



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Ad Hoc Informal Meeting
4 May 2005

REPORT

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Agenda item 2: Comprehensive Report of the State of the UNECE (informal segment)

2. The evaluation team made a presentation on the progress made in preparing the comprehensive report on the state of the UNECE, highlighting the tasks, timetable, methodology, coverage, next steps and the challenges for the UNECE as perceived by the team, namely prioritization, governance and management. It was noted that the final draft report would be ready in mid-June 2005 and the final report delivered by the end of June 2005.
3. The team responded to a variety of questions regarding inter alia adequate geographic coverage of member countries, expected recommendations (quick-wins, short-term, long-term), gaps and overlaps in UNECE's work vis-à-vis other organizations, the linkage between UNECE and the private sector, the intergovernmental structure of UNECE, contacts with regional initiatives, etc.
4. The Executive Secretary thanked the evaluation team and the member States for their efforts and emphasized that adequate time should be allocated for discussion with member States and the secretariat regarding the progress report, as provided for in the terms of reference.

Agenda item 3: Second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development (formal segment)

5. General support was expressed for the proposals contained in the secretariat's note. The Commission:

- agreed that the UNECE Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development would be held on 15-16 December 2005 in order to provide a contribution to CSD 14;
- agreed that a non-negotiated Chair's Summary would be prepared on the basis of the Meeting's discussions and that this would constitute the outcome of the Meeting;
- encouraged member countries to contribute to the relevant UNECE Trust Fund to enable travel support so that experts from eligible member countries might attend the Meeting;
- agreed that delegations should submit any suggestions on the format of the Meeting by 5 June 2005.

Agenda item 4: Spring Seminar 2006 (informal segment)

6. The Executive Secretary introduced the agenda item, highlighting the importance of inviting decision/policy makers to the Seminar so that the countries most affected could benefit from the results. She further explained that choices had to be made as it was not possible to cover five subtopics in a one-day seminar.

7. The Meeting agreed on the importance of the participation of decision/policy makers. It further pointed out that ways and means needed to be identified in order to make the Seminar as interactive as possible.

8. The Chair requested member States to send their preferences on subtopics in written form to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary would keep member States informed regarding the selection of subtopics and on the organization of the seminar in general, as requested.

Agenda item 5: Date of the sixty-first Annual Session – 2006 (informal segment)

9. There was general consensus that the next Annual Session would be held during the week of 20-24 February 2006, bearing in mind the scheduling of other meetings and events.

Agenda item 6: Other Business

10. Member States were reminded about the secretariat's Knowledge Sharing Initiative and were encouraged to nominate participants for the training courses to be held in June and October respectively. The brochure with comprehensive information on UNECE's work would be distributed to participants as soon as it is available.
