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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY****Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials
“Environment for Europe”**(Fifth session, 20-21 February 2003)
(Item 3 of the provisional agenda)**DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION¹****Introduction**

1. We, the Environment Ministers and Heads of delegations from [55] countries in the UNECE region and the Representative of the European Commission, met at Kiev, Ukraine, from 21 to 23 May 2003, in the fifth of a series of Ministerial Conferences held as part of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process.
2. We underline the importance of the EfE process as a tool to promote environmental stability and sustainable development in the region, thus contributing to environmental security and peace. We reaffirm our commitment to cooperation in the field of environmental protection between countries in Europe, North America, the Caucasus and Central Asia, based, in particular, on the principles that were agreed in Dobris, Czechoslovakia, in 1991; in Lucerne, Switzerland, in 1993; in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1995; in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1998; and here, today, in Kiev, Ukraine in 2003.
3. We take note of the rapid political, economic and social changes that have taken place in the region since the establishment of the EfE process in 1991 and we underline our view that these changes call for efforts to strengthen the coherence within the region.
4. We welcome the decisions taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and we commit ourselves to strengthen the environmental pillar of sustainable development at the global, regional and subregional levels and to promote partnerships in support of the goals of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of

¹ Prepared by a drafting group composed of experts from Italy, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Eco-Forum with the support of the UNECE Secretariat in the light of the discussion by the Executive Committee at its meeting of 17-18 January in Kiev and comments and proposals received thereafter.

5. Implementation as well as of the Ministerial Statement of the Regional (UNECE) Ministerial Meeting for WSSD. The present Declaration adopted at the first ministerial conference in the region after WSSD represents our collective response to these commitments.

I. ACHIEVEMENTS

6. We acknowledge that the EfE process has been a unique multilateral process that brings all countries in the region together on an equal footing. We are encouraged that this process has evolved into the major high-level pan-European framework to discuss key policy issues, develop programmes, prepare legally binding instruments and launch various initiatives, including new institutional structures for the environment in a balance between subregional and regional issues and openness to intensive intersectoral cooperation. We appreciate that the process has provided a wider political platform for environmental initiatives of subregions, thus making them more effective and visible.

7. We note the results achieved under the implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for Central and Eastern Europe endorsed at the Lucerne Conference. The EAP Task Force has been playing an effective role in promoting environmental policy reform and capacity building in economies in transition, particularly in the preparation of national environmental action programmes, environmental financing and environmental management in enterprises. The Project Preparation Committee (PPC) has been instrumental in mobilizing and channeling external financing to resolve priority environmental problems in countries in transition, as well as in ensuring coordination among clients, host governments, donors and international financial institutions (IFIs).

8. We recognize that the UNECE programme of environmental performance reviews (EPR), also initiated at Lucerne, has made it possible to assess the effectiveness of efforts of countries in transition to manage the environment, and to offer the Governments concerned tailor-made recommendations on how to reduce the overall pollution burden, to better integrate environmental policies into sectoral policies and to strengthen cooperation with the international community.

9. We note pan-European assessment reports on the state of the environment produced by the European Environment Agency (EEA) that helped to identify major threats and challenges for the development of regional environmental policies, and to lay the ground for the preparation of the Environmental Programme for Europe, which was endorsed by the Sofia Conference as the first attempt to set long-term environmental priorities at the pan-European level and to make Agenda 21 more operational in the European context.

10. We note that the preparations for EfE ministerial conferences have given a fillip to the drawing-up of a number of important legally binding instruments promoting environmental protection and sustainable development in the region such as the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters ("Aarhus Convention"), and the Protocols on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Environmental agreements developed under the EfE process complement and strengthen the regional environmental legal infrastructure that has been built by the conventions on air pollution, environmental impact assessment, transboundary waters and industrial accidents.

11. We stress other important policy tools endorsed by the EfE conferences, including the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), the Policy Statement on

Energy Efficiency and the Guidelines on Energy Conservation in Europe, as well as the Strategy to Phase out Leaded Petrol. These tools, together with close links established between the EfE process and other ministerial processes in the region - environment and health; transport, health and environment; and the protection of forests – help to promote sector integration.

12. We note with satisfaction that the process brought international organizations and institutions active in the region to work together in a unique cooperative setting. We also stress the success of the EfE process in involving civil society organizations in regional environmental policy-making and implementation. The establishment of new RECs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and a structured dialogue with a broad coalition of environmental NGOs, are the examples.

