

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

REPORT 2012

UNECE for a Stronger and Greener Economy



UNITED NATIONS

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New York and Geneva, 2012

ECE/INF/2012/1

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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
AGC	European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines
AGN	European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance
AGR	European Agreement on Main International Arteries
AGTC	European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations
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
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EEA	European Environment 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
EurAsEC	Eurasian Economic Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GGP	Generations and Gender Programme
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
RID	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail
SEA	Strategic environmental assessment
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TEM	Trans-European Motorways
TER	Trans-European Railways

THE PEP	Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme
TIR	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets
UN	United Nations
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UN/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
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Note: \$ are US dollars

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



The sixty-fourth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was held on 29-31 March 2011, during which I had the honour of being elected as Chair of the Commission, with Israel and Romania as Vice-chairs, for the coming two years. The Commission debated two major topics: economic integration in the region: new developments and new challenges in the light of the economic crisis; and the role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the region. Looking towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, the Commission session provided many examples of the practical tools developed by UNECE to help member States cooperate and make concrete progress towards sustainable development.

The Commission also decided to initiate a review of the reform adopted in December 2005. This review will ensure that UNECE is well positioned to continue delivering concrete results for the benefit of its member States and their citizens. The ultimate goal is therefore to further strengthen UNECE's relevance for its constituency. The review process has been at the centre of the agenda of the Executive Committee ever since. During the second half of 2011 and the first months of 2012, the Executive Committee has reviewed a number of programmes of work and engaged in very fruitful and enlightening discussions with the Chairs of the relevant Committees. We will continue this process with a view to reaching a conclusion by summer 2012.

The Executive Committee was honoured by the participation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at its meeting on 18 October 2011, and had the pleasure of an exchange with Mr. Ban Ki-moon on his "five opportunities to shape the world of tomorrow" and on the contribution that UNECE can make to each of them.

UNECE is very much a results-oriented organization, thanks to a modus operandi in which member States and the secretariat join hands, engage in a dialogue and together take action in the interest and for the benefit of all. I am confident that the review will provide a renewed focus and impetus to ensure that UNECE stays dynamic, effective and flexible to face and respond to ever increasing new challenges.

On behalf of UNECE member States I wish to thank Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary, for his leadership and cooperation over the past three years. He has now left UNECE to take up new responsibilities as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. We all wish him well in this very challenging assignment.

I look forward to continuing this journey in close cooperation with the incoming Executive Secretary.

Uglješa Zvekić
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Serbia



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



A year of challenges and accomplishments

2011 was a year rich in accomplishments. The first participation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at UNECE's Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting on 18 October 2011 was a special moment where he heard a first-hand appreciation by member States of the achievements of UNECE. The Secretary-General expressed his recognition of the value of UNECE's products not only for the UNECE region but also beyond. He underlined the role that UNECE could play in linking the UN global agenda with regional and country priorities. Thanking the member States for their support for UNECE, he referred to the five priorities set out for his second term and sought the active engagement of UNECE member States.

The preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, have already contributed to shaping the public debate around the Green Economy as the heart of a new sustainable development paradigm.

Over the past years, UNECE had already launched various activities to make this concept operational. At the Regional Preparatory Meeting to Rio+20 convened by UNECE on 1–2 December 2011, the need for a green economy road map was strongly backed and participants stressed that it should be clearly linked to the general objective of poverty eradication.

On the road to Rio, we have made efforts to better structure our efforts in a coherent framework, under the motto "UNECE for a stronger and greener economy", to better support our member States on the pathway towards a greener future. The road towards a green economy is the common thread of this annual report, one which will guide the reader through our diverse activities.

As it is now the case every two years, the 64th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, held on 29–31 March 2011, constituted a special occasion to reflect on the activities and achievements of the past two years and define priorities for the next two years. I am particularly satisfied that the Commission reconfirmed its support to UNECE as a multilateral platform for promoting pan-European and Transatlantic economic integration and facilitating greater cooperation amongst its member States.

The *Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference* held in Astana on 21–23 September 2011 culminated in a Ministerial Declaration, the Astana Water Action initiative, and the launch of the Astana Green Bridge Initiative by Kazakhstan.

The International Conference "Developing a Plan of Action to Strengthen Stability and Sustainable Development of Afghanistan through Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia" and the meeting of the SPECA Economic Forum were both held in Ashgabat under the leadership of Turkmenistan who took over the chairmanship of SPECA during 2011 and will continue in this role through 2012.



The Secretary-General at the EXCOM meeting, with the Chair of the Commission, the Executive Secretary and the Director-General of UNOG.

UNECE products and services such as transport agreements and regulations, the Aarhus Convention, the Water Convention or PPP guidelines, to name just a few, are more and more used at the global level, benefitting more than 100 countries beyond the UNECE region.

Enhanced cooperation at all levels

In 2011, cooperation with other United Nations bodies continued to be high on UNECE's agenda. Interaction with the regional commissions included, in particular, joint initiatives in the framework of the launch of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety, and the decision to initiate the preparation of a joint roadmap for enhanced trade facilitation. At the global level, UNECE cooperates closely with other partners, such as UN/DESA, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNEP, WHO and WIPO. Cooperation with UN country teams and UNDP has also been strengthened.

Outside the United Nations family, we have worked on further strengthening ties in our region and beyond, with, among others, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

UNECE also cooperates with a broad range of stakeholders, including from the private sector. One good example were preparations for PPP Days 2012, the global policymaking event for public-private partnerships worldwide, organized in February 2012 by UNECE, in cooperation with the World Bank Institute and the Asian Development Bank.

Looking ahead

Coming after the International Year of Forests, 2012 will be the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All. UNECE will therefore be organizing many of its activities around the theme of sustainable energy throughout the year.

The Ministerial Conference "*Ensuring a Society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing*" will take place from 18-20 September 2012 in Vienna. The Conference will mark the tenth anniversary of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing - an important issue in our region. The Ministerial Conference will gather high-level government officials and experts from across the region to take stock and evaluate implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and the Regional Implementation Strategy since the León conference (2007) and discuss how to approach the challenges that still remain.

I leave UNECE after three years at its helm, with pride and a sense of accomplishment. I am confident that the incoming Executive Secretary will fully support our member States in the reform review process and in determining the strategic priorities of UNECE.

Ján Kubiš
Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Greening the economy through innovation

Environmental challenges require policy responses that reconcile the need to reduce the use of resources and to address climate change concerns with sustained improvements in living standards. Innovation, resulting in new technological solutions, organizational arrangements and business models, provides effective answers to this dilemma. Greening the economy will be the consequence of the decisions taken by firms and consumers as a result of the incentives and framework conditions created by public authorities. The need to support the emergence of new patterns of behaviour and the importance of business opportunities and demand factors in driving this structural transformation clearly suggest that innovation policies are going to play a central role in the efforts to green the economy.

Modern thinking on innovation policies emphasise that these are horizontal, i.e., these policies are concerned with change in the whole economy and the interactions between different institutional and productive sectors. This approach is also necessary in the efforts to green the economy, which go well beyond pure sectoral actions. Climate change mitigation policies and, more generally, the drive towards more environmentally friendly solutions, are prompting technological change in areas with traditionally low technological content, such as utilities. This increases the scope for innovation and therefore the relevance of innovation policies to green the economy.

Structural change towards a greener economy requires the development of new infrastructure. This is a substantial challenge, as the large investments required and the fact that the existing infrastructure would lose its value under more stringent environmental requirements imply that the inability to overcome these difficulties may act as a strong brake in the efforts to green the economy. Effective financing models are required that attract the private sector to the development of this infrastructure, not only to sectors with direct environmental impact, such as water and waste processing, but also to many others. Public-private partnerships provide an effective model to share risks and pool financial and other resources so that these infrastructure challenges can be tackled.

Entrepreneurship is the key driver for change

The work under the subprogramme Economic Cooperation and Integration focuses on these two main directions: knowledge-based development, including different aspects related to the promotion of **innovation**, and **public-private partnerships**. Both of them have an important role to play in facilitating the greening of the economy, including through the implementation of **capacity-building activities** which increase the ability of member States to effectively implement policy actions and develop concrete projects.

These capacity-building activities have been focused particularly in countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the mandate received, contributing to increasing the integration of the UNECE region. Efforts to green the economy have an important cross-border dimension. The focus is not only on achieving particular technological breakthroughs but on facilitating their dissemination, both within and across countries, hence the importance of capacity-building activities.

One of the highlights of the work carried out in 2011 was the International Conference "Promoting Eco-innovation: Policies and Opportunities" which took place in Tel Aviv in July 2011 in response to a proposal by the Government of Israel. The Conference brought together numerous participants – high-level policymakers, government experts, representatives from international organizations, the business sector and academia – from many UNECE member States.

The Conference put particular emphasis on the financial challenges faced by eco-innovative technologies when seeking to become fully-fledged commercial proposals. Environmental innovations need to overcome the "valley of death" – the period during which significant development resources are required that cannot yet be offset by revenues. Clean technologies and, more generally, eco-innovations often

require new business models and involve changes along the complete value-chain, resulting in the transformation of whole sectors. This goes well beyond the adoption of end-of-pipe solutions to encompass more comprehensive changes with a larger transformative potential. Given these characteristics, which impose significant coordination requirements and require costly and time-consuming infrastructure investments, financing problems are particularly acute and require policy responses to address them.

UNECE has developed a software tool, thank to the extrabudgetary support provided by the Russian Government, in the area of **innovation financing**. The software, which is available in both English and Russian, can be used for self-learning or in a class environment to facilitate discussions. This tool was used for the first time in the High-level Policy Seminar on Developing Innovative Entrepreneurship, held in Haifa,

Israel in March/April 2011 and organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre. Participants were senior officials and other innovation stakeholders from countries in economies in transition. Besides financing, other issues related to the **promotion of entrepreneurship** were considered .

Entrepreneurship is the key driver for change, including regarding the development of clean technologies. Support to entrepreneurship and the development of an entrepreneurial climate are complementary actions in the efforts to green the economy. This shift will be facilitated by firm-level support to upgrade the skills and production processes of companies, so they can adapt to new market conditions and actively promote change.

Greening the economy will be the result of the actions of entrepreneurs who seek to exploit the emerging opportunities. Environmental innovations or clean-tech include new technologies that are able to compete on price and performance, while reducing environmental impact. This implies a wide range of potential sectors for investment, encompassing energy, transportation, industrial processes, production of materials, recycling and waste, among many others.

Support to entrepreneurship and the development of an entrepreneurial climate are complementary actions in the efforts to green the economy



The International Conference on Knowledge-based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship, which took place in Baku in November 2011 and was carried out within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), included a particular focus on information and communication technologies (ICT). ICT are “general purpose technologies” that are widely recognized as having a strong impact on environmental performance and resource efficiency in many sectors, including those such as power generation, logistics and housing with significant environmental footprints. The Conference discussed ICT in the wider context of entrepreneurship and the policies for the promotion of innovation.

Collaboration between the public and private sectors serves to overcome barriers to innovation. Some large projects with significant costs and large risks can only be taken through joint efforts. Cooperation between the public and private sectors can serve to overcome weak market incentives

for the emergence of new technologies. Public involvement may be a pre-condition for the development of some risky commercial projects. Public initiatives can work as a catalyst of links between established companies and academic institutes to set up and implement research projects that can result in commercial technologies. The role of collaboration to successfully promote eco-innovation was considered in the International Conference "Promoting Eco-innovation: Policies and Opportunities" mentioned above. Collaboration was also the central topic of the substantive segment of the Applied Policy Seminar: "Policies for Innovation in the 21st Century: Broadening the Horizons of Collaboration and Risk-Sharing", organized in May as part of the fourth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

Bringing together different types of innovation stakeholders is particularly important for eco-innovation, as chain-oriented policies based on life-cycle and multi-sectoral considerations are more effective in reducing environmental pressures than those that focus exclusively on specific sectors or economic agents.

A primary policy target to facilitate technological diffusion is the increase of the absorptive capacity, which is determined by factors such as the existence of complementary infrastructure, the quality of human capital, the linkages between the various actors of the national innovation system or the type of governance. Barriers to technology transfer may be related to intellectual property rights or trade systems and have to be addressed as part of the overall country development policies. In both developed and emerging markets, supply-side, technological-push solutions are insufficient to bring about the desired outcomes – technologically superior and environmentally-friendly solutions that are widely used. Supply-side measures, such as R&D tax credits or subsidies, need to be accompanied by initiatives that increase the demand for eco-innovative products. These different factors influencing innovation are assessed in a comprehensive manner, following a systemic approach, in the national Innovation Performance Reviews. This series of participatory policy advisory projects, launched in 2010, provides a thorough assessment of the innovation capacities of a country and provide a number of policy options and recommendations to improve innovation performance,

which could guide future capacity-building activities. After the successful pilot review in Belarus, the second review was conducted in Kazakhstan in 2011, thanks to the continued financial support of the Eurasian Development Bank.

These Reviews consider also **intellectual property rights** (IPR) issues, as an important factor influencing knowledge-based development and innovation. Intellectual property rights provide innovators with a degree of protection over the results of their efforts and are thus a basic component of the incentive system to encourage innovation. However, there is a need to reach a suitable balance between the

creation of conditions for the rapid diffusion of technologies reducing environmental impacts and the incentives for innovation through the protection of IPR. Patents serve to protect inventions but also to disseminate information about technology which otherwise would remain unknown. They also therefore provide a basis for collaboration. Awareness of the potential uses of intellectual property and how these can facilitate the development of new enterprises and innovation remain important elements in the work under this subprogramme. The substantive segment at the fifth session of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual

Property in July 2011 was devoted to a discussion of experiences to raise **awareness of the role of IPRs in innovation and the dangers and economic costs of IPR infringements**. A number of focused capacity-building events, dealing with the twin issues of enforcement and commercialization of IPR, took place in Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia in 2011.

The adoption of innovations that support the greening of the economy may be impeded by the lock-in effect of existing patterns of demand associated with the existing infrastructure. Arrangements that facilitate the revamping of infrastructure are therefore particularly important and should be considered as complementary to the emphasis on innovation in the efforts to facilitate the shift towards better environmental outcomes. The work of UNECE is recognized as a source of knowledge on **public-private partnerships** (PPP), which provide a useful tool for undertaking infrastructure investments with large environmental impact that are necessary for the greening of the economy.

Insufficient awareness, inadequate legal and policy frameworks and lack of the required expertise, in particular in countries with economies in transition, constrain the use of this form of financing. UNECE has carried out numerous capacity-building activities to address these challenges. Training and knowledge-sharing activities took place in 2011 in Azerbaijan, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia. The International Conference on Promoting Efficient PPPs in Ukraine, held in Kiev in September 2011, directly addressed the use of this form of financing in a number of sectors that are particularly relevant for the greening of the economy, such as utilities and transport. On the basis of previous outputs, UNECE is developing a PPP Toolkit that includes components targeting specific sectors with a large environmental impact. A PPP Readiness Assessment initiated in 2011 in the Republic of Moldova will be followed by similar analysis in other countries, at the request of member States. Wide participation in the activities organized in this area, including the session of the Team of Specialists on Public Private Partnerships held in April 2011, has provided a platform not only for the exchange of good practices but also for the development



Barriers to technology transfer may be related to intellectual property rights or trade systems. They have to be addressed as part of the overall country development policies



of networks involving government officials, investors and practitioners, thus facilitating the identification of investment opportunities.

UNECE is also contributing to the greening of the economy through the practical help provided to develop **biomass actions plans in the Russian regions**. This pioneering initiative – the first of its kind – is based on an integrated, coordinated and cross-sectoral approach, which takes into account environment, energy, trade and transport issues.

This initiative shows how environmental concerns can be reconciled with economic development objectives through the application of innovative technologies. Within these plans, UNECE gives impetus to pilot projects that help to develop the green economy. Examples are the algae project, where algae biomass is used in cleaning wastewater, and the larch project where, in a public-private partnership setting using innovative technologies, larch is converted for the production of pulp and paper.

The way forward

Activities will continue to develop frameworks and practical tools that can be used to facilitate structural change to a greener economy in member States. Advisory work has emerged as an important direction of future activities, both in relation to knowledge-based development and public-private partnerships. This work will provide a better basis for future capacity-building activities.

*PPP Days 2012 took place
on 21-24 February 2012*

Innovation Performance Reviews provide the opportunity to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the factors that influence the ability of economies to generate and adopt innovations, including those that result in better environmental outcomes. A new initiative is under way – the International PPP Centre of Excellence in Geneva – which will support further the dissemination of best practices in this area. A major event was the International conference on the promotion and dissemination of innovative solutions in the area of Public-Private Partnerships – "PPP Days 2012" – which took place on 21-24 February 2012. This global event will give further prominence to the work carried out by UNECE in this area and will contribute to expanding its supporting network.

Implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project "Building the capacity of SPECA member countries to adopt and apply innovative clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth" is expected to begin in 2012. This project, which is the result of the collaboration between the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division and the Environment Division, shows the practical value of the tools developed regarding the promotion and financing of innovation and public private partnerships to effectively address environmental concerns.





ENVIRONMENT

Greening the economy in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

“Green economy” has gained huge momentum over the past year and will be one of the key topics of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD; Rio+20) in 2012. Green economy was therefore an important focus of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20 for the UNECE region, held on 1 and 2 December 2011 and, before that, at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference, which took place in September 2011 in Astana, where “greening the economy” was one of the two main themes.

What is green economy? A working definition from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reads: “A green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.”

It is clear that the understanding of what a green economy is does not fundamentally differ from the concept of sustainable development. And, indeed, green economy does not intend to replace but to complement sustainable development. Rather, green economy provides the missing links that can finally bring the environment and the economy together. So far, sustainable development, in theory and in practice, has suffered from the false dichotomy between the economy and the environment — between development and economic growth on the one hand, and environmental protection on the other. The new green economy concept is based on creating synergies and mutual benefits for the environment and the economy, enabling growth through environmentally sound investments, green technology and infrastructure, creating green jobs, etc. Bringing both the environment and the economy together is a historic opportunity for the Rio+20 Conference in order to complete and finalize the concept of sustainable development.

Green economy provides the missing links that can finally bring the environment and the economy together

Green economy is a formula that clearly enhances the realization of the objective of the Environment subprogramme to “promote integration of environmental policies into sectoral policies and of environmental concerns into the economy”. UNECE therefore derives its mandate for green economy from existing objectives.

UNECE activities already contribute to greening the economy. This Annual Report provides an overview of ongoing work across all subprogrammes.

Notwithstanding the ongoing good work, the outcomes of the Astana Ministerial Conference and the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Rio+20 Conference call for more to be done. For example, the third cycle of the Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR) will have individual chapters on green economy.

In the broader context, UNECE stands ready to serve as regional convenor for the green economy, and to lead the process of elaborating a Regional Road Map towards Green Economy under the Regional Coordination Mechanism, in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies and international institutions.



Green economy should not be separated from the general objective of poverty eradication

The European Environment Agency (EEA) assessed overlaps and gaps in the definitions and understanding of green economy between UNECE, other United Nations agencies, and other international organizations (such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity). Although green economy may be used in different shades, all agree on a core set of issues to be considered by a green economy approach: low carbon mobility, increased resource efficiency, including energy and water use efficiency, renewable energy, green jobs and green innovation. Other issues can be added later on, in parallel to the advancement of defining green economy, and according to the expressed needs of our member States.

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Rio+20 Conference was convened by UNECE on 1 and 2 December in Geneva, in close cooperation with UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The meeting attracted some 400 participants, including 160 from Major Groups. Participants engaged in discussions on: (a) an assessment of the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development as well as new and emerging challenges; (b) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (c) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Participants recognized the region’s progress in implementing multilateral environmental agreements, and the importance of UNECE processes and regional conventions, as well as initiatives such as the creation of Regional Environmental Centers. The need for improvements in the monitoring and evaluation of progress in sustainable development, better integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, and stronger regional coherence and cooperation was, however, highlighted.



Regarding the green economy, the need for a road map that included political and action-oriented components and set a vision for the next two decades was strongly backed. The road map should, however, avoid a one-size-fits-all approach to the necessary policy mix, but rather accommodate the unique challenges faced by different countries. The discussion clearly indicated that green economy should not be separated from the general objective of poverty eradication. Participants also stressed the importance of data and indicators for assessing progress towards a green economy. Discussions pointed at the need for fundamental changes in consumption and production patterns to reduce absolute levels of resource consumption.

The institutional framework for sustainable development was seen to have gained momentum, and there was a virtual consensus on the weaknesses in the current institutional arrangements, including fragmentation and limitations in terms of resources and authority. There was also agreement on the importance of strengthening governance at the regional, national and local levels. However, discussions reflected a lack of consensus on responses.



Finally, the meeting noted that UNECE was the only region so far with a legally binding instrument on the implementation of Principle 10, namely the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

The co-Chairs' summary of the meeting was sent to the UNCSD secretariat as an input for the UNCSD Compilation Document and was presented at the Second Intersessional Meeting which took place in New York on 15 and 16 December 2011.

Outcomes of the meeting will also be reflected in a final version of a regional interagency report for the Rio+20 Conference, "From Transition to

Transformation: Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Europe and Central Asia", coordinated by UNECE, a draft of which was submitted to the Regional Preparatory Meeting.

Committee on Environmental Policy and the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference

In 2011, the Committee on Environmental Policy devoted most of its attention to preparations for the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September). To that end, the Committee held two special sessions, in May and just prior to the EfE Conference in September, to elaborate and refine the agenda and to finalize draft documents for the consideration of and prospective adoption by UNECE ministers.

The Astana Conference gathered more than 1,500 participants from Governments, the international community, civil society, business and the media throughout the UNECE region, to discuss two main themes: sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. Participants discussed at length the findings of the two main reports produced for the Conference: *Europe's Environment — An Assessment of Assessments* (EE-AoA), prepared under the leadership of EEA, and the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* developed under the auspices of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

In the Astana Ministerial Declaration ministers confirmed their commitment to improving environmental protection and promoting sustainable development in the UNECE region through the EfE process

The Conference was organized in an interactive format, including nine high-level multi-stakeholder round tables. To support multi-stakeholder discussions during the Conference and to facilitate decision-making, background papers on each of the two main themes were prepared by UNECE jointly with EfE partners. For the first time, the EfE Ministerial Conference was a paperless event.

The EfE partners organized 43 side events on issues related to the two main themes of the Conference. The Conference gathered many business and industry representatives, who also participated in a Green Innovations, Technologies and Ecoservices Fair, organized on the margins of the Conference.

A major outcome of the Astana Conference was the Astana Ministerial Declaration, in which ministers confirmed their commitment to improving environmental protection and promoting sustainable development in the UNECE region through the EfE process; recognized the crucial role of water in development and called for additional financial resources in that regard, including a more systematic use of economic instruments, the provision of incentives for water efficiency and the generation of revenues to finance water services; endorsed the Astana Water Action; and agreed to take the lead in the transition to a green economy and to make a substantive contribution to the discussions on green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation at the UNCSD in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. Ministers also invited UNECE to consider developing, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, a road map for greening the economy in the region.

