

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

GREEN Action Task Force

Draft Annotated Agenda

2017 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force

Almaty, 26-27 October 2017

Agenda item: i

Action required: for discussion and adoption

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JT03419760

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

26-27 October 2017. Almaty Kazakhstan (Hotel Rixos)

Tuesday, 26 October 2017, starting at 09:30 in Ballroom 2

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| 09:30-09:45 | 1. Opening session |
| 09:45-12:30 | 2. Infrastructure investment and the low-carbon transition
a) Stranded assets? Implications of the transition away from the "brown" economy
b) Mobilising finance for greener transport |
| 11:00-11:15 | Coffee break
c) Increasing economic value of Multi-Purpose Water Infrastructure
d) The Belt & Road initiative: Implications for Eurasia |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30-15:00 | 3. "Batumi Talk Show: Scoring SDGs through action on green economy" |
| 15:00-16:30 | 4. Strengthening water management and increasing productivity of key sectors (including agriculture)
a) Highlights of the implementation of the 2016-2018 Programme of Work
b) Using economic instruments for improving water and land productivity and achieving policy coherence
c) Measuring and improving water security |
| 16:30-17:00 | Coffee break |
| 17:00-18:00 | 5. Sharing information on planned activities
a) "Mapping" of activities by other development partners
b) "Mapping" exercise by the UN agencies |
| 18:00 | END OF DAY 1 |
| 18:30-20:30 | <i>Reception hosted by the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan</i> |

Friday, 27 October 2017, starting at 09:00 in Ballroom 2

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| 09:00-10:30 | 6. Roundtable Discussion: Institutional capacity for cross-Ministerial policy coordination for Green Growth |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee break |
| 10:45-12:30 | 7. Environmental policy and regulatory tools for green economy
a) Highlights of the implementation of the 2016-2018 Programme of Work
b) Balancing environmental regulations and economic growth (including for cleaner air)
c) Green public procurement
d) Green growth and the mining sector |

- 12:30-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-15:15 **8. Education, communication and public awareness for green growth**
a) Contribution by UN agencies
b) Contribution by CAREC
- 15:15-15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30-16:30 **9. Towards the 2019-2020 Programme of Work and Budget.**
- 16:30-17:00 **10. Other business and closing remarks.**
- 17:00 END OF MEETING
- 17:00-18:00 **Bureau Meeting** (only for Bureau members)
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ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

26 October 2017, starting at 09:30 in Ballroom 2		
1.	09:30-09:45	<p>Welcome and adoption of the draft Agenda</p> <p>The Task Force Chair will welcome delegates. The Chair will introduce the meeting objectives which are: i) to review selected activities implemented since the last meeting (Paris, 24-25 November 2016); ii) to discuss opportunities for synergies among different actors; iii) to identify priorities for future work.</p> <p>The Secretariat will briefly present highlights of recent achievements and introduce a questionnaire on ideas for possible future work that will be distributed for Delegates to fill out in the course of the meeting. This questionnaire will be collected before lunch on Day 2.</p> <p>Action required: The Task Force members are invited to adopt the summary of the last meeting (Inaugural Meeting in Paris, November 2016), the draft agenda of this meeting, and take note of the statement by the Secretariat.</p>
2.	09:45-11:00	<p>Infrastructure investment and the low-carbon transition</p> <p>Infrastructure investment is crucial for economic growth and development for the region. In light of the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Development Agenda, it is imperative to ensure that investment decisions are compatible with these goals, i.e. sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient. As infrastructure is by nature long-lived, investment decisions being made today can lock in development patterns -“green” or “brown”- for decades to come. This session will discuss several aspects of infrastructure investment for the transition to a green economy, including work done thus far by the Task Force as well as possible new areas of work by the OECD and other partner organisations.</p> <p>a) Stranded assets? Implications of the transition away from the "brown" economy b) Mobilising finance for greener transport (case studies of Kazakhstan and Moldova)</p> <p>Action required: For discussion.</p>
	11:00-11:15	Coffee break
2. cont.	11:15-12:30	<p>Infrastructure investment and the low-carbon transition (continued)</p> <p>c) Increasing economic value of Multi-Purpose Water Infrastructure d) The Belt & Road initiative: Implications for Eurasia</p> <p>Action required: For discussion.</p>
	12:30-13:30	Lunch break

