory barriers to trade at and behind the border in Kazakhstan. Information was collected by local and international consultants based on questionnaires and two business process analysis cases which looked in detail at the procedures and requirements based on the actual experience of two exporting companies. The findings were presented to the Committee on Trade at its fifth session, and the final publication will be issued in early 2013.

A further study, on Tajikistan, was launched and its findings will be presented to the Committee at its sixth session, in 2013.

Based on its past experience with national needs assessments, the UNECE methodology was revised and will be published for use by countries and other organizations, as well as UNECE, in early 2013.

Increased support to Aid for Trade (Aft) efforts in Central Asia

Further work was undertaken to follow up on the 2010 Baku Aft Ministerial Declaration, which calls for the development of national supply-side capacity and increased cross-border cooperation. As the secretariat of the SPECA Aft Implementation and Monitoring Council, UNECE is assisting SPECA member countries to mobilize resources for implementing the "Aft Roadmap for SPECA" Initiative. This Initiative seeks to marshal aid-for-trade processes around both the common regional priority areas identified in the Declaration and national priorities. The Aft Roadmap for the SPECA Initiative is coordinated by UNECE and supported by the United Nations Trade and Productive Capacity Cluster (including, in particular, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNIDO).

Standardized national and regional aid-for-trade action matrices have been prepared. These are based on those presented by SPECA members during the Baku Ministerial meeting with a view to facilitating the task of identifying implementation gaps, where either additional technical assistance support is required or increased regional cooperation is needed. The matrices are "living documents" that will be continuously fine-tuned in the light of SPECA members' comments, and used in the on-going work of the Implementation and Monitoring Council.

In 2013, UNECE will be assisting individual SPECA members to prepare project documents to support the successful implementation of Aid for Trade activities. Moreover, a special meeting of the Aft Implementation and Monitoring Council will be held, to which all donors and implementing organizations in the region will be invited, in order to discuss where action is needed and where Aid for Trade, and trade in general, could contribute to improving food security.

UNECE also believes that there is a need for SPECA countries to make their markets more attractive to investors by focusing on improving and building larger and more efficient regional markets, in particular through greater trade facilitation among the SPECA. Developing regional markets also builds export capacity



Standardized national and regional aid-for-trade action matrices are "living documents" that will be continuously fine-tuned

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by using, as a stepping stone or initial target, markets where distance and transportation costs are less of a disadvantage.

UNECE recommends adding standardization issues to educational curricula

Ministers from several member States and high-level officials from major standards-setting organizations such as ISO, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) attended the 2012 session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) where an entire day was devoted to discussing standards education. Also attending were representatives of national standards bodies and ministries of education, professors and deans from universities from all over the world. Following the discussions, the Working Party recommended that education on standards-related activities should form an essential part of the curriculum of universities, higher-education establishments and vocational training schools. The Working Party also approved a new cross-sectoral initiative on "education on standardization" under its START team.



Risk management

As risks can sometimes acquire global proportions, efforts to manage risks also need to be put in 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.

In 2012, WP.6 published *Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks*. This publication aims at providing policymakers with insights and recommendations on designing regulatory systems for the efficient, effective and transparent management of risks. It presents a holistic model for managing risks in regulatory frameworks based on international standards (specifically ISO 31000) and guides regulators through the main phases of the risk-management process.

It builds on the work of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems, which has a global membership spanning from Australia to Brazil to the Russian Federation, and receives input from policymakers, standardization bodies, conformity-assessment

bodies, research centres and academia. The Group is currently looking into the implementation of its Recommendations on Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks in the electrical-equipment sector.

Market surveillance

In the UNECE region, low-quality goods, sold at under prices and conditions that exclude fair competition, pose a serious threat to human health and safety, generate pollution and cause environmental degradation. The main regulatory response to these trends is to strengthen the capacity of inspection and market-surveillance authorities.

UNECE provides tools that enable authorities and economic operators to work cohesively together. For example, its global online database is becoming increasingly referenced by stakeholders. It contains information for a wide and growing range of countries on the national authorities responsible for regulatory

Education on standards-related activities should form an essential part of the curriculum of universities and vocational training schools

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enforcement in each sector, along with their legislative mandates, contact data and website addresses.

Support to regulatory cooperation

UNECE had been working closely with the Task Force on Technical Regulations under the EU – Russia Industrialists' Round Table. This is a business platform for company leaders from the European Union and the Russian Federation. Their recommendations on the implementation of WP.6 deliverables were included in the White Book that were presented to the EU President, Mr Barroso, and the Russian President, Mr Putin, during their Summit in December 2012. In particular, the recommendations include specific suggestions for the revision of the legislation of both the European Union and of the Eurasian Economic Community of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan in the sector of Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres.

Working in close collaboration with the IEC Scheme for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx Scheme), the Working Party organized jointly with IECEx and the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology an international conference on Equipment and Services in Explosive Atmospheres. The objective of the conference was to increase the safety of industries in which explosions may occur and to facilitate trade in related products and equipment.

The outcome of the conference and the already existing UNECE "Common regulatory objectives" will form the basis for work on the revision of the United Arab Emirates' legislation and work on unifying practices and the standardization of equipment and services in the UAE's explosive atmospheres sector. The conference brought together more than 200 participants from the explosives industry, standards development bodies and certification bodies, as well as regulatory authorities from Arab, European, Asian and African countries. These included participants from the Eurasian Economic Community's Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, which is also developing joint technical regulations in this field. In 2012, UNECE took up the function of secretariat to the Inter-Agency Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS Network) and hosted its annual session. The Network serves as a forum for exchanging experiences on development issues in these areas. It includes IEC, ISO, ITC, ITU, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, and the International Organization for Legal Metrology and the International Accreditation Forum.

Significant advances in agricultural quality standards

Experts in the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) were very active during 2012 and in November were able to approve 18 revised and 7 new standards.¹ UNECE continued a range of capacity-building projects for agricultural quality standards, most of which were carried out in the CIS, and financed through the Russian Voluntary Fund.

This work has changed the perception of UNECE agricultural quality standards in the CIS region. Today, these standards are an important tool for increasing the production of quality products and for developing regional trade, particularly within the Customs Union of the Eurasian Economic Community. One result is that in October 2012, twenty-seven GOST regional standards based on UNECE agricultural quality standards

¹ The revised standards were for: apples, pears, witloof chicory, tomatoes, leafy vegetables, plums, mangoes, watermelons, cultivated mushrooms, citrus fruit, melons, leeks, lettuces, pineapples, chicken meat, turkey meat, ovine meat and bovine meat. A new standard for lambs lettuce was approved, as well as six new recommendations for cashew kernels, pine nut kernels, inshell Brazil nuts, Brazil nut kernels, inshell walnuts and dried mangoes.



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had been approved for use in either the Russian Federation or all of the Eurasian Economic Community. In addition, 10 more GOST standards of this type were planned for finalization in 2012 and 11 were foreseen for 2013.

In another result, CIS countries and, in particular, the Russian Federation, are investing in modernizing their systems of seed-potato production based on UNECE standards and UNECE assistance.

A centre for healthy seed-potato production is being set up both in the Moscow region and in Vladikavkaz in the Northern Caucasus. A diagnostics laboratory has been put into operation and its staff have been trained to test seed for viruses so as to provide assistance to the farmers in the entire region. As a result of these activities, other countries have expressed interest in obtaining UNECE assistance in developing their seed-potato sector.

Challenges

Country assessments of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

For those countries where trade assessments have taken place future challenges are linked to encouraging and helping beneficiary countries to apply the recommendations proposed in their country assessments. And this is, at least in part, linked to helping these countries to find the resources for supporting national projects.

The secretariat has already secured some funding to help the beneficiary countries to develop project documents through a UNDA project. As part of this project, during 2013, a donor conference will be organized in the framework of UNECE's Aid for Trade Programme and in cooperation with SPECA.

