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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

The Committee on Environmental Policy works to reduce the pollution burden and to improve environmental management in the UNECE region by implementing the goals in the document “Future strategic directions for the environment” adopted in 2003 (CEP/2004/2).

In particular, the Committee will:

1. Provide policy advice and expert assistance and develop, as appropriate, legally binding instruments, recommendations, methodologies and guidelines for improving environmental management in member countries;
2. Conduct and support international activities which promote environmental protection and sustainable development in the region and promote cooperation among all parties concerned in order to make action effective and cost-efficient, as well as to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making with the involvement of stakeholders in civil society;
3. Launch international initiatives, including, where appropriate, the preparation and servicing of ministerial meetings, in particular the “Environment for Europe” ministerial process, by providing secretariat support and substantive contributions;

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4. Promote cooperation and share experience among the UNECE environmental conventions by providing support to the effective monitoring and improved implementation of and compliance with these instruments and their cross-cutting provisions;
5. Strengthen environmental information and observation capacity, particularly in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE), in order to provide reliable and relevant information on the state of the environment as a basis for improved policy-making and public awareness;
6. Promote policy instruments for strengthening the capabilities of countries in EECCA and SEE through technical assistance, advisory missions and capacity-building to prevent and reverse environmental degradation by fully integrating environmental considerations into other policies;
7. Contribute to the UNECE regional implementation of the environmental pillar of sustainable development and support the regional implementation meetings organized in preparation for the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;
8. Regularly review its programme of work to ensure the coherence of its activities with the overall objectives of UNECE; develop synergies and propose to the UNECE Commission modalities for cooperation with other Sectoral Committees on issues of common concern;
9. Facilitate the coordination of environment-related programmes in the region and cooperate with other United Nations Regional Commissions and with international organizations, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) and Regional Environmental Centres (RECs), in order to avoid duplication of work and enhance synergies;
10. Contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.