3.	13:30-15:00	<p>“Batumi Talk Show: Scoring SDGs through action on green economy”</p> <p>The "Batumi Talk Show: Scoring SDGs through action on green economy" is co-organised by UNECE and UNEP in cooperation with OECD. The event will focus on sharing experience from implementing the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) commitments related to the energy sector, and provide a good opportunity to announce new commitments under the BIG-E.</p> <p>Action required: Delegates are invited to inform the UNECE Secretariat in advance of any new commitments that can be made under the BIG-E during this session.</p>
4.	15:00-16:30	<p>Strengthening water management and increasing productivity of key sectors (including agriculture)</p> <p>Water can be a driver of green growth. However, to realise this objective, water should be used efficiently and allocated to where it creates most value for the community, including the environment. Effective water management can lower the cost of accessing good quality water and reduce investment needs. This session will present an overview of progress against the water related PWB and then describe some key outputs from recent projects delivered in Central Asia.</p> <p>a) Highlights of the 2016-2018 Programme of Work b) Using economic instruments for improving water and land productivity and achieving policy coherence c) Measuring and improving water security.</p> <p>Action required: For discussion.</p>
	16:30-17:00	Coffee break
5.	17:00-18:00	<p>Sharing information on planned activities</p> <p>In 2016, the OECD Secretariat carried out a mapping exercise to track projects and initiatives promoting green economy in the EECCA region and financial support provided by the OECD members. The findings were presented at the Inaugural Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force. The Task Force agreed that such an inventory could enhance transparency and help to identify opportunities for synergies among efforts by different actors, thus improving sustainability and coherence between policy development and external financing. The Task Force agreed that the OECD would regularly update this as a living document. UNECE and UN Environment have also carried out a survey on activities to promote green economy supported by the UN agencies and others in the region.</p> <p>a) "Mapping" update by the OECD. b) "Mapping" of activities by the UN</p> <p>Action required: For discussion. The Task Force members are invited to continue to provide updates to the Secretariats.</p>
	18:30-20:30	Reception hosted by the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan

27 October 2017, starting at 09:00 in Ballroom 2		
6.	09:00-10:30	<p>Roundtable Discussion: Institutional capacity for cross-Ministerial policy coordination for Green Growth</p> <p>Greening of the economy requires horizontal policy coordination and alignment among different government ministries and agencies. In practice, it can be a challenging task and such horizontal policy dialogues and coordination require additional staff time and resources. Many countries signal the capacity of environmental ministries as a major obstacle to reform for green growth. This relates to the capacity of environmental ministries to draft effective green policies and regulations and their capacity to oversee the implementation at the sub-national level. An additional challenge is to break down “silos” that may exist among different ministries and agencies and co-ordinate green initiatives across the governments.</p> <p>The Task Force activities under Programme Area 1 aim to facilitate inter-ministerial policy dialogues on priority aspects of greening the economy at the national level, and support the development of country-level green growth strategies. Under the EU-funded project EaP GREEN, UN Environment is leading projects to support the countries in the region with inter-ministerial coordination for green economy and the development of green economy strategies. The OECD and the UN Environment are joining forces in these efforts to support interested countries.</p> <p>Action required: The Task Force members are invited to share national experiences with inter-ministerial policy dialogue and coordination for green growth - both institutional challenges and successes-, in this Roundtable discussion and identify ways forward, including priority actions under the GREEN Action Task Force.</p>
	10:30-10:45	Coffee break
7.	10:45-12:30	<p>Environmental policy and regulatory tools for green economy</p> <p>Accelerating green growth requires devising environmental policies and regulations, together with economic instruments that incentivise greener behaviour of economic actors while not stifling economic performance, promote compliance with environmental requirements and strengthen the rule of law. One of the most important steps that could unlock vast green growth opportunities is the expeditious reform of a basic environmental regulatory framework. This includes setting environmental standards and emission/discharge limits through permits, environmental impact assessment (EIA), compliance promotion and non-compliance response. Despite recent progress, the uncoordinated implementation of environmental requirements together with the high volume of complex environmental regulations based on unrealistic assumptions has resulted in a regulatory environment that is complicated, burdensome and costly to both the administration and industry. Evidence from some countries suggests that the current environmental regulatory framework does not lead to actual environmental improvement.</p> <p>Drawing on the work of the Task Force, this session will present country efforts to</p>