Aid for Trade

Challenges in UNECE's Aid for Trade programme stem from the limited experience of SPECA countries in implementing such programmes and from nurturing cooperation among development partners. UNECE will continue to maintain the national and regional SPECA action plan matrices and provide support for the exchange of information.

Trade facilitation and electronic business

The year 2012 saw a significant increase in requests for new and updated standards and recommendations and, in particular, for support to implementation. The growing interest of countries in creating and expanding Single Window facilities is likely to lead to wider implementation

of the entire suite of UNECE trade facilitation instruments.

UNECE will continue to undertake capacity-building, especially in transition economies, to increase the application of UNECE instruments and promote participation in the expert groups that are developing standards.

In 2013, as part of the *Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide* project, the secretariat will conduct regional training workshops for policymakers and implementers throughout the world, in collaboration with the



Low-quality goods can pose serious threats to human health and safety, generate pollution and cause environmental degradation

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other regional commissions and key international organizations for trade facilitation, including UNCTAD and UNDP.

Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

During 2012, activities were constrained by limited secretariat resources, problems related to recruitment, and a growing demand for expert assistance. In 2013, a substantial increase in activities is expected as a result of requests from member States for engaging in and delivering on “education in the field of standardization”, an item that was added to the programme of work at the twenty-second session of the Working Party.

In meeting this challenge, 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 ITU, as well as all organizations participating in the DCMAS network.

Agricultural quality standards

To meet the strong demand for UNECE agricultural quality standards, as well as for capacity-building, the Working Party and the secretariat will continue their promotional and capacity-building programme, but additional fundraising will be necessary.

The specialized sections will have to ensure the regular updating of existing standards and the development of new ones to meet the demand from trade and to reflect technological changes.

UNECE took the first steps to support cross-programme technical assistance in the area of traceability. After a session on traceability at the 2011 session of WP.6, presentations were made at the sessions of the Committee on Trade in June 2012 and WP.7 in November 2012. The goal is to gear these efforts towards joint work in 2013 on traceability within a UNDA project.



A centre for healthy seed-potato production is being set up in the Moscow region

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TRANSPORT

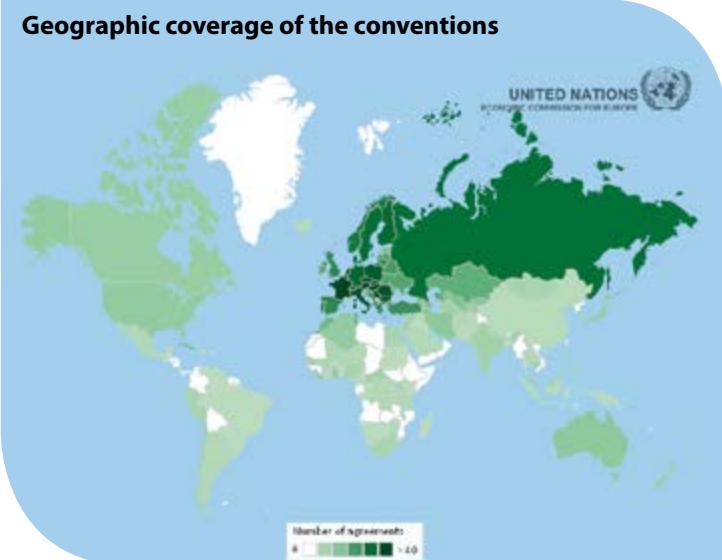
Meeting the mobility challenges of a new era

The transport subprogramme of UNECE services the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), the only United Nations intergovernmental body dedicated to inland transport, its working parties as well as the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The primary focus of ITC and its subsidiary bodies is administering the 58 United Nations conventions, agreements and other types of legal instrument which shape the international legal framework for road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport, as well as dangerous goods transport and vehicle construction. Activities take the form of policy dialogue and regulatory work; analytical activities; and capacity building and technical assistance.

The Inland Transport Committee is thus a unique body specialized in inland transport with the overarching goal to contribute to the development of inland transport in a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly way. Its decisions have a direct impact on the daily life of people and businesses throughout the world.

For the transport sector as a whole, 2012 was a year of recognition:

1. For the first time in the history of the United Nations Earth summits, the importance of transport and mobility as contributing to sustainable development was acknowledged. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20) devoted a special chapter to transport;
2. Increased political attention was given to the global road safety crisis and the General Assembly adopted resolution



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66/260 on "Improving Global Road Safety", commending UNECE's activities and encouraging United Nations Member States to accede to its legal instruments;

- For the very first time transport ministers met to discuss the ways and means that Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) could revolutionize transport management, and how to facilitate coordinated and rapid deployment of ITS on a global scale.

These achievements were thanks to many contributors and UNECE played a distinctive role. Several ITC members took an active role in the drafting process of the Rio+20 outcome paper, while the UNECE Transport Division worked closely with UN/DESA. The UNECE study *Transport for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region*, published in 2012, served as a background paper for Rio+20. The study is the first of its kind to translate the concept of sustainable development into terms applicable to inland transport and unbundles the broad and complex theory to cover:

- **Access** – for individuals mobility means access to work, health or education, while for national economies it means access to markets;
- **Affordability** – for individuals it means the share of transport in their household expenditure or the cost of public transport, while for societies it means financing capacity to build and maintain transport infrastructure and services;
- **Safety** – in all inland transport modes;
- **Security** – as the new emerging issue; and
- **Environmentally friendly development** of the sector in all its complexity.



As a result of the close coordination between the United Nations regional commissions and the effective support by ITC members, resolution 66/260 acknowledged, more substantively than ever before, the road safety work of the regional commissions and in particular UNECE. The resolution also refers to the 2013 United Nations Global Road Safety week (6-12 May 2013).

The 2012 policy segment of the Committee's annual session played a pivotal role in raising awareness on the importance of ITS deployment. It not only launched the UNECE strategic package on ITS, but also brought the topic to the forefront of decision-makers and galvanised their support.

Actions promoting innovative transport technologies and ITS

UNECE's ITS package was formally adopted by member Governments

Following the adoption of the ITS package in early 2012, several ITC bodies explored the ways to best exploit the advantages of increasingly available intelligent technologies. The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) adopted two new regulations on Advanced Emergency Braking Systems and Lane Departure Warning Systems and considered the principles for design and control of Advanced Driver

Assistance Systems, so as to set harmonized minimum requirements. The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) considered the consistency between the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic and the legal instruments governing vehicle construction in order to address questions on legal liability when using ITS. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) dedicated the year 2012 to ITS and looked at ways of assisting intermodal transport systems to become more attractive and provide seamless transshipment between road, rail and inland water transport modes by implementing modern information and communication technologies.

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Under the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15), work continued on how to use ITS to improve safety and security in the transport of dangerous goods.

During the ITS Ministerial Roundtable at the 2012 ITS World Congress held in Vienna, UNECE further advocated the role of ITS in ensuring safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly mobility. One of the main messages was that ITS will also change the way the transport sector at large is managed. The next step towards implementing the UNECE Road Map on ITS and its 20 actions will be at the next UNECE annual ITS Round Table, to be organized in cooperation with ITU in June 2013. The theme will be Driver Distraction and Road Safety.

ITS will change the transport sector at large and will result in a cultural change in our society. UNECE is a global leader facilitating this change

Implementing the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020)



WP.1 is the permanent intergovernmental body in the United Nations system that focuses on improving road safety. Its primary role is to keep up to date the major road safety conventions, in particular the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Roads Signs and Signals of 1968. All United Nations legal instruments addressing the main factors of road crashes such as road user behaviour, vehicles and infrastructure are administered by the Inland Transport Committee and its working parties. Their 360 degree approach is reflected in UNECE's 2012 publication *Spectrum of Road Safety Activities*.



The year 2012 witnessed the continuation of several activities launched as part of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution (64/255). ITC endorsed a comprehensive Implementation plan, setting out the UNECE goals and planned actions for the Decade.

