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DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 16. Economic development in Europe

1. At its 24th meeting, on 18 June 1996, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. Many delegations supported the programme. Some delegations welcomed the review process currently under way in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and noted that the proposed medium-term plan would have to be revised to take into account the results of the review. They supported cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Some delegations stressed the need to ensure that the programme focus on areas in which ECE has expertise and a clear comparative advantage and avoid duplication with other European institutions and other bodies of the United Nations system. Some delegations emphasized that ECE should continue to work under a purely economic mandate.

3. Several delegations expressed the view that the subprogramme on environment should have been more specific and address issues relating to the pollution of the Danube and its delta and to the risk of nuclear plants pollution.

4. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the work of ECE in areas such as industry and technology, international trade and human settlements, and regional and subregional economic cooperation, including in the Black Sea area. Other delegations observed that only environment, transport, statistics and trade facilitation should remain as priority areas. They believed that work in other non-priority areas could be discontinued.

5. One delegation expressed concern that the proposed medium-term plan poorly reflects the ongoing ECE priority-setting exercise, as well as concern that some ECE analytical work duplicates that of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee takes note of the fact that the priorities of ECE in the proposed medium-term plan are transport, environment, statistics, economic analysis and trade facilitation.

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of programme 16 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, with the following modifications, taking into account the results of the process of internal restructuring currently under way in ECE:

(a) Paragraph 16.6 (a): Replace the paragraph with the following text:

"To provide policy direction for the ECE region, in particular by furthering cooperative processes; extending national environmental performance reviews to the entire ECE region; and reporting the development of international environmental law, taking into special account the priority needs of the countries with economies in transition";

(b) Paragraph 16.6 (b): Delete the words "adopt a strategic environmental policy";

(c) Paragraph 16.6 (d): Replace the words "To develop international environmental law" with the words "To facilitate the development of international environmental law";

(d) Paragraph 16.6 (e):

(i) At the end of the paragraph, replace the words "to exchange technology and expertise; and to mobilize increased resources" with the words "to exchange expertise and to mobilize increased resources for the implementation of regional environmental legislation";

(ii) Replace the words "countries in transition" with the words "countries with economies in transition";

(e) Paragraph 16.9: Replace the third sentence with the following: "To that end, the third objective is to continue the work and activities decided at the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment, as well as to assist in formulating further responses to that challenge";

(f) Paragraph 16.13 (a): Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph: "Expertise will be provided to the countries with economies in transition in this field, upon their request";

(g) Paragraph 16.14: In the first sentence, replace the words "member Governments" by the words "some member Governments";

(h) Paragraph 16.23: In the first sentence, replace the word "adopting" by the word "developing".