		<p>reform regulatory regimes for large emission sources (which often have greater leverage in the policy formulation process and can more easily influence the level of regulatory stringency). This will include efforts targeting air pollution, in line with international good practices and obligations (e.g. under multilateral environmental agreements) and the commitments made under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA). The session will also present the UN Environment work on greening public procurement policies that can stimulate demand for green products and services. Finally it will allow to present suggestions for further work on reducing the environmental and health impacts of mining, both during operations and after closure.</p> <p>a) Highlights of the Implementation of the 2016-2018 Programme of Work b) Balancing environmental regulations and economic growth (including for cleaner air) c) Green public procurement; d) Green growth and the mining sector.</p> <p>Action required: For discussion.</p>
	12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
8.	14:00-15:15	<p>Education, communication and public awareness for green growth</p> <p>Given the prominence of the theme of education for sustainable development at the Batumi EfE Ministerial conference, the Inaugural Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force introduced this theme to be addressed regularly. UN agencies such as UNESCO and UNECE as well as CAREC have made significant contributions in this area. Also, the Aarhus Centres, supported by the OSCE, are implementing a number of activities aimed at promoting public access to information and raising awareness regarding greening the economy.</p> <p>Action required: For discussion. The Task Force members are invited to take note of these presentations and share own country experiences with education, communication and awareness for green growth.</p>
	15:15-15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>

9.	15:30-16:30	<p>Towards the 2019-2020 Programme of Work</p> <p>The current work of the Task Force is based on the Programme of Work for 2016-18 that was endorsed in 2016, after the 8th "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Meeting [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2016)4/REV1].</p> <p>The highlights of achievements and progress in implementing the Programme of Work since the last Annual Meeting (Inaugural Meeting) of the Task Force in November 2016 are provided in ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)2, and the OECD Secretariat will have presented them under earlier thematic agenda items during this meeting.</p> <p>This session aims to share initial ideas and views on issues that could be addressed by the Task Force work during 2019-2020 reflecting on the implementation thus far and plans for the rest of the 2016-2018 Work Programme. A questionnaire on ideas for future work will be distributed at the beginning of the meeting and collected during lunch of Day 2 and will serve as an input to this discussion.</p> <p>Action required: The Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment on the overall implementation of the current (2016-2018) Programme of Work; ● Signal interest to participate in activities and possibilities for providing voluntary contributions to support them; and ● Contribute ideas for possible future work towards the preparation of the Task Force Programme of Work for 2019-2020.
10.	16:30-17:00	<p>Other business and closing remarks</p> <p>The Secretariat will propose options for the next Annual Meeting of the Task Force in Autumn 2018, and the Co-Chairs will make closing remarks.</p> <p>Action required: The Task Force is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agree on the dates and venue of their next Annual Meeting scheduled for Autumn 2018; ● Request the Secretariat to inform the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy on progress made by the Task Force; ● Raise any other questions pertinent to the Task Force work.