A number of other significant legislative developments contributing to road safety took place in 2012, for example the new United Nations Regulation on child restraint systems by WP.29. The new system adds to existing standards by introducing a side impact test procedure which will lead to better head protection, especially for younger children, while the regulation establishes mandatory rear-facing positions for children up to 15 months. Provisions for reducing the blind spot on the passenger side of heavy duty vehicles and improving driver visibility of other road users were included in the text of existing United Nations Regulations. Other new regulations adopted covered lane departure warning systems and advanced emergency breaking systems. A special publication completed in 2012 on helmets informs about the need to wear quality helmets when driving motorcycles and mopeds in order to be adequately protected in case of an accident.

With 1.3 million fatalities and 50 million casualties annually on the world's roads, road safety is a major social and economic issue that UNECE has been dealing with for 65 years

Driving times and rest periods of professional drivers are a key aspect of road safety, and progress was made in the implementation of the digital tachograph – a sophisticated monitoring device installed in all commercial vehicles registered in the Contracting Parties to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). The digital tachograph became mandatory in 2010, but some countries encountered difficulties in meeting the deadline. By 2012, however, great overall progress was made in implementing the digital tachograph in non-EU AETR Contracting Parties. A majority of countries have either fully implemented the measures necessary for the use of the digital tachograph or are very close to their completion.

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A particular challenge in the area of road safety will continue to be scaling up efforts to assist member countries to increase management capacity and prepare programmes that address road safety issues. Although primary responsibility for increasing road safety is vested in Governments, it is recognized that this requires not only political will and commitment, but also coordinated efforts and significant funds.

Environmental Sustainability in Transport

The environmental pillar of sustainable transport development is often more in the limelight than the social and economic pillars. No wonder, since for a long time Governments have been giving priority to diminishing the negative environmental impact of transport. Despite the good results in air and noise pollution, emission controls remain an important challenge particularly in countries with old vehicle fleets. Thus in the short-term UNECE stays active in promoting improvement in fuel efficiency and vehicle emissions controls while long-term goals include migrating transport from fossil-based energy to other alternatives, such as renewable energy and use of other renewable resources. Against this background, UNECE has carried out significant work in 2012, targeting both the mitigation of transport's carbon footprint, but also the promotion of environmentally friendly electric vehicles.



UNECE stays active in promoting improvement in fuel efficiency and vehicle emissions controls

Regulations on the construction of environmentally friendly vehicles

In 2012, Regulation No. 100 dealing with the construction of electric vehicles was enhanced with provisions on the safety and type approval of Rechargeable Electric Storage Systems, which will facilitate the introduction of safe electric vehicles into the market and promote their use.

With regard to the environmental performance of regular motor vehicles, the World Forum in 2012 updated several United Nations Regulations

annexed to the 1958 Agreement. Most of these were through the adoption of the Euro VI provisions for heavy-duty vehicles, including heavy duty engines and vehicles using dual fuel as well as regulating the simultaneous use of gas and petrol under certain conditions on bi-fuel vehicles equipped with petrol direct injection systems. In addition, two regulations of the United States of America were included in the Compendium of Candidate Global Technical Regulations on 2018 greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and fuel efficiency standards for medium- and heavy-duty engines; and on motor vehicle fuel economy label – new fuel economy and environment labels for a new generation of vehicles.

The International Environmentally Friendly Vehicle Conference was first launched in the framework of the World Forum to promote the use of environmentally friendly vehicles. The fifth conference was held in Baltimore in 2012.

For Future Inland Transport Systems Project (ForFITS)

UNECE launched the ForFITS project for the development and implementation of a tool to monitor and assess CO₂ emissions from inland transport activities. This 3-year UNDA-funded project started in 2011 with the goal of facilitating climate change mitigation, and involves all United Nations regional commissions.

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The main objective is to enhance international cooperation and planning towards sustainable transport policies. Its achievement is expected to result from capacity building initiatives organized for policymakers and training activities for technical experts, leveraging on the development of a modelling tool capable of assisting users in the selection of the most appropriate and effective measures to reduce CO₂ emissions in the inland transport sector. CO₂ emissions caused by international aviation and maritime transport are not covered by this project.

A ForFITS International Expert Meeting held in April 2012 allowed UNECE to disseminate information, share experiences and explore possible synergies with other stakeholders. In combination with a workshop with selected experts, UNECE was able to receive feedback on its review of statistics, mitigation policies, and modelling tools (finalized in October 2012) and on a draft methodology of the ForFITS tool (released in April 2012).

Following the recommendations received at the workshop, UNECE started the development and implementation of a model prototype. A first model, intended to be a pragmatic tool to help Governments in their policymaking, is expected to be operational by the end of February 2013. Relevant documentation, including a methodological description and a user manual, are expected to become available shortly thereafter. Other project development steps include a piloting-out phase, involving specific trials in the different regions (early 2013), capacity building workshops (late 2013), as well as training activities for policymakers and technical experts (late 2013). The workshops and training sessions will take place in regions of all regional commissions.

Climate Change Adaptation

In June 2012 a conference held in Greece brought climate change adaptation issues to the forefront of discussion in the UNECE region. Organized by the Government of Greece with support from UNECE, the conference was convened to raise awareness and build capacity about climate change adaptation challenges. International experts identified best practices in national transport policies and risk management. The conference significantly contributed to UNECE work on exploring policy-oriented recommendations and improving the long-term sustainability of transport.

Developments in International Inland Transport Legislation

Vehicle regulations

In addition to the new vehicle Regulations adopted in 2012 already mentioned, a new United Nations Global Technical Regulation, in the framework of the 1998 Agreement, was published on the identification of controls, tell-tales and indicators for motorcycles.

Existing regulations were updated with 99 amendments, bringing them to the latest level of technical progress and introducing more severe limits, among them the introduction of manoeuvring reversing lamps, avoidance of the risk of ejection of vehicle occupants, as well as new marking requirements for tyres to help the consumer in identification of their technical specifications.



ForFITS will provide a modelling tool assisting users in the selection of the most appropriate measures to reduce CO₂ emissions

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A new edition of the publication on the World Forum was issued, explaining the functioning of WP.29 in order to facilitate accession of more countries outside the UNECE region to the vehicle Agreements.

Transport of Dangerous Goods

Under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations has developed mechanisms for the harmonization of hazard classification criteria and hazard communication tools as well as for transport conditions for all modes for transport, in order to promote safety, security and protection of the environment, and to ensure consistency between national, regional and international regulatory systems applicable to the transport of chemicals and dangerous products, their storage, supply, use at the workplace or by consumers. UNECE provides secretariat services to the ECOSOC bodies responsible for these mechanisms and administers regional agreements that ensure the effective implementation of the mechanisms in the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways.

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) contains criteria for classification of chemicals covering all kinds of chemical hazards (physical hazards and hazards to health or the environment) and hazard communication tools (labelling and safety data sheets) intended to be used not only in the transport context but also for supply, storage, workplace safety and protection of the environment.

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

In 2011, the UNECE published the fourth revised edition of the GHS, the seventeenth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations and an amendment to the fifth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria; further amendments to these were adopted in 2012.

These amended or new United Nations recommendations have led to the adoption of amendments to the UNECE legal instruments and the publication by UNECE in 2012 of revised editions of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR 2013) the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN 2013), for application as from 1 January 2013.

ADR 2013 also contains revised provisions specific to road transport, e.g. regarding driver training and passage through tunnels. Additional amendments concerning stability of inland navigation chemical tankers and training of their crew were incorporated in ADN 2013 in response to the capsizing of the vessel "Waldhof" on the Rhine in January 2011.