II. CHALLENGES

13. We reaffirm the special responsibility of our region to halt and reverse the degradation of the global environment. We have to develop specific goals and targets to confront negative impacts of present development inside and outside the region. We should support recent and launch new cooperative initiatives with other regions. We recognize the need to accelerate and coordinate our efforts to fight global warming and other global environmental threats such as unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

14. We are concerned that environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources may cause significant social and economic consequences such as diminishing incomes and employment resulting in increased poverty and crime, cause health hazards, and aggravate insecurity, social tensions and political instability. We are also concerned that conflicts over shared natural resources and ecosystems could lead to tensions between States that have an adverse impact on other subregions, directly or indirectly. We recognize that the EfE process should contribute to strengthening environmental security and human safety in close cooperation, in particular, with OSCE.

15. We welcome the Kiev Assessment prepared by the European Environment Agency (EEA) with the support of UNECE. We are particularly concerned over report findings that:

- (a) In terms of sectoral integration, only limited progress has been achieved to date and only in a few cases there has been significant decoupling of economic growth from associated environmental pressures. This progress has resulted mainly from one-off changes, technical substitutions (e.g. for leaded petrol and CFCs) or from economic downfall. Much of this progress is therefore unlikely to be sustained in the face of continuing or renewed economic growth;
- (b) Continued growth of transport, in the absence of significant progress in the use of non-fossil fuels and modal shift, turns out to be a major problem for the environment in the region, due to further increases in greenhouse gas emissions and health impacts;
- (c) Alarming exceedances of WHO air quality standards continue in many urban areas. Exposure to particulate matter is now the largest threat to health from air pollution in cities;
- (d) Target levels for some persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are exceeded. Concentrations of a number of newly identified chemical pollutants not classified as POPs are rising. Obsolete chemicals and contaminated sites continue to pose grave environmental and health impacts in countries in transition;

- (e) Total waste quantities are increasing in most countries, with only limited progress towards de-coupling of waste generation, particularly hazardous waste, from economic growth in some countries;
- (f) Water quality and water resources in many subregions are still under threat from a range of human activities. Problems are generally highest near hot-spots resulting from a range of industrial and other activities;
- (g) Soil is being irreversibly lost and degraded as a result of increasing and often conflicting demands from nearly all economic sectors. The main problems are irreversible losses due to soil sealing and erosion, continuing contamination from local and diffuse sources, acidification, salinization, compaction and desertification;
- (h) Important ecosystems continue to be at risk, including wetlands and species-rich agricultural habitats. Increasing land-use conflicts from transport, urbanization and intensive agriculture are diminishing the remaining semi-natural remote areas. A number of region's species continue to decline at alarming rate threatening biodiversity.

16. As many environmental problems in the region remain unsolved — we agree with the need to strengthen political leadership to tackle these problems in closer cooperation.

17. We recognize that the WSSD outcome and existing pressures on the region's environment call for refocusing Pan-European policy-making on more effective sectoral integration of environmental requirements and, in particular, on reversing trends that are actually moving the region away from sustainability. The principles of sustainable development, in particular, the need for de-coupling economic growth from environmental pressures have to be built into the design of policies — care of the environment and proper husbandry of non-renewable resources need to be central and not peripheral to, or in competition with, socio-economic development.

18. We note and continue to support the legally-binding instruments for environmental protection that have been developed at the international level; at the same time, we express our concern that greater emphasis be placed on compliance with and enforcement of, these instruments. In addition to substantial financial resources, the development of appropriate human and institutional capacities is required, and this has not always been sufficiently recognized. Countries need to establish clear objectives, set realistic specific time frames and apply the most cost-effective policy instruments in a coherent manner.

19. We further note that commonly accepted binding principles alone will not suffice to guarantee a coherent environmental protection and a comparable level of implementation of these principles in the whole region. Economic instruments, voluntary agreements and information instruments have to be more widely used to promote sector integration across the region.

20. We stress the importance of environmental information and data for policy making and public awareness. We regret that not all countries use indicator-based mechanisms for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of environmental policies and decision-making. Better data collection in such areas as chemicals and biodiversity is needed. Improved coordination and optimization of environmental assessments and reporting is another area for concerted action together with the involvement of North America in future regional assessments for our ministerial conferences.

21. We are convinced that without the active and informed involvement of the public, it will not be possible to achieve lasting environmental improvements. That is why, while welcoming the

early entry into force of the Aarhus Convention, we note that considerable efforts are needed in all parts of the region to ensure its effective implementation.

22. We recognize that education is a fundamental tool for environmental protection and sustainable development and welcome the decision by the UN General Assembly, at its 57 session (December 2002), to announce a decade of education for sustainable development starting in 2005.

23. We regret that not much progress has been made so far in establishing an active dialogue with the business community on how to promote public-private partnerships to achieve common environmental objectives. We recognize the need to take further measures to engage the commitment, creativity and resources of the private sector in these efforts.

