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EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

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(11 - 14 December 2001)
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

FACILITATION OF PARTICIPATION

BY COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

Prepared by the Bureau of the Executive Body in collaboration with the secretariat

1. The Executive Body at its fifteenth session, in December 1997, adopted decision 1997/4 on the facilitation of participation of countries with economies in transition (ECE/EB.AIR/53, annex VII). It stressed that broad participation by Parties in the activities under the Executive Body was essential to ensure progress in the work under the Convention.
2. Decision 1997/4 invited Parties to contribute temporarily to the Trust Fund for this purpose. It also provided guidance to the secretariat regarding the Parties eligible for support, the meetings for which participation might be funded, and the procedures for sharing the limited funds available.

Documents prepared under the auspices or at the request of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for GENERAL circulation should be considered provisional unless APPROVED by the Executive Body.

3. The Executive Body should note that since 1997 there have been several new Parties to the Convention. In addition, the political and economic circumstances of some Parties have changed and these may affect the need for support.

4. The Bureau therefore proposes a revised decision for consideration by the Executive Body (annex). The revised decision is very similar to decision 1997/4, but specifies an updated list of Parties that may be considered as eligible for funding. The list takes into account membership of, or application for membership of, the European Union, as well as membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

5. The decision reiterates the need for flexibility to ensure that funds can be provided for the sessions of the highest priority, e.g. those where negotiations on legal instruments are taking place, but identifies possibilities for funding attendance at all sessions of the three main subsidiary bodies. It also notes the need to take due account of United Nations regulations with regard to payments made.

6. The Bureau recognizes that these changes will continue to put pressure on the Trust Fund, and urges Parties to offer voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in the coming year. Details of methods of payment will be provided in the report of the nineteenth session of the Executive Body.

Annex

DRAFT DECISION ON THE FACILITATION OF PARTICIPATION OF
COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

1. Broad participation by Parties in the activities under the Executive Body is essential to ensure progress in the work under the Convention. To facilitate the participation of certain countries with economies in transition which would otherwise not be in a position to take part, Parties are invited to contribute temporarily to the Trust Fund for this purpose.
2. The secretariat is authorized to fund, subject to available resources, the participation of one governmentally designated representative from each of the following countries: Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia, to meetings of the Executive Body's three main subsidiary bodies, giving highest priority to negotiating groups and other relevant meetings directly linked to preparatory or ongoing negotiations. Upon their accession to the Convention and their expressed intention to take part in the work of the Executive Body, the following countries may also qualify for funding: Albania, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. First-time participation of new Parties at a session of the Executive Body could be eligible for funding.
3. Participation in other meetings may qualify for funding at the discretion of the Bureau of the Executive Body provided funds are available.
4. To make efficient use of the limited funds available for travel, Parties are encouraged, to the extent possible, to finance their own participation in the activities under the Convention.
5. The countries mentioned in paragraph 2 above that have applied for membership of the European Union and/or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are, in principle, expected to finance their own participation, and should only exceptionally make use of this extraordinary offer.
6. The secretariat is authorized to decide, in consultation with the Chairman of the Executive Body, on the extent of funding (travel and/or daily subsistence allowance, or lump sum), on the basis of available funds and forecasts for requests and contributions for each year, and taking due account of United Nations regulations.