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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials
“Environment for Europe”

Fourth meeting
Geneva, 30 May – 1 June 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 30 May 2007¹

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the meeting agenda.
2. Provisional agenda of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”:
 - (a) Review of the general outline of the provisional agenda;
 - (b) Assessment and implementation;

¹ New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/wgso/Belgrade/WGSOMeetings.htm>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than 2 weeks before the meeting either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (efe@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the “Environment for Europe” secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

- (c) Education for sustainable development;
 - (d) Biodiversity;
 - (e) Capacity-building;
 - (f) Partnerships;
 - (g) Compilation of summaries.
3. The draft Ministerial Declaration and the future of the “Environment for Europe” process.
 4. Side events at the Conference.
 5. The status of preparations by the host country.
 6. The “Environment for Europe” communication plan.
 7. Resource requirements for the Conference and the preparatory process:
 - (a) Resource requirements to support participation in the Conference;
 - (b) Resource requirements at the national level to organize the Conference.
 8. Schedule of the upcoming meetings of the Working Group of Senior Officials, the Executive Committee and the Drafting Group.
 9. Other business.
 10. Closure of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy, at its eleventh session, established the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) for preparing the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, to be held in Belgrade on 10–12 October 2007. To date the WGSO has held three meetings: on 12–13 October 2005, on 29–30 June 2006 and on 12–13 October 2006.

2. Following the decisions at the most recent meeting of the WGSO and the recommendations received from its Executive Committee, the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson prepared or revised several documents for discussion and approval by the WGSO at its fourth meeting. These papers are meant to facilitate and advance the discussions of the WGSO regarding preparations for the Belgrade Conference.

30 May 2007

Item 1. Adoption of the meeting agenda (10 a.m. – 10.10 a.m.)

3. The WGSO is invited to adopt the provisional agenda of its fourth meeting (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2007/1).

Item 2. Provisional agenda of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (10.10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. on 30 May; 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on 31 May)

4. Following the request from the third meeting of the WGSO and the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/9 and ECE/CEP/AC.11/EXECOM/2006/3), the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson has developed the draft provisional agenda of the Belgrade Conference (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2007/3) and the draft organization of work of the Conference (Information Paper No. 1).

5. In the course of the preparations for the Conference, a number of documents, some for action by ministers (category I) and some as background documents (category II), have been proposed by the partners in the “Environment for Europe” process (EfE partners). The outlines and drafts of some of these documents were considered by the WGSO and its Executive Committee during the preparatory meetings held to date. The drafts of proposed category I documents for the Conference were considered in detail by the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee (14–15 February 2007). These drafts were revised to take into account the recommendations by the Committee, and the new versions are being submitted to the WGSO for final approval. To facilitate the discussions, a list of proposed category I documents is available in Information Paper No. 2.

6. In accordance with the approved document “Organizational issues for the Belgrade Conference” (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/5) and on the basis of the information received from the EfE partners, the UNECE secretariat has prepared a list of proposed category II documents for the Conference (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2007/6). The list gives the final titles of the documents and indicates their nature, as well as the author(s). In addition, following a recommendation by the Executive Committee at its last meeting, the drafts of Category II documents are being made available to the WGSO for reference.

7. The WGSO is invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda of the Belgrade Conference and the draft organization of work of the Conference, as well as (under sub-items (b)–(f) below) the final drafts of the proposed category I documents and, to the extent possible, of the proposed category II documents.

(a) Review of the general outline of the provisional agenda (10.10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.)

8. In developing the draft provisional agenda for the Conference, the secretariat has tried to develop a workable format for each session of the Conference while accommodating most of the proposed activities within the time allocated. The first draft of the agenda was submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee. This second draft of the

provisional agenda was revised taking into account the discussions and recommendations by the Committee and is being presented to the WGSO for further consideration and decision. The informal paper on the organization of work is structured in accordance with the draft provisional agenda and includes a tentative list of chairpersons and key speakers for each of the agenda items and sub-items on the basis of interest expressed by member States thus far.

9. In considering these two documents, the WGSO should pay special attention to the proposed format and the substantive outcome for each items and sub-item, as well as to further identification of possible chairpersons, keynote speakers and participants in the panel and roundtable discussions.

(b) Assessment and implementation (11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

10. The WGSO is invited to consider the agenda item on assessment and implementation with two sub-items, including its substantive content (the documents) and the organization of work.

(c) Education for sustainable development (3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.)

