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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

(Second meeting, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25-27 May 2005)
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT DECISION II/9

**ACCESSION OF NON-UNECE MEMBER STATES TO THE CONVENTION AND
ADVANCEMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION IN OTHER
REGIONS AND AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL**

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 3 of article 19 of the Convention,

Recalling also paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Lucca Declaration,

Taking note of decision 22/17 II B of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on promoting the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in which it requests its Executive Director to determine, inter alia, if there is value in initiating a process for the preparation of global guidelines on the application of principle 10,

Welcoming the recent developments and ongoing work in a number of regional forums, such as the Asia-Europe Meeting, the African Union, the Organization of American States, and other United Nations regional commissions, which indicate the growing interest of States outside the UNECE region in applying the principles contained in the Convention,

1. Reiterates its invitation, contained in the Lucca Declaration, to States outside the UNECE region to accede to the Convention, if it suits their particular circumstances;
2. Stresses that an expression of intent to accede to the Convention by a State Member of the United Nations is a sovereign decision of that State and the approval of the Meeting of the Parties, as provided for in paragraph 3 of article 19 of the Convention, should not be interpreted as implying a substantive review, by the Meeting of the Parties, of that State's national legal system and administrative practices;
3. Notes that the impact of the Convention can be increased not only by the accession of States pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 19 but also by the development of relevant global and regional instruments in other forums, which might benefit from the experience acquired under the Convention;
4. Expresses its support for [the development of global guidelines on the application of principle 10 under the auspices of UNEP] [the work of UNEP on the application of principle 10] as well as for the drawing-up of appropriate regional instruments on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters in other regions, and requests its secretariat to provide, upon request and within available resources, assistance and advice to UNEP, United Nations regional commissions and other relevant forums which decide to undertake work in this area.