24. We recognize the need of countries of South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia for a clear perspective for co-operation with other subregions. Most of these countries face serious financial difficulties in achieving national environmental objectives. These countries like all others have to make difficult decisions about realistic priorities, establish better cooperation between Environment and Finance Ministries, improve capacities at national and local level, and use existing resources more efficiently. Further efforts are also needed to mobilize additional finances for environmental purposes.

II. RESPONSES: MAKING IT HAPPEN

A. Global commitments

25. We will support the work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and UNEP in following up WSSD results at the global level.

26. We call on all countries in the region to honour their global commitments in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). We welcome the agreement of the Regional Ministerial Conference for WSSD to enhance the mutually supportive role of MEAs and the international trading system. We will work towards an early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and strongly urge countries that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner. We will promote regional co-ordination and cooperation between the relevant MEAs.

27. We will strengthen our efforts at the global, regional and national levels to ensure environmentally sound management of natural resources that will, at the same time, contribute to building social cohesion, reducing poverty and vulnerability to natural and human made disasters, and promoting peace and human security. We welcome and support the initiatives and partnerships designed to address these links to strengthen and enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and results.

28. We will promote sustainable production and consumption as well as corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability across the region. We stress that that environmental protection is not only a concern for environment ministries, but that sector integration and decoupling of environmental degradation and economic growth are crucial.

B. Monitoring and assessment

29. We call on the EEA to build on the new partnerships, especially with UNECE, when preparing the next indicator-based report for our ministerial conference in three years. We encourage international collaboration to enhance international comparability of environmental information in priority areas such as air emissions, urban air quality, transboundary inland water pollution, marine pollution, chemicals, hazardous waste, waste management, and biodiversity. We support the conclusions derived from the data collection for the Kiev Assessment and invite UNECE, in close cooperation with the EEA and other relevant organizations and institutions, to implement the recommendations for improving monitoring capacities in the region. We endorse the Recommendations on Strengthening National Environmental Monitoring and Information Systems in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well as Guidelines on the Development of State of the Environment Reports in these countries.

C. Environmental performance reviews

30. We welcome the report “Environmental policy in transition: Lessons from 10 years of EPRs” and support implementation of the recommendations specified in this document. We reaffirm our support for the EPR programme of UNECE that was initiated by the Lucerne Ministerial Conference one decade ago, and we note that it has been an important instrument for countries in transition.

D. Strategic environmental assessment

31. We welcome the adoption of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Convention). This Protocol underlines the cross-sectoral approach by integrating environmental and health considerations into strategic decision-making. We encourage all States to sign this Protocol and to work actively for its ratification and implementation. We recognize and appreciate the close cooperation between the EIA Convention and the Aarhus Convention and the active participation of the health sector and involvement of environmental citizen organizations in the negotiations of the SEA Protocol, and we encourage these organizations to support the implementation of this Protocol.

E. Civil liability

32. We welcome the adoption and signature of the Protocol on Civil Liability within the framework of the Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. We consider this new Protocol as an important tool for ensuring compensation for damage to transboundary watercourses caused by industrial accidents as well as an important mechanism for the prevention of industrial accidents. Therefore, we urge all Parties to the Conventions expeditiously to take all necessary steps to also become Parties to the new instrument and apply its provisions to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force. We also strongly encourage all UNECE member countries that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Conventions to do so without further delay.

E. Transboundary air pollution

33. We are pleased to note that the 1998 Aarhus Protocols on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants will soon be entering into force and call upon those Signatories that have not yet ratified to do so as soon as possible. We take note of the statement addressed to our Conference by the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary air Pollution and we welcome the decision by the Executive Body to facilitate funding from Parties for its core activities, and resolve to take action for the purpose of ensuring the necessary contributions, in cash or in kind, for this important work. We encourage the Executive Body to continue its work on identifying areas where concerted action could lead to significant reduction of air pollution.

F. Compliance and implementation

34. We endorse the Guidelines for Strengthening Compliance with and Implementation of MEAs in the UNECE Region as an important means of strengthening implementation of regional environmental conventions and protocols, to improve coherence and increase synergy of the overall regional legal environmental framework and to better coordinate and harmonize the reporting requirements. We will support countries in transition to build their capacities to comply with the obligations arising from MEAs.

35. We welcome the efforts of the various enforcement and compliance networks that are working within the region to share experience and develop best practices. We also welcome the Guiding Principles for Reform of Environmental Enforcement Authorities in Transition Economies of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. We call upon the environmental enforcement authorities in these countries to implement the Guiding Principles and on donor countries to support them to do so.