Among the other concrete outcomes of the Conference were:

- The decision by ministers to “establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the region”. This will be developed by EEA and its partners to help reviewing and assessing the pan-European environment.
- Ministers welcomed or endorsed major achievements, including the work under the EPR Programme, and invited UNECE, in the third cycle of EPRs, to focus, among others, on environmental governance and financing in a green economy context.
- The launch of the Astana Water Action, an initiative open to all UNECE member States, international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve the management of water. A list of 75 specific commitments by 20 countries and four organizations was presented at the Conference. Those actions cover water and ecosystems, water and health, access to water and sanitation, adaptation to climate change and extreme events, transboundary water cooperation, water efficiency and water investments, which were all identified as the major challenges and pressures affecting the region in the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*.
- The Conference welcomed Kazakhstan’s “Green Bridge” Initiative and Partnership Programme and “encouraged its further development”, inviting Governments, international financial institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders to join this Programme to promote an environmentally sustainable, equitable and prosperous future in both the pan-European and the Asia and the Pacific regions.





The Committee on Environmental Policy will convene in 2013 a mid-term review to assess progress of the implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences.

Monitoring and Assessment

UNECE continued its activities to promote a regular environmental assessment process in the region and to build the capacities of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to monitor their environment and publish indicator-based state-of-the-environment reports.

The Steering Committee on Environmental Assessments reviewed a draft of the EE-AoA report, which EEA prepared for the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference. It agreed on key conclusions to be submitted to the environment ministers and provided EEA with guidance regarding the report's finalization.

The Committee on Environmental Policy approved the Guidelines prepared by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to help the countries in the targeted subregion to develop national strategies to use water-quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool. The Working Group also considered national reviews of the latest developments in environmental monitoring and assessment in member countries and, at its annual session, reviewed the EE-AoA report and its four subregional components. It also discussed how to better implement the decision of the Astana Ministerial Conference to establish a regular process of producing pan-European assessment reports and to develop SEIS across the region.

The Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators reviewed 12 indicators covered by the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (the Indicator Guidelines). The discussions were based on national contributions to dedicated questionnaires. The Joint Task Force focused on the use of statistical classifications, data-collection methods and procedures for the production of the 12 indicators. As a result, the Joint Task Force provided practical guidance to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as interested South-East European countries, on the application of the indicators in the publication of statistical compendiums and environmental assessment reports. It also considered a series of additional water and biodiversity indicators that might be included in the revised Indicator Guidelines. The United Nation Statistics Division, secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and EEA actively participated in the discussions held.

Health, environment and development are closely related. Health supporting environment is a driver of social equity and is essential for sustainable development

The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

Throughout 2011, the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) continued promoting environmentally friendly, healthy and economically as well as socially viable transport systems for providing access to goods, jobs, services, education and leisure in the pan-European region.

At the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference, THE PEP organized a side event and launched a brochure: "Green and healthy jobs in Transport". The purpose of the brochure is to bring together interested experts and policymakers from the transport, environment and health sectors and to develop a set of actions and joint projects aiming at:

- Stimulating a debate and a shared understanding on what a green and healthy job in transport is by bringing health considerations into the existing discussion on “green jobs”,
- Sharing existing experiences in Europe and other parts of the world with new policies and approaches for creating green and healthy jobs in transport,
- Analysing the potential of greening old jobs and creating new green jobs in transport and mobility, and assessing the qualitative and quantitative impact that such approaches have on the environment, health, transport and the economy.



THE PEP also continued its organization of a series of relay race workshops focusing on one of the four priority goals of the Amsterdam Declaration. The “batons” of the selected topics are then passed from country to country across the pan-European region, spreading know-how and experience. The latest capacity-building workshop, “Working together for sustainable and healthy urban transport”, organized in Kiev (June 2011) focused on cooperation between national and local authorities, industry and civil society in design, planning, financing and legislation to support walking and cycling in urban areas.

The third cycle of EPRs will also examine the role of economic and fiscal policies in promoting greener modes of consumption and production

THE PEP Symposium “Inclusive and Innovative Urban Mobility” (November 2011) highlighted the challenges and success stories in the pan-European region towards sustainable urban mobility and improved individual health. The Symposium identified integrated policies in transport, health and the environment that ensure affordable and accessible mobility for all groups of society by using intelligent technologies, good management and incentive systems that offer fast, economical and flexible mobility solutions for the cities of the UNECE region. Additional workshops are planned in Germany, the Russian Federation and in Northern Europe in 2012 and 2013 before the accumulated expertise is debated and policy actions are taken at the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and the Environment hosted by France in 2014.

Environment and Health

Cooperation between UNECE and the World Health Organization (WHO) on environment and health, which dates back to the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in London in 1999, has been strengthened over recent years.

The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Parma, Italy, 2010) adopted a new institutional framework for the period 2010–2016, including a European Environment and Health Ministerial Board, of which UNECE is a member, and which includes four ministers appointed by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy for the environment sector, and four ministers appointed by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe for the health sector.

At the first session of the Ministerial Board, held in Paris in May 2011, the Executive Secretary of UNECE noted that health, environment and development are closely related and health supporting environment is a driver of social equity and is essential for sustainable development. Mr. Kubiš also emphasized that the revitalized European environment and health process needed to be driven by member States.

The European Environment and Health Process is given due prominence in the UNECE EFE process, as well as in preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, including a regional meeting organized by UNECE in early December 2011. Further work is planned to elaborate tools and approaches to assess the positive links between the attainment of environment and health objectives and the development of the green economy.

At the First Environment and Health Task Force Meeting in Bled, Slovenia, in October 2011, UNECE presented the progress in achieving the Parma Commitments. The main value added of UNECE to the European Environment and Health Process and implementing of Parma commitments is through:

- The five UNECE multilateral environment agreements
- The Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP)
- The Environment for Europe process
- The UNECE programme on environmental monitoring and assessment.



Environmental Performance Review Programme

The EPR Programme, now completing its second cycle of reviews, is currently focusing on UNECE member countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were peer reviewed for the second time in spring 2011. Albania and Romania underwent fact-finding missions in 2011 for the second time, and their respective reports will be peer reviewed in spring 2012. The launch event for the second review of Georgia was held in Tbilisi and benefited from a broad audience, including the Minister of Environment Protection of Georgia and representatives of ministries, international organizations and NGOs. The launch event for the second review of Bosnia and Herzegovina took place in Sarajevo.

The Expert Group on Environmental Performance met in spring 2011. At its special session, held in May 2011, the Committee on Environmental Policy then approved the third cycle of EPRs and, in September 2011, the Seventh EFE Ministerial Conference formally endorsed the third cycle of reviews.

As a response to new global and regional concerns, it was decided that integrating green economy into the third cycle of the EPR Programme promised to add added value to its work, first, due to its relevance and importance for the countries under review and, second, due to the potential to enhance international cooperation with the community of donors and investors. The third cycle of EPRs will examine relevant policy and legal aspects of the green economy initiatives in the reviewed countries. It will also examine the role of economic and fiscal policies in promoting greener modes of consumption and production. In the case of sectors with considerable potential for greening the economy — such as agriculture, including fishery and forestry, energy, industry and transport — the analysis will be extended to discuss how the policies in the specific sectors are directed towards greening the reviewed country's economy.

Most countries have accomplished or are close to putting in place policy, regulatory and operational frameworks that support education for sustainable development (ESD)

Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

From policy to practice: putting the Strategy into action

In 2011, the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) entered its third phase of implementation, which means that countries are now shifting their attention from the political to the practical, i.e., putting the Strategy into action. In that connection, the first mandatory reporting exercise, completed at the beginning of 2011, showed that significant successes were achieved in the first two implementation phases: the majority of countries have accomplished or are close to finalizing and putting in place policy, regulatory and operational frameworks that support education for sustainable development (ESD). Many countries have started to integrate ESD in formal education, resulting in a considerable coverage of ESD-related key themes, learning outcomes methods and strategies. Moreover the adoption of a whole-institution approach has advanced remarkably in the region.

Educator Competencies for Education for Sustainable Development

One of the main challenges for advancing ESD that was identified is the lack of ESD educator competencies. In 2011, the Expert Group on Competences finalized a set of core competencies for educators as well as recommendations for policymakers on how to promote them. At the core of all the recommendations is the notion of educator empowerment, recognizing that educators are key to ESD. The Group drafted recommendations and competences so as to allow for flexibility and adaptability to national and regional needs. In order to adapt the educator competences to national contexts, subregional workshops are being organized under the umbrella of the UNECE Strategy for ESD. The practical promotion of educator competences through training and subregional workshops will be one of the priorities in phase III.

Knowledge, skills and competencies for greening economies

Moreover, the Steering Committee is closely linking its work in phase III to the regional and global green economy process. Particular focus is being put on positioning technical and vocational education and training, so as to meet the existing and future green skills needs, which pose a significant challenge to greening economies.

Furthermore, the Strategy promotes ESD as a cross-cutting issue within the green economy process, since ESD lays the necessary educational foundations in society. To foster a deeper understanding of the role ESD can and has to play in the transition to a green economy, the Steering Committee launched a series of panel and round-table discussions, including events at the Seventh Efe Ministerial Conference in Astana and at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20.

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

The most important achievement under the UNECE Water Convention in 2011 was the finalization of the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* for the Astana Ministerial Conference. The product of the most collaborative effort ever under the Water Convention — involving more than 300 experts — the Assessment provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date overview of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region. Covering more than 140 transboundary rivers, 25 transboundary lakes and about 200 transboundary groundwaters, the Second Assessment presents a broad analysis of



The 2nd Assessment provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date overview of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region

transboundary water resources, pressure factors, quantity and quality status and transboundary impacts, as well as responses and future trends. The Assessment also documents legal and institutional frameworks for water management and cooperation and devotes special attention to ecological and biodiversity issues through the assessment of 25 Ramsar Sites and other wetlands of transboundary importance.

The National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative were extended to additional countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and is now implemented in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The National Policy Dialogues result in practical applicable outcomes to strengthen integrated water resources management, such as legislative acts, strategies, ministerial orders and action plans. These are often in line with green economy principles, for instance by promoting resource use efficiency.

The Programme of pilot projects and platform for exchanging experience on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins aims to support countries in jointly developing adaptation strategies. This is also a contribution to a green economy since increasing resource use efficiency is important also in adapting water management to climate change. This linkage between adaptation and mitigation was one of the issues discussed at the second workshop on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins held in 2011 which brought together more than 150 participants, including from outside the UNECE region.

The importance of the Water Convention is increasingly recognized also beyond the UNECE region. In 2011, several workshops saw the participation of representatives from Asia, Northern Africa and the Middle East, most importantly the international conference on “Europe-Asia transboundary water cooperation” in December 2011. At the same time, increased efforts are being made to enable an entry into force by 2012 of the amendments opening the Convention beyond the UNECE region .



Work under the Protocol on Water and Health is focusing increasingly on promoting implementation on the ground since the second session of the Meeting of the Parties in November 2010. Two subregional workshops on target setting and reporting have been held — in April 2011 in Belarus for Eastern European countries and in October 2011 in Kazakhstan for Central Asian countries — and several countries received individual assistance in setting and implementing their targets as required by the Protocol.

In line with the recognition of access to water and sanitation as a human right by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in 2012, a good practice document on equitable access to water and sanitation was elaborated in 2011 under the Protocol on Water and Health, under the leadership of France. It will be launched at the sixth World Water Forum in Marseille, France in 2012.

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

As past events have shown, industrial accidents can be devastating to human life and the environment, as well as to the economy and economic growth. For both regulators and industry, ensuring a high level of industrial safety is therefore an important prerequisite for sound development.

The UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) promotes the implementation of adequate prevention, preparedness and response measures to industrial accidents among regulators and, through regulators, among industry. The year 2011 saw the continuation of activities within the Convention to help UNECE member countries, depending on their level of implementation, to further strengthen or maintain a high-level of industrial safety.

With regard to improving industrial safety, a training session on the application of benchmarks developed in 2010 was organized in 2011 for the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Through the training, national experts learned how to use the benchmarks to analyse their countries' legal and institutional frameworks for identifying and addressing gaps and shortcomings in assuring the safe operation of their hazardous industrial facilities.

In addition, a number of projects were implemented or initiated in 2011. An Industrial Accidents Convention project in the Balkans, supported by Germany, helped the participating countries to better understand risk assessment and measures applied by industry, including safety management systems and major accident prevention policy to reduce environmental risks. A project in the Danube Delta, also supported by Germany, initiated improvements in the Delta countries in applying basic safety measures at facilities such as oil terminals, which can be dangerous to waters in the event of an accident. Moreover, national training sessions in Central Asia helped local experts to better understand mechanisms for hazard identification.

Concerning the maintenance of a high level of safety, a workshop on discussing cost-effectiveness in major accident prevention and a workshop on reviewing progress achieved in accidental water pollution were organized. During the first workshop countries had a chance to exchange good practices in introducing systems for assuring high-level safety at lower cost, but also to discuss the risk to systems' effectiveness





and consequences of their malfunctioning. In the second workshop the participating countries discussed, among others, how to address the risks coming from complacency and leading to inadequate enforcement of good safety policies and standards.

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

For the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), 2011 was marked by the fifth session of the Meeting of its Parties, and by the first session

of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); the two events were held jointly in June. The membership of the Protocol grew to 23, with Armenia, Lithuania and Poland joining in 2011. Belarus and Lithuania also ratified amendments to the Espoo Convention. At a practical level, the application of the Convention has been particularly prominent in the nuclear energy sector, though its most frequent application continues to be for wind energy developments.

Numerous workshops were held in 2011 under the Convention and its Protocol, including a subregional SEA training workshop in Almaty for the Central Asian countries and a second SEA workshop at the national level in Tashkent. More broadly themed subregional workshops were held for the Caucasus and the Baltic Sea area. The Convention and the Protocol were also presented together with the Water Convention and the Industrial Accidents Convention at a series of events across Central Asia, demonstrating the effectiveness of ongoing cooperation between the convention secretariats.

There has been a continuing strong emphasis on the review of compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Convention, led by the Convention's Implementation Committee. Three submissions were made to the Committee in 2011 by Parties having concerns about other Parties' compliance with their obligations under the Convention. The Committee also continued to consider information from other sources, including NGOs.

The June meetings of the governing bodies adopted a number of decisions addressing, among other matters: the adoption of an ambitious workplan; the review of implementation, based on national implementation reports and published electronically in November 2011; and the review of compliance. The decision on the review of compliance included a declaration that the caution issued to the Government of Ukraine at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties was effective. To promote efficiency and synergy, the governing bodies decided that a working group and an implementation committee would each serve both treaties. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention also took a decision on the interpretation of article 14 of the Convention (amendments), which should accelerate the entry into force of its two amendments.

In addition, the two governing bodies adopted a decision on accession to the treaties by Member States of the United Nations not members of UNECE. The Executive Secretary has since written to certain States outside the region encouraging their accession.

The Espoo Convention has been particularly prominent in the nuclear energy sector, though its most frequent application continues to be for wind energy developments

Membership in the Protocol can be seen as particularly important in the transition to green economy. Parties to the Protocol recognized at their first Meeting that SEA was a unique and important instrument for planning and policymaking related to greening the economy. They also invited the Seventh EFe Ministerial Conference in Astana to take into consideration the importance of SEA in the Conference's two themes of sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (this being the broad purpose of the Protocol); a SEA side event to the Conference was organized accordingly.



The Parties to the Protocol, in their June Meeting, also requested UNECE to report within the preparatory process for the UNCSD in 2012 (Rio+20) on the contribution of the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol to the implementation of the principles proclaimed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. The secretariat therefore prepared inputs to the Regional Preparatory Meeting in December 2011 on the implementation of the Rio Principles, as well as on SEA as a tool for greening the economy.

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

Public rights are essential to the success of green economy; ignoring the social dimension of a green economy results in plans and programmes that are often unsustainable and self-defeating. UNECE provides the best model for ensuring public input into plans and programmes related to the environment through 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).

In 2011, the implementation of the work programmes for both the Convention and its Protocol helped directly and indirectly in greening the economy. The highlight of the year for the Convention was the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Chisinau, June/ July 2011). In view of the forthcoming Rio+20 Conference, the Meeting placed great emphasis on sustainable development and a green economy through the adoption of the Chisinau Declaration, which calls for action to reduce the ecological footprint and to promote the social dimension of sustainable development. Furthermore, the Declaration invites citizens "to participate in defining and implementing green economy programmes and in choosing the most appropriate road maps to sustainability".

In Chisinau the Parties also sought to extend the Convention's benefits beyond the region by adopting a simplified procedure for the accession of non UNECE countries to the Convention.

Also at its fourth session, the Meeting of the Parties decided the Task Forces on Public Participation in Decision-making (led by Ireland) and on Access to Justice (led by Sweden) would continue with renewed mandates. A third task force has been given a new mandate as the Task Force on Access to Information (to be led by the Republic of Moldova) to, inter alia, promote the exchange of information and identify barriers



and solutions concerning public access to environmental information. Furthermore, the Parties called for the Convention to continue the work (led by France) in promoting the Convention in international forums and building synergies with other conventions and international organizations involved in environmental matters.

Emphasis on the review of compliance of Parties with their obligations under the Convention has remained a top priority of its Compliance Committee. In this context, a mission to Turkmenistan was organized in order to assist the Turkmen authorities in the implementation of the Convention. This was achieved through meetings with the public authorities and through the organization of a multi-stakeholder training seminar. To date, all findings by the Committee have been endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties and all Parties concerned demonstrated their consent with the decisions.

Parties adopted a simplified procedure for the accession of non UNECE countries to the Convention

The first legally binding international instrument on PRTRs, the Convention's Protocol is regarded as a cross-cutting tool for addressing climate change and heavy metals and eco-toxic chemicals management, as well as for facilitating the development of compatible PRTR systems in different countries. In this sense, PRTR data can be used as key indicator for measuring the success of a green economy: first, by providing published data on material flows that are in violation of scientific conditions for ecological sustainability; and, second, by providing periodic and reliable data on releases and transfers of pollutants of national priority, including greenhouse gases, heavy metals and toxic chemical compounds.

As of 2011, the Protocol became fully operational through the organization of the first meetings of the Bureau, of the Compliance Committee and of the Working Group of the Parties. A number of promotion and capacity-building activities have been implemented, including side events on the margins of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh Efe Ministerial Conference. Furthermore, a workshop for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, to promote the implementation and ratification of the Protocol in the countries of that subregion, was held in Minsk in November. Finally, a simplified guide to the Protocol was published.

The promotion of the Convention and of the Protocol on PRTRs is further evidenced by the secretariat's participation at various international events. Moreover, in February 2011 the secretariat organized a workshop on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums. The secretariat also has serviced an International Coordinating Group on PRTRs, which promotes cooperation on the subject at the global level.

In summary, the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs have already set the basis for providing a valuable combination of political instruments and technical indicators that can promote public participation in greening of the economy in the UNECE region and beyond. Both agreements are open for accession by countries outside the region offering an effective model for implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution made further progress in 2011 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). The Convention's Executive Body decided on the inclusion in a revised Gothenburg Protocol of particulate matter (PM) and black carbon (BC) — an important component of PM. PM and BC are proved to cause significant health problems and environmental damage. In addition, measures to allow needed flexibility for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe are going to be introduced in the revised protocols to help these countries with implementation and ratification.



The revised Gothenburg Protocol will contribute to the green economy 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.

Emissions and deposition of nitrogen compounds cause damage and loss of biodiversity. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen under the Convention has been exploring cost-effective measures to reduce nitrogen pollution, particularly from the agricultural sector by improving the nitrogen use efficiency in animal and crop production which will save farmers money, while reducing nitrogen pollution and helping Parties achieve environmental improvements. The Task Force published a summary for policymakers of the European Nitrogen Assessment.

The Convention is also revising its overall strategic framework. Adopted in 2010, the long term strategy for the Convention broadens the scope of the Convention by addressing in a comprehensive manner several new air pollutants that are also short-lived climate forcers (BC, ozone, methane). The strategy also calls for strengthened interregional cooperation and outreach activities with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (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 initialize a project that reviews existing and required capacities for addressing 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.

Environment and Security Initiative

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) provides an innovative solution for addressing complex problems of the twenty-first century. The ENVSEC partner agencies (UNECE, UNEP, UNDP, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)), 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 multilateral environmental agreements administered by UNECE are an important pillar of ENVSEC activities and provide a value-added to the partnership.

In 2011, the activities implemented by UNECE under the ENVSEC Initiative 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; capacity development within the Industrial Accidents Convention's Assistance Programme in South-Eastern Europe; and development of capacities for application of the Espoo Convention in Central Asia, etc., all of which contribute to sustaining and advancing economic, environmental and social well-being.

In terms of the development of a green economy, work done to support the implementation of the Espoo Convention, as well as establishing a basis for the equitable use of available water resources, are of particular importance.

The revised Gothenburg Protocol will set obligations for Parties to take cost-effective measures to reduce harmful emissions

Regional Adviser on Environment

Technical cooperation activities are implemented by the Regional Adviser on Environment in close collaboration with the secretariats of the UNECE environmental conventions, and aim 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-East European countries. The project work undertaken in 2011 contributes to an equitable and sustainable use of available water resources in all economic sectors, which is crucial in the development of a green economy.

Thirteen countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe benefitted from the project work with the direct beneficiaries being decision-makers and experts from national authorities responsible for water and environmental protection, as well as important stakeholders.

Most of the activities were organized within the framework of a number 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:

- A memorandum of understanding between riparians outlining the shared vision on the sustainable management of the Drin River Basin,
- A regional plan to develop cooperation on water quality cooperation in Central Asian countries,
- A reform proposal, with a focus on the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, aimed at strengthening regional institutions responsible for water resources management in Central Asia. The corresponding documents are presently being considered for official approval.

In addition, the preparations of Turkmenistan to accede to the UNECE Water Convention can be seen as an important outcome of the activities in 2011.





GENDER

Empowering women for sustainable development



With the twentieth anniversary of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro around the corner, UNECE revisited in 2011 the situation of women in the context of sustainable development. Gender equality is an important objective of sustainable development and one of the prerequisites for achieving it. Yet women are still under-represented in international sustainable development processes. Research suggests that they bear a greater risk of being affected by the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation and benefit less than men from the wealth generated as they are over-represented among the world's poor.

In 2011, UNECE provided a platform for policy dialogue and exchange through a number of events, conducted research on the business environment for women entrepreneurs in Central Asia and strengthened capacity for women's empowerment in the region.

Gender equality is an important objective of sustainable development and one of the prerequisites for achieving it

Women and sustainable development in the UNECE region

On the occasion of the sixty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe in March 2011, a roundtable discussion was organized on women in sustainable development¹ dedicated to the question of how women can be empowered to fully participate in identifying solutions, developing strategies and policies to achieve sustainable development. Invited speakers tackled the question from the perspectives of international and regional organizations, academia and civil society.

Ambassador Jean-François Kammer, in his keynote address on behalf of the Council of Europe, highlighted the need to fully implement equality principles and standards to ensure positive and lasting changes in

¹ For more information on the Roundtable, visit <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=14213>

the lives of women and men and bridge the gap between de jure and de facto equality. Irene Dankelman, Director of IRDANA Advice on Gender and Sustainable Development and Lecturer at the University of Nijmegen (Netherlands), drew attention to the importance of taking the different needs and capacities of women and men into account in environmental protection and climate change agendas. She spoke about the important role of civil society organizations in encouraging and effecting gender mainstreaming environmental and sustainable development policies and strategies. Maryna Saprykina, Director of the Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility Development in Ukraine pointed to the very low number of women involved in economic decision-making in the UNECE region and argued that increasing the number of women in senior positions was key to economic stability and growth. Saniye Gülser Corat, Director of the Division for Gender Equality at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), highlighted the importance of education in ensuring that all citizens, both women and men, have the knowledge, attitudes and skills to allow them to make informed choices and responsible decisions and to empower women to reach the highest echelons in all domains of life. Education can enable us “to see the world anew” and to turn abstract ideas - such as gender equality, or sustainable development - into reality.



