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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**Regional Consultative Meeting for the World Summit  
on Sustainable Development**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 12 July 2001

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of the Chair.
4. Presentation of the regional and subregional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
5. Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration.
6. Consideration of modalities for further drafting.
7. Other business.

## ANNOTATIONS

In its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations called for a 10-year review in 2002 of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the Summit level to reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to sustainable development. In doing so, it emphasized that the summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. It also decided that the review should focus on action-oriented decisions in areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, as the Rio+10 summit is officially called, will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002. The Commission on Sustainable Development serves as its Preparatory Committee.

The General Assembly stressed the importance of early and effective preparations for the Summit at all levels. At the regional level, the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have been requested to take the lead.

Regional preparations under the responsibility of UNECE, in cooperation with UNEP, consist of:

- The preparation of a regional assessment of progress;
- The organization of a Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 24-25 September 2001;
- The development and adoption of a declaration by the Regional Ministerial Meeting; and
- To facilitate the drawing-up of the declaration, the organization of a **Regional Consultative Meeting** in Geneva on 12-13 July 2001.

### Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be opened by the Chair of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy. The Executive Secretary of UNECE will make an introductory statement.

### Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the UNECE rules of procedure, the Meeting should adopt its agenda.

### Item 3. Election of the Chair

The Meeting should elect a Chair for the Regional Consultative Meeting.

#### Item 4. Presentation of the regional and subregional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Several subregional meetings are taking place within the UNECE region in preparation of the regional meetings and the World Summit. Representatives of these meetings will be asked to give brief reports of their main conclusions. Among the meetings to be reviewed are the Meeting of the European Council (15-16 June 2001, Gothenburg, Sweden), the Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (16-17 May 2001, Paris), the Regional Roundtable (6-8 June, Vail, Colorado, United States), the Regional Conference for Central and Eastern European Countries (27-28 June 2001, Bucharest), the preparatory workshop for the subregional meeting of Central Asia, Caucasus, Turkey and Iran (5-7 September 2001, Almaty, Kazakhstan) and other major subregional meetings.

#### Item 5. Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration

The Ministerial Meeting in September will adopt a declaration that will outline major priority directions and policies for UNECE countries in order to address the key challenges related to sustainable development and to help shape the agenda for the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. It should contain a set of specific actions to be undertaken by UNECE member States, individually or in cooperation, to further promote sustainable development both regionally and globally.

The declaration will be the key political component of the input of the UNECE region to the Summit and will contain commitments and proposals for action at both the regional and the global levels.

All participants, including national delegations, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other civil-society groups, will be invited to contribute to the discussions.

**Documentation:** The Meeting will have before it a draft on possible elements for the declaration, prepared by the joint secretariat in the light of discussions of the Extended Bureau at its meeting on 3 May 2001.

#### Item 6. Consideration of modalities for further drafting

The Meeting may wish to consider modalities for continuing to draft the ministerial declaration after the conclusion of the Regional Consultative Meeting and prior to the Ministerial Regional Ministerial Meeting. Such modalities may include designation of a small and representative drafting group.

#### Item 7. Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.