G. Energy pricing and efficiency

36. We stress the need to implement the WSSD goals concerning a sustainable energy future, in particular - with a sense of urgency – to substantially increase the global share of renewable energy resources. We will support energy partnerships to work together to remove the barriers to renewable and energy-efficient technology. We commit ourselves to work towards establishing national targets for the share of renewable energy and a target for the entire region. In this context we welcome the offer of Germany to host a conference on renewable energy in 2004.

37. We endorse Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies prepared jointly by the UNECE Committees on Environmental Policy and on Sustainable Energy to implement energy-related decisions of the Aarhus Conference, and we encourage their implementation to ensure, in particular, that price signals reflect to the maximum possible extent the full costs and benefits, including externalities, of supplying and consuming different forms of energy. We invite both Committees, as a follow-up, to study the role of economic instruments in promoting the use of renewable energy.

38. We endorse a Statement on Energy Efficiency and will support further efforts to improve energy efficiency to help meeting environmental objectives, setting the right direction for sustainable development and achieving many of our economic, environmental and social goals both nationally and internationally.

H. Biodiversity

39. We welcome the progress made so far by the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), as the implementing arm of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the region. We endorse the Resolution on Biological and Landscape Diversity submitted by the PEBLDS Council and we call upon all countries in the pan-European region to engage in national efforts and regional co-operation to halt the loss of biological and landscape diversity.

I. Public participation

40. We welcome the adoption of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention. Such registers provide a powerful mechanism for generating information on potentially polluting activities and bringing it into the public domain. The new protocol is expected to increase corporate accountability and lead to significant and tangible reductions in emissions of polluting substances in the region. We therefore encourage all interested States to sign, ratify and implement the Protocol at the earliest opportunity and to work towards its early entry into force. We note that the active and constructive participation of environmental citizen organizations and industry has been a crucial feature in the negotiation of the Protocol and urge these main groups to remain involved in its implementation and further development.

41. We encourage all States to take steps to promote good governance, transparency and accountability and to enhance the role of the public, inter alia through capacity building measures aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the Aarhus Convention. We welcome the intention of the Meeting of the Parties to this Convention to consider the possibility of developing guidelines on public participation in international forums.

J. Environmental education

42. We recognize that environmental education, as it has evolved over many years in our region, has increasingly addressed a wide range of issues included in Agenda 21, and that it thus represents a core component of education for sustainable development. We call upon all countries to strengthen the role of sustainable development in the education systems at all levels, from pre-school to higher education and informal education, in order to promote education as a key agent for change. We endorse the Statement on Education for Sustainable Development and invite Education Ministers to take an active part in the development of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development by 2005.

K. Environmental expenditure

43. We welcome the Good Practices of Public Environmental Expenditure Management in Transition Economies and encourage transition economies to use them as a tool to strengthen environmental expenditure programmes. We also call on donors to support these efforts and to cooperate with transition economies to elaborate realistic environmental investment and financing plans at national and local level. Further efforts are particularly needed to strengthen local finance and investment capacity by improving fiscal relations with higher levels of government, better budget management and multi-year investment plans in municipalities. We also call on donors and

recipients to ensure that all funding arrangements respect environmental requirements and promote sustainable development. We call on donors to devote a substantial part of their assistance to transition economies to environmental programmes.

44. We welcome the recent initiative by Georgia to develop a debt-for-environment swap. We call on other countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to work with creditor countries, OECD, the World Bank, IMF and UNDP to follow this initiative, as appropriate, taking in elements of transparency and partnership.

L. East-West environmental partnerships

45. [We welcome and support the Environmental Strategy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as a strong measure to bring the environmental needs of this subregion into focus and to help planning and implementing co-operative efforts. We welcome objectives around which countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia agreed to concentrate their actions as follows:

- (a) Harmonization of environmental policies and legislation;
- (b) Pollution prevention and control;
- (c) Natural resources management;
- (d) Integration of environmental considerations into sector policies;
- (e) Financing mechanisms including debt for environment swaps;
- (f) Information for environmental decision-making and providing information to the public;
- (g) Resolving transboundary problems.

46. We consider these priorities as an important basis for East-West partnerships in the region and call upon all UNECE member States, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector to support initiatives to achieve the Strategy objectives.

47. We welcome the EU Water Initiative and the support that it will provide to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in working on this priority. We invite other countries in the region to consider joining this important initiative so that a critical mass of resources can be mobilized to achieve its goals.]