In line with our mandate, UNECE gender activities contribute to women's empowerment in the economic realm. In 2011, focus was continued on promoting women's access to economic opportunities and independence through supporting entrepreneurship development.

Strengthening women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia

With the financial support of the Governments of Finland and Sweden, two assessments of the business environment for women entrepreneurs were conducted in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in 2010-11. As part of the study on Tajikistan, a national workshop was organized in Dushanbe in May 2011 to consult key stakeholder groups on women's entrepreneurship development and to share preliminary research findings on the business environment for women entrepreneurs in Tajikistan. Both studies have contributed to a better understanding of gender-specific factors and constraints to entrepreneurship development in Central Asia, complementing earlier assessments in the region.

A policy seminar² on women's entrepreneurship development in Central Asia was organized in September 2011 in Geneva in cooperation with the UNDP Regional Office for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Bratislava. It provided the opportunity to discuss the research findings with women's business associations, finance experts, international organizations and policymakers. Participants identified gender gaps in entrepreneurship looking at the business environment for male and female entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, discussing challenges to women entrepreneurs, including in rural areas, and suggesting policy strategies and measures needed to increase women's economic opportunity in the region. The seminar brought together participants from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as from international organizations active in Central Asia .

Capacity-building workshops were targeted at women entrepreneurs from Central Asia

² For more information on the policy seminar visit www.unece.org/gender/policyseminar

The policy seminar was organized back to back with a meeting of the Working Group on Gender and Economy, which is moderated by UNECE under SPECA. Policymakers from national gender machineries and economic line ministries renewed commitment to enhance women's economic opportunities in Central Asia. They provided support to new project activities proposed by UNECE which aim at strengthening capacity and collaboration between women's business associations in SPECA member countries and to develop tailored gender training for economic policymakers in the region.



Capacity-building activities to support women entrepreneurs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

As in previous years, UNECE has continued to cooperate with the Centre for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre, in running biannual international training workshops on "Support systems for women in small business at national and local levels" (March 2011) and on "Women entrepreneurs and information communication technologies" (December 2011).

The capacity-building workshops, held in Russian, are targeted at women entrepreneurs from Central Asia. They provide support, guidance and managerial tools on the use of new technologies in the management of small businesses. They further address government institutions in charge of small and medium-sized enterprise development at national and local levels, women's business associations and other civil society organizations to build their capacity to strengthen the support environment for women entrepreneurs. To date, 252 professional women have participated in these training sessions. Over the years, the training scheme has not only played an important role in strengthening the support for women's entrepreneurship but has also facilitated networking among women entrepreneurs across Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia³.

UNECE plans to strengthen networking and collaboration between women's business associations across the region

In March 2011 the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre and UNECE organized a high-level policy seminar on "Promoting Innovative Entrepreneurship", which related to government policies aimed at fostering innovative enterprises. Part of the discussion was dedicated to the design and implementation of gender-sensitive policies in order to enhance the participation of women in the innovation process.

Looking ahead: challenges for 2012

UNECE has welcomed that the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women, has declared economic empowerment as one of its focus areas. One of the goals for 2012 and beyond will be to further enhance collaboration with UN Women and other partners in the wider United Nations system to increase women's economic opportunities at the regional level.

³ A summary report of the seminar can be downloaded from: www.unece.org/gender/policyseminar



UNECE plans to strengthen networking and collaboration between women's business associations across the UNECE region and will organise the third UNECE Forum for Women Entrepreneurs in 2012, facilitating encounters and the exchange of ideas.

The most important challenge for 2012 will be to secure resources and partnerships to sustain UNECE's work to enhance women's economic empowerment in Central Asia, strengthen women's business associations who are key actors in delivering services to women entrepreneurs in the region and promote gender-sensitive economic policies.



HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Sustainable housing for a green economy

Major achievements in 2011

In 2011, human settlements in the UNECE region continued to face ongoing environmental, economic and social challenges. Depending upon the country and subregion, these problems included:

- Lack of sustainable housing policies and legislation
- Inefficient management of the existing housing stock
- Insufficient energy efficiency and environmental soundness of dwellings
- Rapidly growing urban sprawl.

These challenges were amplified by other problems facing urban areas – climate change, increased climatic variability and natural disasters.

Towards effective and green housing policies and legislation

One of the key objectives of the UNECE subprogramme on Housing and Land Management this year was to help Governments achieve sustainable housing and promote green growth through the building sector. Major housing challenges in countries in transition included the lack of effective policies and legislation, inadequate property rights, a shortage of affordable housing, and the lack of improvements in the housing stock.

A compact urban form reduces the need for transportation and energy, and thus contributes to a more sustainable urban development and greener economic growth

Kyrgyzstan

The Country Profile of Kyrgyzstan was prepared in 2011. It identified the need to refurbish deteriorated housing stock according to modern energy-efficiency standards. To tackle the widespread housing shortage, it recommended that measures be developed to reduce construction costs and to promote the use of local, sustainable building materials.

The lack of up-to-date master plans and strategic land-management policies has led to spontaneous urban sprawl in larger Kyrgyz cities. The report recommended reducing the size of land plots allocated for construction in order to increase building density. A compact urban form reduces the need for transportation and energy, and thus contributes to a more sustainable urban development and greener economic growth.

The report will be officially launched in early 2012, but Kyrgyzstan has already started implementing some of the recommendations. For example, the Government is simplifying procedures to register housing property and is harmonizing policies for land management.



Tajikistan

The Country Profile of Tajikistan was issued in 2011. The key challenges this report identifies include:

- Deterioration of housing conditions due to a lack of maintenance and repair
- Ineffective management of utility systems by local companies (in particular for sewage and waste management)
- Inadequate electrical supply.

A growing trend towards self-help construction is being driven by the limited opportunities for many households to improve their housing situation. Many self-build houses do not comply with the building regulations, mainly because the residents cannot afford this but also due to the inadequacy of the building regulations.

Each UNECE Country Profile study includes more than 20 country-specific policy recommendations

The Country Profile includes over 25 recommendations to address these problems, to make housing more affordable and to promote institutional investments in the sector. Implementation of these recommendations will facilitate reforms already undertaken in the housing sector and UNECE will continue to support the Government in these efforts.

Examples of policy reforms introduced by different member States as a follow-up to their country profile studies are illustrated in Box 1.

Country Profiles: A Tool for Improving Housing Policies and Practices

Each UNECE Country Profile study includes more than 20 country-specific policy recommendations. Governments are not expected to implement these recommendations immediately; instead, they are expected to use them to guide the work of national policymakers for years to come, as the following examples illustrate:

- **Albania**

As a result of the 2002 Country Profile study, working groups were established to develop proposals for new housing legislation. These covered themes such as legislation on access to affordable housing and housing management. In 2008, a pilot project for 1,000 social houses was initiated following the recommendations in the Country Profile.

- **Armenia**

In Armenia, the Country Profile was prepared in 2004. In the following years, a State programme on housing for special population groups was developed and a concept to improve housing conditions of the socially vulnerable was approved. Moreover, the Government passed a strategic five-year programme on multifamily housing stock maintenance and management.

- **Azerbaijan**

Since the launch of the Country Profile study of Azerbaijan in 2010, the Government has amended the Housing Code and drafted a Town Planning Code.

- **Belarus**

In Belarus, recommendations from the 2008 Country Profile were translated into national legislation to make housing more affordable through saving schemes, and to facilitate easier access to mortgages and low-interest credits. This includes a draft law on housing construction savings. Moreover, a Programme for the design and construction of energy-efficient housing was launched and a pilot project to introduce rental housing in Belarus was begun in Minsk.

- **Georgia**

In order to cover a number of issues raised in its 2007 Country Profile, Georgia developed a draft Codex for Spatial Planning and Construction Regulation. For example, it introduced rules to legalize existing but illegal buildings.

- **Serbia and Montenegro**

In Serbia, the 2006 Country Profile has served as a basis for substantive improvements in housing legislation. One important achievement was a legal framework for social housing.



Encouraging climate neutral urban development

Energy efficiency in the housing sector -

The building sector consumes more energy than any other sector. Within the UNECE region, buildings are responsible for over one third of total energy consumption. About 80 per cent of the energy used by buildings is for their operation, in particular for heating, cooling and ventilation. The building sector has the largest potential for reducing energy consumption using existing technologies. On average, a 30-50 per cent reduction can be achieved at little or no additional cost (when energy savings are taken into account). Thus, increasing energy efficiency in housing is critical for climate change mitigation. In addition, investments in energy efficiency can lead to economic growth and generate new, green jobs.



In 2011, UNECE published an *Action Plan for Energy Efficient Housing in the UNECE Region*, which aims at supporting government efforts to improve energy efficiency in buildings and progressively move towards a low-energy housing sector in the near future. The Action Plan sets the path for policy reforms in the areas of governance, financial infrastructure and technological upgrades, taking into account issues such as affordability. In an integrated approach, the Action Plan looks at the components necessary for realizing improved energy efficiency in housing. These include:

- Development of financial mechanisms to raise capital for investments
- Introduction of energy performance standards
- Promotion of innovative technical solutions
- Organizational leadership
- Clearly defined responsibilities for housing management and maintenance
- Measures to eradicate energy poverty.

Overall, the Action Plan is a tool for national Governments to support the transition towards a greener economy by reducing the energy intensity and carbon footprint of buildings.

The building sector has the largest potential for reducing energy consumption using existing technologies

To promote implementation of the Action Plan, a joint UNECE/UN-Habitat training workshop on "Affordable Housing Provision in CIS countries" was held in Minsk in March 2011. The workshop was a showcase for good practices and effective policy responses for achieving affordable, energy-efficient housing. In addition, a joint UNECE/UNDP project was started to help Montenegro develop a National Action Plan for energy-efficiency measures in the residential sector. The Plan should lead to reductions in energy-use and greenhouse gas emissions from the housing sector and will generate green jobs in the building and construction industries.

On the road towards climate neutral cities - The UNECE region contributes 40 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. With about two thirds of the UNECE population living in cities, most of these emissions are generated in urban areas or come from the use of goods and services whose production



results in emissions elsewhere. Reducing emissions that originate in cities is therefore imperative for UNECE member countries if they are to achieve sustainable development and successfully tackle the climate challenge. At the same time, cities increasingly face impacts of a changing climate such as extreme weather events, scarcity of fresh water and rising food prices.

Cities are economic hubs, centres of production and incubators for innovation. They are therefore also in a position to lead us on the path towards low-carbon development and green growth. This potential is highlighted in the UNECE study *Climate Neutral Cities: How to make cities less energy and carbon intensive and more resilient to climate challenges*. Issued in 2011, the study provides policymakers, practitioners and planners with an overview of the relationships between cities, climate change and energy. It also outlines the responses required to mitigate the energy intensity and carbon footprint of cities in different sectors—including buildings, transport, energy infrastructure, water and waste management. It concludes by outlining a roadmap to climate neutrality for cities.

By providing guidance to national and local governments of the region on the implementation of policies for a sustainable green economy, both the Action plan for energy-efficient housing and the study on climate neutral cities provide a timely contribution to the upcoming Rio+20 Conference in May 2012 .

Reducing emissions that originate in cities is imperative for UNECE member countries if they are to achieve sustainable development and successfully tackle the climate challenge

Improving land administration in the region

The Working Party on Land Administration addresses some of the most important challenges in the region by promoting:

- Reforms in land administration
- Security of tenure
- Transparency in land and real-estate transactions.

It also helps member States develop unified real property registration systems and computerized forms of land registration and real property records.

In recent years, widespread access to the Internet, along with the implementation of E-government reforms, has brought about a significant change in the way government services are delivered. An increasingly "networked" society, however, poses new challenges and opportunities to land registry and cadastre organizations. To analyse the changing role of these organizations, the Working Party held an international workshop on "Land Administration in a networked society", in Amsterdam in October 2011. The workshop highlighted best practices and country-specific experiences in managing land-administration data and showcased some "integrated solutions" and their potential application.

Successful e-government reforms in land and real-estate registration are directly linked to the issue of transparency and the combat of fraudulent activities. To analyse best practices in detecting and preventing fraud in land-registration systems, UNECE published a study on *The Challenges of Fraud to Land Administration Institutions*. This bilingual publication (English/Russian) will help Governments in reviewing and updating legislation and policies for monitoring, preventing and combating fraudulent practices in land administration.

Looking at the role of cadastral and real-estate registration systems in the development of well-functioning housing markets, the Working Party also organized a workshop in Rome in May 2011 on "Cadastral and Real Estate Registration Systems: Producing Quality Information for the Real Estate Market in the ECE Region".

Policy Guidelines and Recommendations: From Publication to Practice

UNECE publications provide problem-oriented recommendations, best practices and policy guidelines to address specific housing and land management challenges in the UNECE region.

These publications cover areas such as social housing, real-estate markets and energy efficiency in housing. These guidelines have had a wide impact in many UNECE member countries, serving as a framework for future action and shaping programmes at national and local level. Some selected examples of this impact include:

- The *Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing for Countries in Transition* (2003) served as a legal source for amendments to the Act on Housing Ownership in the **Czech Republic**. In **Albania**, a project on mortgage subsidies, which started in 2009, was based on the study *Housing Finance Systems for Countries in Transition: Principles and Examples* (2005).
- Based on the *UNECE Guidelines on Social Housing: Principles and Examples* (2006), a definition of social housing has been adopted in the Act on Subsidies for Housing Development and Social Housing in **Slovakia**. The main principles of the *Guidance and Good Practice for the Application of Fees and Charges* (2009) were used to develop a bylaw on fees and charges for cadastral, geodetic products and services in **Austria**.
- In **Croatia**, a new law on the legalization of informal buildings was developed based on the recommendations of the study *Self-Made Cities: In search for sustainable solutions for informal settlements in the UNECE region* (2009). In **Ukraine**, a working group that included representatives of government agencies and the private sector was set up in 2010 to review legislation on the real-estate sector taking into account the principles contained in the UNECE study *Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets* (2010).
- *The Action Plan for Energy-Efficient Housing in the UNECE region* (2010) guided the development of a Government decision on the rehabilitation of multi-storey apartment buildings in the **Republic of Moldova**. In **Austria**, best practice examples and solutions from the study *Challenges of Fraud to Land Administration Institutions* (2011) were used to strengthen the security of the newly developed Land Administration Database and for training officials from the Land Registration and Cadastral Office.
- Policy recommendations from *Spatial Planning - Key Instrument for Development and Effective Governance with Special Reference to Countries in Transition* (2008) were taken into account in the Presidential Decree of 31 August 2011 on State Town-Planning Policy of **Belarus** for the period 2011-2015.



All publications are available free of charge on the UNECE website: www.unece.org/hlm/publications.html



Towards a transparent and green real estate sector

By promoting upgrades in the housing stock, improving building capacities and developing mortgage financing for this, a fully functioning and well-regulated real-estate market is another important factor in greening the economy of the UNECE region.

The Real Estate Market Advisory Group began a project in 2011 on real-estate property and market-risk evaluation. It will draw up guidelines for the application of accurate and transparent rating mechanisms for real-estate properties that are being used as collateral for financial products. The guidelines will help member States improve related national legislation and resuscitate the real-estate financing needed for renewing and “greening” countries’ building stock.

An increasingly "networked" society poses new challenges and opportunities to land registry and cadastre organizations

Building Partnerships for better housing

In 2011, the Committee on Housing and Land Management further strengthened partnerships with stakeholders in the region, including international organizations, national stakeholders, the private sector, civil society and academia. Most of its capacity-building activities were carried out in cooperation with partners including: UN-Habitat, UNDP, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the International Real Estate Federation. Particular attention was given to building partnerships with and involving beneficiary countries to ensure national "ownership".

These partnerships enabled the Committee to tap external knowledge and expertise, avoid potential overlap or duplication, strengthen national ownership of development, and use more effectively its financial and human resources, as well as its comparative advantage in analytical and technical work.



Priorities for 2012

Strengthening the focus on capacity-building

In 2012, the Committee will focus more on activities to improve national capacities for implementing UNECE policy guidelines and recommendations. It will organize three training workshops in cooperation with UN-Habitat and national authorities—in Albania, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan—to help these countries promote affordable housing solutions and implement the UNECE Action Plan for Energy Efficient Housing. Through two workshops—in Greece and the United Kingdom—the Working Party on Land Administration will address the challenges of informal settlements and the revitalization of property markets.

Green economy is inextricably linked to the achievement of sustainable housing

The Committee will also focus on developing and implementing technical-cooperation projects on country-specific issues identified through housing profiles and land-administration reviews. The National Action Plan for energy-efficiency measures in the residential sector of Montenegro will be completed in 2012 and it is hoped to use this project as a "model" that can then be replicated in other countries in the region. In addition, with the support of Swedish stakeholders, a pilot project will be developed to facilitate refurbishment and energy-efficiency improvements in the housing sector of countries with economies in transition. Such pilot projects can contribute to a better understanding of why greening the building sector is a crucial step towards the successful consolidation of a green economy.

Promoting sustainable housing and land management

One priority of the Working Group on a possible Framework Convention on Sustainable Housing is to identify how such an agreement could help strengthen the sustainability of the housing sector and thus enable member States to address environmental and economic challenges more effectively. The Committee extended the mandate of the Working Group for 2012 to define the possible scope and objectives of such an agreement, as well as to explore its potential added value for countries. The implementation of a green economy is inextricably linked to the achievement of sustainable housing.

The Committee will continue to analyse member countries' housing and land-administration sectors and provide country-specific recommendations for their improvement. A fact-finding mission will be conducted as part of the Country Profile study of Ukraine, which is expected to be issued in 2012. In a new development, the Committee will also begin the second round of its country profile reviews by starting work on studies for the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation.

To strengthen further sustainable land markets, the Working Party will prepare a study to define benchmarks for land-administration systems in the region. This qualitative analysis of land administration, land registration and mapping systems in UNECE countries is intended to be the first step in a process that could result in the harmonized measurement/evaluation of such systems.

Rethinking the strategic priorities

At its seventy-second session, in October 2011, the Committee decided to hold a Ministerial meeting in 2013 to define future policy directions for the work on housing and land management.

This will be an opportunity to:

- Assess progress in the implementation of the Declaration adopted at the last Ministerial meeting in 2006
- Review and adjust the priorities of the UNECE work on housing
- Agree on a new Strategy for sustainable housing in the UNECE region.



POPULATION

Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing

Population ageing – as people live longer and fewer children are born – has become the defining feature of the UNECE region. Though its characteristics and impact are quite diverse across the region, practically all countries have struggled to devise good strategies to adjust their societies to the changing demographic realities. Many of them have perceived this as all the more challenging in conjunction with the ongoing global economic crisis. The UNECE secretariat has assisted countries in devising strategies in response to ageing in the region.

Working group on ageing

Since December 2008 the Working Group on Ageing is the main instrument to guide activities within the region to implement the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS). In its fourth year, this intergovernmental body has strengthened the ties between member States and has become the main forum within the region where national focal points on ageing can exchange their expertise and views about ways to tackle challenges and leverage opportunities related to ageing. In anticipation of the European Union (EU) *European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations* in 2012, this theme was high on the Working Group's agenda already in 2011. At its fourth meeting, the Working Group on Ageing dedicated its annual in-depth discussion to this topic, inviting Professor Clemens Tesch-Römer, head of the German Centre of Gerontology, as keynote speaker. In his paper, he advocated investments into active ageing at three levels – at the early stages in the life course, at later stages in adulthood, and investments in societal frameworks for active ageing. Early investments in education status during childhood and adolescence have positive effects on health, social integration and participation in late adulthood. Interventions for health, integration, and participation in late adulthood – such as physical activity, healthy diets, screening and avoiding risk behaviours – are able to change

Early investments in education status during childhood and adolescence have positive effects on health, social integration and participation in late adulthood

ageing trajectories. Finally, societal investments in active ageing concern opportunities for education, participation in the labour force and civil organizations and social security, health care and long-term care systems. At the same time, the understanding of active ageing needs to be broadened. While investments in active ageing may delay the onset of chronic illness and disability, a substantial cohort of the oldest old will continue to need support because of multi-morbidity. Promoting an active ageing approach should not lead to the exclusion of frail older people. Ageing needs to be embraced in its diversities within countries and across the region. Based on the discussion and on additional examples provided by the member States, UNECE is publishing Professor Tesch-Römer's paper about *Active Ageing and Quality of Life* in early 2012 as an important contribution to a broader discussion of the subject.

The European year on Active Ageing in 2012 will coincide with the tenth anniversary of the MIPAA/RIS, that UNECE member States active in the Working Group on Ageing have been gearing up to in 2011. In May 2011 the second cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS was launched, and countries were provided with guidelines based on which they were asked to prepare their national reports about MIPAA/RIS. This second cycle builds on insights gained during the first cycle of appraisal which was completed in

2007 with a strong recommitment of the member States to the MIPAA/RIS agenda at the Ministerial Conference in León, Spain. Now, five years later, they are once more asked to report on progress made. The country reports are being reviewed within the secretariat in preparation for a regional synthesis report, highlighting the specific regional trends in the second cycle of MIPAA/RIS implementation. The report will be presented at the Ministerial Conference, hosted by the Austrian Government in Vienna in September 2012, under the motto *Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing*. At the conference, Ministers together with a broad array of experts and civil society representatives will discuss the way forward and prepare the Ministerial Declaration to guide activities in the next five years.

In addition to preparations for the main events of 2012, the Working Group on Ageing has been instrumental in implementing a number of concrete projects in technical cooperation and capacity building. This included a series of policy briefs with good practice examples, Road Maps on Mainstreaming Ageing and support for data collection within the Generations and Gender Programme that enhance the evidence-base for policies addressing the relationships between generations and genders in ageing societies.

Policy briefs

In 2009, the Working Group launched a series of Policy Briefs to help policymakers and the broader public understand some of the key innovative strategic approaches to ageing available today. In addition to outlining major strategic approaches, the Briefs provide a forum for UNECE member States to showcase some of their good practice examples to inspire other countries in search of concrete ideas for MIPAA/RIS implementation. The Briefs have received a good response, and several member States have translated them into their national languages, for example into Russian, German, Serbian, Slovak and Spanish¹.



Ageing needs to be embraced in its diversities within countries and across the region

¹ Available at http://www.unece.org/pau/age/policy_briefs/welcome.html



During 2011, three new issues were published, covering the topics of *Age-friendly Employment Policies and Practices*, *Tapping the Potential of Volunteering and Cooperation on Ageing Policies in the UNECE Region*. Another Brief on *Images of Older Persons* will be issued in 2012.

Road maps for mainstreaming ageing

Since the adoption of the first programme of work of the Working Group on Ageing, *Road Maps on Mainstreaming Ageing* have been an integral part of the work coordinated by the secretariat. Developed in collaboration with member States at their request, they provide guidance for implementing the MIPAA/RIS commitments in the context of a specific country. The project is targeted specifically towards countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, where the effects of increased longevity and reduced fertility are compounded by large-scale emigration of the working-age population and the impact of the economic crisis. At the same time, these countries are particularly in need of assistance to build capacities for effective policy formulation.

A *Road Map* is prepared on the basis of a thorough desk review of the existing policy framework, followed by a field study with extensive interviews and focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders, including different Ministries, civil society, private sector, media, academia and international organizations.

