

Templateⁱ for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

To be filled in by submitting country/organization

1. **Country or organization:** Albania
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)ⁱⁱ that the initiative will contribute to):** Review of the Albanian National Strategy on Ambient Air Quality
3. **Description of the action:** Update of the National Ambient Air Quality Strategy, approved by Decision of Council of Ministers no. 594, of 10.9.2014, or draft of a New Strategy. Develop a set of air quality indicators for the updated/new strategy to track implementation.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** 2024 and ongoing
5. **Type of actionⁱⁱⁱ:** legal, regulatory and policy instruments
6. **Economic sectors^{iv}:** economy-wide, cities and specific sectors contributing to air pollution in Albania.
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** The national ambient air quality strategy, approved by Decision of Council of Ministers no. 594, of 10.9.2014, which can be found here: [Ministria e Turizmit dhe Mjedisit](#). This document determines limit values based on human health, for specific pollution. These objectives must be achieved within a time frame of 5 and 10 years from the date of the Strategy's approval, until 2024.
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** The new strategy document on ambient air quality is expected to make the connection between economic sectors, emissions, as well as negative effects on air quality.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** Air pollution policy can significantly contribute to achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably to: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all; end hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture; make cities and human settlements safe and sustainable; ensure access to sustainable and modern energy for all; and protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halt biodiversity loss.
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:**

Recommendation 1.3: The Government should further improve the quality of strategic planning, and in particular ensure:

 - (a) Timely preparation and adoption of strategic documents;
 - (b) Regular preparation of implementation reports;
 - (c) Online accessibility of information on the Integrated Planning System, National Strategies for Development and Integration (NSDIs), sectoral and cross-cutting strategies and implementation reports on all of the foregoing.
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** to be decided in the future.
12. **Partners:** possible donors such as: EU Commission; IPA project, giz, UNDP, etc (tbd).
13. **Contact points:** Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania, Directory of the Policies and Strategies of Environmental Development .

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”?** (YES / NO)
 - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure”^v does the action contribute:*
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** (YES / NO)

ⁱ Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

ⁱⁱ Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

ⁱⁱⁱ In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

^{iv} In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

^v The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>