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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 6 (c) of the provisional agenda)

**DRAFT DECISION II/6  
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Meeting,

Recalling article 10, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which states that the Meeting of the Parties may, as necessary, consider establishing financial arrangements on a consensus basis,

Recalling also its decision I/13 to establish an interim voluntary scheme of contributions based on a system of equal shares, to be sustained by contributions from Parties, Signatories and other States having opted to participate in it,

Welcoming the work undertaken by its Task Force on Financial Arrangements,

Determined to ensure that the necessary resources are available for implementing the work programme,

Believing that the financial arrangements under the Convention should be based on the principle of a fair sharing of the burden and stable and predictable sources of funding,

Recognizing a need to broaden the funding base by modifying the existing shares system to make it more accessible to all Parties, Signatories and other States wishing to contribute,

Believing that the financial arrangements in place under the Convention will need to be kept under periodic review by the Meeting to ensure that they continue to meet the goals of stability, predictability and a fair sharing of the burden,

1. Endorses the continuation of the interim voluntary scheme of contributions for a further intersessional period, based however on a differentiated system of shares, as follows:

- (i) Type A of US\$ 20,000; and
- (ii) Type B of US\$ 500,

whereby Parties, Signatories and other States having opted to participate in the scheme would be able to contribute one or more shares, or parts thereof, from either of the two types, including in combination. No contribution should be less than US\$ 200;

2. Recognizes that activities under the work programme for 2006-2008 not covered by the United Nations regular budget should be covered by voluntary contributions corresponding to US\$ 1,444,000 per year, of which US\$ 949,000 would cover core requirements and US\$ 495,000 would cover the remaining requirements;

3. Urges Parties and invites Signatories and other States in a position to do so to contribute, in cash or in kind, especially to core activities identified in the work programme;

4. Requests the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare annual reports for review by the Working Group of the Parties in order to ensure that the level of contributions matches the level of funding needed for the implementation of the work programme;

5. Also requests the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive report for the third meeting of the Parties, including information on how much Parties and other participating States contributed to the budget of the Convention in cash and in kind, and on how the contributions were spent;

6. Decides that the Task Force on Financial Arrangements<sup>1</sup> shall, under the authority of the Working Group of the Parties, continue to:

- (a) Monitor the implementation of the new system of shares;
- (b) Consider other measures to increase the stability and predictability of the financial arrangements in the intersessional period;
- (c) Based on the results of the monitoring referred to in subparagraph (a), explore and develop as appropriate one or several options for establishing stable and predictable financial arrangements based on the United Nations scale of assessments or other appropriate scales; and

(d) Prepare recommendations concerning the above matters for consideration by the Working Group of the Parties with a view to their possible adoption at the third ordinary meeting of the Parties;

7. Agrees to reconsider the issue of financial arrangements at its third meeting, based on the work of the Task Force and input from the Working Group of the Parties.

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<sup>1</sup> Upon further reflection since the fourth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, the Bureau and the secretariat consider that the functions that would be assigned to the proposed task force could in fact be assumed by the Working Group of the Parties itself and that to establish a task force in this particular instance would not be justified in the light of the UNECE general policy to restrict the proliferation of subsidiary bodies. The Bureau and the secretariat therefore propose that the draft decision should be amended to refer directly to the Working Group of the Parties.