Without international regulations, the safe trade in chemicals and dangerous products would be seriously impeded, while the global contribution of UNECE's work in this area is key in preventing accidents on the world's roads, railways, inland waterways, at sea and in the air



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Legal instruments administered by other international organizations were also amended to reflect the United Nations Recommendations, also for application as from 1 January 2013:

- The International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code prepared by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (mandatory for the 159 Contracting Parties to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea);
- 2013-2014 edition of the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, prepared by the International Civil Aviation Organization (mandatory for the 190 Contracting Parties to the Convention on Civil Aviation);
- The 2013 edition of the Dangerous Goods Regulations prepared by the International Air Transport Association;
- The Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID), prepared by the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) (mandatory for the Contracting Parties to the Convention concerning the International Carriage by Rail).

In the European Union, the provisions of the 2013 edition of ADR, RID and ADN were implemented for domestic traffic through Commission Directive 2012/45/EU of 3 December 2012 adapting for the second time the Annexes to Directive 2008/68/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the inland transport of dangerous goods.

With regard to the classification and labelling of chemicals, some of the major achievements in relation to the implementation of the GHS were:

- the entry into force of GHS-based legislation in the United States of America, Australia, Switzerland and China;
- the update, adoption, revision or development of national legislation or standards based on the GHS in: Brazil, Canada, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Uruguay and Zambia, together with the other States members of the Southern African Development Community; and
- The publication of Commission Regulation (EC) 618/2012, amending the European Regulation implementing the GHS in all countries members of the EU and the European Economic Area (i.e. this third adaptation to technical progress aimed at updating the list of substances with a GHS harmonized classification and labelling has been agreed).

GHS-based legislation entered into force in the United States of America, Australia, Switzerland and China

The major challenge for the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in 2013 will be to prepare and adopt amendments to ADR, RID and ADN to reflect the provisions contained in the new United Nations recommendations. The catalogue of questions related to the training and examination of experts required to be on board inland navigation vessels carrying dangerous goods will have to be adapted to the new provisions included in ADN 2013. Consideration will be given to the possible issuance of temporary derogations to the provisions of ADN to allow vessels to be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG) or a combination of LNG and diesel. The carriage of LNG as a cargo will also be discussed.

The ECOSOC Committee will cover a wide range of issues in 2013-2014 including classification criteria for polymerizing substances, corrosive substances, water-reactive substances, desensitized explosives, nanomaterial, refrigerant gases, testing of explosives and oxidizing solids, transport of electric storage systems, of used medical devices, of environmentally hazardous substances.



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Road Transport

In 2012, the secretariat tabled a major paper describing the main issues and options for the European Agreement on the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and supported a survey about the prevailing legal instruments applicable to road transport operations and third party rights and obligations under the AETR Agreement. Arrangements were renewed for EU support to non-EU AETR Contracting Parties using the digital tachograph.

Several amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Arteries (AGR) were proposed, but the Contracting Parties' obligations to endeavour to establish and implement procedures relating to road safety impact assessments, road safety audits, management of road network safety and safety inspections for the roads of the international E-road network have yet to come into effect. Similarly, an e-CMR – or an electronic version of a consignment note – still awaits Contracting Parties' agreement on procedures and implementation. So far, only seven countries have acceded to the Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the electronic consignment note. On-going road transport work also includes an examination – led by Turkey - of the "Draft convention aligning bilateral agreements on international road transport with the mandatory rules of multilateral instruments governing international road transit", and development of a proposal for a new multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS), which is strongly supported by the government of Switzerland. Finally, the Republic of Moldova acceded to the Convention on the contract for the international carriage of passengers and luggage by road (CVR).

One of the central challenges in road transport will continue to be the implementation of the digital tachograph. A more pressing issue, however, will be reconciling the broader challenges of the AETR Agreement. To-date, AETR Contracting Parties have demonstrated an urgent need to solve the problems related to the Agreement, including its complicated relationship with the European Union legal regime. While actions taken to address the issues relating to the AETR and the digital tachograph have been constructive, further continued efforts on the part of the secretariat and strong political impetus are essential.

Rail Transport

In accordance with the Position Paper towards unified railway law in the Pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors, the Working Party on Rail Transport worked on the development of an Inter-Governmental Document (Joint Declaration) to be signed by the Ministers of countries interested in Euro-Asian rail transport at the forthcoming session of the Inland Transport Committee (26–28 February 2013).

The major challenge will be to progress, on the basis of the Position Paper, towards unified railway law, on the agreed strategy towards operational and legal facilitation procedures for pan-European rail transport operations, particularly on Euro-Asian corridors, and to ensure implementation of concrete measures in line with established milestones. A particular challenge will be to arrive at short-term improvements for Euro-Asian rail transport operations based on harmonized contractual arrangements that provide a "bridge" between the two existing legal railway regimes.

Inland Waterway Transport



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A large package of amendments to the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) was adopted in 2012 that provide for harmonization and a pan-European framework of navigational rules applicable on canals and rivers, such as the Danube, Mosel, Rhine and Sava. Also, further steps were taken to facilitate at the pan-European level the mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and the harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation.

Border Crossing Facilitation and the TIR Convention

In 2012 the accession of Morocco to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention) brought the number of Contracting Parties to 56. The secretariat and Contracting Parties, in cooperation with international railway organizations such as the Organisation for Cooperation between Railways and OTIF, worked towards developing a plan of action to speed up the introduction at national level of the provisions of Annex 9, which entered into force on 30 November 2011. Annex 9 introduces a wide set of measures to facilitate rail freight border crossing, which promotes:

- minimum infrastructure and staff requirements for border (interchange) stations;
- cooperation between adjacent countries at border (interchange) stations;
- reciprocal recognition of all forms of control;
- selective and simplified controls on the basis of risk assessment;
- moving of certain forms of controls to the stations of departure and destination;
- setting up time limits for border clearance and monitoring actual border delays;
- the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) systems; and
- the use of the combined CIM/SMGS railway consignment note, as a Customs document.

Morocco became the 56th party to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods

The secretariat and the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) continued to monitor the implementation of the Convention and launched a recurrent survey of Contracting Parties on application at the national level of Annex 8 on road transport. The outcome of the survey will be available at the beginning of 2013.

An extensive package of amendment proposals to the TIR Convention came into force clearly defining responsibilities and liabilities of the major players in the TIR system (Customs, operators and guarantors) in case of infringements. The TIR Administrative Committee also adopted amendments on a new Annex 9, part III to the TIR Convention to introduce the conditions and requirements for the authorization of an international organization (currently the International Road Transport Union) to take on responsibility for the effective organization and functioning of an international guarantee system and to print and distribute TIR Carnets. Unless an objection is raised, these amendments are expected to enter into force in 2013.

The technical aspects of the computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR project) will shortly be finalized and the financial implications of eTIR have also been addressed with a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA).

The secretariat has successfully launched a new IT application, ITDBonline+, which provides on-line access to the International TIR database (ITDB) which contains information on all operators who have ever been authorized to use the TIR procedure (around 60,000 records). With this new software, not only can countries consult the ITDB data, but also modify them on-line when necessary.

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Major challenges for the TIR Convention will be to address the financial implications of eTIR, based on the CBA and identify sources of funding, as well as to draft legal amendments to the current TIR Convention to cater for electronic data interchange technologies. Another issue will be to ensure the smooth implementation of the TIR procedure in the newly created Customs union of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and their neighbours.

Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Under the auspices of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, an Expert Group including ILO, IMO and UNECE finalized the first draft of a Code of Practice for packing cargo transport units. This code should provide scientific rules and policy guidance to allow Governments and the transport and insurance industries to develop globally harmonized procedures and regulations for enhanced safety and efficiency in international freight transport. During 2013, this draft code will be reviewed by the competent organs of ILO, IMO and UNECE and is expected to be adopted by the three organizations in 2014.



ITDBonline+ provides on-line access to the International TIR database

Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

Kyrgyzstan and Turkey acceded to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP) in 2012. A number of countries transposed ATP provisions into domestic legislation covering refrigerated transport. Notably, the ATP became applicable to domestic transport of perishable foodstuffs by road in the Russian Federation from April 2012.

The Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) adopted amendments to Annex 1, Appendix 1 of ATP aimed at improving the certification procedure for ATP equipment, and advice for inclusion in the ATP Handbook on the placement of temperature measuring and recording instruments aimed at ensuring that the correct temperatures are met at all times for the carriage of chilled and frozen foodstuffs.

Amendments to the ATP introducing a testing procedure for multi-compartment multi-temperature transport equipment are expected to enter into force in 2013. This type of refrigerated transport equipment is commonly used by the big supermarket chains and allows carrying different cargoes at different temperatures simultaneously. This equipment makes up as much as 30 per cent of the refrigerated transport fleet in some countries. Challenges in 2013 will include the further revision of Annex 1, Appendix 1 of ATP and continued discussion on extending the scope of ATP to cover fresh fruit and vegetables.

Multi-compartment multi-temperature equipment allows carrying different cargoes at different temperatures simultaneously

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Transport Infrastructure: better access to opportunities

TEM and TER

The Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project and the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project represent specific platforms for cooperation between participating countries in road and rail transport. Sixteen countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus participate in the TER Project and fourteen of them also participate in the TEM Project. UNECE is the Executing Agency for both projects. The TEM and TER Cooperation Trust Fund Agreements make the Projects self-sustained, financed by direct contributions from the member countries and ensure the implementation of their main objectives.

At a meeting held in 2012 in Ankara on research and development, ITS, road/rail intermodal innovations and road safety, participating experts elaborated an Action Plan to follow up the TEM and TER Master Plan Revision. In 2013 activities will include completion of the missing or insufficient data in the Master Plan Revision and efficient monitoring of its implementation. The TER Steering Committee has also decided to elaborate a TER Master Plan for High Speed Railways.

The future challenges concerning the TEM and TER Projects are, among others, their extension to observer countries (Belarus, Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine) as well as their extension to the countries participating in the Revision of the Master Plan, i.e. Albania, Azerbaijan and Montenegro; the full integration of new member countries (Armenia and Serbia); monitoring the implementation of the TER and TEM Master Plan Revision; financing the development of motorway, road and rail transport infrastructures; road and rail safety and security issues; strengthening the support by the local staff of the TEM and TER Project Central Offices in Warsaw and Bratislava; and solving the managerial situation of both Projects as from 1 January 2014, when the assignment of the present Project Manager will terminate.

EATL

The Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project has the objective of identifying main Euro-Asian road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation. An expert group established under the project proved to be a good cooperation mechanism for the coordinated development of coherent Euro-Asian inland transport links.

The 27 member countries of the EATL project continued to work closely with the secretariat to finalize Phase II and produce the final report. The project continued to attract interest and expanded its coverage to 29 countries after Poland and Serbia joined the group in 2012. The Phase II report will be presented at the Second Meeting of EATL Ministers of Transport in Geneva on 26 February 2013. The Ministers are expected to endorse the report and provide impetus for Phase III.

The primary goal of Phase II was the revision of EATL priority transport infrastructure projects identified in Phase I and the development of an up-dated international investment plan for new projects that would entail a consistent and realistic short-, medium- and long-term investment strategy for the identified EATL routes. This included an extensive inventory of specific road, rail, inland waterway, maritime port, inland terminal and other infrastructure projects for the participating countries, together with their estimated budget and an implementation timetable. A total of 311 transport infrastructure projects were proposed



The Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project now counts 29 countries

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in Phase II for inclusion in the updated EATL investment plan, consisting of non-completed Phase I projects and new projects added in Phase II. The implementation of all projects identified as critical to improve the entire EATL network would require as much as \$215 billion.

The work completed so far has made it clear that developing multi-country cooperation for international transport corridors and networks, and particularly the Euro-Asian inland transport links, is a long-term undertaking, requiring a great deal of effort and perseverance, as well as enhanced coordination and cooperation among all countries.



Blue Book on E-waterways and ports

The Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) and its expert groups finalized and published an updated inventory of E waterways and ports ("Blue Book") comprising, at the pan-European level, more than 29,000 km of navigable inland waterways. In addition to a map of the European Inland Waterways (including E waterways), the secretariat set up a database allowing on-line monitoring of all infrastructure standards stipulated in the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways (AGN).

Financing Transport Infrastructure

The Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) held a workshop in November 2012 on Public Private Partnerships (PPP) schemes and railways financing, prepared by the secretariat with the Community of European Railways and Infrastructure Companies and the International Union of Railways. The role of Governments and IFIs in the planning, financing and construction of efficient railways infrastructure was discussed, as were:

- types of PPP schemes that can be implemented for railway infrastructures;
- case studies and best practices in railway infrastructure financing; and
- priorities and obstacles expressed by the railways organizations.

Analytical activities

The Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) provides a pan-European forum for exchange of ideas about the progress and challenges concerning sustainable inland transport. It aims to identify the global trends and developments which may have important implications for the transport sector and challenges that the sector is facing, to review and analyse them, and to make relevant policy recommendations that should lead to the development of sustainable transport systems. It therefore conducts preliminary analysis of emerging transport issues that could be later on taken over by specialized ITC working parties for further consideration and study.

In 2012, UNECE published *Transport Trends and Economics 2011-2012*, launched as a platform for UNECE member States to share their experiences with transport policies, best practices, as well as perspectives and plans for the years ahead. In addition to research and analysis by the secretariat, both academics and businesses provided their views on specific transport modes or transport policy segments as well as their expectations regarding short term transport trends.

Under the transport and competitiveness project, a gap analysis was carried out, of available tools and models to present how this sector contributes to national competitiveness. Based on this, in 2011 the ITC set up a task force to develop a simple methodology which would be able to measure the performance of national transport systems, i.e. the methodology for development of the Transport Development Index

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(TDI). The TDI specifies the set of indicators used to quantify the effectiveness of national transport systems. The choice of set of indicators and aggregation method is thus based on the role of transport for national competitiveness.

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

The main UNECE capacity building and technical assistance activities in transport are focused on providing advisory services, strategic guidance and administrative support for technical cooperation projects, designed to develop coherent pan-European transport networks, corridors and areas, and Euro-Asian transport links. Further objectives concentrate on strengthening national legal and regulatory frameworks on road safety and organizing capacity-building projects, workshops, seminars and training courses aimed at assisting countries in acceding to and implementing UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards, transferring of know-how and sharing best practices, as well as implementing global commitments in transport. In this respect, technical cooperation activities in 2012 took place in Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Transport Statistics

The Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP6) continued to harmonize and, to the extent possible, standardize the collection and dissemination of transport data in the UNECE region, in close cooperation with Eurostat and the International Transport Forum (ITF) of OECD. Progress was achieved in 2012 towards a commonly agreed definition of "seriously injured", which will be of major importance for the road safety work within the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).

A workshop took place in Kiev for CIS countries on the use of the Common Questionnaire with special focus on methodology and road accidents statistics. This provided an opportunity for CIS transport statisticians to become more familiar with the on-line UNECE tools for gathering transport statistics. This capacity building activity, jointly organized by the three partner-organizations for transport data collection (EUROSTAT/ITF/UNECE) aimed at facilitating the use of the Common Questionnaire and reducing the rate of non-response.

New methodologies and streamlined procedures will need to be developed in 2013 to ensure that the planned E road and E rail traffic censuses, to be undertaken in 2015 in UNECE member States, will continue to remain an important instrument for policymakers to evaluate traffic developments along important pan-European transport corridors.

Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP)

In 2012, the Steering Committee of THE PEP organized a symposium on "Green and Health-friendly mobility for sustainable urban life", in line with priority goal No. 3 of the Amsterdam Declaration adopted at the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (read more on page 27).