The 2012 Ministerial Conference in Vienna will debate Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing



The report of the *Road Map* project for Armenia was published during 2011 and a short feature film was produced by United Nations Television². It illustrates the living situation of older persons living alone or in multigenerational families, or in care homes. It stresses the contributions older people make to Armenian society and how different actors, including the Armenian Government and UNECE as well as NGOs, have been collaborating to address the challenges that ageing is posing in Armenian society.



A *Road Map* for the Republic of Moldova was approved by the Working Group on Ageing during its fourth meeting in November 2011 and will be published in 2012. A new *Road Map* was requested by Georgia at the end of 2011. Whether the work on it will commence during 2012 will depend on whether UNECE member States can make available sufficient funds for this project during 2012.

The renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on Ageing for 2011-2013 signals recognition of the increasing importance of its work

Capacity-building workshops

With support from the two host countries, Israel and the Czech Republic, two capacity building workshops were held in 2011. The first one on *Community services for the Elderly*, in Haifa, Israel, in February/March 2011, included a panel of experts and representatives of government, civil society and academia from countries across the region. The workshop gave participants the opportunity to learn from various academic lectures, and entailed field visits to different types of establishments in Haifa, Jerusalem and Ra'anana that provide community care services for Israel's older population. The second workshop, *Addressing Current Social and Health Issues in Ageing*, took place during five days in early October in Prague. Hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic and organized in

cooperation with the United Nations International Institute on Ageing, Malta, the workshop was designed for policymakers, representatives of civil society and practitioners working in the field of ageing in the UNECE region. The aim was to support sound policymaking, highlighting how changing social contexts affect social integration and intergenerational solidarity.

Generations and gender programme

The secretariat has continued to act as a clearinghouse for administration of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), which is an important data sources for policy-relevant research on demographic trends and processes in the UNECE region. Its main aim is to collect data about relationships between genders and between generations. Designed as a panel survey, 18 countries had collected first-wave data by the end of 2011, of which data from 12 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation) are accessible online through the GGP website www.ggp-i.org. Several countries have collected second and third-wave data, which are harmonized by the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute. UNECE has been instrumental in several instances in helping countries willing to participate in the GGP to raise the necessary funds.

² A version of the film is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UNECE>.

As of mid-November 2011, data access had been granted for 96 new applications from institutions and individual researchers, compared to 143 in the full year 2010. In addition, an bibliographic database of research output based on GGP data with more than 500 entries has been made available online.

Complementary to the survey data, the GGP also maintains a contextual database with information on health, pension and education systems as well as demographic indicators.

The secretariat is represented on the GGP Consortium Board and on the Advisory Board and it serves as coordinator of the International Working Group comprising national focal points from governmental institutions, national statistical offices, and population research institutes from countries participating in the Programme. It has provided the intergovernmental platform to discuss the GGP research and its relevance for policymaking in the UNECE region.

Conclusion

In the three years of its existence, the Working Group on Ageing has established itself as a valuable asset for facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy. It has become an effective platform for exchanges between national focal points. Tangible outcomes have been produced, namely the Policy Briefs and the Road Maps on Mainstreaming Ageing as well as a number of other reports and publications, the capacity building workshops and the work on the GGP.

The significance of the contribution the Working Group has been making has been acknowledged by the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group by the Executive Committee for three additional years (2011-2013), and by the decision taken by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session to approve the proposal to organize a Ministerial Conference on Ageing in September 2012. This recognition should be further cemented in the coming year as the Working Group takes the lead in coordinating the regional review and appraisal of MIPAA and RIS, and as it fulfils its role as the preparatory committee for the 2012 Ministerial Conference on Ageing.







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SPECA

Fostering regional integration

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 the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in 1998 by the Tashkent Declaration. Today it counts seven members: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNECE and ESCAP provide support to SPECA.

The Programme has six Project Working Groups (water and energy, transport and border crossing, trade, statistics, knowledge-based development, and gender and economy). Its highest decision-making body, the Governing Council, consisting of SPECA National Coordinators, meets annually. It adopts biannual work plans and discusses and approves annual progress reports by the Project Working Groups. SPECA Economic Forums are organized in conjunction with the sessions of the Governing Council, where strategic issues of regional cooperation are discussed and recommendations for further work are made.

2011 was an exceptionally busy year for SPECA: the Turkmen Chair of the Programme hosted several important meetings in Ashgabat.

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” took place in June 2011 in Ashgabat. It discussed and approved over 20 projects aiming to translate the outcomes of the 2010 Economic Forum into concrete action.

The 2011 SPECA Economic Forum was held in November in Ashgabat under the title “20 Years of Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Central Asia: Successes, Challenges and Prospects”. Central Asian

The Economic Forum reviewed the progress achieved in regional economic cooperation in Central Asia and mapped the way forward

countries and Azerbaijan celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their independence in 2011. The Economic Forum used this occasion to review the progress achieved in regional economic cooperation in Central Asia and map the way forward towards closer cooperation and integration in such key areas as trade, transport, environment, water, energy, statistics and knowledge based development.

The Economic Forum was followed by the sixth session of the SPECA Governing Council which discussed and approved a report on the implementation of the 2010-2011 Work Plan and adopted the next biannual Work Plan for 2012-2013. The new work plan consists of two parts: part one

contains 48 projects with assured or expected funding worth \$7 million and 18 projects where funding is still sought; part two, called "A Plan of Action to Strengthen Stability and Sustainable Development of Afghanistan through Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia" contains three projects that support strengthening regional economic cooperation between Afghanistan and its Central Asian neighbours. Funding for these projects is still being sought.

The Governing Council heard a report on the opening of ESCAP's Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and in a decision encouraged UNECE and ESCAP to provide active support through SPECA, a member of the High Level Core Group of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, to the preparation and conduct of the next meeting of the Group to take place in March 2012 in Dushanbe. The Governing Council re-elected Turkmenistan as the Chair of SPECA for 2012.



The work plan for 2012-2013 contains 48 projects with assured or expected funding and 18 projects where funding is still sought

SPECA Project Working Groups continued active project implementation throughout 2011. A highlight of the year was the successful conclusion of the \$2 million, three year programme "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia" funded by the Government of Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH. Also noteworthy were the Joint Session of the SPECA Aid for Trade Implementation and Monitoring Council and the Project Working Group on Trade in November in Ashgabat, and the International Conference on Knowledge Based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship, also held in Baku in November.



STATISTICS

Better evidence for better decisions

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 sectoral committee on statistics, 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 (UNSC).

Promoting coordination of the international statistical work in the region is one of the key tasks of the Conference of European Statisticians

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 burden on national statistical offices. There are several mechanisms to ensure the 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.

Achieving international comparability in statistics on poverty has proven challenging

The topics for **CES seminars** are selected by the member countries and address issues of current interest to the Heads of national statistical organizations. In 2012, the first seminar will deal with **implementing the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**. With more diverse sources of official statistics and increasing requirements for evidence-based decision-making, the role of statistical offices has considerably evolved since the Principles were adopted 20 years ago. The seminar will explore how to respond to the new challenges.

The second seminar of the Conference in 2012 will deal with **challenges in future population and housing censuses**. The seminar will focus on issues related to planning the next round of censuses based on lessons learned from the 2010 census round. It will explore how the technological and methodological innovations can make the censuses more efficient and allow the production of high quality data while controlling costs.



Globalization has a significant impact on the economy and poses challenges to the compilers of statistics in all countries

In 2012, the international statistical work in two areas will be reviewed in-depth. The first topic, **measuring poverty**, is essential for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Achieving international comparability in statistics on poverty has proven challenging due to different definitions and methods of measuring poverty, and the different national poverty lines. The review is expected to result in proposals for follow-up activities to improve work in this area.

The second topic to be reviewed in-depth is **banking, insurance and financial statistics**. The topic was selected for a review in response to the economic crisis, which exposed data gaps that hinder analysis of stability of the financial sector.

In addition, the three in-depth reviews carried out at the end of 2011 on **education statistics, global production, and household survey methods** have led to follow-up work in 2012.

UNECE maintains an annually updated **Database of International Statistical Activities** as a tool to support the Conference and its Bureau in their coordination function. The database is a compendium of statistical work of international organizations in 2012 within the UNECE region, available online.

Economic statistics

UNECE is working with the countries to further develop and promote implementation of the 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 UNSC. It is undertaken in consultation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts which coordinates globally the implementation of the standard. The UNECE group of experts on national accounts (organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD) will meet in 2012 to discuss emerging issues of interest for countries such as measurement of services, households' wellbeing and internationalisation of economies.

In 2012, UNECE will also focus on supporting the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-East Europe in developing their **implementation plans for the 2008 SNA**. As a response to the country needs, expressed at a 2011 regional meeting on implementation of the 2008 SNA, workshops will be held to address the specific problems of the countries in this region.

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, a Group of Experts established under the auspices of the CES Bureau, finalized a Guide entitled *Impact of Globalization on National Accounts*. Eurostat, OECD, IMF, World Trade Organization (WTO) and many leading national statistical offices actively participated in the work. In 2011, the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the Guide, including the research agenda which identifies a number of areas for further consideration. Work will be initiated in this area in 2012 to deal with the conceptual and measurement challenges posed by **global production** which were considered the main priority for future work.

The financial crisis revealed gaps and inconsistencies in the measurement of residential property prices

UNECE, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), IMF and other partners promotes the implementation of international standards and recommendations on **Consumer Price Indices**. A meeting to be organized in 2012 jointly with ILO will focus on **residential property prices**. The latest financial crisis revealed gaps and inconsistencies in this area making it difficult to design adequate policy measures. The meeting will discuss the new international *Manual on Residential Property Price Indices* developed under the auspices of the United Nations Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The meeting will also consider how to improve the methods of data collection and production of price statistics, and issues of particular importance to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

UNECE aims to ensure that the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-East Europe implement **statistical business registers**, which are indispensable tools for efficient data collection and for the production of business statistics. In cooperation with Eurostat and OECD, UNECE will follow-up on the meeting of September 2011 to develop a set of international guidelines on statistical business registers. In 2012, UNECE and Eurostat will undertake a biennial survey for assessing the development of business registers in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Efficient use of statistical business registers will allow integration of economic data from a wide variety of sources and thus improve the **efficiency of production processes** which is very important in the conditions of limited resources and growing user demand for statistical information.

A regional capacity building project launched in 2010 addresses **new challenges in economic statistics** in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Three workshops organized in 2011 will be followed in 2012 by a specialized workshop on seasonal adjustment techniques. Seasonal adjustment is essential for data comparability as it corrects for the different number of working days within a period and for seasonal fluctuations. Moreover, it reveals turning points in economic development faster and more easily than any other data. A full set of training materials and guidelines will be published on the web in English and Russian to support countries in implementing the seasonal adjustment methods.

Social and demographic statistics

In recent years, the paramount importance of measuring people's well-being and social environment has been increasingly recognized, among others, in the context of efforts to enhance the measurement of progress in societies. The policy relevance of demographic statistics is further accentuated by the growing implications of population ageing on all spheres of society. 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. More recently, the General Assembly adopted resolutions on eradicating violence against women that have led to statistical follow-up work in this area coordinated by the Friends of the Chair group of the UNSC. The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the General Assembly has led to the increase in international efforts to improve the measurement of migration. UNECE activities in **social and**

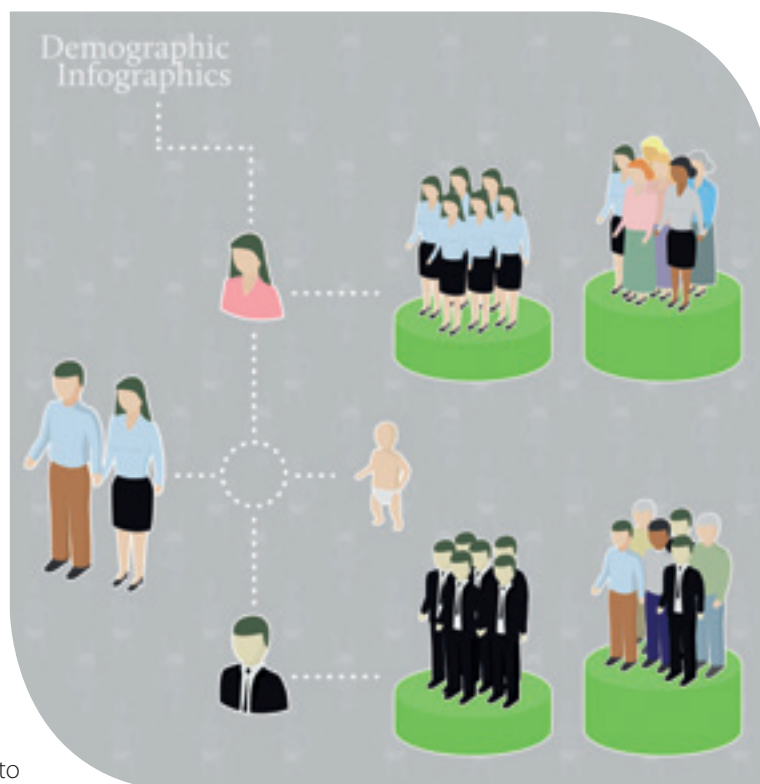
demographic statistics aim at improving statistics related to all these areas of high policy relevance. The work in 2012 focuses on population and housing censuses, migration, gender, time-use and crime statistics.

In the field of **population and housing censuses**, UNECE promotes the implementation of the *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*. A population census, if carried out in the traditional way, is often the most complicated and expensive statistical operation that a country undertakes. The global cost of the 2010 round of censuses was estimated at \$32 billion. At the same time, population censuses represent the very foundation of statistical systems, providing baseline information for other statistics, and for planning public infrastructure and services.

The global cost of the 2010 round of population censuses was estimated at \$32 billion

UNECE works with member countries to promote efficiency and innovation in census taking. Two expert meetings will be organized in 2012 to exchange experiences with the current census round and start revising the recommendations for the 2020 census round. Special attention will be paid to innovative methods for census-taking and, in particular, to the use of data from registers. The activities are carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), United Nations Population Fund and Eurostat. UNECE continues to participate in the international monitoring mission in preparation for the next population and housing census in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In **migration statistics**, UNECE aims at improving availability, quality and international comparability of data in the member countries, in response to the strong demand from policymakers and other users for more and better data on migration. In 2012, the task force on the implications of different definitions of migrants' length of stay on migration estimates will complete its work. Two other task forces will continue their activities on improving migration statistics by using household surveys, administrative data, population censuses and other sources, and measuring the socio-economic conditions of migrants.





Together with Eurostat, UNECE will organize the joint biannual work session on migration. To enhance the use of immigration data of other countries in measuring emigration, UNECE will launch a Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics with data for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Many major policy documents, including the Beijing Platform of Action and the Millennium Declaration, emphasise the importance of gender equality, which requires the measurement of progress towards this goal as well as the measurement of women's and men's different roles, different access and control of resources and different skills and interests. UNECE work on **gender statistics** includes sharing knowledge and experience at biannual work sessions, developing guidelines and indicators, and collecting and disseminating data and building capacity in member countries. In 2012, UNECE will organize a work session on gender statistics. The newly established UNECE Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality will work towards a comparable and regularly obtainable set of indicators to describe major gender inequalities for monitoring gender-relevant policies. UNECE will also continue promoting the use of its major recent outputs in gender statistics by member countries: the gender statistics manual, multimedia training tools and the survey module on **violence against women**. The Gender Statistics Database will be comprehensively updated in 2012.

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 Gross Domestic Product (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 2012 will develop a set of guidelines with a view to harmonizing time-use surveys and improving comparability of time-use statistics.

It will collect good practices to support countries in implementing these demanding surveys. It will also investigate ways of further increasing the policy relevance of time-use surveys and ways of more cost-effective survey-taking.

To achieve internationally comparable measurement of **health status of population**, common tools covering multiple dimensions of health were developed jointly with Eurostat and WHO in a Task Force on Measuring Health Status. The Task Force reached a consensus on many conceptual and measurement issues, and as a result a common survey instrument was endorsed by the CES Bureau in November 2011. In 2012, the Task Force will continue its work in promoting the common survey instrument.

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 to improve comparability of international crime statistics. In particular, a Task Force is working on methodological

issues related to the development of an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. The report of this Task Force will be finalized in 2012.

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. A meeting in autumn 2011 discussed the results of testing the indicators in countries and the practical measurement issues. It is proposed to continue the work to improve the indicators based on the outcome of the testing, and to develop operational guidelines for the calculation of indicators in practice.



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

At its sixty-fourth session in spring 2011 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 harmonization of 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 2012.

Time-use surveys provide indispensable data on quality of life and well-being and shed light on unpaid work, living conditions and gender equality

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 study will be prepared to take stock of the leading initiatives and main problems and issues in measuring human capital to identify the way forward in this area.

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 main objective is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of **environmental statistics** in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-

East Europe. In 2012, 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 EEA.

Under a UNDA project, capacity building will be undertaken in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2012-2013 to support the implementation of international recommendations and good practices in producing indicators on **environmental sustainability**. The project is closely linked with the UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and environmental indicators. The activities will be coordinated with UNSD, EEA and Eurostat. In 2012, an inventory will be prepared on the state of statistics related to sustainable development and environment in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to identify priority issues to be addressed in the planned workshops.

There is an increasing demand to strengthen the capability of countries to produce statistics related to climate change. At the request of the CES Bureau and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, UNECE conducted in 2011 a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. Work is planned to be undertaken to address the issues identified by the countries in the survey.

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 2012, UNECE will produce a report on good practices in the production and use of MDG indicators, highlighting good examples of national MDG reports. The UNECE database of MDG indicators will be further developed as a tool for resolving discrepancies of data from different sources. The results will feed into the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators. 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.



Streamlining statistical production

In response to demands from heads of national and international statistical organizations, UNECE recently established a High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics. This group oversees work in the rapidly changing areas of statistical production and dissemination to ensure the continued relevance and efficiency of official statistics. It 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 Conference in June 2011.

The technological part of this work is driven by expert groups on **software sharing**, and the **management of statistical information systems**. A wiki platform has been created, containing an inventory of statistical software available for sharing and a facility for benchmarking statistical information technology activities. In 2012, further materials will be developed to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations, and to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. One example, to be finalized in 2012, is a set of guidelines on developing multilingual statistical software.

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, a work session will be organized in autumn 2012 to share ideas and good practices in the **automation of data editing**. To maintain momentum between work sessions, an electronic knowledge-base has been created, which will be further expanded and updated during 2012.

The Conference has asked the secretariat to prepare proposals for an expert group meeting on statistical data collection and the use of non-statistical data sources. This meeting will be held in autumn 2012. For the first time, it will bring together data collection experts from across the UNECE region to share best practices, and identify needs for further work on this topic. Reorganization of data collection is taking place in many countries. This implies changes in organizational culture, technology and relationships with data suppliers. A key issue in this work will be how to utilize economies of scale by using **common tools and methods in data collection**.

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. The main tasks for 2012 will be to enhance the documentation of good practices, and to consider the impact

Crime statistics is an area where international comparability is very difficult to achieve

of the “semantic web” on official statistics. 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. In 2012, UNECE will organize a meeting to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and the use of staff surveys. An interactive wiki has been established for distribution of experiences and training materials to draw more attention to initiatives for better human resources management.

Following a recent in-depth review by the CES Bureau, and in response to country requests, the Steering Group on **statistical dissemination and communication** is developing a new guide to improving statistical literacy. The guide will be finalized in 2012, and will complement the existing three volumes in the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. Other topics identified by countries as priority areas for the work of this group in 2012 include the use of social media, and communicating statistics via mobile devices such as smart-phones, iPads, etc.



The Common Metadata Framework is a living reference tool mostly published in electronic format

UNECE **provides mechanisms for communication** to facilitate exchanges of ideas between national and international statistical organizations. Examples include facilitating the development of a generic statistical information model by a consortium of countries, and ongoing work to harmonise standards between the statistical and data archive communities. UNECE is also actively collaborating with colleagues in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) to develop a global inventory of statistical standards.

Capacity building activities

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

UNECE capacity building activities include training workshops, global assessments of national statistical systems, and 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 Eurostat, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), OECD, the World Bank, IMF, and many United Nations agencies.

UNECE, together with Eurostat and EFTA, conducts **global assessments of national statistical systems** of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. 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. The global assessments conducted in 2010-2011 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine are expected to result in action plans to improve national statistics



according to the recommendations. In 2012, global assessments are planned to be carried out in the Republic of Moldova, Belarus and Tajikistan.

UNECE capacity building activities are planned based on the findings of global assessments and the needs of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In 2012 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 Working Group on Statistics meets annually to discuss needs for capacity building and coordinate donor activities. UNECE will work in 2012 on the development and fund-raising of three **new 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 ongoing technical cooperation activities in the region.

Together with Eurostat and EFTA, UNECE conducts global assessments of national statistical systems of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

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 sources 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 2012.

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 database will serve as a platform for a new Clearinghouse on Migration Statistics, helping the CIS countries to improve their emigration statistics by using the immigration data of other countries.

The UNECE statistical database is also used to **disseminate the data of other UNECE work programmes**. It currently includes transport and forestry statistics. In 2012, a set of globalization indicators will be launched, building on existing data. Preparatory work to identify suitable data on energy and environment issues will also be undertaken in 2012. In this respect, the database is a strategic resource for the whole UNECE.





SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Meeting the challenge of sustainable energy and green economy

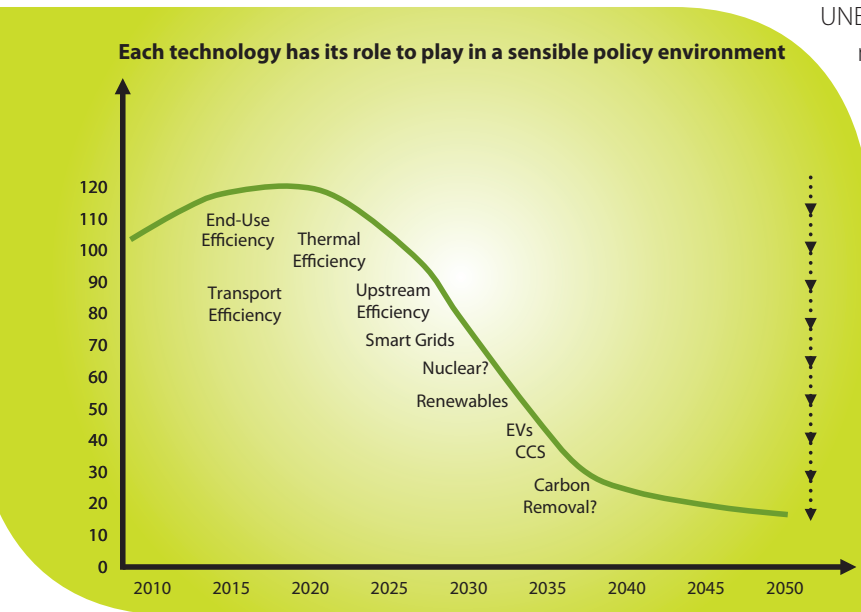
Global warming, pollution, depletion and degradation of natural capital, reduced biodiversity and vulnerability of populations in the face of natural disasters are some of the current sustainability challenges. In the run-up to the 2012 UNCSD (Rio+20), the United Nations continues to work hard to make sustainable development a success.

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 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 away from coal
- 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.

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

In sum, each technology has a role to play, there is no single solution (Figure 1).



UNECE's mandate in the field of energy is to assist its members to secure affordable and sustainable energy supply. Energy supply is considered **secure** if it meets demand in an environmentally sustainable manner at price levels that do not destabilize or damage the economy. Such a definition implies supply that is robust in the face of disruptions, whether physical or political, at prices that are "**affordable**".

