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Economic Commission for  
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Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)  
Office for North Africa

## Extended Meeting of the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews

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### Environmental Performance Review of Morocco

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## Aide – memoire



11-12 September 2013

Rabat, Morocco

## Background and Rationale

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1. In October 2010, the Secretary of State for Water and Environment of Morocco has requested the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to conduct an environmental performance review (EPR)<sup>1</sup> of Morocco. Although Morocco is not part of the ECE region, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) has agreed to support the environmental performance review of Morocco. This is the first initiative conducted by the ECE beyond its region.
2. In this regard, the Executive Secretary of ECE sought the agreement and cooperation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which confirmed its willingness to cooperate in the implementation of the EPR driven by ECA through its Sub-Regional Office for North Africa (SRO-NA) which Morocco is one of the Member States. SRO-NA has mobilized some resources to support the preparation of the EPR as well as the organization of the meeting of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance.
3. The main objective of EPR is to provide countries with a tool to strengthen the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies and improving environmental management and performance. The EPR provides an accurate diagnosis and specific recommendations to improve the design and implementation of policies.
4. The review of environmental performance is a strategic tool for Morocco. It should be noted that Morocco recently adopted the National Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development and launched the preparation of a national strategy for sustainable development and a national strategy for environmental protection.
5. In addition, the EPR process conducted in Morocco contributes to strengthening the SRO-NA capacity on EPR and should enable it to achieve EPR in its region.
6. To share the results of the environmental performance review of Morocco with all national stakeholders, SRO-NA and ECE organize an Expert Group meeting on 11-12 September 2013 in Rabat (Morocco).

## Role and objectives of the Expert Group Meeting

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7. Given the complexity of the issues and the necessary expertise, the CEP decided early in the EPR programme to delegate the detailed review of the assessment of environmental performance and recommendations to a group of experts on EPR: the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Review. Outcomes of the Expert Group meeting is then presented to the CEP, which formally adopts the recommendations contained in the EPR as agreed during the review by experts. The majority of members of Expert Group are not country delegates to the CEP.
8. The expert review will focus on the recommendations contained in the report. Each expert is involved as a reviewer of a particular chapter. The country under review is represented at the meeting by a delegation and has the opportunity to comment on the evaluation and recommendations proposed. The recommendations will not be finalized before the country's delegation has given its consent. In particular, the main objective of the Rabat meeting is to discuss and agree on draft recommendations for Morocco.

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<sup>1</sup>The EPR programme was launched in 1991 by OECD for its member countries. In 1993, The European environment ministers have asked ECE to extend this approach to the countries of the region that are not members of the OECD. Two cycles of the EPR have already been made. The third cycle starts in 2013 by the Republic of Moldova.

## **Participants**

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9. Participants in the Expert Group Meeting are:
  - Members of the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Review;
  - Representatives of the Department of Environment;
  - Representatives of other technical departments (national focal points);
  - Representatives of ECA and ECE;
10. Observers are:
  - Representatives of local communities;
  - Private sector organizations and civil society;
  - Development partners involved in similar issues (UNDP, European Union, GIZ);
  - Representatives of other North Africa countries.

## **Workshop Process**

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11. The work of the meeting will be held in plenary for a day and a half and will be structured around 13 thematic sessions related to the different chapters of the EPR of Morocco.
12. The Expert Group will be required to appoint a reporter to present the results of the meeting at the 19th session of the CEP to be held in October 2013 in Geneva.

## **Expected outcomes**

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13. The expected outcomes of the meeting are:
  - (a) An agreement on concrete recommendations to Morocco for adoption by the CEP;
  - (b) Sensitization of key stakeholders on the importance of exercise to review environmental performance as a tool for decision support.

## **Documentation and working languages**

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14. The working paper (draft report of the EPR) and the program of the meeting will be communicated to participants in time. Simultaneous English-French interpretation will be provided.

## **Date and place of the meeting**

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15. The meeting will be held on 11-12 September 2013 in Rabat, Morocco.

## **Contact persons**

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*50 Years of Partnership  
for Development and  
Regional Integration in North Africa*