M. Water, environment and security in Central Asia

48. We welcome the report on water, environment and security in Central Asia and note with the satisfaction the intention of Central Asian States to strengthen their efforts to protect water basin ecosystems, promote sound and efficient water use, strengthen inter-sector partnership and national capacities to ensure both sustainable development in this sub-region and its security. We expect tangible results soon in this complex issue through timely implementation of actions highlighted in this report.

N. Mountains

49. We welcome the progress made in the protection, sustainable development and management of mountain regions, and the strengthening cooperation between mountain regions, such as the Alps, the Carpathians, the Caucasus and Central Asia through exchanging experiences and technical cooperation. We emphasize the importance of implementing the partnerships for

sustainable development of mountain regions in order to effectively address imminent challenges in the fields of biodiversity conservation, sustainable local development, water management and flood prevention and control in mountains and adjacent lowlands. We welcome the adoption and signing of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and call for its implementation.

O. Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP)

50. We welcome and support the REReP in its efforts to strengthen institutions, enhance cooperation and reduce environmental health threats in South Eastern Europe. We appreciate the work done by the Regional Environmental Centre (Szentendre) to facilitate REReP implementation and we call for further support and development of the process.

IV. FUTURE OF THE PROCESS

51. We strongly support continuation of the EfE and welcome the document on its Future. We agree that goals for the EfE in the future will be:

- (a) To promote region-wide cooperation on policy responses based on environmental assessments, integration with sectoral policies, and governance, particularly involvement of civil society, business and industry, and other major groups;
- (b) To strengthen the implementation of regional environmental instruments, especially conventions, protocols and policy commitments, and to help to ensure coherence and comprehensiveness of the overall regional environmental framework to increase its efficiency and effectiveness and to reduce overlaps;
- (c) To provide a broad political platform for environmental initiatives for or by subregions;
- (d) To improve cooperation between the regional programmes of United Nations bodies and organizations and other international organizations and institutions;
- (e) To encourage IFIs, EU, bilateral donors and the private sector to mobilize financial resources to support the implementation of regional environmental instruments and subregional initiatives including capacity building;
- (f) To support inter-regional cooperation and links with the global environmental regime;
- (g) To contribute to the regional sustainable development activities of the UNECE.

52. We agree with the need to limit the number of ministerial conferences and to make cooperation with other ministerial processes in the region more effective. To this end, we invite the two distinct regional processes – Environment and Health, and Transport, Environment and Health - to participate with us in one unified EfE process. We invite Education Ministers also to join the EfE to develop and implement the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. We call upon the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe to cooperate closely with us on biodiversity issues. We agree to invite the above-mentioned Ministers to our future conferences on a rotating basis and to involve them actively in the preparatory work.

53. We decide that future meetings should be held on a regular and predictable basis, every [year] [three years], in a hosting country or in Geneva, alternatively. In order to streamline the preparations for ministerial conferences, we agree that the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and its Bureau should serve as preparatory body and executive committee, respectively.

54. We recognize the need for a long-term framework for developing regional environmental policy and better structuring the EfE process. For this purpose we invite CEP, as the overall coordinating institution for the continued EFE process, to monitor the implementation of this and future EfE ministerial declarations on a regular basis, and to assist us in assessing progress in the implementation of environmental commitments of this region emanating from the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation as well as the UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for WSSD. We invite also CEP to reflect the commitments of this Declaration in its work programme.

55. We agree that work in the EAP Task Force with accession countries should now cease in view of the imminent EU enlargement. The OECD secretariat of the EAP Task Force and the PPC should continue their work together in one new task force to support implementation of the Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This task force will consist of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and their partners from other subregions, bilateral donors, as well as international organizations and IFIs. New RECs and Eco-Forum will be invited to take part in its activities to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and the development of environmental civil society.

56. The OECD secretariat of the former EAP Task Force and the Project Preparation Committee are invited to provide jointly a coordinating secretariat for the task force for the next three years. We will consider opportunities, thereafter, of possible transferring the secretariat to Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In developing its work plan, the task force should agree on work-sharing responsibilities with international organizations and institutions that were actively supporting the elaboration of individual parts of the Strategy. A close link should be promoted with EPRs of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and capacity-building activities under the regional environmental agreements. The task force should report on its progress to CEP to ensure coordination of the Strategy implementation with the overall policy strategy for the region. We call upon bilateral donors, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), IFIs, UNDP and UNEP to support the task force activities by adequate and predictable funding.

57. We stress the need to develop a communication strategy to get recognition for the EfE process from a wider audience of actors and the general public based on the achievements of the process. We invite CEP and its partners to develop this strategy without delay.

58. We agree that our next meeting will be held in

59. We express our deep gratitude to the Government of Ukraine for having hosted this Conference and we wish to thank it and its people for the warm hospitality we have received.