Affordability implies that end-use prices should be affordable – without considering the ability to pay or the cost of supply. But affordability takes account of life-cycle costs, including returns on investment, and both the resources and requirements of the buyer. Ensuring affordability is equivalent to ensuring that investments are made throughout the value chain – from primary energy development to final consumers – and that all involved have fair access to energy markets.

Finally, **sustainability** has three interrelated dimensions:

- Economic, where investment and consumption decisions are made in a framework of sensible policies
- Environmental, where sustainable resource use meets human needs while preserving the environment so that the needs can be met not only in the present, but also in the future
- Social and political, where policies and programmes are sustained over time because they are perceived as working for the welfare of society and are therefore supported by the people.

The energy sector is at the nexus of economic and environmental sustainability

The world is changing rapidly in terms of environmental considerations, technological progress and globalization. The economic challenge is to secure affordable and sustainable energy services for energy consumers. Energy efficiency is often described as low-hanging fruit where investments pay for themselves quickly. But it is not getting done, and there are many reasons why: tariffs, subsidies, opaque information, financing constraints, market structures, and so forth. UNECE is committed to working with its partners to ensure that the rate of uptake of energy efficiency investments is optimal – meaning, in all honesty, double today's rate. Member States can make no better choice than improving energy efficiency to address their energy security, environmental and economic challenges.

UNECE's work is expected to have a direct, material impact and to catalyze or accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy future. The activities in 2011 and foreseen for 2012 have been conceived with this transition in mind.

Major developments in 2011

Energy Efficiency

UNECE continued its work in the area of energy efficiency through its Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme. Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to mitigate climate change and achieve sustainable energy goals, however there are many obstacles to effective functioning of markets for energy efficiency projects and technology. UNECE addresses these obstacles by supporting:

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

In 2011, the Second International Energy Efficiency Forum was organized jointly by the Government of Tajikistan, UNECE and ESCAP in Dushanbe in September. Over 100 delegates from 25 countries participated in the Forum. The participants concluded that energy efficiency strategy formulation and policy implementation require that there be strong political will and that resources be allocated to promote energy efficiency. Appropriate policies include: creation of targeted funds by governments; normative instruments such as standards, labels, building codes; tariff reform (removal of consumption subsidies); subsidized interest rates for loans; budgetary support at the household level; best practices guidance; performance monitoring; tax exemptions and emission taxes.

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

UNECE and the Norwegian Association of Energy Suppliers and Users (Norsk Energi) jointly organized two International Conferences and Training Seminars on Business Planning of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects, which were held in Kiev in April and in Skopje in June. Over 180 project developers, government officials, representatives of the business sector, banking and financing community, and experts from 10 countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe participated in these capacity building and experience sharing events. The countries of the Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation Project continued to implement recommendations on policy reforms outlined in the Regional Analysis of Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments and initiated preparation of potential energy efficiency project proposals for submission to investors and banks.

Global Energy Efficiency

The Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21, led by UNECE and jointly implemented by the other United Nations regional commissions, aims to develop a **systematic exchange of experience** on capacity building, policy reforms and investment project finance among countries of all regions of the world through the regional commissions in order to promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements.

The Group of Experts focused on four key elements in 2011: **establish a network of elected officers of intergovernmental bodies** working on energy efficiency and climate change and the respective secretariats of the regional commissions; **review the energy efficiency and climate change work**

programmes with respect to capacity building, energy policy reforms and investment project finance; **determine common priorities and synergies** of the member States and the work programmes they pursue through their United Nations intergovernmental bodies among the regional commissions; and **develop a Global Strategy** for the adoption of regional commissions' work programmes to promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements.

The priority for 2012 will be the launch of a programme under the auspices of the United Nations Foundation to double the rate of uptake of energy efficiency investments. The activities proposed under this project would be coordinated by UNECE, but would engage all the regional commissions and other stakeholders:

- Establish energy efficiency policy forums in each region, through the regional commissions, to formulate and recommend tailored energy efficiency strategies
- Develop a range of best practices, adapted to regional requirements, in the area of energy efficiency
- Collect relevant data and develop appropriate sets of benchmarking indicators
- Track and report on the record of policy adoption in the member States of each region
- Undertake research as appropriate for each region (with strong support from lead countries in each region)
- Prepare an assessment of enforcement policy in terms of actions and effectiveness
- Consider technology development needs
- Engage with the range of relevant ministries (finance, environment, energy, for example).

The scope of topics to be covered will vary from region to region, and would embrace standards (appliance standards, building codes, etc.), labelling/testing, subsidies (monitoring, reporting, lifting), tariffs, market design, market access, network issues, investment finance, research and development, and best practices dissemination.

In 2012 UNECE will undertake a similar effort on renewable energy:

- Establish renewable energy policy forums in each region, through the regional commissions at the behest of the International Renewable Energy Agency, to formulate and recommend tailored renewable energy strategy
- Develop a range of best practices, tailored to regional requirements, in the area of renewable energy (policy, tariffs, market access rules, and so forth)
- Collect relevant data and develop appropriate sets of benchmarking indicators
- Track and report on the record of policy adoption in the member States of each region
- Undertake research as appropriate for each region (with support from lead countries in each region)
- Prepare an assessment of enforcement policy in terms of actions and effectiveness
- Consider technology development needs
- Engage with the range of relevant ministries (finance, environment, energy, for example)



Resource Classification

Activities continued in 2011 on the further development and global promotion of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC).

UNFC is the only modern classification system in the world to address the minerals, petroleum and uranium sectors using a single set of definitions and terminology. Most importantly, because it has been designed as a framework classification the UNFC provides a vehicle for accurate communication in global markets. Today, such communication is hampered at government level by the use of different classifications by different Governments. This situation is further hindered in international companies which are engaged in multiple partnerships with other international companies and in a multitude of countries. It is also inefficient not to have a common terminology when reporting to the international financial markets.

The second session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification in April 2011 counted as a milestone for this work with the participation of minerals, petroleum and uranium experts from 24 countries, including from Asia, Africa, Central Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America. Cooperation and collaboration with key stakeholders was enhanced in 2011, in particular with IAEA, which has commenced detailed efforts to map the uranium classification system to the UNFC.

Significant progress was made in Europe in 2011, notably with the EU Council encouraging endorsement of UNECE's work on standardization and reporting of energy reserves and resources following its Competitiveness Council meeting in Brussels on 10 March.

EuroGeoSource, an EU co-funded project, also announced in March at its international conference in Budapest that it will use the UNFC to harmonize energy and mineral resource data.

EuroGeoSource is a data portal that allows Internet access to aggregated geographical information on geo-energy (oil, gas, coal etc) and mineral resources from the ten EU partner countries (other EU countries are also likely to offer their data as the project develops). Only three of the project countries currently apply the UNFC, hence efforts are being undertaken by the others – with assistance from the Expert Group on Resource Classification – to map their systems to the UNFC.

The progress made in 2011 highlights that the UNFC is a long-term activity with significant voluntary contribution and engagement from key stakeholders and with broad-based global support. The Classification can be applied now to fossil energy and mineral reserves and resources but, going forward, the development of specifications and guidelines will further facilitate its use as a Global Reserves Standard.

The priority for 2012 is the finalization of the generic specifications for the UNFC, 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 the UNFC through workshops and seminars as requested by the Economic and Social Council and to provide the necessary technical assistance to United Nations 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 further development and promotion of the UNFC needs to progress as rapidly as possible since the system paves the way for improved global communications which will aid stability and security of supplies, governed by fewer and more widely understood rules and guidelines. The efficiencies to be gained through the use of the UNFC are substantial, including for sustainable energy development.

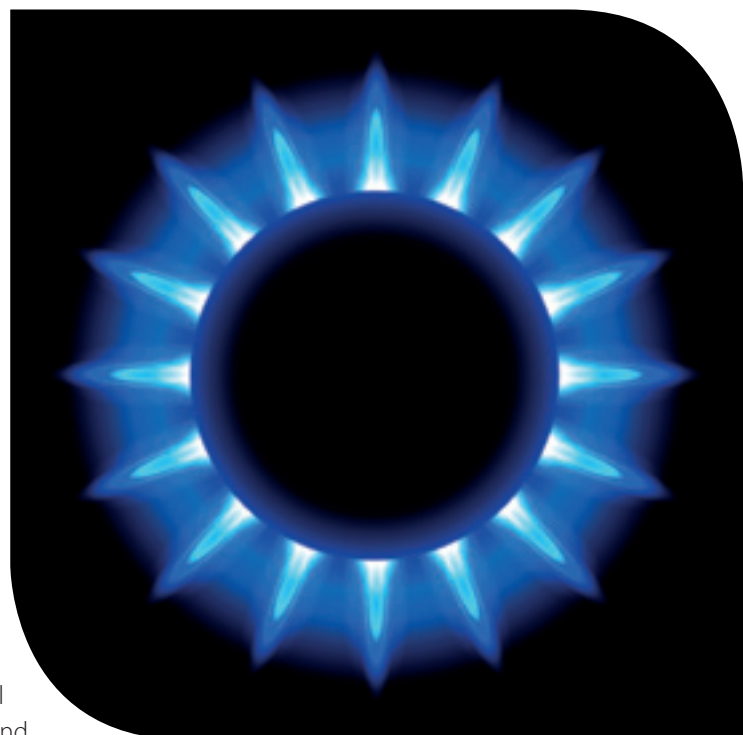
UNECE gas activities aim at promoting wider use of natural gas – the cleanest of all fossil fuels – thus reducing the carbon intensity of the economy



Natural Gas

In the course of 2011 work concentrated on the priority activities identified by the twenty-first session of the Working Party on Gas held in January. The Working Party requested that the necessary efforts be made to conclude the three major regional studies currently underway by mid 2012: **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** in the UNECE Region. A series of preparatory meetings of expert groups were held and significant progress was achieved in the implementation of these studies. Following a decision by the Working Party on Gas, the secretariat prepared a revised version of the final draft report on the study *Impact of the Liberalization of the Natural Gas Markets on Gas Demand and Prices in the ECE Region*, which will be presented for consideration by the twenty-second session of the Working Party on Gas in January 2012.

A study on Underground Gas Storage and another on Gas for Transportation are being conducted in close cooperation with the International Gas Union. Results of these studies will be presented at the World Gas Conference to be held in June 2012 in Kuala Lumpur. It is worth noting that the 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.



Improving electricity generation efficiency is a cost-effective climate change mitigation strategy, but it has received limited attention

Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels

The three principal challenges of the electricity sector for the twenty-first century that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels has discussed are to: (a) secure an adequate energy supply at reasonable cost, (b) reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through CO₂ capture, use and storage and (c) manage energy demand intelligently to lower consumer bills.

The main ongoing task of the Group of Experts in 2011 was fostering investment in cleaner electricity production. This aims at facilitating the move to a more sustainable energy and economic development process in economies in transition and emerging market economies in the UNECE region. An effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to replace obsolete fossil fuel electricity generation technologies with modern and more efficient ones. Improving electricity generation efficiency is a cost-effective climate change mitigation strategy, but it has received relatively limited attention. The Group of Experts began implementing the project **"Mitigating Climate Change through attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies"**, which is financed by UNDA. The project is being executed in close cooperation with UN/DESA, ESCAP and UNCTAD, and focuses on facilitating the increased mobilization of financial resources for the cleaner power sector in nine countries: Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

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.

In 2011, the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane continued to promote the use of the *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*, published in 2010, in the region and beyond and worked on identifying the key barriers limiting the implementation of CMM projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS. The Group of Experts started work to analyse country-specific laws and regulations that could impact implementation of gas drainage and utilization.

In July 2011 the Economic and Social Council adopted a decision endorsing a wider dissemination of the *Best Practice Guidance* in particular in coal-mining countries outside the UNECE region.

The Group of Experts started work to analyse country-specific laws and regulations that could impact implementation of gas drainage and utilization

Energy Security

At its nineteenth session in November 2010, the Committee on Sustainable Energy requested continuation of the assessment of the perceptions of energy security risks (Delphi Study), the analysis of how sustainable energy policies can enhance security and a comprehensive Energy Security Risks Perception Survey based on the two previous activities. The Committee recommended the application, by the secretariat and the World Energy Council, of the developed energy vulnerability indicators to measure the vulnerability of UNECE member States to energy crises and identify trends. The World Energy Council has therefore developed multi-dimensional energy vulnerability indicators (energy dependency and diversity of supplies,



costs of energy imports, price volatility, energy storage and energy transport infrastructure), which are a statistical basis for the dialogue to enhance the level of policy cooperation among member States based on international and time-series comparisons.

Within the context of the Memorandum of Understanding between OSCE and UNECE signed in 2004, UNECE supported the review of implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, including in the field of energy, with a background paper focused on energy efficiency for the OSCE Prague Forum in September 2011.



2012: International Year for Sustainable Energy for All

In December 2010, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2012 as the "International Year for Sustainable Energy for All" (Resolution 65/151). United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a "a global clean energy revolution – a revolution that makes energy available and affordable for all", adding that this must be done while minimizing climate risks, reducing poverty, improving global health, empowering women and in short meeting the Millennium Development Goals for global economic growth, peace and security, and the health of the planet. The MDGs include alleviating energy poverty,

improving the energy intensities of national economies, and encouraging renewable energy technology as an instrument in reducing the carbon intensity of the energy sector. The challenge is to meet these goals with rational, effective policies. Today's imperatives are clear: promulgate sensible economic, energy, transport and environmental policies, address market failures, build capacity for technology transfer, and develop financial instruments that are appropriate for local circumstances. The work that is being done must be seen as benefiting society as a whole if policies are expected to be sustained.

UNECE is preparing a number of initiatives in 2012 in the context of the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All. An exhibition on the Energy Revolution will take place in the Salle des Pas Perdus of the Palais des Nations in November, coinciding with the annual session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

In July 2011 ECOSOC called for a wider dissemination of the Best Practice Guidance in coal-mining countries outside the UNECE region



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Delivering as One on Green Economy

The concept of green economy is relatively new and there exist many definitions of it. Despite their differences, they all have the following common elements: growth, employment, poverty reduction and climate change mitigation. Understandably, no United Nations entity or international organization can offer expertise in all these areas. Partnership is therefore an imperative not an option for promoting green economy at all levels – global, regional, national and local. Unsurprisingly, the Green Economy Initiative, one of the nine United Nations wide Joint Crisis Initiatives launched by the United Nations System's Chief Executives Board in early 2009 in response to the economic crisis and climate change, includes a wide range of activities of more than 20 United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Partnership is an imperative not an option for promoting green economy

UNECE has been a Green Economy Initiative Partner and has been contributing to its work since its inception, particularly through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The latter has provided UNECE with a framework for partnerships, resource mobilization, and result-based management and enabled the establishment of critical links between growth, employment, poverty reduction and environment for achieving sustainable development at the country level. The participation of UNECE in UNDAF has been facilitated, to a great degree, by the launch by the United Nations in 2008 of the Delivering as One initiative on strengthening system-wide coherence and the new United Nations Development Group guidelines which invited all United Nations Country Teams to include economic growth, decent work agenda, climate change and environmental sustainability in future Common Country Assessments and UNDAF.

Currently, UNECE participates in 18 UNDAFs. The eligibility of a country for official development assistance is the only criterion used by UNECE for making a decision on the participation in its UNDAF. As for the area and scope of UNECE assistance, it varies depending on country needs and available UNECE expertise.

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

Remarkably, 10 out of 18 current UNDAFs include environment and climate change as a priority thematic area. All 10 include outcomes on energy efficiency and/or clean energy, with UNECE, UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNDP, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNESCO and United Nations Volunteers as implementing partners. Half of all UNDAFs in the UNECE region include economic development as another priority thematic area and specific outcomes on growth, competitiveness and innovation, enterprise and public-private partnerships development, with UNECE, UNDP, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNIDO, International Trade Centre (ITC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, WTO, International Organization for Migration, etc. as implementing partners. All these areas have until recently never been included in UNDAFs, traditionally focused on social issues.

Under UNDAF, UNECE has been carrying out the following country specific activities:

- National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan)
- National Roadmap on Ageing (Armenia, Republic of Moldova)
- National Action Plan on energy efficiency in Housing (Montenegro)

The preparation of UNDAF is preceded by assessment of the country situation and identifying key development needs, including through the preparation of the Common Country Assessment. A number of UNECE assessments have been used in the preparation of country assessments and provided a baseline for country performance. These include:

- Environmental Performance Review (Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan)
- Country Profile on the Housing Sector (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia)
- Aid for Trade Needs Assessment (Belarus)
- Innovation Performance Review (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine)
- Global Assessment of the National Statistical System (Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine)
- Public Private Partnership readiness assessment (Republic of Moldova)

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

Though national level is of primary importance for implementation of UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards, half of the UNECE technical cooperation activities are of a subregional or regional nature and aim at promoting cooperation on transboundary issues. Less advanced subregions are primary beneficiaries of UNECE technical cooperation. SPECA, managed jointly by UNECE and ESCAP, is the major framework for technical cooperation with countries of Central Asia through the work of its six Project Working Groups. In Europe, the UNECE technical cooperation is closely linked to the process of EU integration, namely to the Instruments of Pre-Accession Assistance in countries of South-East Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy Instruments in countries of Eastern Europe.



At the global level, a number of the UNDA projects led by UNECE were aimed at contributing to the green economy. They have been implemented in collaboration with other United Nations regional commissions, UN/DESA, UNIDO, UNCTAD, WHO and UNEP:

- Water Quality in Central Asia
- Facilitating climate change adaptation in transport through addressing the energy-environment linkage.

The following project proposals have recently been approved for UNDA funding:

- Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies
- Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development
- Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation.

UNECE experience shows that Delivering as One is the best modality for technical cooperation on green economy and, as such, needs to be further strengthened.







TIMBER & FORESTRY

Investing in a greener future

The International Year of Forests in 2011, declared by General Assembly resolution 61/193, provided an opportunity for increasing the recognition of forests and the significant contribution that they can make to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. This year was established by the General Assembly in order to raise awareness at all levels and thus strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

A forest gallery

With the unique opportunity afforded by the spotlight on forests during 2011, the joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber programme embarked on a series of activities to raise awareness of the role of forests and to communicate the latest forest-sector developments in the region.

The Year was launched by a UNECE exhibition in the Palais des Nations, entitled “The Art of Trees – a Forest Gallery”. This exhibition was organized together with the United States Mission to the United Nations and the Cultural Programme of the United Nations Office at Geneva. It included almost 100 living trees, together with illustrations by United States artist Monte Dolack, and other forest and wood products from North America and Europe. This forest gallery was an occasion to reflect on the contribution that forests make to economic, environmental and social wellbeing. After the exhibition, the trees were planted in the park of the Palais des Nations, further enriching the park’s biodiversity.

2011 was the International Year of Forests

World Forestry Day and Regional Forest Information Week

To celebrate World Forestry Day, on 21 March, a tulip tree was planted by distinguished guests. This event opened the UNECE/FAO Regional Forest Information Week, organized to promote information about forests and communicate the latest forest-sector developments in the region. The week featured a series of events including a seminar on the State of Forests in the North American and Pan-European region.



World Environment Day

For World Environment Day, on 3 June, preliminary findings from the UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe *State of Europe's Forests 2011* report were presented during a press briefing organized by UNEP. In addition, a video for use by a range of stakeholders was created to present the work of the joint UNECE/FAO programme and its contributions to sustainable forest management in the region.

To further mark the year, an award for the best PhD Thesis on Sustainable Forest Management was established and the first prize was presented in October 2011. The Year was brought to a close in December 2011 by *Forests 2030: a policy talk on the present and future of Europe's forests*, an event held in Geneva.

State of Europe's Forests 2011 presents an overview of the status and trends in forests in Europe for the period 1990–2010

The state and future of forests and the forest sector

During 2011, two key reports were published on the state and future of the European forest sector, these being the Forest Europe/UNECE/FAO report, *State of Europe's Forests 2011* and the UNECE/FAO, *European Forest Sector Outlook Study II*. Together, these two publications provide a comprehensive view of European forests from 1990 to 2030.

The *State of Europe's Forests 2011* report was officially launched at the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, in Oslo in June 2011. It provides policy and decision-makers as well as other stakeholders with up-to-date information on sustainable forest management in Europe. The report, which comprises an overview of the status and trends in forests and sustainable forest management in Europe for the period 1990–2010, is an attempt to provide a clear picture of the interactions between forests and society. This is also a record of 20 years of commitment to sustainable forest management in the pan-European region. It confirmed that sustainable forest management has proven to be successful in addressing challenges through the promotion of a balanced approach to forest uses for supporting environmental, economic and social functions alike.

The *State of Europe's Forests* report presents the most recent, objective and harmonized data on sustainable forest management in Europe. As such, it provided the data that was used as the starting point for the *European Forest Sector Outlook Study II*, released in September 2011. This study maps out possible developments until 2030, based on past trends and future projections. It includes a reference scenario and four policy scenarios reflecting challenges such as climate-change mitigation, protection of biodiversity, provision of wood energy and the fostering of a competitive forest sector. The study contributes to evidence-based policy formulation by illustrating the possible consequences of current decision-making on the future development of forests and forest resources.



At the same time, the third round of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry was completed. This is a source of reference information on wood energy, giving a comprehensive overview of its role within the region. The enquiry also promotes cross-sectoral communication and cooperation between the energy and forestry sectors. Responses to the enquiry improved in terms of both quantity and quality, and confirmed the rising consumption of wood for energy purposes.

Action for a greener and stronger sector

As part of its policy work, the Timber and Forestry programme also addresses emerging issues in an effort to strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the region. In the course of 2011, and mindful of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), work was undertaken to develop an Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy. The Action Plan was prepared on the basis of an open consultation with member States and stakeholders, which was consolidated by a stakeholder meeting in May 2011.

Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

The Action Plan is intended to stimulate action 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 between the various actors inside and outside the sector;
- (d) Communicate the achievements of the forest sector in the region, to the public, policymakers and to other sectors.

The Action Plan proposes a series of objectives for the forest sector in the region and possible actions to achieve these objectives, to be implemented by international organizations, Governments of member States, the private sector, civil society and all other stakeholders.

The Plan is not a work programme, but includes actions to be carried out by all actors, including Governments, research, the 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 focussing on forests in a green economy.

The UNECE region has many important international forest-sector-related initiatives and instruments. One special feature of the Action Plan is that it addresses the whole of the region, and 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 to a green economy at the global level, by articulating and developing the potential of the forest sector.

Payment for ecosystem services

A workshop on "Payment for Ecosystem Services – what role for a green economy" was organized as part of the UNECE Forest and Water Week (4-8 July) in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and the Finnish Environment Institute and with the support of France's Ministry for agriculture, food, fisheries, rural affairs and land management.

The workshop addressed issues linked to payments for different ecosystem services to help governments and stakeholders share experiences and understand which policies and incentives have been and could be most effective in implementing Payments for Ecosystem Services schemes.



With a focus on forest- and water-related ecosystem services, the workshop aimed at explaining the sectoral relevance of environmental research linked to the valuation and payment of ecosystem services. It also tried to assess the contribution Payments for Ecosystem Services schemes can make to facilitating the transition towards a green economy. The outcome of this workshop fed into the Action Plan.

The Action Plan was also at the core of discussions held at the Joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission held in Antalya, Turkey, in October 2011. It was agreed that the Plan would be presented as a regional contribution from the forest sector at the Rio+20 conference, which has as one of its main themes "Green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication".

