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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

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Addendum

DECISION II/7

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2006-2008

adopted at the second meeting of the Parties
held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 25-27 May 2005

The Meeting,

Recalling its decision I/11 on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and decisions I/13 and II/6 on financial arrangements,

Recognizing that the work programme should be developed in the light of expected financial resources,

1. **Adopts** the work programme for 2006-2008 annexed to this decision, giving priority to the issues related to:

(a) Compliance and implementation, including capacity-building;

- (b) Pollutant release and transfer registers;
- (c) The clearing house mechanism, including integration of electronic information tools;
- (d) Access to justice; and
- (e) Genetically modified organisms;

2. Calls on the Parties and invites Signatories, other States and relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the activities contained in the work programme;

3. Requests the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to compile a detailed breakdown of estimated costs of the activities proposed in the work programme 2006-2008, specified for each year, including expected expenditure and income, and indicating, as far as possible, the origin of the expected pledges, the United Nations regular budget contributions and contributions in kind as well as a provisional list of meetings for the intersessional period between the second and third meetings of the Parties for consideration by the Working Group of the Parties at its first meeting following the second meeting of the Parties; and

4. Further requests the secretariat to compile a detailed breakdown of estimated costs as referred to in paragraph 3 in relation to preparation of the draft programme for the intersessional period following the third meeting of the Parties, for consideration and further elaboration by the Working Group of the Parties at the latest six months before the third meeting of the Parties with a view to possible adoption at that meeting.

Annex

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE AARHUS CONVENTION
(2006-2008)**

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall require - ments	Core require - ments
I. Compliance mechanism	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the Convention	Compliance Committee	Compliance Committee to review submissions, referrals and communications on cases of possible non-compliance; prepare decisions and reports; undertake fact-finding missions; secretariat to publicize the mechanism, develop database of cases and service the Committee	Ongoing	Staff time (1.4 staff overall, 1 staff core), Committee meetings (travel and DSA), document translation, database development, expert missions, other costs	338	252

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall require - ments	Core require - ments
II. Capacity- building activities	Coordination of capacity- building activities to assist countries in the effective implementation of the Convention; implementation of capacity-building measures at the subregional level	Secretariat, in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders	Inter-agency coordination meetings, training workshops and technical assistance, mostly separately funded (estimated two subregional workshops per year)	Ongoing	Staff time (1 staff overall, 0.6 staff core), participation in workshops (travel and DSA for eligible participants), subcontracts, promotion material	273	125

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
III. Awareness raising and promotion of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs	Raise public awareness of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs throughout the UNECE region and beyond, increase the number of Parties to the Convention, support regional and global initiatives on principle 10	Secretariat	Participation in key regional and international events and processes; development of a communication strategy; support to workshops, seminars and conferences organized by others; preparation of leaflets, publications, news bulletins and other material; web management; writing and reviewing articles and media kits on the Convention and the Protocol	Ongoing	Staff time (0.5 staff overall and core), participation in relevant events where funding is not provided for by the organizers (travel and DSA), consultancy	94	91

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall require - ments	Core require - ments
IV. Clearing-house mechanism	Facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to the national implementation of the Convention and relevant global and regional developments on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration	Secretariat, enlisting technical support as necessary	Central node information management, coordination of national nodes of the clearing house, development of electronic tools to support information sharing and collection of good practices	Ongoing	Staff time (0.5 staff overall, 0.4 staff core), subcontracts to maintain and further develop the clearing-house mechanism	99	67

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
V. Public participation in international forums	Further the application of the principles of the Convention in the context of relevant international bodies and processes, inter alia through the promotion of the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums and their further development in consultation with the relevant international forums	Task Force on public participation in international forums (France as lead country)	Dissemination of the Almaty Guidelines, work of the Task Force pursuant to decision II/4, consultation with relevant international forums through the Task Force, participation in workshops relevant to the Aarhus Convention, joint activities with other conventions, e.g. joint workshop with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment, MoU with the Convention on Biological Diversity	Up to third Meeting of the Parties, review at that point	Travel to relevant events where funding is not provided for by the organizers, consultancy ^c	50	30

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall require - ments	Core require - ments
VI. Pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs)	Facilitate the ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs	Working Group on PRTRs (Czech Republic as lead country)	Meetings of the Working Group and expert groups or task forces; capacity-building activities; development of technical and legal guidance and other information tools to support development of national PRTRs	Ongoing	Staff time (0.5 staff overall, 0.4 staff core), meetings (travel and DSA for eligible participants), consultancy, publications	190	132
VII. Access to justice	Implementation of recommendations adopted at the second meeting of the Parties; exchange of information on good practices	Task Force on Access to Justice	Task Force meetings (1 per year), development of information and guidance material, case study collection and examination, identification of further activities	Up to third meeting of the Parties	Participation in meetings and workshops (travel and DSA), collection of case studies, publications ^c	35	15

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall require - ments	Core require - ments
VIII. Electronic information tools	Implementation of recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools, facilitating information flow on good practices, policy and practical guidance for the clearing-house mechanism, appropriate follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society	Task Force on Electronic Information Tools	Review of policies and practices in the use of information and communication technologies for the implementation of the Convention, collection of good practices, workshops for national contact points for the clearing-house mechanism, capacity-building activities	Up to third meeting of the Parties	Staff time (0.1 staff overall and core), participation in meetings and workshops (incl. travel and DSA for eligible participants), consultancy	59	37

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall require - ments	Core require - ments
IX. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	Support the implementation of the Convention in this area and the application of the Guidelines on GMOs, inter alia by promoting exchange of information on good practices; promote the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention adopted through decision II/1	Secretariat, in close cooperation with other stakeholders	Regional or international expert meeting on access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs, possibly to be organized in conjunction with the secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity; use of the clearing house to facilitate exchange of information on good practices	International meeting: 2007. other activities: ongoing	Meeting (travel, DSA for eligible participants); consultancy to prepare background papers	25	10
X. Public participation in strategic decision-making	Coordinate information sharing through the collection of good practice examples in implementation of articles 7 and 8; promote synergies with the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment; further the application of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention	Working Group of the Parties	Workshops, electronic exchange of information, expert studies, compendium of good practices	Up to the third meeting of the Parties	Participation in meetings and costs of workshops (incl. travel and DSA for eligible participants), consultancy, publications ^c	55	25

Activity ^a	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs ^b in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
XI. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Convention, i.e. through the implementation of this programme	Working Group of the Parties and the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Working Group meetings (1 per year), meetings of the Bureau as necessary and consultations among bureau members electronically	Ongoing	Participation in meetings (travel and DSA for eligible participants) ^c	40	40
XII. Third ordinary meeting of the Parties	See article 10 of the Convention	Meeting of the Parties	Meetings of the Parties	2008	Participation in meetings (travel and DSA for eligible participants) ^c consultancy	45	26
Subtotal						1,303	850
Programme support cost (13%)						169	110
TOTAL						1,472	960

^a Activities are grouped within three broad categories: procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention (I-V); substantive work areas (VI-X); and organizational activities (XI-XII).

^b The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's scheme of financial arrangements, either through its trust fund or in kind. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget or other sources. The 'overall' and 'core' figures are based on the supposition of four and three professional staff respectively financed through the Convention's trust fund, with one secretary. It will be the policy of the secretariat to use resources in such a way as to maintain a steady level of staffing and to increase the numbers of extrabudgetary staff only if it considers that the higher staffing level can be sustained for a significant period.

^c This area of work would be serviced by the regular budget staff.