Annex A. DRAFT LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTATION

Item	Title	Cote number
Meeting documents		
Agenda item 1	Draft Summary Record: Inaugural meeting of the Task Force for the implementation of the GREEN Action Programme	ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2016)2
	Draft Annotated Agenda of the 2017 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force	ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2017)2
	Progress in implementing the GREEN Action Task Force programme of work (October 2016 - September 2017)	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)2 ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)2/ADD
Agenda Item 2	Promoting Clean Urban Public Transport in Kazakhstan: Designing a Green Investment Programme”	Brochure
	Multi-Purpose Water Infrastructure: Policy recommendations to maximise economic benefits	Brochure
	Infrastructure investment and the low-carbon transition: Implications of the Belt & Road Initiative on the Eurasia region	Room document 1
Agenda Item 4	“Managing multi-purpose water infrastructure. A review of international experience”, OECD Environment Working Papers, No. 115	ENV/WKP/(2017)2 http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/bbb40768-en
	Multi-Purpose Water Infrastructure: Policy perspectives to maximise economic benefits	Brochure
	Strengthening the Role of Multi-Purpose Water Infrastructure (MPWI)	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)6
Agenda Item 5	Mapping Development Co-operation for Green Growth in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	Room document 2
	Initial draft mapping of activities by international organizations in support of greening the economy in the pan-European region	
Agenda Item 7	Chapter 5 “Towards better environmental regulations in Kazakhstan” in <i>Multi-dimensional Review of Kazakhstan Volume 2. In-depth Analysis and Recommendations</i>	http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264269200-8-en
	Scoping note on greening the mining sector in EECCA	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)5
Agenda Item 9	Draft programme of work for 2017-18 of the Task Force for the implementation of the GREEN Action Programme	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2016)4/REV1

	Progress in implementing the GREEN Action Task Force programme of work (October 2016 - September 2017)	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)2 ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)2/ADD
Further reading/Background document		
1.	Improving Economic Instruments for Water Resources Management in the Republic of Buryatia (Lake Baikal Basin)	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)3 http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264266452-en
2.	"The Potential Benefits of Transboundary Co-operation in Georgia and Azerbaijan Kura River Basin	ENV/WKP(2017)114 http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/a14da8ec-en
3.	Reforming Sanitation in Armenia: Towards a National Strategy	http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264268982-en
4.	Improving Domestic Financial Support Mechanisms in Moldova's Water and Sanitation Sector	http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264252202-en
5.	Promoting Clean Urban Public Transport in Kazakhstan: Designing a Green Investment Programme	Pre-publication
6.	Multi-dimensional Review of Kazakhstan: Volume 2. <i>In-depth Analysis and Recommendations</i>	http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264269200-en
7.	Unlocking Private Finance for Energy Efficiency and Greener, Low-Carbon Growth in the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia Countries – Discussion Paper	Conference discussion paper
8.	Summary of the International Conference: Unlocking Private Finance for Energy Efficiency and Greener, Low-Carbon Growth in the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia Countries (29-30 June 2017, Brussels)	Conference summary
9.	Mobilising finance for climate action in Georgia: Draft country review	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2017)4
10.	Measuring the Performance of Green Economic Development in the Republic of Moldova: National Report based on the OECD set of Green Growth Indicators	Publication
11.	Report on Green Transformation in Ukraine based on OECD Green Growth Indicators	EaP GREEN Publication

12.	Measuring the Green Transformation of the Economy: Guide For EU Eastern Partnership Countries	EaP GREEN Publication
13.	Greening Economies in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood: From Commitment to Results	Brochure
14.	Inventory of Energy Subsidies in the EU's Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine	Pre-publication
15.	Your Right to Build a Sustainable Future: the Aarhus Convention, its Protocol on PRTRs and the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.PP/2017/18-ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/4, available in English, French and Russian)	UN official document
16.	Clean Air for Life (June 2016) (ECE/INF/NONE/2016/18, available in English and Russian)	UN official publication
17.	Towards Cleaner Air Scientific Assessment Report 2016: Summary for Policymakers (available in English and Russian)	Publication
18.	Deployment of Renewable Energy: The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus Approach to Support the Sustainable Development Goals (June 2017) (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/7)	UN official publication
19.	Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya River Basin (January 2017) (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/2)	UN official publication
20.	Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices (April 2015) (ECE/MP.WAT/45, available in English, French and Russian)	UN official publication
21.	Transitioning to a green economy: the role of education for sustainable development (E/ECE/RPM/2011/5, available in English, French and Russian)	UN official document