In addition, the UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2010-2011* was published. It provided the basis for the market discussions held at the joint meeting of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission and continues to serve as a valuable resource for government policymakers, industry representatives, academics and other forest sector stakeholders.

A revival in demand for forest products across the UNECE region in 2010, following two years of falling production and consumption, is leading to moderate optimism that the industry may have turned a corner. Trends in the first half of 2011 confirm a continued, albeit modest, rise in consumption. The theme "Forest products – contributing to a green economy" focused on ways in which the wood products industry can build awareness of the benefits of using wood and encourage architects, engineers and builders to increase their specifying or use of wood. A number of ancillary benefits may follow, including increased employment, especially in rural areas, a reduction of carbon emissions, and a transition away from energy-intensive building materials.

2012 - Rio and Beyond

In 2011, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made sustainable energy one of the five priorities that will guide his second 5-year term. He is leading a Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, which calls for private-sector and national commitments and seeks to attract global attention to the importance of energy for development and poverty alleviation. The goal is to meet three objectives by 2030:

- Ensuring universal access to modern energy services
- Doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

The European Forest Sector Outlook Study II maps out possible developments until 2030



In recognition of the importance of energy access for sustainable economic development and supporting achievement of the MDGs, the General Assembly has designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. With this in mind, the Timber and Forestry subprogramme will organize one or more regional workshops aimed at strengthening national capacities to monitor the use of wood for energy purposes. Improved information at a national level should lead to more informed choices and better responses to future Joint Wood Energy Enquiries.

As the Rio +20 conference approaches, a second stakeholder meeting is planned for 2012 to further develop the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in the Green Economy and, in particular, to identify actions and related actors. Meanwhile, a web-based database of case studies and experiences in the UNECE region on the forest sector in a green economy is being developed based on submissions by member States and relevant organizations. A finalized Action Plan will be presented for adoption at the next joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission in 2013.

This joint session will consider the results of the Strategic Review that will be conducted in 2012. The main objectives of the review are to evaluate the achievements of the UNECE/FAO programme of work over the past 4-5 years, and the development and agreement of a programme of work for 2014-2017.

The review will be as broad as possible, covering all aspects of the work and will be carried out in an open and inclusive manner, making use of different inputs from surveys, secretariat assessments, informal meetings with stakeholders, and meetings with the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission members.

Activities will also be undertaken to strengthen policies and institutions in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in particular through the work of teams of specialists. In close collaboration with FAO Headquarters and subregional offices in Budapest and Ankara, the programme facilitates the sharing of experiences and best practices throughout the region on themes including climate change, wood energy and corporate social responsibility.

2010 saw a rebound in demand for forest products across the region after two years of falling production and consumption

The challenge ahead is to improve links with countries with economies in transition through mechanisms such as UNDAF. At the same time, available resources, as well as the need for coordination and cooperation require collaboration with key partners in order to achieve programme goals. These key partners include FAO, Forest Europe, industry and trade associations, academia, NGOs and other forest-sector stakeholders, in addition to other UNECE subprogrammes (including sustainable energy, environment, and housing and land management).

Forestry has been identified as one of the 10 central sectors capable of propelling a transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient, employment-generating future if backed by investment and forward-looking policies. Sustainable forest products will be the theme of the 2012 Timber Committee session, with a special focus on the life-cycle assessment of wood products at all stages of manufacturing, consumption and recycling and promotion of wood's green credentials. The challenge for the Timber and Forestry subprogramme is to keep up the momentum created by the International Year of Forests well into 2012 and ensure that the forest sector is well informed and well represented in green economy discussions.







TRADE

Implementation and Impact

Through its Trade subprogramme, UNECE supports the economic development of the region and the integration of countries with economies in transition into the world economy by undertaking activities to reduce non-tariff barriers to trade.

To this end, the Committee on Trade and its three subsidiary bodies develop policy guidance, recommendations and standards under their respective mandates, the subsidiary bodies being: the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardizations Policies (WP.6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

UNECE activities aim at reducing non-tariff barriers to trade

2011 Highlights

Country assessments of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

Country assessments serve, first, as the basis of recommendations to the countries concerned. In addition, they serve as the basis for policy discussions and work on recommendations to regional groupings, donors and UNECE on where to focus efforts for improving regional integration and the trade environment in the region.

In 2011, a study was launched to assess procedural and regulatory barriers in Kazakhstan using the UNECE evaluation methodology and working together in an innovative “joint venture” with the ITC. This is the programme’s second trade needs assessment and its findings will be discussed at the Committee on Trade session in June 2012.

The results of the first trade needs assessment, for Belarus, after having been discussed by the Committee on Trade in June 2011, was revised and expanded, at the request of the Belarusian Government, to include detailed recommendations that will facilitate transforming the study into an action plan in the future. The final study will be published in early 2012.

Aid for Trade

Continued support was given during 2011 to the SPECA Aid-for-Trade Roadmap Initiative following the December 2010 Ministerial Conference in Baku. This was done by pooling efforts with other international development partners and the SPECA Project Working Group on Trade.

Recent achievements under this initiative include the launching, in cooperation with like-minded development partners, of an inter-agency voluntary coordinating mechanism, the SPECA Aid for Trade Implementation and Monitoring Council (SPECA Aft Council). The Council brings together implementing agencies, multilateral and bilateral donors and seeks to implement, in close cooperation with the Project Working Group on Trade, the follow-up activities requested in the Baku Ministerial Declaration, including efforts to:

- (a) Develop national supply side capacity, including productive capacity and institutional frameworks
- (b) Harness cross-border cooperation
- (c) Facilitate the beneficial integration of SPECA countries into the multilateral trading system.



The SPECA Aid for Trade Implementation and Monitoring Council was established

Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

UN/CEFACT¹, a UNECE intergovernmental body, works globally to develop internationally recognized recommendations and standards to facilitate international trade. It focuses on simplifying, standardizing and harmonizing processes, procedures and information flows across the entire supply chain.

The removal of regulatory and procedural obstacles to trade is one of UNECE's key strategies for advancing economic integration within the region as well as between the region and the rest of the world. Today, in the light of:

- ever lower tariffs, which have made technical barriers to trade, such as excessive procedures and bureaucracy, the principal obstacles to international trade and
- increased international and domestic competition which have made delays and costs related to procedures a major threat to corporate and national competitiveness,

UNECE's work on trade facilitation and electronic business remains even more critical and important than in the past.

One recent key output was the Cross Industry Invoice, which is the basis of the European core invoice implementation guidelines published by the European Committee on Standardization in September 2011. The Single Window for export and import clearance is another important focus of UN/CEFACT's

¹ UN/CEFACT has a global remit to develop trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations and standards. Over 200 experts from government and business and from all five continents participate in the work - <http://www.unece.org/cefact/index.html>

work. During the past year new recommendations were issued to support its implementation: #34 on Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade; and #35 on Establishing a Legal Framework for the International Trade Single Window); while progress was made on a draft Recommendation 36 on Single Window Interoperability.

The Core Component Library (ebXML, ISO15000-5), which serves as a lingua franca for electronic information exchange, was further enhanced with the addition of many new data definitions and structures for use in the exchange of standardized messages in international trade. Updates of other widely used standards and recommendations were published, such as UN/EDIFACT (for electronic data interchange) and UN/LOCODE (for identifying over 60,000 trading locations).

UN/CEFACT underwent a major reform in 2010-2011 in order to enhance efficiency and reduce the time for developing new recommendations and standards. This involved eliminating several layers of management and moving to a more project-oriented approach. Further information on the new structure can be found on the website at: <http://www.unece.org/cefact/index.html>.

Support for implementation and transition economies: Efforts were intensified to help member States identify trade facilitation needs and to address these needs through advice, capacity building and implementation support tools.

UNECE worked with its sister regional commission ESCAP to provide joint capacity building under a UNDA project. This included:

- (a) Strengthening the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)², which is a community of experts from developing countries and transition economies involved in implementing electronic trade systems and trade facilitation
- (b) Producing the UNNExT Brief Series
- (c) Organizing a series of capacity-building meetings including: a Regional Meeting of Central Asian countries in Kuala Lumpur; the Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum in Seoul; a Peer Review of the Mongolian Single Window Master Plan; and regional workshops for Central Asian countries in Thailand and Kazakhstan.

Based on this successful collaboration with ESCAP and, indeed, on collaboration in the past with all the other regional commissions — the Executive Secretaries of all five regional commissions launched the joint United Nations regional commission approach to trade facilitation, to provide a unified approach and voice in trade-facilitation matters.

To support this initiative, UNECE developed a UNDA project to assist developing and transition economies from all five regions to participate more effectively in global supply chains. The first event under this project was the conference, "Connecting International Trade: Single Windows and Supply Chains in the Next Decade"³ held in Geneva in December 2011. This meeting looked at the latest trends, opportunities and technologies for Single Windows and information exchange in global trade in order to:



Over 200 experts from government and business worldwide participate in the work of UN/CEFACT

² See <http://www.unescap.org/unnext/unnext.asp>

³ See <http://www.unece.org/swgglobalconference> 2011

- (a) Identify the most efficient strategies, business models and policy approaches
- (b) Support the development of strategic priorities for more efficient and secure cross-border trade, in line with the ongoing WTO negotiations in the Doha round
- (c) Give participants the opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned.

Particular attention was focused in 2011 on encouraging the participation of economies in transition. Positive developments in this area include:

- (a) Nomination by the Ministries of Communication of 11 CIS countries of a "Regional Commonwealth for Communication" group to work with UN/CEFACT.
- (b) A request from the CIS Interstate Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification (uniting the standardization bodies of 11 CIS States) for assistance in preparing proposals for a potential regional standardization programme on information standards based on UN/CEFACT tools.
- (c) The provision by UNECE of a series of training courses in trade facilitation at the OSCE Border Management College in Dushanbe.



The secretariat also supported cross-border workshops on trade facilitation, Single Window and data harmonization in Bishkek, Moscow and Odessa. In cooperation with the Commission of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, a trade-facilitation conference on the Single Window was also organized in Moscow in April 2011. In addition, following joint studies and a series of seminars with the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the areas of trade facilitation and work on Single Window were included in the EurAsEC work plan.

Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

Risk Management in Regulatory Systems: During the last year, a number of serious accidents caused casualties, environmental degradation, and widespread economic losses around the world. Many of these crises originated from industrial and energy plants and other large-scale facilities. This situation clearly calls for a reinforced regulatory framework in which economic operators, policymakers and other stakeholders work cohesively together.

To improve the management of risks and ensure a better preparation for crises, in 2011 the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardizations Policies:

- (a) Approved two recommendations on "Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks" and "Crisis Management in Regulatory Frameworks"
- (b) Constituted a new Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems with a global membership and input from policymakers, standardization bodies, conformity-assessment bodies, research centres and academia. The Group works in an innovative and effective way, primarily through monthly webinars and extensive use of an interactive website

(c) Became a liaison member of the Project Committee 262 “Risk Management” of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), which is currently developing guidelines for the implementation of the ISO 31000 standard on “Risk Management”. The liaison membership will allow the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems to participate in the standards-development process and will provide ISO/PC 262 with information on the most relevant needs of regulators and policymakers

(d) Drafted a publication on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (to be issued in 2012)

(e) Organized a workshop on “Traceability as a tool for managing risks” to discuss common challenges and present best practice on how better tracing of products and semi-final products can assist policymakers in protecting consumers and citizens.



Market surveillance: Throughout the world, low-quality goods that breach technical regulations and intellectual property rights are proliferating and creating unfair price competition for those who respect the rules. These products can also pose a serious threat to human health and safety and/or generate pollution and environmental degradation.

The main regulatory response to this trend is to strengthen market surveillance authorities. The UNECE goal in this policy area is to produce a shared body of best practice in planning and carrying out market surveillance actions. In 2011, the Working Party, through its Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group):

(a) Approved a new recommendation on “Good practices in market surveillance policies and practices” to guide policymakers in the institutional setup and organization of controls and inspections, to ensure that products on the market are safe and compliant

(b) Published a glossary of “Market Surveillance Terms”, in three languages, to promote improved international cooperation through better mutual understanding

(c) Developed a global online database of national authorities responsible for regulatory enforcement in specific sectors, including their legislative mandates, relevant contact details and websites.

Regulatory cooperation: For many countries, including those with economies in transition, the regulatory requirements in export markets constitute a major practical barrier, as well as a technical barrier to trade. While the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee, with which the Working Party cooperates, sets a common body of discipline for national policymakers, UNECE builds on this base to set out practical ways to reinforce international cooperation in specific sectors. Work in this area is carried out by teams called “sectoral initiatives”.

In 2011, the most active sectoral initiative dealt with equipment used in environments with high risk of explosion (mines, energy plants, etc). In this sector, barriers to trade increase the costs of equipment that workers depend upon for their safety, in some countries placing the equipment beyond the reach of those who would need it most. Working in close collaboration with the International Electrotechnical Commission Scheme for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx Scheme), the Working Party:

Recommendations were approved in 2011 on “Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks” and “Crisis Management in Regulatory Frameworks”

- (a) Published the UNECE-proposed “common regulatory framework” for this sector
- (b) Organized a meeting of regulators from major world markets who expressed a willingness to work towards a shared regulatory model.

The Working Party also brings together the expertise of policymakers and standardization bodies. In this context, in 2011 it organized a panel session to discuss how standards can support sustainable development and the three pillars of sustainability: economic growth, environmental integrity and societal equity. Following this panel, the Working Party requested the secretariat, the Bureau and interested delegations to find appropriate ways of channelling the Working Party’s expertise into the preparatory work for the Rio+20 Conference.

Agricultural quality standards

Agricultural trade depends upon quality standards, which:

- (a) support reliable trade because they permit contracts to be drafted based on accepted, common definitions of quality
- (b) encourage high quality production
- (c) protect consumer interests.

They are widely implemented by the private sector, but also by governments in relevant legislation. The UNECE agricultural quality standards are the most widely used in the world and countries from around the world participate in their development.

At its 2011 session, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards adopted:

- Two revised Standard Layouts, one for fresh fruit and vegetables and one for dry and dried produce
- Seven revised standards (early and ware potatoes, seed potatoes, plums, apples, pears, garlic and macadamia kernels) and three new standards (goose meat, horse meat and veal meat)
- Six recommendations for fresh chili peppers and for dried apples, dried pears, dried apricots, dried figs, and whole dried chilli peppers.

Progress also was made on new explanatory brochures (which help ensure that different inspectors applying the same UNECE standard obtain comparable results by providing guidelines and illustrations) for the pineapple and fresh chilli pepper standards. Work continued on new standards for retail meat cuts, rabbit meat and deer meat, as well as for cashew kernels, pine nuts, dried mangoes, brazil nut kernels; inshell brazil nuts, dried pineapples, dried cranberries, dried grapes, sampling plans for tree nuts and dried produce and explanatory brochures for whole dried chilli peppers and walnuts.

Capacity building: This was the final year of a large-scale capacity-building project financed by the UNDA. This project supported, in partnership with governmental organizations and the private sector, capacity-building workshops and seminars across the world to help partners in transition economies and developing countries



Increased use of the UN/CEFACT standards for data harmonization and data modelling is expected

to train growers, traders and inspectors and to set up the legal and technical infrastructure required for the practical application of UNECE standards.

A new combination of training workshops and meetings for the development of explanatory material in major production areas led to significant progress being made in the development of explanatory brochures. As a result, brochures for pineapples and fresh chilli peppers are expected to be ready for publication in 2012.

Additional training and capacity-building activities carried out with financial support from the Russian Voluntary Contribution Fund have changed the perception of UNECE agricultural quality standards in the CIS region. They are now regarded as an important tool for increasing the production of quality produce as well as for developing regional trade— particularly in the light of the Customs Union between Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. In particular, UNECE experts worked with the Russian Federation and other CIS countries to help them modernize their seed-potato certification systems. That work included training growers, inspectors and laboratory staff, as well as setting up diagnostic laboratories to ensure production of healthy seed that leads to higher yields and prevents soil contamination.



Challenges for 2012

Country assessments of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

Future challenges are linked to encouraging and helping beneficiary countries to implement the recommendations proposed by the country reviews and this is, at least in part, linked to helping these countries identify extrabudgetary resources for supporting national projects.

Demand for UNECE agricultural quality standards, and for capacity-building remains strong

Aid for Trade (Aft)

Challenges associated with this activity stem mainly from the SPECA countries' limited experience in the implementation of Aft and the nurturing of cooperation among development partners (bilateral and multilateral donors, development banks, etc). Both aspects slow down implementation, as the secretariat has to train national counterparts on the different aspects of managing the Aft agenda, including, for example, preparing national action plans and projects for implementing these plans. In addition, ensuring an adequate exchange of information and experience among all Aft development partners in the region, while being the only way to ensure efficient and effective Aft implementation, remains a time-consuming task. As a result, the secretariat risks becoming spread too thin on the ground, thus begging the need for increased support through extrabudgetary funds.

Trade facilitation and electronic business

During 2012 a significant increase in requests and work is expected. The growing interest of countries in creating and expanding Single Window facilities is likely to lead to wider implementation of the entire suite of UN/CEFACT trade-facilitation instruments. In addition, an increase is expected in the use of UN/CEFACT standards for activities such as data harmonization and data modelling.

UNECE will continue to undertake capacity building, especially in transition economies, in order to promote the use of UN/CEFACT instruments and increase participation in the expert groups developing standards. Work will also be undertaken to develop more guides and implementation packages to assist users, and to develop an online repository of UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations. There will be a focus on enhancing the UN/CEFACT website to increase user friendliness and provide better access to key products and the number of documents available in all three official languages will be increased.

In 2012 the secretariat, with support from UN/CEFACT experts, will complete work on the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide and related capacity-building materials. It will also strengthen its work with the other United Nations regional commissions to promote jointly trade facilitation, including Single Window implementation and development - thus supporting the smooth flow of goods along international supply chains.

The new UN/CEFACT structure, with its expected increase in efficiency and productivity, should begin to show results during 2012. Nonetheless, as a result of all the above, we expect there to be further resource challenges as UN/CEFACT works to respond to the trade-facilitation and electronic-business needs of member States and other stakeholders.

Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

A major challenge for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardizations Policies will be how to continue delivering in spite of a very significant reduction in resources (as a result of United Nations budget cuts, the supporting professional staff has been reduced from 1.8 to 1). Therefore, significant time will need to be devoted to obtaining extrabudgetary resources in addition to the regular work and the impact on delivery of the programme of work is still unclear. Member States have expressed concern over this, as well as their continued commitment to the activities of the Working Party, however given the current economic situation in much of the region, a great deal of uncertainty over funding remains.

Agricultural quality standards

Demand for UNECE agricultural quality standards, as well as for capacity-building and technical assistance, remains strong. To meet this demand, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and the secretariat will continue their promotional and capacity-building programme. Work in CIS countries will draw upon the resources of the Russian Voluntary Contribution Fund. However, substantial, additional fund-raising is needed in order to respond to the heavy demand for training in other parts of the world.

The Working Party will also be asked to produce more explanatory material for the interpretation/application of its standards. Several meat standards will be published in all three languages, and four major meat standards will be revised by the major producing countries to reflect more accurately new practices and market realities. The most important challenge for this work will be to simultaneously meet user demands and maintain the quality of outputs.





TRANSPORT

Progress and partnership for sustainable transport development

In 2011, UNECE's Inland Transport Committee, serviced by the Transport Division continued working to promote safer, more efficient, secured and environmentally friendly international movement of people and goods throughout the UNECE region and beyond.

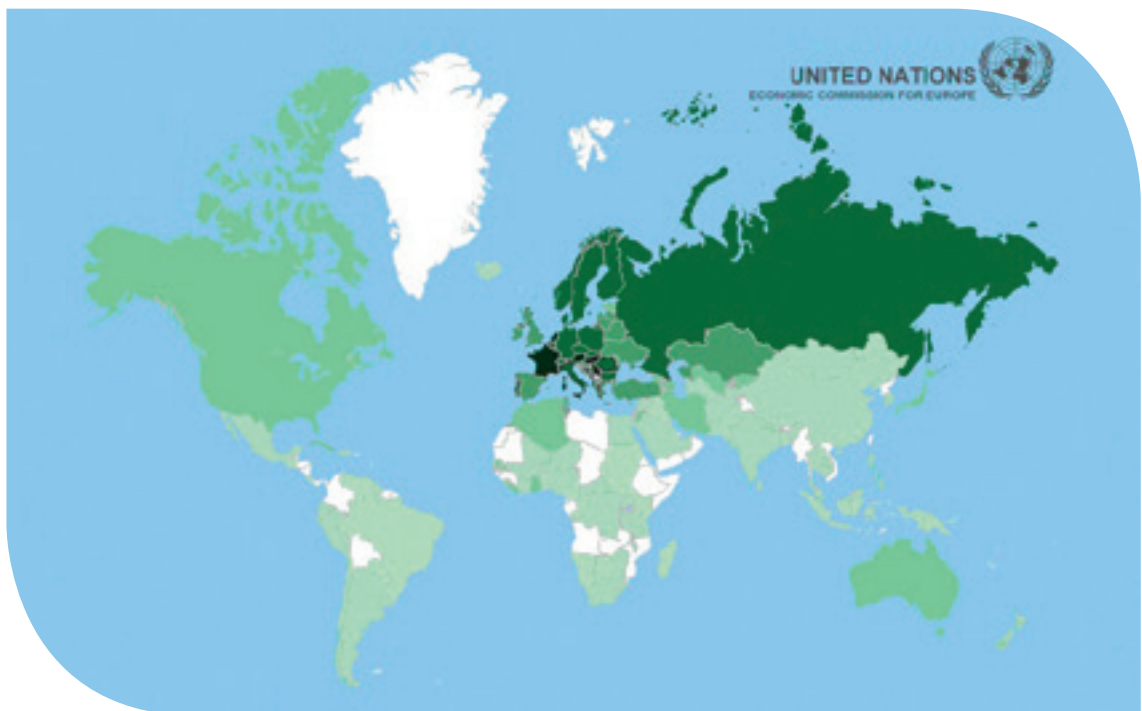
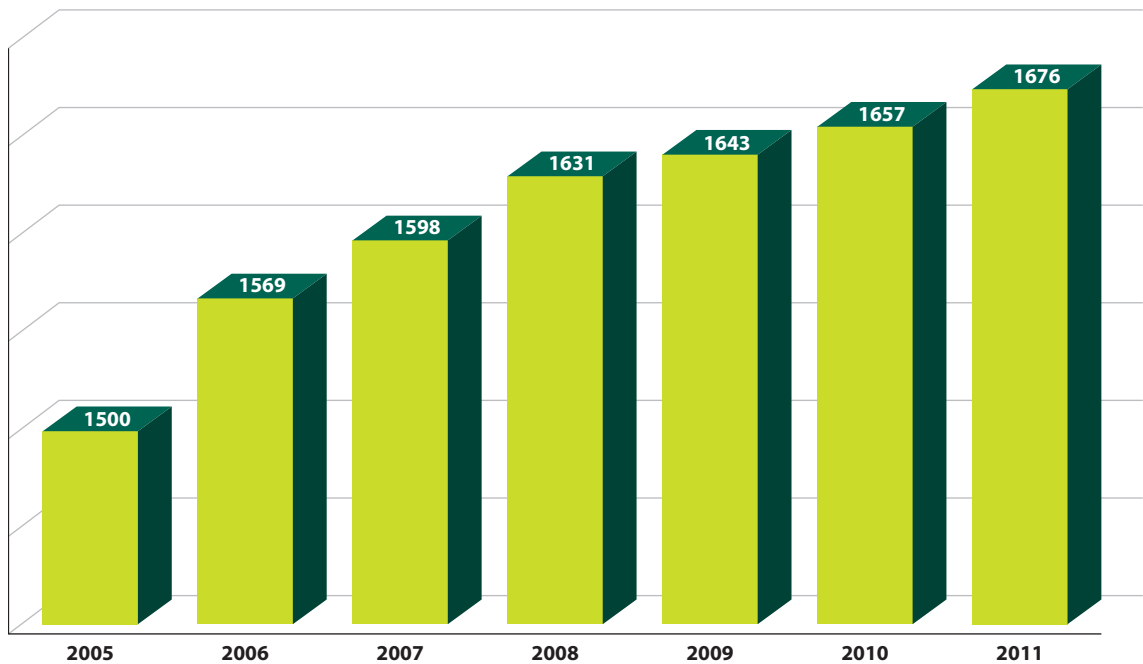
While new technological solutions are continuously changing the way we think about mobility and use transport, it remains critically important that the long-term environmental, social and safety impacts of transport systems are taken into account. The Transport Division used its unique position as the centre for international transport legislation to promote policies on sustainable transport and positively influence international discourse and decision-making.

