

Unclassified**English - Or. English**

25 September 2019

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE****GREEN Action Task Force****Fourth Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force****Draft Annotated Agenda****30 Sept.-1 Oct., OECD Boulogne Annex (room BB1), Boulogne-Billancourt, France**

Agenda item 1

Action required: for adoption (item1).

The meeting will be chaired by:

- Mr Jürgen KEINHORST, Head of Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- Ms Ekaterine MIKABADZE, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

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Annual Meeting of the
GREEN Action Task Force

30 September – 1 October 2019

OECD Boulogne Annex

46 Quai Alphonse le Gallo, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France

Day 1

9:30 - 10:30

Welcome networking coffee

10:30 - 10:45

Item 1. Opening

- Welcome by the Co-Chairs, **Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst** and **Ms. Ekaterine Mikabadze**
- Welcome by **Mr. Rodolfo Lacy**, Environment Director, OECD

10:45 - 11:30

Item 2. Progress report on the Implementation of the Programme of Work of the GREEN Action Task Force

Background document: ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)1, Room Document 1

Overview by **Ms. Kumi Kitamori**, Head of the Green Growth and Global Relations Division, followed by progress report by **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak** and **Mr. Matthew Griffiths**, Programme Managers, Environment Directorate, OECD Secretariat

- Updates on Programme Area 1-4 by the Secretariat
- Open discussion

11:30 - 12:30

Item 3. Infrastructure and sustainable development: State of play in Central Asia and the Caucasus

The economies of Central Asia have seen unprecedented growth over the past two decades and have ambitious goals for the future, but their existing infrastructure underperforms in its role to support inclusive economic development and connectivity in the region. The Asian Development Bank estimates investment needs of around USD 492 billion (or 565 billion including climate-related needs), or USD 33 billion annually until 2030. As regional initiatives to enhance connectivity across Europe and Asia are bringing investment in the region¹, it is important to make sure they promote infrastructure projects compatible with sustainable development goals

¹ For example, TRACECA, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CAREC Corridors.

and are not locking in carbon-intensive technology and unsustainable development patterns for decades to come.

Background documents: ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)5, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)6, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)7, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)8, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)9, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)10, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)11, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)12, ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)13

(a) The objective of this session is to take stock of the infrastructure gap in the different countries, and discuss the extent to which **‘high-impact’ infrastructure projects** are in line with long-term development goals of countries, including climate goals, and the risks and opportunities associated with large infrastructure projects

Presentation of the draft OECD report

- Introduction
 - **Ms. Kumi Kitamori**, Head of the Green Growth and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD Secretariat
 - **Mr. Alin Horj**, Policy Analyst, OECD Secretariat
- Presentation on the report “ Greening the Belt and Road Projects in Central Asia”
 - **Mr. Viktor Novikov**, Zoï
- Open discussion with lead discussants:
 - **Ms. Ekaterine Mikabadze**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia
 - **Mr. Isfandiyor Shukurov**, Head of the Department of State Control over the Use and Protection of Water Resources, the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

(To continue after lunch)

12:30 - 14:00

Buffet lunch

14:00 - 14:45

Item 3 (cont’d).

(b) The objective of this session is to share experiences on existing **institutional settings and processes** related to upstream strategic infrastructure planning, consider strengths and weaknesses of existing institutional frameworks, and identify good practices and challenges related to cross-sectoral and integrated approaches to strategic infrastructure planning, with social and environmental outcomes at its core.

- Introduction
 - **Mr. Douglas Herrick**, Policy Analyst, OECD Secretariat
- Open discussion, with lead discussants:
 - **Ms. Aisulu Amanova**, Head of the Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyz Republic

- **Mr. Assylkhan Aitzhanov**, Advisor to the CEO, Development Bank of Kazakhstan

14:45 - 15:45

Item 4. International standards and tools for aligning infrastructure investment to SDGs

Mainstreaming socio-economic and environmental factors in strategic infrastructure planning and project evaluation and prioritisation is essential to achieve long-term development goals, but proves to be challenging for countries. Analytical tools such as Cost-Benefits Analysis (CBAs) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) have been implemented and used at the project levels, although not systematically. The challenge for policy-makers is not so much the lack of tools and instruments to evaluate and mainstream sustainability in infrastructure decision-making, but rather the multitude of sustainable infrastructure standards and tools.

The objective of this session is to raise awareness on the importance of sustainable infrastructure standards for reaching economic development goals and the SDGs. The session will provide some examples of existing international principles, standards and instruments available to governments for integrating sustainability into infrastructure decision-making.

