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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

Sixth meeting
Geneva, 24–26 November 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Monday, 24 November 2008, at 10 a.m.*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification.

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Convention's website (www.unece.org/env/pp/practical.htm), and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat no later than two weeks prior to the meeting – namely, by **10 November 2008** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0634) or by e-mail (public.participation@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Convention's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682.

3. Relevant developments and activities since the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, including outcomes of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention and its special session on pollutant release and transfer registers.
4. National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
5. Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
 - (a) Scheduling and content of the first session of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;
 - (b) Draft decision on financial arrangements;
 - (c) Draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes;
 - (d) Draft decision on reporting on implementation of the Protocol;
 - (e) Draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol;
 - (f) Draft declaration.
6. Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange.
7. Future work.
8. Any other business.
9. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2: Status of ratification

The secretariat will inform the Working Group of the status of ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs.

Item 3: Relevant developments and activities since the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, including outcomes of the third Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and its special session on pollutant release and transfer registers

Delegations will be invited to report on relevant international and regional activities. The secretariat will report on the outcome of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Riga, 11–13 June 2008), in particular the adoption of a statement on the Protocol on PRTRs, the special session on the Protocol on PRTRs and a side-event on PRTRs which took place within the framework of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) will be invited to inform the meeting of the progress made on national SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) pilot projects. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will be invited to report on the outcomes of meeting of the Task Force on PRTRs (Paris, 12–14 March 2008). The secretariat will be invited to report on the outcomes of third meeting of the International PRTR Coordinating Group (Paris, 11 March 2008).

Item 4: National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Parties and Signatories to the Convention, Signatories to the Protocol and other States will be invited to inform the Working Group of activities undertaken to prepare for ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

Item 5: Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

(a) Scheduling and content of first session of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

On the basis of the information provided under agenda items 2 and 3, the Working Group is expected to review the prospects for scheduling the first ordinary session of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in 2009 and, if appropriate, to agree upon a procedure for drawing up the provisional agenda for the session.

(b) Draft decision on financial arrangements

At its fifth meeting, the Working Group revised the draft decision on financial arrangements. It mandated the secretariat to prepare a new draft decision on financial arrangements for consideration by the Working Group at its sixth meeting. The Working Group will be invited to give a third reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/L.1, and to amend it as appropriate.

(c) Draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes

At its fifth meeting, the Working Group mandated the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare for discussion a revised draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes for consideration by the Working Group at its next meeting. The Working Group will be invited to give a second reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP/PP/AC.1/2008/L.2, and to amend it as appropriate.

(d) Draft decision on reporting on implementation of the Protocol

At its fifth meeting, the Working Group established a written commenting process through which delegations could provide input to the further development of a draft decision. It mandated the Bureau to prepare a revised text of the draft decision taking into account the discussion at the fifth meeting and the comments received on a reporting mechanism under the Protocol for consideration by the Working Group at its sixth meeting. The Working Group will be invited to give a second reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP/PP/AC.1/2008/L.3, and to amend it as appropriate.

(e) Draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol

At its fifth meeting, the Working Group endorsed the text of the draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, which it had revised during the meeting. The Working Group is invited to give a second reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP/PP/AC.1/2008/L.4, and to amend it as appropriate.

(f) Draft declaration

The Working Group will be invited to agree, if appropriate, on a procedure for preparing a draft statement or declaration for consideration at the first session of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Item 6: Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange

The secretariat will report on its efforts to coordinate capacity-building activities by international, regional and non-governmental organizations and on any outcomes of the framework programme on capacity-building for PRTRs. Delegations from countries requiring capacity-building or technical support in order to fulfil their future obligations under the Protocol will be invited to describe their needs. Other delegations will be invited to present information on any ongoing or planned activities aimed at building capacity or providing technical support. The secretariat will report on the publication of the guidance document. The representative from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is expected to report on the global PRTR project being undertaken within the framework of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The representatives of the University of Geneva and the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment/GRID-Europe are expected to report on the results of the Tracking Environmental Impacts of Consumption (TREI-C) project. The Working Group may consider to what extent additional guidance is needed and whether further technical assistance measures are necessary to support implementation of the Protocol.

Item 7: Future work

At its fifth meeting, the Working Group adopted a revised indicative workplan structuring its activities leading up to the first session of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The

secretariat will propose further revision of the key documents in preparation for the first session of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for consideration by the Working Group.

Item 8: Any other business

Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 9: Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

The secretariat will present the draft report of the meeting for review, comment and adoption by the Working Group.

III. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Day 1: Monday, 24 November

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (a)
3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Items 5 (c) and (d)

Day 2: Tuesday, 25 November

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items 5 (b), (e) and (f)
3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Items 6 and 7

Day 3: Wednesday, 26 November

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items 8 and 9
3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Item 9 (cont.)