UNECE promotes sustainable development of transport through different legal instruments, analytical work, as well as technical activities.

2011 also marked the start of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety. In fact, for UNECE this is the seventh decade of action for effectively promoting traffic safety in all modes of inland transport. This historic and multi-modal engagement offers a strong basis to further strengthen this angle of our work.

Throughout 2011 the Transport Division continued to service seventeen Working Parties and six administrative committees that govern a variety of legal instruments and manage the United Nations international agreements, conventions, norms and standards in the field of inland transport, including services, vehicles and infrastructure, as well as in the field of chemicals and dangerous goods transport. 2011 also meant an increase in the number of contracting parties to UNECE legal instruments.

UNECE published the paper "Transport for sustainable development in the UNECE region"



Actions for sustainable transport development

Transport for sustainable development in the UNECE region

Transport issues were on the agenda of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (COP 18-19) in 2010-11. As input to these discussions, UNECE published a paper entitled "*Transport for sustainable development in the UNECE region*". This study, published in 2011, translates sustainable development into transport by discussing access (individual and social), affordability (individual and social), safety, security and



environmental externalities. In each of these categories it describes best practices from the UNECE region. Finally, it gives a snapshot assessment of where the UNECE region currently is with regard to sustainable transport and identifies the ways forward.

For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) Project to Reduce CO₂ Emissions

In 2011, UNECE launched a project for the development and implementation of a tool to monitor and assess CO₂ emissions from inland transport activities. It is a 3-year project funded by UNDA involving all United Nations regional commissions, with the goal of facilitating climate change mitigation. The project aims to develop and utilize a standard monitoring and assessment tool for CO₂ emissions in inland transport (road, rail and inland navigation), as well as a transport policy converter that promotes different options with regard to policy measures to be implemented by Governments. ForFITS will enhance international cooperation towards future sustainable transport policies. It will facilitate the exchange of comparable information and will encourage historic evaluation within a country if consistently applied. In this respect, it will forge international cooperation toward sustainable inland transport systems.

Based on information from Governments and international organizations, as well as on the results of independent research, a Global Status Report has been prepared to share information on best practices and to analyse available CO₂ measurement methodologies. In addition, the project began creating a concept to define the structure and methodologies for a unified assessment tool that will be developed in 2012.

In 2012, a global conference will bring together government focal points for climate change mitigation in inland transport, international organizations (governmental and non-governmental), representatives from academia, the private sector and key experts in the field. The first project outputs will be presented, along with the Global Status Report, and a comprehensive list of recommendations for the further refinement of the methodologies and potential applications for the final tool. Once the tool is implemented, verified and validated in 2012, a series of technical assistance events and pilot tests will follow.

Climate Change Adaptation

Under the auspices of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) an expert group on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation on International Transport Networks was set up and regional consultations started about the implications of climate change adaptation in the field of inland transport.

In the next two years, in addition to awareness raising and information sharing consultations, the expert group will develop policy-oriented recommendations that aim to improve the long-term sustainability of international transport, identify best practices of national policies and address the issues of transport networks' vulnerability amongst member Governments, including the special situation of landlocked countries. More specifically, the work of the expert group will focus on the following:

- Identify potential climatic impacts in the UNECE countries on transport infrastructure, including ports and their hinterland connections;
- Determine the costs of climatic impacts for international inland transport networks; and
- Identify existing best practices in national policies and risk management, as well as formulation of relevant strategies to enhance the resilience of international transport networks.

In 2012, UNECE will organize an international conference on "Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change" with the main objective being to broaden the technical debate and better engage decision-makers.

Dramatic increases in motorization levels pose serious safety and environmental concerns

Transport, Health and Environment

Throughout 2011, the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP), jointly managed by the UNECE Environment and Transport Divisions in cooperation with WHO/Europe, continued promoting healthy, environmentally friendly, economically sound and socially viable transport systems. (For further information see page 23 under Environment.)

Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations

During 2011, the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) adopted new regulations aimed at improving vehicles' safety and their environmental performance, while also continuing to update the existing regulations. More than 100 amendments were adopted in 2011, some of which were designed to adapt the existing vehicle regulations to an adequate level of technical progress, while others introduced more severe limits. New provisions for side facing bus seats were also completed in 2011.

Furthermore, the World Forum agreed on new sets of recommendations to ensure the audibility of quiet vehicles, such as electric and hybrid vehicles while they move at slow speed and no "surface noise" can be heard (e.g. in parking places) in order to reduce the collision risk with pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, especially children and visually-impaired people.

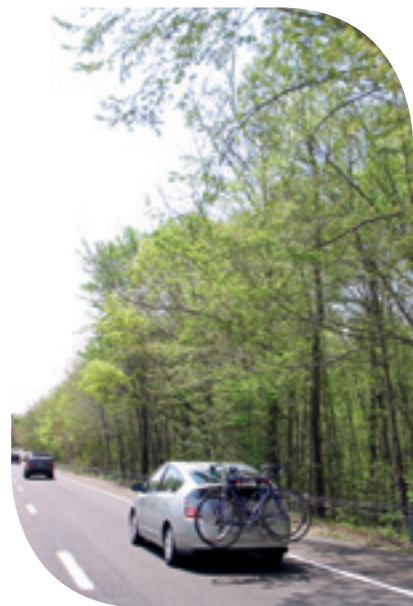
Recommendations were also agreed upon on market fuel quality (i.e. on lead and sulphur) to enable vehicles to use daily service fuels with specific characteristics related to the vehicle emission levels and technology type. The intent is to support efforts that enable vehicles to operate at the same level of performance throughout their lifespan, particularly with regard to the emission of gaseous pollutants and particulates.

In 2011, the World Forum adapted several regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement to add new provisions for the protection of passengers against electric shocks, not only in normal service but also in the case of frontal and lateral impacts. These updated regulations are considered the first set of international regulations on safety for hybrid and electric vehicles, including hydrogen and fuel cells technologies. Furthermore, the World Forum adopted new requirements to test snow tyres, as well as to measure the rolling resistance of tyres.

Under the 1997 Agreement on Periodical Technical Inspections of vehicles in use, the World Forum adopted a new rule on performance requirements for vehicle safety and roadworthiness. In this regard, the agreement has both the safety and environmental pillars. This agreement offers a framework to ensure not only that new vehicles become safer and more environmentally friendly, but also that those already on the road and expected to remain in circulation for many more years meet the minimum safety and environmental performance expectations. Ensuring the regulatory and institutional arrangements (e.g. accredited garages) is a challenge for many governments. However, joining the agreement could be the first step for countries to "green" existing vehicle fleets.

Intelligent Transport Systems

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) are a key element for shaping the future of sustainable mobility in the transport sector. The UNECE strategy package on ITS was designed with substantive support from Italy and Germany. The strategy package contains three papers: a general overview of ITS with best practices, a strategic note looking at the gaps and impediments to the use of ITS, and the UNECE Road Map on ITS which



2011 marked the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020)

identifies 20 global actions to be performed by UNECE from 2012 to 2020. The Road Map has been discussed by all relevant Working Parties to integrate ITS into their activities, promote a productive policy dialogue and — if necessary — to ensure they are reflected in international legal instruments leading to more efficient, safer and greener transport.

The potentials and benefits of ITS are huge. Obstacles and impediments to their deployment therefore need to be eliminated. In this respect, the policy segment of the 2012 Inland Transport Committee session will be dedicated to ITS.



Transport of Dangerous Goods

UNECE provides secretariat services to intergovernmental bodies both at global and at regional levels. In 2011 the secretariat published the seventeenth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations; Amendment 1 to the fifth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria; and the fourth revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).



The new or amended provisions in these publications address a wide range of issues. Regarding transport, particular attention is paid to:

- the transport of chemicals under pressure
- electric double layer capacitors
- articles containing mercury
- transport equipment containing dangerous goods such as coolant or conditioner
- flexible bulk containers, and
- testing of lithium batteries.

As trade grows between Europe and Asia the inefficiencies in the rail connectivity between the two continents are becoming a growing concern

As invited by resolution 2011/25, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization updated their respective legal instruments accordingly (International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air).

Similarly, at the regional level, the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and its joint meetings with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail and with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine updated the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) and the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of

Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN). They incorporated, in addition, amendments specific to the European context, in particular as regards European standardization work related to pressure receptacles and tanks.

These updates should all become legally applicable as from 1 January 2013, and should result not only in effective worldwide implementation of the new or revised United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, but also effectively harmonize all major international legal instruments regulating the five modes of transport

The GHS was previously adopted by many countries as national regulations or standards (including all countries of the European Union and the European Economic Area, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa and Switzerland). The Occupational Safety and Health Administration within the Department of Labor for the United States of America submitted a proposal to modify its existing hazard communication standard. This amendment is in accordance with the provisions of the GHS and is expected to go into effect by the end of January 2012.

National legislation or standards for countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, Mexico and Uruguay were developed, updated, adopted or revised based on the GHS.



Road Traffic Safety

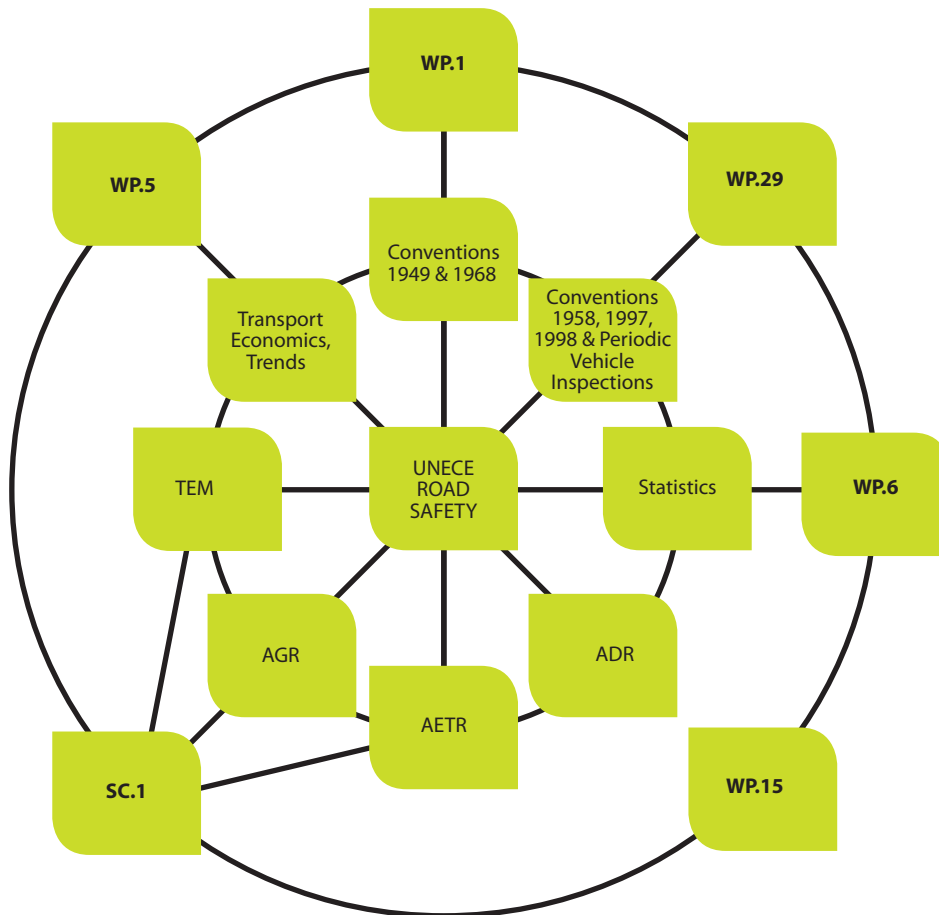
2011 marked the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), proclaimed by the General Assembly in March 2010 by resolution 64/255. As a result, the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration developed a Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020. In cooperation with the Government of Serbia, UNECE organized a regional launch of the United Nations Road Safety Decade. On the occasion of the nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, UNECE, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and ESCAP organized a global launch in New York.

This forthcoming decade is the seventh decade for UNECE as the secretariat for the United Nations road safety legal instruments. This demonstrates that policy measures require constant reinforcement at all levels – sub-national, national, regional and global. It also shows that dramatic increases in motorization levels due to economic and political development in the world not only bring about a number of positive changes, but also pose serious safety and environmental concerns. Increased traffic safety risks are especially high in transition and low income economies. Efforts are therefore needed to ensure that as a bare minimum, adequate legal and regulatory frameworks are in place in all the countries around the world. This can be achieved through adherence to and progressive implementation of the United Nations road safety conventions. To this end UNECE, in cooperation with the other United Nations regional commissions, has organized awareness raising and capacity building activities. However, far more will need to be done in the future.

When compared to air and maritime transport, inland transport security continues to be relatively neglected

UNECE's primary focus has traditionally been on preventing road crashes. In this regard it has been addressing road traffic safety in a 360 degree fashion, both in terms of topics (vehicles, infrastructure, road users) and in terms of legal instruments, technical assistance and analytical work.

UNECE's 360° approach to Road Safety



Against this backdrop and to better incorporate specific objectives of its member countries, a UNECE Plan to implement the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety has been developed spanning the next ten years. This plan reflects the concerted efforts of the different Working Parties. However, it also has an ambitious capacity building programme, e.g. to improve knowledge and capacities about road safety management and set up a lead agency at national level. The speed at which the UNECE Plan will be implemented will largely be subject to the availability of donor funding.

As a relatively new area of engagement, in 2011 UNECE worked closely with its member countries to help deliver the road safety message by organizing campaigns, workshops and other activities aimed at reducing road traffic casualties and improving road traffic safety.

In March 2011, UNECE launched a road safety poster signing campaign "We drive by the rules" during which Ambassadors and Heads of national delegations attending the sixty-fourth session of the Commission reaffirmed their commitment to road safety. This initiative represented a symbolic, personal commitment to the objectives of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and the importance of road safety in the UNECE region and worldwide.

Associations must report on the national prices of TIR Carnets which will increase the financial transparency of the TIR system



ECE Ambassadors signing Road Safety poster

UNECE built on the previous year's partnership with the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and FIBA Europe to launch a global road safety communication campaign during the 2011 Euro Basket Championship in Lithuania. The campaign ran under the motto "We play and drive by the rules" and was implemented with the support of the Lithuanian Ministry of Transport and the Lithuanian Basketball Federation. The high note of the campaign was when the players unrolled a "We play and drive by the rules" banner on the court during the two semi-final games.



Semi-final game with players unrolling the banner

Similarly, to address the young and up-coming generation, UNECE and the World Organization for the Scout Movement organized a joint global road safety campaign at the World Scout Jamboree in Kristianstad, Sweden in August 2011. The campaign included a series of active learning road safety workshops and a ceremonial "Joining Hands for Road Safety" event, with boys and girls scouts from 160 countries.



Children at World Scout Jamboree



Road Safety memorial card from World Scout Jamboree

On 20 November 2011, the world day of remembrance of victims of road accidents, a memorial sculpture dedicated to the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety was unveiled by UNECE in the Christos Polentas park in Chania, Crete.



Road Safety Sculpture in Greece

Finally, UNECE produced a film explaining the contribution to road safety of the United Nations instruments it administers.

Road Transport

UNECE does substantive work in the area of road transport, primarily through the Working Party on Road Transport which promotes development and the facilitation of international transport of goods and passengers by road through harmonization and simplification of the rules and requirements.

In 2011 UNECE's road transport activities intensified. One of the most significant developments was – through the set up of a formal group of experts – the start of strategic consultations on the modification of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). The AETR Agreement regulates driving and rest periods for professional drivers. It also provides for its enforcement through the use of the digital tachograph device, which allows national authorities to monitor driving and rest periods. The new expert group was required in order to address implementation impediments that undermined the regulatory value and effectiveness of the agreement, particularly with regard to the digital tachograph. Efforts are underway to introduce large scale amendments to the agreement to facilitate its uniform application in the pan-European context.

A number of important amendments were introduced into the European Agreement on Main International Arteries (AGR) in 2011 regarding the introduction of procedures relating to road safety impact assessments, road safety audits, the management of road network safety and safety inspections for the roads of the international e-road network.

Rail Transport

Most of the legal provisions required to facilitate international inland transport in a sustainable way were put into place over the past six decades. However, there is one substantive area that has been left out of the universal legal harmonization and where rules and conditions are still governed by regional, subregional and national provisions. As trade grows between Europe and Asia the inefficiencies in the rail connectivity

*A second meeting of
Ministers of Transport of
EATL countries will be held in
Geneva in autumn 2012*

between the two continents are becoming a growing concern. In response to the "Appeal from Bern", tabled by the most concerned railway companies and their Governments, a group of experts was set up and a position paper was adopted that contained a long-term strategy, as well as work procedures towards a unified railway law using a three step approach. While it is a commonly shared goal by all stakeholders to facilitate international rail transport and allow for efficient Euro-Asian rail transport operations on the basis of a single contract of carriage, a single consignment note and a single liability system applicable under the current institutional and legal frameworks, the process to arrive at a legally harmonized system will require extensive consultation and clearly manifested political will by Governments.



In 2011, the Working Party on Rail Transport focused its activities on the harmonization of railway standards on the pan-European level to promote long-distance rail cargo transport. The Working Party also took up new initiatives to enhance its role as a platform for UNECE member countries and railways to exchange best practices to promote more efficient, reliable and safe railway operations in the UNECE region.

A review of infrastructure standards and international benchmarks established by the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines was initiated and the role of terminals for efficient intermodal transport services was examined. This review was done in conjunction with the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.

The Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) is the analytical and technical assistance arm of the Transport Division

Inland Water Transport

The Working Party on Inland Water Transport published in 2011 the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe, which provides a pan-European vision on the future development of inland navigation throughout the UNECE region.

As a follow-up to the White Paper, the Working Party examined ways UNECE could support the operation of a European Hull Database to manage the unique identification numbering system for inland navigation vessels in the UNECE region. In addition, a UNECE Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E waterway network ("Blue Book") was finalized and will form the basis for the revision of two

UNECE treaties in 2012-2013 – the European Agreement on Main Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement. Finally, the Working Party adopted a road map for future work by UNECE on the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI), including monitoring its implementation by member States and the River Commissions.

Inland Transport Security

Inland transport is one of the weakest links in global supply chains. When compared to air and maritime transport, inland transport security continues to be relatively neglected. Following recommendations made by the UNECE Multidisciplinary Inland Transport Security Expert Group, an annual "Inland Transport Security

Discussion Forum” is organized to address relevant inland security topics. In January 2011, the Forum was organized in partnership with the Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA). TAPA members include many of the world’s leading manufacturing brands, insurers, logistics and transport providers.

In cooperation with OSCE, an Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum was organized in December 2011, bringing together national authorities, industry experts and academics to discuss topical transport security issues. UNECE will continue to promote international cooperation in enhancing inland transport security to raise awareness and encourage the effective implementation of existing security agreements.



Euro Asian Transport Links

Building on the results of the work jointly implemented by UNECE and ESCAP in Euro Asian Transport Links (EATL) Phase I (2003-2007), the EATL Group of Experts, consisting of designated national focal points from 27 countries along the Euro-Asian land bridge, continued the development of the EATL Phase II (2008-11) with the support of the UNECE secretariat and external consultants.

The group held two sessions in 2011. The sixth session was hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, in Almaty, in July 2011 and was organized in partnership with OSCE. The Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation hosted the seventh expert group meeting in Astrakhan in October 2011. During these meetings government experts made substantive progress in finalizing EATL Phase II aimed at coordinating infrastructure planning, evaluating and prioritizing infrastructure projects, studying and analyzing economically viable inland transport options, examining non-physical obstacles and collecting transport flow data in the EATL region, strengthening national capacities sharing experiences and best practices along the Euro-Asian transport routes, and further developing and updating a Geographic Information System (GIS) database.

The study entitled *Euro-Asia Transport Linkages (EATL) Phase II*, containing the results of the work of the EATL Expert Group established by UNECE in 2008, will be published in 2012. Main results include an investment strategy for developing 404 identified priority transport infrastructure projects along the main Euro-Asian routes with a total cost of \$271 billion, together with analysis of non-physical obstacles to transport, elaboration of focused studies, development of a GIS data base and related applications, as well as policy recommendations.

Recognizing the importance and relevance of the EATL work for United Nations member countries in the UNECE region and beyond, a second meeting of Ministers of Transport of EATL countries will be held in Geneva in autumn 2012.

*UNECE and OSCE
continued to work together
closely in the area of
international transport
in 2011*

UNECE Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects

The major achievement by these two projects in 2011 was the completion of the work and publication of the Revised TEM and TER Master Plan. After three years of intensive work, national coordinators from 25 participating countries working together with the secretariat and Central Project Offices completed the revision of the original Master Plan published in 2006 with the following objectives in mind: (a) to analyse the

results of the road and rail infrastructure development in 25 participating countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus in the period 2005 to 2010, (b) to describe the existing status of road and rail networks, and (c) to set out the road and rail networks development programme until the year 2020.

The changes in the TEM and TER backbone network, traffic forecast results and the additional requirements have been reflected in the new Master Plan list of road and rail projects, comprising 294 motorway/road construction and/or rehabilitation and 191 rail projects with a total cost of approximately EUR 188 billion.



Border Crossing Facilitation and the TIR Convention

The International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Harmonization Convention) is complemented by the newly created Annex 9 on rail border crossing which went into effect in November 2011. Meanwhile, new amendments to the TIR Convention detailing the responsibilities of the national guaranteeing associations went into effect in January 2011. In particular, the associations are obligated to report on the national prices of TIR Carnets. This measure will increase the financial transparency of the TIR system.

Another extensive package of TIR amendment proposals geared toward defining the responsibilities of the major players in the TIR system (Customs, operators and guarantors) was adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee.

To further strengthen the TIR Convention, the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30), Contracting Parties and the secretariat have undertaken a number of activities, including:

- a strategic review of the TIR system designed to assess the relevance of TIR and gain a better understanding of the current market demand from the perspective of a wide range of clients, including shippers, logistics and transport operators and Customs administrations;
- preparation of a new annex to the TIR Convention on the conditions and requirements for the authorization of an international organization to organize the functioning of the TIR guarantee system and further consideration of audit provisions to ensure good governance and transparency in the TIR system;
- substantive progress in developing the technical aspects of the eTIR project (computerization of the TIR procedure) and completion of a cost/benefit analysis on the project.

Efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Harmonization Convention and TIR Convention at the national level continued via international and national seminars and the conduct of various surveys amongst Contracting Parties. The TIR Executive Board also developed several examples of best practice in the application of various aspects of the TIR procedure at the national level.

Intermodal Transport and Logistics

In 2011, The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) started reviewing the infrastructure and performance standards documented in the AGTC Agreement. The goal of this review is to bring international benchmarks in line with the latest technical and operational developments in long-distance rail transport.



Working in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization and ILO, UNECE established a group of experts to revise the existing global IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for the Packing of Transport Units and to upgrade those Guidelines into an international Code of Practice that reflects the latest information, best practices and requirements on the subject. This Code of Practice will allow the transport sector, international trade, packing organizations and insurance companies to enhance the efficiency and safety of container operations.

Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

The Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) reached agreement on a test procedure for multi-compartment multi-temperature vehicles for inclusion in the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP). This is a subject which has been under discussion for many years. It is estimated that in some countries these vehicles make up some 20-30 per cent of the fleet of refrigerated vehicles.



Transport Trends and Economics

In 2011, UNECE completed a review of the transport situation in member countries and evaluated emerging development trends based on input provided by these countries. The report provides valuable insight into the most important trends in inland transport throughout the region. This was presented to the Inland Transport Committee in 2012.

The Special Task Force established under the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics continued to provide expert support to the project, "Supply chain challenges for national competitiveness through transport". The Task Force met twice in 2011 and reviewed the background analysis, as well as the first draft of the framework methodology prepared by the secretariat. Once completed, this new methodology will enable UNECE member countries to assess the real contribution of the transport sector to the overall competitiveness of their national economies. Furthermore, the methodology will allow member

countries to identify those links in their national transport system which may otherwise prevent seamless functioning of transport supply chains.

Transport Statistics

The Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) is the analytical and technical assistance arm of the Transport Division. It conducts preliminary analysis of emerging transport issues that could, based on subsequent recommendations, be taken over by specialized Working Parties for further consideration and study. The result is often an amendment to the legal instrument or a resolution. This year the Working Party performed a self evaluation exercise with valuable recommendations for streamlining its working processes and strengthening its role as a transport think tank.

Throughout the year the Working Party also continued its work to harmonize and, to the extent possible, standardize the collection and dissemination of transport data in the UNECE region. This was done in close cooperation with the Statistical Office of the European Union and the International Transport Forum.

We are in the era of fast technological changes, including the development of many innovations designed to make transport greener, safer and overall more sustainable

Cooperation with other organizations

European Union

The European Union, its member states and the European Commission represent more than half of the UNECE member States. Their active participation in the work of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies is essential. In some areas, decisions reached in Geneva are directly transposed into European Union Regulations.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

UNECE and OSCE continued to work together closely in the area of international transport this past year. In 2011, UNECE took an active role in the annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The nineteenth Forum was conducted under the 2011 Lithuanian Chairmanship under the theme "Promotion of common actions and cooperation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport".

Economic Cooperation Organization

Following the memorandum of understanding signed in 2010, UNECE, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank strengthened their cooperation on a variety of transport issues and activities.

In 2011, UNECE participated in ECO's international conference in Bandar Abbas, Islamic Republic of Iran, which discussed, among other issues, a unified railway law. The overarching objective of the conference was to encourage member states of ECO to accede to or actively support the UNECE conventions and projects.

Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

The cooperation between UNECE and the Organization of the Black Sea Cooperation (BSEC) is very close, first and foremost through BSEC's Working Group on Transport. The Meeting of BSEC Ministers of Transport, held in Moscow in October 2011, was an opportunity to provide information on the results of ongoing UNECE activities of interest to BSEC member states, including the EATL Project Phase II, the Revision of the TEM and TER Master Plans, and the implementation of the digital tachograph, as well as emphasizing the important conclusions and recommendations of the UNECE-BSEC Road Safety Conference in Ioannina, Greece, and the "Ioannina Declaration".

International Transport Forum

UNECE's presence at the 2011 Summit of the International Transport Forum was highlighted through a substantive contribution to the overall success of the Summit, and in particular to the panels on "Creating Liveable and Sustainable Societies" and on "Keeping it Clean: Transport, Health and the Environment". UNECE co-organized an event with WHO/Europe on "Bringing Health into Transport Planning" where THE PEP Health Economic Assessment Tools for cycling and walking was launched.



An informal group led by Japan will table recommendations for the legal and institutional steps to be taken to establish whole vehicle type approval

Major challenges for 2012 and beyond

The challenges fall under seven major areas.

First, it is important to be well aligned with the "Big Agenda" to ensure that the General Assembly resolutions relevant for this area of work are implemented, in addition to contributing to their development. In this regard, one of the up-coming issues in 2012-14 is to take stock of the results of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was designed to address the specific needs of the land-locked least developed countries.

Second, the UNECE secretariat fulfils a dual role in transport by carrying out global and regional activities, for example

- servicing the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals at global level and servicing the UNECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to ensure regional implementation of the global models;
- servicing multilateral conventions and agreements that have a nearly global geographical coverage in most areas of road traffic safety, but particularly with regard to vehicle regulations where the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) was specifically designed to ensure global technical harmonization in a globalized industry. Similarly, in the area of road traffic rules, road traffic signs and signals, the legal instruments of 1949 and 1968 combine to ensure nearly global participation by the Contracting Parties. At the same time, in support of these legal instruments, UNECE has no or very limited resources for technical assistance beyond the UNECE region. Thanks to excellent cooperation with the other United Nations regional commissions, emergency technical assistance operations are provided for, although it needs to be acknowledged that the regional commissions' work programme is shaped by other priorities. In addition, far more technical assistance is needed with regard to the United Nations transport conventions and agreements beyond the UNECE region, especially now during the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety. Finding ways to ensure the right institutional structure for these global and regional activities remains a challenge.

Third, we are in the era of fast technological changes, including the development of many innovations designed to make transport green, safer and overall more sustainable. Most of these technological innovations, such as the emergence of electric vehicles, alternative fuels, new materials in infrastructure, modern traffic management etc., trigger modifications of regulations and "standards". This increases the turnaround of amendments to agreements, which is both an administrative challenge and a substantive challenge to keep pace with the latest developments in the transportation sector. The UNECE Road Map to support ITS deployment will require closer cooperation among the different Working Parties of the Inland Transport Committee and consequently among the different sections within the Transport Division. This inter-Working Parties and intersectional cooperation calls for careful coordination, which is also a relatively new institutional challenge.

Fourth, traditional growth of transport evokes many sustainability concerns. A major response to one area of transport externalities is the previously described ForFITS project. Its timely implementation and contribution to the post Rio+20 will be both an opportunity and a challenge.



Fifth, transport networks and services connect markets and regions. They are strong supporters of regional integration. Therefore traditionally extensive secretariat support to multi-country investment planning, like the Trans-European Motorways, the Trans-European Railways, as well as the Euro-Asian Transport Links projects play an important role. At the same time, as they progressively become more successful they go through different levels of development. Accordingly, they need different types of support and cooperation.

Sixth, the cross-country nature of transport in all areas requires real-time information flow about new regulations or other developments within a country, as well as within the EU, since there is a strong likelihood that they will have an impact on their neighbours and beyond. The European single market in transport within the European Union is a big achievement that modifies traditional bilateral relations. The Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies can therefore serve as important forums for the information exchange. What still remains to be achieved is to ensure that these consultations will become consistent and will always be facilitated by high quality prepared documents.

Seventh, among the topical challenges and in addition to the broader "macro" challenges, we can see ten specific areas that will require a great deal of attention in addition to the normal implementation of the transport work programme.

1. Road Traffic Safety

A particular challenge in the area of road traffic safety will be to scale up efforts to develop a strategy aimed at substantively assisting member countries to increase management capacity and prepare programmes that address road safety issues, taking into account the unique dynamics found within individual countries. Governments and key national stakeholders play a central role in promoting road safety targets, increasing resources and conveying the message to the public that they are active participants in the efforts to reduce road traffic casualties. 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 joint efforts and significant funds. To this end, UNECE plans to work toward raising extrabudgetary funds in support of its activities.

2. Road Transport

The implementation of the digital tachograph will continue to be one of the central issues addressed by the Working Party on Road Transport. A more pressing issue will be to reconcile the broader challenges of the agreement. 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. Actions taken to address the issues relating to the AETR and the implementation of the digital tachograph have already shown significant improvement and the imperative requirement to maintain and accelerate this pace and dynamism over the next years. This will require significant efforts from the part of the secretariat and of course strong political impetus on the part of interested parties to the Agreement.

Beyond the AETR Agreement, other challenges for road transport exist. Among particular questions that may facilitate international road transport, the first of many steps was taken with the study on the openness of international road freight transport markets.



3. Transport of Dangerous Goods

It will be particularly important to ensure that the recommendations laid down in the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals are appropriately updated and continue to be relevant.

The ECOSOC Committee will also strive to cooperate with other bodies and organizations to ensure that its recommendations are taken into account in the relevant international legal instruments. Finally, it will consider new ways to provide guidance on how these legal instruments can be successfully implemented in all of the world.

The Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods also has challenges related to its work, including the finalization and consolidation of the sets of amendments to ADR and ADN adopted since 2010. The intent is to have these amendments approved by Contracting Parties and in effect by 1 January 2013.



4. Vehicle Regulations

Agreeing on whole vehicle type approval is one of the most anticipated results that can fundamentally contribute to reaching all three missions of the World Forum, i.e. facilitation, safety and environmental protection. Eyes are on the informal group led by Japan to table recommendations for the legal and institutional steps to be taken.

Equally challenging is the need to ensure that no vehicle manufacturing countries avoid the discussions of the World Forum, meaning that it is important that the emerging vehicle manufacturing countries join one of the Vehicle Agreements.

Similar tasks exist when we look at the participation in the agreement on periodic vehicle inspection.

Regarding the 1958 Agreement, the World Forum is expected to adopt new United Nations Regulations on Automatic Emergency Braking System (crash avoidance), Lane Departure Warning Systems (driver assistance), Light Emitting Diodes light sources, and pedestrian safety to reduce injury risks in case of a collision with a pedestrian, cyclist and other vulnerable road users.

With regard to the 1998 agreement, the development of United Nations Global Technical Regulations will carry on: safety provisions of Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Vehicles, protection against pole side impact, tyres, protection against whiplash injuries, development of a worldwide global procedure and test cycle for the measurement of CO₂ emissions of vehicles, and sound of quiet road transport vehicles.

Developing multi-country cooperation for international transport corridors and networks is a long-term undertaking

5. Transport Infrastructure projects: TEM, TER, EATL

Notwithstanding the value of the results achieved, there are also many challenges ahead. Through close cooperation among all the stakeholders it needs to be ensured that the UNECE supported infrastructure projects are connected to the European Union Trans-European Transport Network and new synergies are reaped. In addition, 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. For the EATL project adequate funding will be critical for accomplishing this mission.



6. Border Crossing Facilitation and the TIR Convention

The growing interest in the Harmonization Convention and the implementation of Annexes 8 and 9, have prompted new requests, both from Contracting Parties as well as from other interested parties, for seminars, workshops and training material dedicated to the application of the provisions of the Convention. There is also increased interest in the improvement of border crossing management tools, including the application of border crossing performance indicators. The objectives for the next biennium will therefore be focused on monitoring needs and developing capacity-building activities regarding the Harmonization Convention, as well as ensuring the immediate implementation of the new Annex 9 on rail crossing facilitation.

A major challenge for the TIR Convention will be to finalize the new annex on the conditions and requirements for the authorization of an international organization, including audit requirements to improve good governance and financial transparency of the TIR system. The financial implications of eTIR will be addressed and a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted.

7. Inland Water Transport

The major task of the UNECE's work on inland water transport will be to follow-up on the detailed policy recommendations in each of the areas identified in the White Paper of Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe. In 2012-2013, the use of pan-European mechanisms to help further develop the European inland waterways network will be promoted and the regulatory framework for safety regulations for inland water transport will also be further harmonized. In 2012-2013, UNECE will give priority to promoting the use of the pan-European legal instruments designed to help countries coordinate and facilitate the development of the E-network of inland waterways. UNECE will also intensify its work on bringing the existing national and regional safety requirements in inland navigation closer together on the basis of CEVNI.



8. Railways

The unified railway law initiative is the key challenge in this area, 50 years after the launch of a similar initiative.

9. Transport Statistics and Transport Studies

Analytical work is planned in direct relation to one or more of the 57 legal instruments the Inland Transport Committee administers. In the light of resource constraints, priority is given to issues whose solution becomes urgent and can facilitate progress in updating or implementing legal instruments. Relevant and reliable data however is often missing. It will therefore be the task in 2012 to systematically and progressively improve the transport database available for the decision making in the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies. As needed and for the sake of consistency, a link will be made to the methodological work in transport statistics.

10. Technical Assistance

Similarly to the analytical work, Technical Assistance is serving the following purposes:

- facilitate accession to a legal instrument;
- monitor the implementation of the transport legal instruments and assistance to implement them; and
- combined capacity building on major transport themes.

The main challenge in this domain will be to have sufficient resources to ensure an adequate response to a growing demand for technical assistance from member countries.



Governing Bodies

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Mr. Björn ORIWOHL (*Germany*)

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Conference of European Statisticians

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Observers to the CES Bureau:

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Ms. Martine DURAND (*OECD*)

Mr. Brian PINK (*Australia, Chairman of the OECD Committee on Statistics*)

Ms. Adelheid BÜRGI-SCHMELZ (*IMF*)

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

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Mr. Paul Cheung (*United Nations Statistics Division*)

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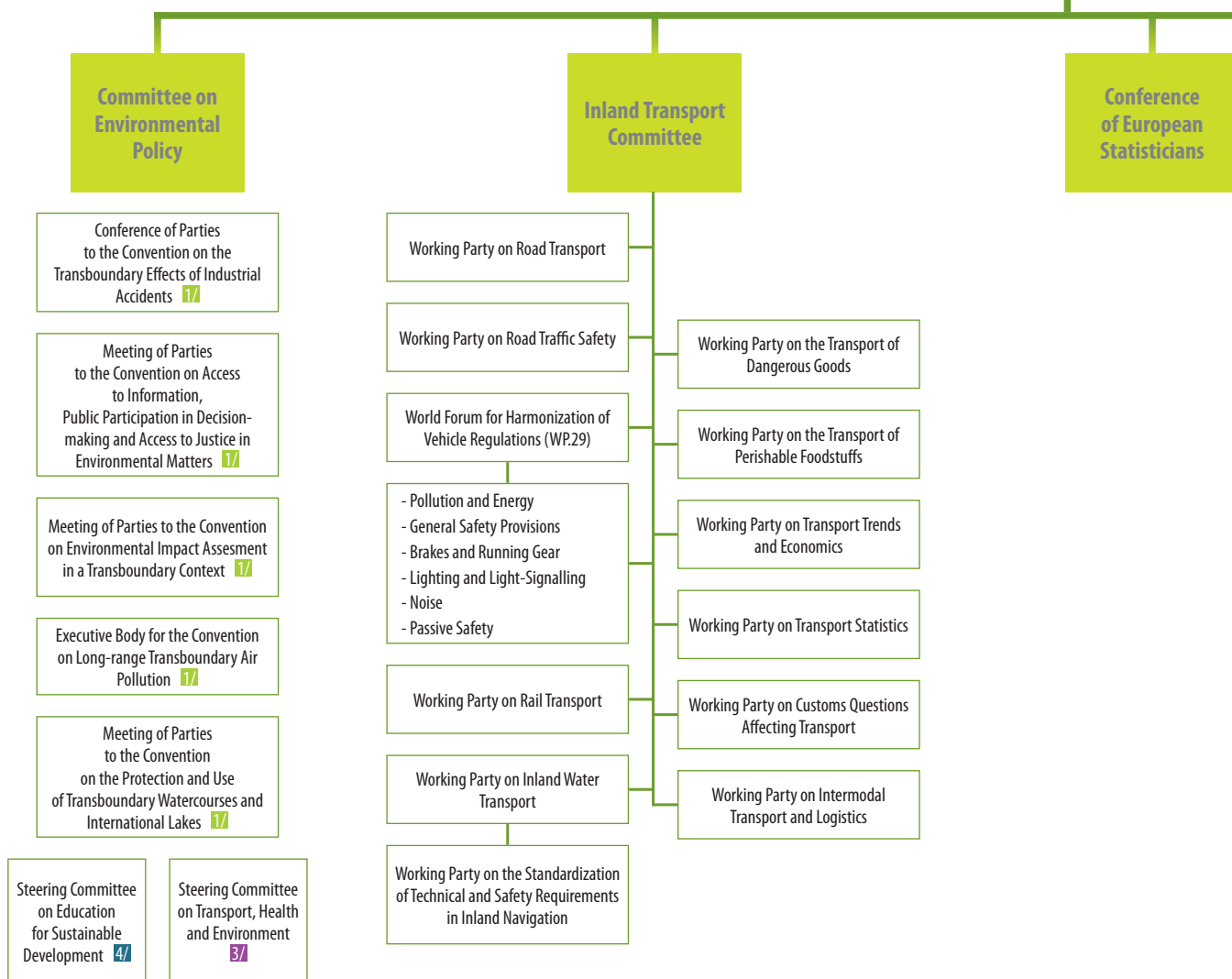
Mr. Andrei POPOV (*Belarus*)

Mr. Craig REILLY (*United States*)

Mr. Salvatore ZECCHINI (*Italy*)

Economic Commission

Executive Committee



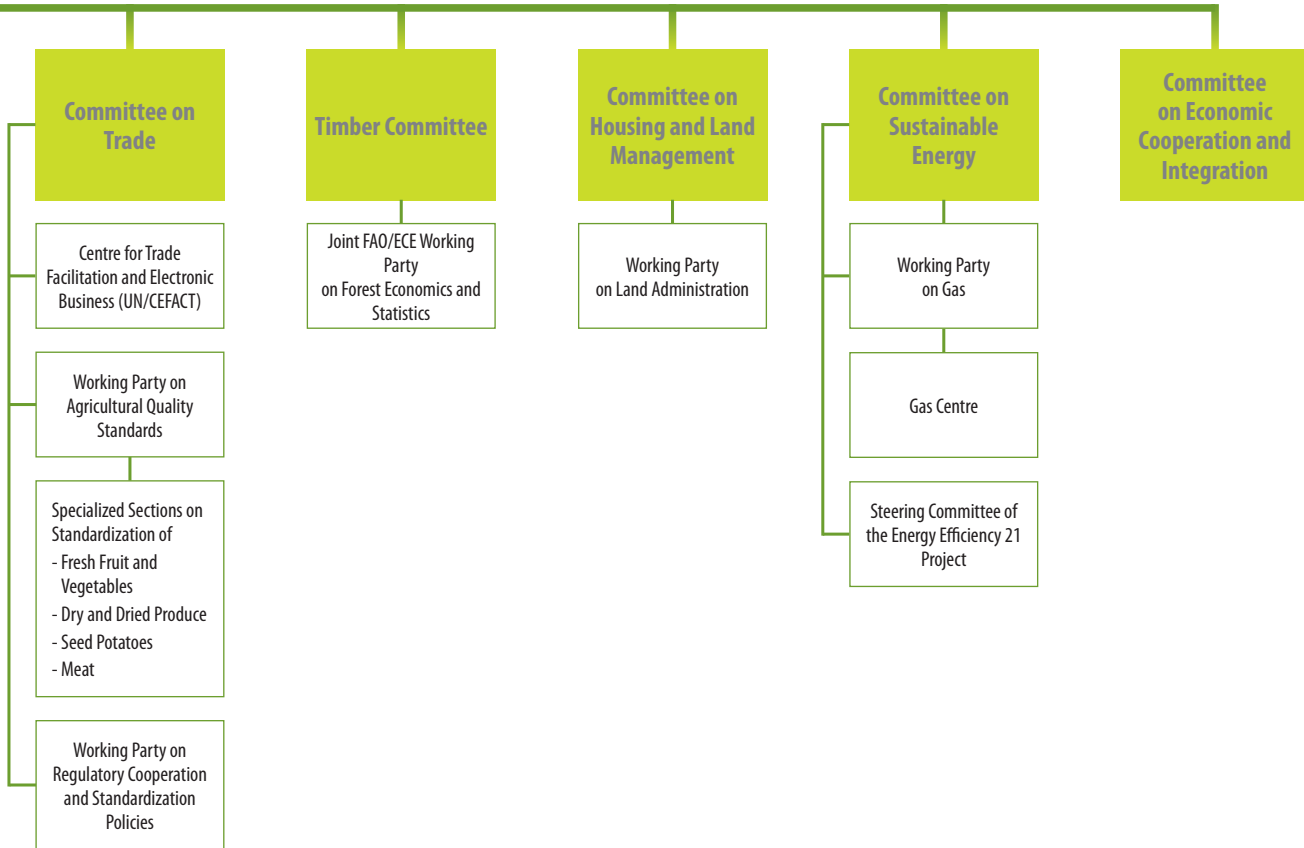
1/ Not a subsidiary body of UNECE but serviced by UNECE secretariat. Its members consist of UNECE member countries that have ratified the Convention (Various Working Groups are established under these Bodies).

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.

Working Group on Ageing



Member states and member states representatives

Albania	H.E. Mr. Sejdi QERIMAJ
Andorra	H.E. 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. François ROUX
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Radomir BEJATOVIĆ a.i.
Bulgaria	H.E. Mr. Gancho GANEV
Canada	H.E. Ms. Elissa GOLBERG
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Cyprus	H.E. Mr. Leonidas PANTELIDES
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Finland	H.E. Mr. Hannu HIMANEN
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Kyrgyzstan	H.E. Mrs. Gulnara ISKAKOVA
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Turkmenistan	H.E. Mr. Esen AYDOGDYEV
Ukraine	H.E. Mr. Mykola MAIMESKUL
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United States of America	H.E. Mrs. Betty E. KING
Uzbekistan	H.E. Mrs. Goulnara KARIMOVA



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	21
Total	230	227

* Six Regional Advisers



Ján KUBIŠ
Executive Secretary

Office of the Executive Secretary



Andrey Vasilyev
Deputy Executive Secretary



Parisudhi Kalampasut
*Chef de Cabinet and
Secretary of the Commission*



Monika Linn
*Principal Adviser to the
Executive Secretary*



Environment Division
Marco Keiner
Director



Transport Division
Eva Molnar
Director



Statistical Division
Lidia Bratanova
Director



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



**Sustainable Energy
Division**
Scott Foster
Director



**Economic Cooperation
and Integration Division**
Rumén Dobrinsky
Director



Programme Management Unit
Zamira Eshmambetova
Director



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	30 368.1	60 679.9
Non-Post items	4 221.9	2 330.9	2 236.4	4 567.3
Total:	71 363.2	32 642.7	32 604.5	65 247.2
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	3 485.0	3 310.0	6 795.0
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	17 386.6	8 309.0	7 983.0	16 292.0
Total:	24 114.2	11 794.0	11 293.0	23 087.0
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	1 316.4	3 048.1
Other non-post items	611.5	308.8	234.8	543.6
Total:	3 446.0	2 040.5	1 551.2	3 591.7
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	2 014.6	-	2 014.6
Total:	1 370.2	2 014.6	-	2 014.6

Information Service
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Telephone: +41(0)22 917 44 44
Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org>