11. The WGSO is invited to consider the agenda item on education for sustainable development. A representative of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development will inform the WGSO on the ongoing preparations for this agenda item.

(d) Biodiversity (3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

12. The WGSO is invited to consider the agenda item on biodiversity. Representatives of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and European ECO-Forum will inform the WGSO on the ongoing preparations for this agenda item.

(e) Capacity-building (4 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

13. The WGSO is invited to consider the agenda item on capacity-building with its sub-items, including the substantive content (the documents) and the organization of work.

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Item 2 (continued)

(f) Partnerships (10 a.m. – 12 noon)

14. The WGSO is invited to consider the agenda item on partnerships with its sub-items, including the substantive content (the documents) and the organization of work.

(g) Compilation of summaries (12 noon – 1 p.m.)

15. Following the requests and guidance from the WGSO and its Executive Committee and on the basis of contributions by the EfE partners, the UNECE secretariat has prepared a compilation of summaries of the proposed category I documents (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2007/4). In

addition, following a recommendation by the Executive Committee at its last meeting, the secretariat has prepared a compilation of summaries of proposed category II documents (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2007/5). The WGSO is invited to consider the compilations of summaries of category I and II documents.

Item 3. The draft Ministerial Declaration and the future of the “Environment for Europe” process (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

16. At its second meeting the WGSO agreed to have a short Ministerial Declaration and a Chair’s Summary as the Conference’s major outcomes. The WGSO also agreed that the Declaration should focus on a limited number of issues to be identified in accordance with the Conference agenda. At its third meeting the WGSO approved the framework of the Ministerial Declaration and established an open-ended Drafting Group for preparing the Declaration. In accordance with the decisions by the first meeting of the Drafting Group and taking into account the additional comments received thereafter, as well as the relevant outcomes of the fourth meeting of the WGSO, a first draft of the Declaration will be prepared by the secretariat for the second meeting of the Drafting Group (2–3 July 2007).

17. The WGSO is invited to discuss the third part of the approved framework for the Declaration, namely the future of the “Environment for Europe” process. This part of the Declaration might address issues such as the continuation of the EfE process, its goals and future focus, and its institutional set-up and cooperation with other processes.

18. The document on the *Future of the “Environment for Europe” process* (ECE/CEP/95) developed by the WGSO for the Kiev Conference could be used as a reference if necessary.

1 June 2007

Item 4. Side events at the Conference (10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.)

19. The host country will submit the list of side events for consideration and approval by the WGSO (Information Paper No. 3).

Item 5. The status of preparations by the host country (10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.)

20. The host country will update the WGSO on the national preparatory process for the organization of the Conference.

Item 6. The “Environment for Europe” communication plan (11 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.)

21. Following the recommendation by the Executive Committee to develop a Communication Plan for the Belgrade Conference once the Conference agenda is better defined, the WGSO at its second meeting requested the secretariat to develop such a plan in consultation with the Chairperson. At its third meeting the WGSO approved the Communication Plan for the Belgrade Conference (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/13). The UNECE secretariat and the host country will inform the WGSO on progress in implementing the plan.

**Item 7. Resource requirements for the Conference and the preparatory process
(11.30 a.m. – 12 noon)**

(a) Resource requirements to support participation in the Conference

22. The UNECE secretariat will inform the WGSO on the status of the budget and remaining requirements to ensure broad and representative participation in the Belgrade Conference (Information Paper No. 4).

(b) Resource requirements at the national level to organize the Conference

23. The host country will provide the WGSO with updated information on the status of the host-country budget (Information Paper No. 5).

Item 8. Schedule of the upcoming meetings of the Working Group of Senior Officials, the Executive Committee and the Drafting Group (12 noon – 12.30 p.m.)

24. The WGSO is invited to consider possible dates for its fifth meeting. It is proposed that the fifth meeting of the WGSO take place in Belgrade on 6–8 October 2007, just before the Conference (which will be held on 10–12 October 2007). If required, the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee would be held back-to-back with the fifth meeting of the WGSO.

25. Furthermore, it is proposed that the second and third meetings of the Drafting Group for preparing the draft Ministerial Declaration take place on 2–3 July 2007 and 30–31 August 2007, respectively. If needed, the fifth meeting of the WGSO will finalize the draft Ministerial Declaration.

Item 9. Other business (12.30 p.m. – 12.50 p.m.)

26. The WGSO is invited to discuss any other business that may be brought to its attention.

Item 10. Closure of the meeting (12.50 p.m. – 1 p.m.)

27. The Chairperson will make closing remarks and close the meeting.