The secretariat assists countries in acceding to and implementing UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards

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Inland Transport Security

Following the Inland Transport Committee's endorsement of recommendations made by the UNECE Multidisciplinary Inland Transport Security Expert Group on how to enhance inland transport security, the secretariat continued to provide a platform for governments, academia and the private sector to exchange views and best practices. In July 2012, the annual "Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum" was jointly organized by UNECE and OSCE; the consolidated proceedings will be published shortly. The next Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum is planned for February 2013 on the subject of "Secure Parking Areas".

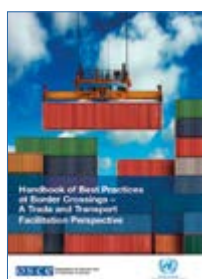


Partnerships

The main stakeholders and partners are UNECE member States and Contracting Parties to legal instruments. However, complex and most common challenges in the transport sector, such as economic efficiency, environmental pollution, accessibility, need to be addressed through interdisciplinary and intersectoral work, jointly with all stakeholders: governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, academia and businesses. In pursuing mandates and objectives of the Committee, the Transport Division is fostering such an approach through collaboration with other stakeholders across relevant sectors.

The European Union

The EU — both through its member States and through the European Commission representatives — actively participates in all intergovernmental transport forums serviced by the UNECE secretariat. Several legislations adopted at the UNECE level are transposed into EU legislation, particularly as regards vehicle regulations and transport of dangerous goods. In addition, EU has proven an invaluable ally in the efforts to implement the decade of action for road safety, while the Expert Group on AETR has provided the much needed neutral ground for fruitful discussions on the institutional structure of the Agreement, something for which EU cooperation is indispensable.



Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

UNECE and OSCE continued their close working relationship in 2012. Since 2006 both organizations have been making constructive efforts toward facilitating international transport and border crossing and have organized a number of successful joint capacity building events. In 2012 the *Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Transport and Trade Facilitation Perspective* was published jointly.

The main purpose of the Handbook is to assist countries in developing more efficient border and Customs policies by promoting existing best practices in this field. It provides concrete examples from across the UNECE region and beyond on how border crossing points can be made more efficient and secure, thereby allowing smooth trade and transport operations, while at the same time reducing the possibilities for corruption, illicit trafficking and transnational crime and terrorism. The Handbook describes different benchmarking techniques to measure performance

UNECE and OSCE jointly published a Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings

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of various border control agencies. UNECE and OSCE have organized a series of events to promote the Handbook, including a round table in June 2012 in Geneva.

International Transport Forum

The Transport Division has continued to collaborate and contribute to the agenda of the meetings of Ministers of Transport of the ITF countries. At the 2012 session of the International Transport Forum “Seamless Transport: Making Connections”, the Transport Division presented its work and participated in various panels and organized special events. It also organized a stand with the most recent publications, which was well visited during the session.

Eurasian Economic Commission

The newly created Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) is the successor organization of the Commission of the Eurasian Economic Community Customs Union with which UNECE signed a Memorandum of Understanding. EEC established a common Customs territory with no internal borders and a Single Economic Space. A high level delegation of EEC attended the WP30 session in 2012 for the first time with a view to establishing long-term channels of communication and cooperation in the areas of:

- Implementing the TIR Convention on Customs transit in the territory of the Customs Union;
- Increasing the role of EEC in the implementation of the key UNECE legal instruments for transport and border crossing facilitation;
- the need to share and discuss with WP30 details and possible consequences of new legislation that EEC plans to introduce in the future;
- organizing joint events in the future or EEC extending invitation to UNECE to take part in events organized by EEC.

Challenges for 2013 and Beyond

2012 was a year during which UNECE’s work on transport noted several successes, but at the same time experienced a transition into a global environment with new and different needs and demands. Thus, the challenge for the Transport Division will be to stay ahead of developments and offer cutting-edge solutions to contemporary mobility concerns. For this to be possible, it is pivotal to ensure the right institutional structure for global and regional activities, to keep pace with technological innovation and to contribute to sustainable development.

UNECE’s work in transport is not only of global relevance, but is also of global demand, with an increasing geographical coverage of its international legal instruments and growing interest in its regular work by non-UNECE member States. This is particularly evident in the areas of road traffic safety, vehicle regulations, the transport of dangerous goods and border crossing facilitation.

While the multitude of legal instruments administered by UNECE have reached a level of maturity and high functionality, the demand to continually update legislation and to effectively monitor implementation will present a formidable challenge in the coming years.

The planned activities for 2013, such as the EATL ministerial meeting (26 February 2013), the second global United Nations Road Safety Week (6-12 May 2013) and the special WP.1 session that will be held in India, are expected to increase the visibility of UNECE and to showcase the concrete results achieved to date.

There is growing interest in UNECE’s work from countries outside the region

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One of the biggest challenges for transport activities in the UNECE region in the forthcoming years will be to continue building on the momentum created by the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference. The Conference recognized the importance of sustainable transport and mobility in the context of overall social, economic and environmentally sustainable development. Strong and unified support by UNECE member countries will be indispensable to achieve the goal of transport becoming one of the generally adopted sustainable development goals in the post-2015 United Nations agenda.

The forthcoming 10 year review of the Almaty programme of action in 2014 will require intensive preparations in 2013 in cooperation with UNESCAP, while demanding work will also continue on two horizontal projects: ForFITS which will be concluded by December 2013 and the incorporation of ITS into the legal instruments of the Transport Division, towards which work will continue in 2013.

Finally, the new UNDA funded project "Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration", initiated by UNECE and launched in cooperation with the other United Nations regional commissions, is a major accomplishment but at the same time a challenging task that will require expertise and effective cooperation mechanisms to deliver the envisaged results of strengthening the capacity to use a versatile customs-to-customs information network in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

From the secretariat's perspective a continued challenge is to continue to perform at full capacity with the current resources, while there is an anticipation by governments to pick up pace and produce further results, to support additional activities and initiatives and to create stronger synergies with other sectors and organizations. New and extrabudgetary resources will therefore be sought.



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Governing Bodies

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Executive Committee

Chairperson:

Mr. Uglješa ZVEKIĆ (Serbia)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Eviatar MANOR (Israel)

Mrs. Maria CIOBANU (Romania)

Sectoral Committees

Committee on Environmental Policy

Chairperson:

Ms. Elisabete QUINTAS DA SILVA (Portugal)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Michel AMAND (Belgium)

Ms. Nino TKHILAVA (Georgia)

Mr. Massimo COZZONE (Italy)

Mr. Bulat YESSEKIN (Kazakhstan)

Ms. Jelena KNEZEVIC (Montenegro)

Ms. Martine ROHN-BROSSARD (Switzerland)

Mr. Vadym POZHARSKIY (Ukraine)

Mr. John Michael MATUSZAK (United States of America)

Inland Transport Committee

Chairperson:

Mr. Jerzy KLENIEWSKI (Poland)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Jean-Paul GAILLY (Belgium)

Mrs. Isabelle PAILLET (France)

Mr. Sergey ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

Members:

Mr. Zdenko ANTEŠIĆ (Croatia)

Mr. Gogita GVENETADZE (Georgia)

Mr. Björn ORIWOHL (Germany)

Mr. Antonio ERARIO (Italy)

Mr. Bob OUDSHOORN (Netherlands)

Mr. Claudiu Octavian DUMITRESCU (Romania)

Mr. Björn STAFBOM (Sweden)

Mr. Jean-Claude SCHNEUWLY (Switzerland)

Mr. Seref TABAK (Turkey)

Mr. Abdusamat MUMINOV (Uzbekistan)

Conference of European Statisticians

Chairperson:

Mr. Enrico GIOVANNINI (Italy)

Members:

Mr. Wayne SMITH (Canada)

Ms. Marjo BRUUN (Finland)

Mr. Geoff BASCAND (New Zealand)

Ms. Irena KRIZMAN (Slovenia)

Mr. Oleksandr OSAULENKO (Ukraine)

Ms. Jil MATHESON (United Kingdom)

Mr. Eduardo Sojo GARZA-ALDAP (Mexico)

Observers to the CES Bureau:

Mr. Walter RADERMACHER (Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Union)

Ms. Martine DURAND (OECD)

Ms. Adelheid BÜRGI-SCHMELZ (IMF)

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

Ms. Shaida BADIEE (World Bank)

Mr. Paul CHEUNG (United Nations Statistics Division)

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Chairperson:

Mr. Gunnar GJERDE (Norway)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Jürgen KEINHORST (Germany)

Mr. Sergio GARRIBBA (Italy)

Mr. Talyat ALIEV (Russian Federation)

Mr. Jean-Christophe FÜEG (Switzerland)

Mr. Yagshygeldi KAKAYEV (Turkmenistan)

Mrs. Natalia BOITSUN (Ukraine)

Mrs. Barbara McKEE (United States)

Committee on Trade

Chairperson:

Mr. Andrei SAVINYKH (Belarus)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Ismayil ALAKBAROV (Azerbaijan)

Mr. Georgi STOEV (Bulgaria)

Ms. Erica KÖSZEGI (Hungary)

Mr. Yao-hua TAN (Netherlands)

Committee on Forest and Forest Industry

Chairman:

Mr. Heikki GRANHOLM (Finland)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Ms. Linda LANGNER (United States of America)

Mr. Christoph DUERR (Switzerland)

Ms. Anna ZORNACZUK-LUBA (Poland)

Committee on Housing and Land Management

Chairperson:

Mr. Wolfgang FÖRSTER (Austria)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Azer KHANLAROV (Azerbaijan)

Mr. Damir PAHIĆ (Croatia)

Ms. Daniela GRABMÜLLEROVA (Czech Republic)

Ms. Lise NIELSEN (Denmark)

Ms. Tamar RUHKADZE (Georgia)

Ms. Shulamith GERTEL (Israel)

Ms. Elena BEJENARU (Republic of Moldova)

Mr. Ilya PONOMARIOV (Russian Federation)

Ms. Svetlana RISTIĆ (Serbia)

Ms. Elena SZOLGAYOVÁ (Slovakia)

Ms. Maria ULFVARSON ÖSTLUND (Sweden)

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Chairperson:

Mr. Matti PIETARINEN (Finland)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Andrei POPOV (Belarus)

Ms. Kris EASTER (United States)

Mr. Salvatore ZECCHINI (Italy)

Intergovernmental structure

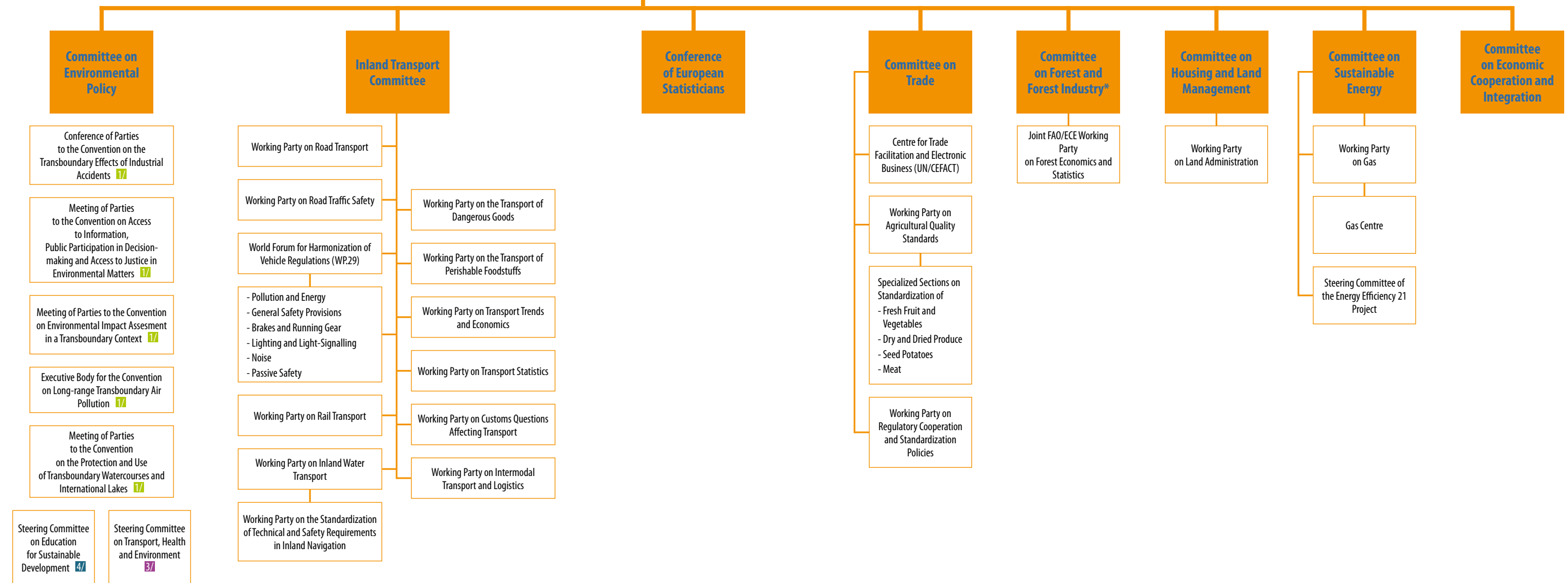
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Working Group on Ageing



1/ Not a subsidiary body of UNECE but serviced by UNECE secretariat. Its members consist of UNECE member countries that have ratified the Convention (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.

Economic and Social Council:
Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals 27

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 27

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals 27

* Change of name endorsed by EXCOM in February 2013

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Member states and member states representatives

Albania	H.E. Ms. Filloreta KODRA
Andorra	H.E. Mr. Enric TARRADO VIVES
Armenia	H.E. Mr. Charles AZNAVOUR
Austria	H.E. Mr. Christian STROHAL
Azerbaijan	H.E. Mr. Murad NAJAFBAYLI
Belarus	H.E. Mr. Mikhail KHVOSTOV
Belgium	H.E. Mr. Bertrand DE CROMBRUGGHE
Bosnia and Herzegovina	H.E. Mr. Miloš PRICA
Bulgaria	H.E. Mr. Ivan PIPERKOV
Canada	H.E. Ms. Elissa GOLBERG
Croatia	H.E. Ms. Vesna VUKOVIĆ
Cyprus	H.E. Mr. Leonidas PANTELIDES
Czech Republic	H.E. Ms. Kateřina SEQUENSOVÁ
Denmark	H.E. Mr. Steffen SMIDT
Estonia	H.E. Mr. Jüri SEILENTHAL
Finland	H.E. Ms. Päivi KAIRAMO
France	H.E. M. Nicolas NIEMTCHINOW
Georgia	Mr. Shalva TSISKARASHVILI a.i.
Germany	H.E. Mr. Hanns Heinrich SCHUMACHER
Greece	H.E. Mr. Alexandros ALEXANDRIS
Hungary	H.E. Mr. Istvan MAJOR
Iceland	H.E. Mr. Martin EYJÓLFSSON
Ireland	H.E. Mr. Gerard CORR
Israel	H.E. Mr. Eviatar MANOR
Italy	H.E. Ms. Laura MIRACHIAN
Kazakhstan	H.E. Mr. Mukhtar TILEUBERDI
Kyrgyzstan	H.E. Ms. Gulnara ISKAKOVA
Latvia	H.E. Mr. Raimonds JANSONS
Liechtenstein	H.E. Mr. Norbert FRICK
Lithuania	H.E. Mr. Rytis PAULAUSKAS
Luxembourg	H.E. Mr. Jean-Marc HOSCHEIT
Malta	H.E. Mr. John Paul GRECH
Monaco	H.E. Ms. Carole LANTERI
Montenegro	H.E. Mr. Ljubiša PEROVIĆ
Netherlands	H.E. Mr. Roderick VAN SCHREVEN
Norway	H.E. Mr. Steffen KONGSTAD
Poland	H.E. Mr. Remigiusz HENCZEL
Portugal	H.E. Ms. Graça ANDRESEN GUIMARÃES
Republic of Moldova	H.E. Mr. Victor MORARU
Romania	H.E. Ms. Maria CIOBANU
Russian Federation	H.E. Mr. Alexey BORODAVKIN
San Marino	H.E. Mr. Guido BELLATTI CECCOLI
Serbia	H.E. Mr. Uglješa ZVEKIĆ
Slovakia	H.E. Mr. Fedor ROSOCHA
Slovenia	H.E. Mr. Matjaž KOVAČIČ
Spain	H.E. Ms. Ana María MENÉNDEZ PÉREZ
Sweden	H.E. Mr. Jan KNUTSSON
Switzerland	H.E. Mr. Remigi WINZAP
Tajikistan	H.E. Mr. Salohiddin NASRIDDINOV
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Mr. Dusko UZUNOVSKI a.i.
Turkey	H.E. Mr. Oğuz DEMIRALP
Turkmenistan	H.E. Mr. Esen AYDOGDYEV
Ukraine	H.E. Mr. Mykola MAIMESKUL
United Kingdom	H.E. Ms. Karen PIERCE
United States of America	H.E. Ms. Betty E. KING
Uzbekistan	H.E. Ms. Goulnara KARIMOVA

