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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

Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Fifth meeting  
Geneva, 22–24 October 2007  
Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PROTOCOL  
AND THE FIRST SESSION OF ITS MEETING OF THE PARTIES

**DRAFT DECISION ON PROCEDURES FOR THE PREPARATION, ADOPTION AND  
MONITORING OF WORK PROGRAMMES UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON  
POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS**

Draft decision prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat

*The Meeting of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 17, paragraph 2 (c), of the Protocol, requiring Parties to keep under continuous review the implementation and development of the Protocol, and with this purpose in mind, inter alia, to establish a programme of work,

1. *Decides* that a work programme of activities under the auspices of the Protocol should be prepared for adoption at each ordinary session of the meeting of the Parties to provide a framework guiding the undertaking of such activities during the intersessional period following that meeting;

2. *Also decides* that for each activity in the work programme, the following details should be indicated:

- (a) Objective(s) and expected output;
- (b) Lead country, body or organization;
- (c) Method of work;
- (d) Time frame;
- (e) Estimated costs and expected sources of funding, if other than the United Nations regular budget, indicating the core requirements.

Core requirements shall have priority in the allocation of the budgetary resources made available under the voluntary scheme of contributions adopted by decision I/[..] on financial arrangements. Parties, Signatories and other States are encouraged to contribute to activities not covered by these resources as the need arises;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to provide a more detailed assessment of the activities in the work programme for the period [2009- 2011], including a breakdown of the cost estimates of each activity, and to report to the [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol];

4. *Also requests* the Bureau and the [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol] to keep under review the activities of the work programme for the period [2009- 2011], and to report and make appropriate recommendations to the Parties at their second ordinary session;

5. *Adopts* the work programme under the auspices of the Protocol up until its second ordinary session of the meeting of the Parties as annexed to this decision;

6. *Calls upon* 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;

7. *Agrees* to review the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes at its second meeting in connection with the review of the financial arrangements and on the basis of any proposals from the [Bureau] [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol];

8. *Requests* the [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol] to take steps to prepare a long-term strategic plan for the Protocol for possible adoption at the second ordinary session of the meeting of the Parties, and to explore synergies between such a long-term strategic plan and the long-term strategic plan for the Convention.]

**Annex**

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR [2009-2011]**

Activity	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs <sup>1</sup> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
<b>A. Compliance mechanism</b>	Monitor and and facilitate compliance with the Protocol.	Compliance Committee	Compliance Committee to meet to review reports, submissions, communications etc. Fact-finding missions. Secretariat to publicize the mechanism and service the Committee	Ongoing	Staff time, Committee meetings (travel + DSA), expert missions, other costs		
<b>B. Information exchange on a technical level</b>	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol.	[Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol]	Meetings of the [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol] [(one per year)]; ad hoc meetings; use of electronic tools	Ongoing	Staff time, meetings (travel + DSA for eligible participants), consultancy		

<sup>1</sup> The estimated costs shown here exclude costs expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget. At present, the regular budget covers of [1.0] full-time professional staff members and [0.20] secretarial staff member and the associated administrative overheads.

Activity	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs <sup>1</sup> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
<b>C. Reporting mechanism</b>	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol; facilitate reporting, review of compliance and experience.	[Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol]	Meetings of the [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol] [(one per year)]; availing of synergies with the task force on electronic information tools to the Convention (one per year); exchange on a technical level of information on the application of electronic information tools; making use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy (online implementation database), PRTR Virtual Classroom, PRTR Capacity-building activities matrix and e-reporting.	Ongoing	Staff time, consultancy		

Activity	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs <sup>1</sup> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
<b>D. Technical assistance</b>	To assist countries in the effective implementation of the Convention. Minimum one subregional workshop per year.	Secretariat in close cooperation with partner organizations (UNEP, UNITAR, OSCE, REC, GRID-Arendal etc.) in Framework programme for PRTR capacity-building	Specific projects in countries needing assistance. Training workshops, guidance materials and technical assistance, mostly separately funded	Ongoing	Staff time, meetings (travel + DSA for eligible participants), consultancy		
<b>E. Awareness raising and promotion of the Protocol and its interlinkages with other conventions and processes</b>	To further the knowledge of the Protocol throughout the UNECE region and beyond, to increase the number of Parties to the Protocol; further the application of the Protocol in the context of other multilateral environmental conventions (MEAs) and related processes (SAICM/ICCM).	Secretariat	Participation in key regional and international events and processes. Support to workshops organized by others. Preparation of leaflets, publications, news bulletins and other material. Updated web site. Write and review articles on the Protocol.	Ongoing	Staff time, participation in relevant events where funding is not provided for by the organizers (travel and DSA), consultancy		
<b>F. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities</b>	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Protocol, i.e. through the implementation of this programme.	[Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol] and the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Meetings of the [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol] [(one per year)], and in meetings of the Bureau as necessary and consultations among Bureau members electronically	Ongoing	Staff time		

Activity	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs <sup>1</sup> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
<b>G. Technical assessment of provisions of the Protocol</b>	Drafting of recommendations on technical issues to the Meeting of the Parties, based on the assessment report(s).	Secretariat	Meetings of the [Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol] [(one per year)], electronic consultation; Drafting of assessment report(s) on experience gained in the development of national PRTRs according to article 6 (2) of the Protocol;	Ongoing	Staff time, consultancy		
<b>Subtotal</b>							
<b>Programme support cost (13%)</b>							
<b>TOTAL</b>							

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