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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Ad Hoc Informal Meeting
14 July 2005

REPORT

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Agenda item 2: Second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development

2. The Executive Secretary highlighted the latest revisions to the secretariat's proposal on the format of the Forum, taking into account the teleconference with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on 11 July 2005. The Meeting made a number of suggestions regarding the format and organizational issues.
3. The Chair concluded the item by suggesting a meeting of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW) on 15 July 2005 to wrap up issues regarding the preparations for the Forum, emphasizing that this would enable the secretariat to organize the preparatory work in a timely manner.

Agenda item 3: Millennium Summit

4. The Executive Secretary briefed the Meeting on the upcoming Millennium Summit in September 2005 as well as the discussion at the recently held high-level segment of ECOSOC as part of the process leading up to the Summit. It was noted that if agreed upon, some recommendations on the ECOSOC reform would have an impact on the work of UNECE.
5. The Meeting was informed of the preparation of a secretariat report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly its structure. This report would be complementary to the UNDP report, as the former would focus on regional policies to achieve the MDGs while the latter would concentrate on national achievements. The report would be available to member States by the end of August.

Agenda item 4: Comprehensive Report on the State of the UNECE

6. The Chair pointed out that the purpose of the Meeting was not to enter into substantive discussions and negotiations but rather to decide on the way forward. In this connection, the Chair announced two segments under this agenda item: presentation by the evaluation team and discussions under the formal segment on the Chair's proposal on the way ahead.

7. The evaluation team formally introduced the Comprehensive Report on the State of the UNECE, highlighting challenges faced by UNECE in prioritization, governance and management. The team presented its key findings, conclusions and recommendations, as contained in the Report.

8. The member States expressed gratitude to the evaluation team for the work done, which would serve as a basis for the intergovernmental negotiations and related discussions.

9. The Chair converted the discussion to formal segment and introduced his proposal, highlighting the four components, namely timing, procedure, roadmap, and outcomes. The Commission adopted the proposal.

10. At the conclusion of the discussion under this item, the Chair invited the Executive Secretary to speak, it being her last opportunity to address the membership at large before taking up her new functions at the EBRD. She expressed her views on a number of issues included in the Report (such as mission, governance, management, cooperation with other organizations, UN reform and its implications for the UNECE reform, etc.). She emphasized the importance of trust between the member States and the secretariat in carrying out the reform process, assuring member States of the secretariat's commitment to assisting them.

Agenda item 5: Other business

11. The Executive Secretary briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the first UNECE Knowledge Sharing Initiative training course, held from 27 June to 1 July. The next course, which could be somewhat refined based on the first experience, would be conducted in October 2005 subject to there being sufficient applicants.

12. In view of the upcoming departure of the Executive Secretary, the Chair expressed appreciation for her excellent work and strong commitment to the organization, and wished her all the best in her new functions.
