



### Meeting Report

#### **Virtual meeting with RCs and UNCTs in Central Asia subregion**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (09:00-10:30, Geneva time) – MS Teams

Four RCs (Helena Fraser – Uzbekistan, Ozonnia Ojielo – Kyrgyzstan, Norimasa Shimomura – Kazakhstan, Elena Panova – Turkmenistan) and representatives of UNCTs, UNDCO and 17 IBC members participated.

The meeting was co-chaired by UNEP, UNESCO and UNECE.

Opening and welcoming statements were delivered by: Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe; Bruno Pozzi, Director, UNEP Europe Office; Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE; and Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, a.i. Regional Director UNDCO Europe & Central Asia. Ms. Vojackova-Sollorano also introduced the four RCs present on the call, who then took the floor to express their expectations for the call and the IBC.

The co-chairs introduced the IBC on Environment and Climate Change, the results of a survey of the needs of RCs and the IBC workplan and possible actions for 2020 under the three pillars (see IBC terms of reference). Reactions from RCs and other participants are summarized below.

Main conclusions:

- All RCs welcomed the IBC, the information provided and the opportunity to exchange ideas during the subregional meeting.
- DCO and RCs looked forward to getting from the IBC the necessary data needed both at regional and country levels to have substantive discussions with Governments.
- The IBC should deliver environmental and climate change advice as ‘one UN’ to RCs and UNCTs. In particular, policy briefs, strong argumentation supported by science, subregional data, analysis and examples from other countries would be welcomed.
- The IBC should focus on the actual demands, priorities and expectations highlighted by the RCs and UNCT representatives during this meeting.



- The answers to the March 2020 survey of RCs are based on the situation before the COVID-19 lockdowns and, although still valid, the focus now has changed and the IBC workplan actions need to be adapted.
- The IBC should provide input to socioeconomic assessments being carried out in the context of the pandemic and subsequent response plans (countries of the region are at various stages of this process and welcome IBC inputs).
- The IBC can provide an opportunity for Central Asian Governments to strengthen the growing subregional cooperation in transboundary climate action and environment issues.
- The IBC can help UNCTs use COVID-19 as an opportunity to emphasize green growth, green economy, new analytics and new arguments for the national government.
- This IBC should provide a toolbox of material ready to be used. The main questions are the narrative, the approach and the future ability to provide specific technical assistance. The IBC should make key information easily available and well organized.
- UNSDCFs and CCAs are at different stages in the region. There will be a need to amend these documents to reflect COVID-19 challenges and opportunities and ensure environmental and climate change are embedded.
- RCs brought up the importance of ensuring efficient communications with the IBC, possibly through focal points.
- The IBC will review the action list after having consulted all RCs and UNCT representatives in two further subregional consultations being planned.
- The IBC co-chairs will convene a second IBC meeting after the third subregional consultation in order to agree with the IBC members the workplan, short-term actions and communication modalities.

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: Meeting presentation

Annex 3: Results of a short survey of Resident Coordinators