Background document: ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)14

Keynote presentation by **Mr. Masamichi Kono**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD on the OECD work on sustainable infrastructure and contribution to the G20 and APEC

- Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative and sustainable public procurement
 - **Mr. Fulai Sheng**, Head of the Research and Partnerships Unit, UNEP
- The UNECE legal instruments: the Aarhus Convention, the Espoo Convention and the application of SEAs
 - **Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin**, Chief of Operational Activities and Review Section, Environmental Division, UNECE
- Open discussion on countries' experiences

15:45 - 16:15

Networking coffee break

16:15 - 17:45

Item 5. Engagement of and collaboration with development finance institutions in the GREEN Action Task Force's work

One of the key feedback after the 2018 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force was to strengthening the co-operation between the Task Force and development finance institutions

(DFIs)² to support the identification and development of environmental investment projects across the region as well as to mobilise technical assistance funds and donor grant co-financing of DFI investments. Relatively recent work by the Task Force has involved several co-operative activities, such as the participation of development finance institutions in meetings and workshops organised by the Task Force, exchange of information and analysis between the major financial institutions, such as EBRD, ADB, World Bank and EIB or participation of the Secretariat and the Task Force members in relevant meetings organised by development finance institutions.

This session aims to discuss what would be the major benefits for the Task Force members from further enhancement of the co-operation with development finance institutions. It will also identify ways the both sides can work closer together on scaling up green investment in the economies of the EECCA region, based on the respective needs, experiences and knowledge.

Background document: ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)2

- Introduction
 - **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak**, Programme Manager, OECD Secretariat
- Open discussion, with lead discussants:
 - **Ms. Gayane Minasyan**, Lead Environmental Specialist, World Bank Group
 - **Ms. Adina Relicovschi**, Head of Environmental Policy Unit, Environment, Climate and Social Office, European Investment Bank
 - **Mr. Sabin Stanescu**, Associate, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - **Mr. Assylkhan Aitzhanov**, Advisor to the CEO, Development Bank of Kazakhstan

17:45 - 19:30

Cocktail reception

² “Development finance institutions” here include: bilateral donors and development banks; multilateral development banks; international (multilateral) climate/environmental funds; national public financial institutions of EECCA countries (e.g. national development banks, public-sector funds and facilities, etc.), among others.

Day 2 Starting at 9:30, ending at 15:20

09:00 - 09:30

Welcome networking coffee

09:30 - 11:00

Item 6. Strategic planning for delivering water sector reform and SDGs

Many countries within the EECCA region are revisiting their national strategies and plans for water management in response to emerging domestic priorities and international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Climate Agreement or Association Agreement with the EU. Naturally, the countries of the region are at different maturities with regard to strategy development. Some strategies are at drafting stage, some at assessment stage while others are approved and under implementation.

This session will provide experience and lessons learned from country work on strategy development and implementation under the GREEN Action Task Force including application of innovative approaches such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of water strategies. The session will also recognise the benefits of assessing cross-sectoral and transboundary implications using a nexus approach.

- Presentation of country experience
 - **Mr. Dzmitry Matusevich**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and **Ms. Snezhana Dubenok**, Deputy Research Director, Central Research Institute for Integrated Use of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus
 - **Mr. Oleksander Bon**, Water Division, Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection, Ukraine

- Open discussion with lead discussant:
 - **Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov**, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE

11:00 - 11:30

Networking coffee break

11:30 - 13:00

Item 7. Role of national environmental funds in promoting green investments

The establishment of public funds for environment or green investment is now re-gaining interest of environmental policy makers in many EECCA countries. Once common in the EECCA region, such funds were typically governmental, or quasi-governmental institutions, capitalised by a variety of earmarked public revenue sources, including environmental charges and fines. Notwithstanding their generally modest role and challenges with the efficiency and effectiveness of the use of resources, the funds provided financing, usually in the form of grants or soft loans, to a wide range of environmental protection activities for both the public and private sectors.

This session will explore the experience with the currently operating and planned environment and environmentally related (e.g. energy efficiency) funds in the region. It will also aim to discuss challenges in the establishment and operation of such funds, identify ways to design institutional and operational measures when their existence is warranted.

Background document: ENV/EPOC/EAP(2019)15

- Introduction
 - **Ms. Nelly Petkova**, Project Manager, OECD Secretariat
- Open discussion with lead discussant:
 - **Mr. Karen Asatryan**, Director, Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund, Armenia

(To continue after lunch)

13:00-14:00

Buffet lunch

14:00-14:45

Item 7 (cont'd).

- Open discussion with lead discussant:
 - **Ms. Yuliia Holovatiuk-Ungureanu**, Director, Energy Efficiency Fund, Ukraine

14:45 - 15:00

Item 8. Bureau election and other business

Background Document: Room Document 2

15:00 - 15:30

Item 9. Closing remarks and next steps

15:30 END OF MEETING