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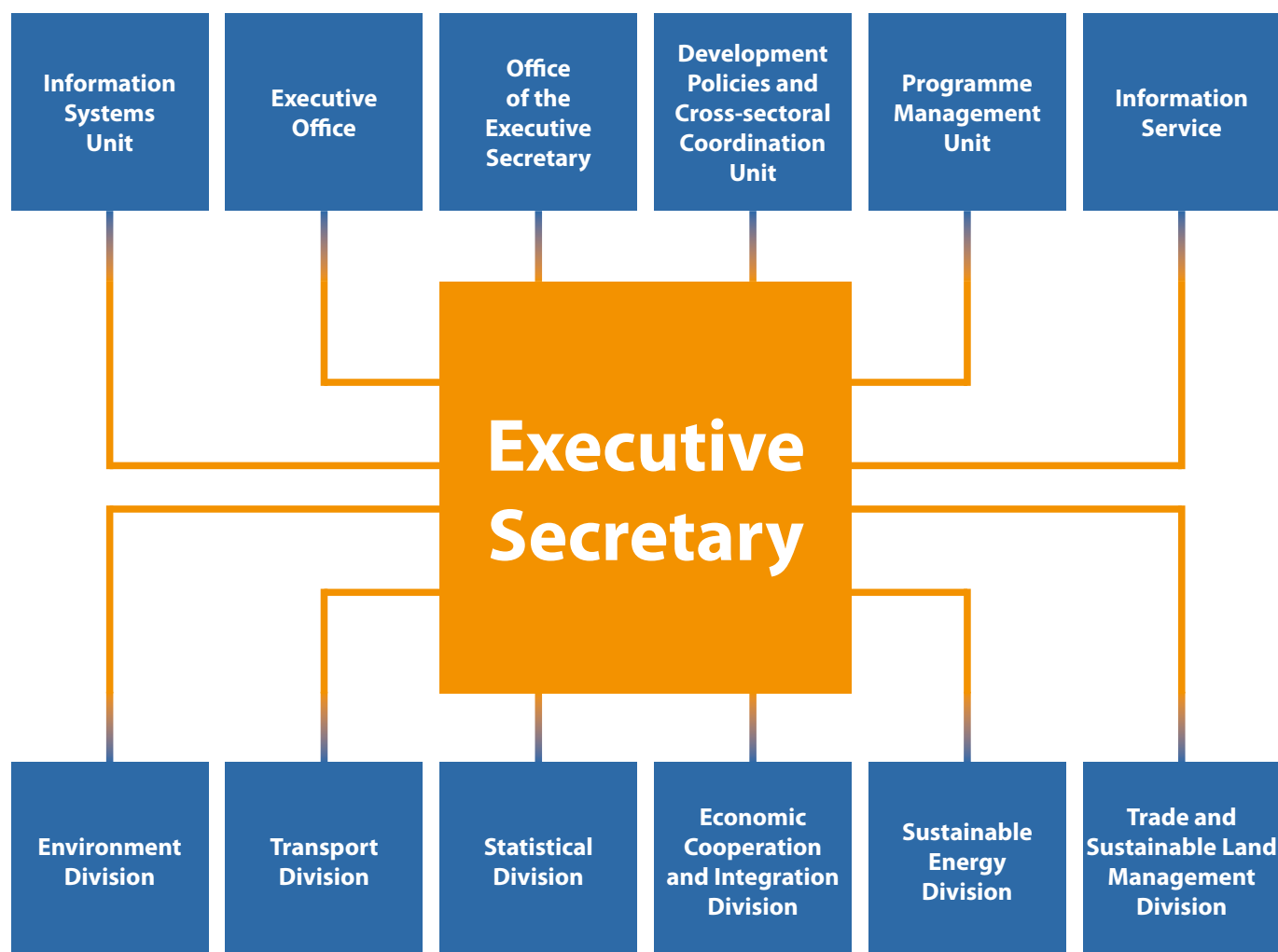
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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE		
STAFF RESOURCES		
TYPE OF BUDGET	2010-2011	2012-2013
	(Total number of staff)	(Total number of staff)
Regular budget staff (section 20)	200	200
Regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC) staff * (section 23)	6	6
Extrabudgetary staff	24	30
Total	230	236

* Six Regional Advisers

Management

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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Sven Alkalaj
Executive Secretary

Office of the Executive Secretary



Andrey Vasilyev
Deputy Executive Secretary



Parisudhi Kalampasut
*Secretary of the Commission and
Officer-in-Charge of Economic Cooperation
and Integration Division*



Monika Linn
*Principal Adviser to the
Executive Secretary*



Environment Division
Marco Keiner
Director



Transport Division
Eva Molnar
Director



Statistical Division
Lidia Bratanova
Director



**Trade and Sustainable Land
Management Division**
Virginia Cram-Martos
Director



**Sustainable Energy
Division**
Scott Foster
Director



Programme Management Unit
Zamira Eshmambetova
*Chef de Cabinet, Officer-in-Charge
and Director of Programme Management Unit*

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

A. REGULAR BUDGET (in thousands of US dollars)

TYPE OF BUDGET	2010-2011 Actual expenditures	2012 Allotment	2013 Balance of allotment	2012-2013 Total Allotment
Regular Budget (Section 20)				
Post items	67 141.3	30 311.8	38 447.6	68 759.4
Non-Post items	4 221.9	2 330.9	2 284.3	4 615.2
Total:	71 363.2	32 642.7	40 731.9	73 374.6

B. EXTRABUDGETARY (in thousands of US dollars)

TYPE OF FUND	2010-2011 Actual expenditures	2012 Estimated Expenditures	2013 Estimated Expenditures	2012-2013 Estimated Expenditures
Extrabudgetary				
General Trust Funds	6 727.6	4 394.7	3 717.2	8 111.9
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	17 386.6	9 391.8	10 431.2	19 823.0
Total:	24 114.2	13 786.5	14 148.4	27 934.9

C. OTHER REGULAR BUDGET FUNDING (in thousands of US dollars)

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 23)				
	2010-2011 Actual expenditures	2012 Allotment	2013 Balance of allotment	2012-2013 Total Allotment
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	2 834.5	1 731.7	1 637.2	3 368.9
Other non-post items	611.5	308.8	308.3	617.1
Total:	3 446.0	2 040.5	1 945.5	3 986.0
United Nations Development Account (Section 36)				
	2010-2011 Actual expenditures	2012 Allotment	2013 Balance of allotment	2012-2013 Total Allotment
Non-post items	1 370.2	1 924.1	1 366.6	3 290.7
Total:	1 370.2	1 924.1	1 366.6	3 290.7