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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

(Ninth session, 4 - 6 November 2002)

(Item 4 of the provisional agenda)

CHALLENGES AND EMERGING DIRECTIONS OF
ECE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Addendum

1. This addendum needs to be considered in the light of new developments that have taken place since document CEP/2002/2 was finalized for the ninth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy. Most new elements derive from the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. They were discussed during the Committee's Bureau meeting on 11 September 2002 (CEP/2002/11).

2. The Bureau made the following proposals:

At the end of paragraph 2 insert

The outcome of the World Summit is set out in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, and in the Plan of implementation. Six issues are of special importance for the ECE environmental policies:

- Water and sanitation;
- Sustainable energy (promoting access to energy and the use of renewable energy sources);
- Natural resource management, including land use;
- Reversing the trend in biodiversity;
- Management of chemicals, including food safety;
- Cross-sectoral cooperation and integration.

At the end of paragraph 45 insert

The Plan of implementation, adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, emphasized as a new element the major role of the regional commissions in global efforts to achieve sustainable development by concrete actions. The Plan of implementation refers in this context to the priority actions for the ECE region that had been identified in paragraphs 32-46 of the Ministerial Statement adopted during the UNECE Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit, held in Geneva, on 24-25 September 2001.

At the end of paragraph 47 insert

To assess the relevance of these challenges for setting future strategic priorities, a comparison of the Committee's ongoing activities with the World Summit's Plan of implementation will be useful.

At the end of paragraph 60 insert

In fact, the adopted World Summit's Plan of implementation sends a very strong message in this respect in its paragraphs 141-143:

- Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies;
- Intraregional coordination and cooperation on sustainable development should be improved among the regional commissions, United Nations Funds, programmes and agencies, regional development banks, and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies. This should include, as appropriate, support for development, enhancement and implementation of agreed regional sustainable development strategies and action plans, reflecting national and regional priorities;
- In particular and taking into account relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the regional commissions, in collaboration with other regional and subregional bodies, should:
 - (a) Promote the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into their work in a balanced way, including through implementation of Agenda 21. To this end, the regional commissions should enhance their capacity through internal action and be provided, as appropriate, with external support;
 - (b) Facilitate and promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into the work of regional, subregional and other bodies, for example by facilitating and strengthening the exchange of experiences, including national experience, best practices, case studies and partnership experience related to the implementation of Agenda 21;
 - (c) Assist in the mobilization of technical and financial assistance, and facilitate the provision of adequate financing for the implementation of regionally and subregionally agreed sustainable development programmes and projects, including addressing the objective of poverty eradication;
 - (d) Continue to promote multi-stakeholder participation and encourage partnerships to support the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional and subregional levels.

At the end of paragraph 61 insert

This paper has already triggered a discussion in the Working Group of Senior Officials and led to the setting-up of a drafting group on the future of the "Environment for Europe" process.

At the end of paragraph 62 insert

One may conclude that option 3 is most in line with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its Plan of implementation.

Paragraph 64 (e) should read

(e) Contribution to the overall ECE strategic directions as defined in the 1997 ECE Plan of Action, and taking into account the ongoing review of the ECE programme of work as well as of the ongoing internal ECE discussion on the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Section C, Documents of the Committee on Environmental Policy

Insert the following informal document:

Drafting group on the future of the "Environment for Europe" process, Geneva, 12 September 2002. Discussion elements towards a consensus paper on pan-European environmental governance (Note by the UNECE Secretariat, DGF.1/04.09.02)

Section D, Other UNECE documents

Insert the following report:

Report of the UNECE Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (ECE/AC.22/2001/2)

Section E, Other United Nations documents

Insert the following documents:

Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, 4 September 2002

Plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Advance unedited text, 4 September 2002)