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**REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Third Meeting
Geneva, 28–29 January 2008

**REPORT OF THE THIRD REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

1. The Third Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (RIM-3) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) took place in Geneva on 28 and 29 January 2008, following to a decision adopted by the UNECE at its sixty-second session (E/ECE/1448, para. 23 (b)). The purpose of RIM-3 was to evaluate the progress achieved and obstacles and constraints remaining in the areas of agriculture and rural development, land management, desertification and drought, and Africa. RIM-3 also specifically discussed linkages between the thematic priorities as well as cross-cutting issues. The results of the discussions are captured in the Chair's Summary prepared as the contribution from the UNECE region to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16), to be held from 5 to 16 May 2008 in New York.
2. Approximately 220 delegates participated in the meeting, representing governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other major groups.
3. Representatives from 41 UNECE member States participated: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States

of America and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the European Commission participated. The Holy See was also represented.

4. The secretariat was provided by UNECE.

5. The following units of the United Nations Secretariat and specialized agencies of the United Nations system participated: the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

6. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Nordic Council of Ministers and Agenda 21 for the Baltic Region were also represented.

7. The following NGOs and private-sector organizations were represented: American Society of Agronomy (United States), Arctic Council – Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat (Denmark), Central Asian Sustainable Development Information Network (Kazakhstan), Covalence SA (Switzerland), Crop Science Society of America (United States), Environmental International Liaison Center (Switzerland), Eurostep on behalf of LCD Watch (Belgium), Foundation Social Society (Germany), Green Action (Croatia), Green Dossier (Ukraine), Green Liberty (Latvia), Greens Union of Armenia (Armenia), Heifer International (United States), IDC Moscow (Russian Federation), IGBAU Trade Union (Germany), International Chamber of Commerce, International Council for Science (France), International Federation of Agricultural Producers (France), International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (Italy), International Federation of Private Water Operators (Sweden), International Fertilizer Industry Association (France), International Institute for Sustainable Development (Switzerland), International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (United States), International Trade Union Confederation (France), London 21 (United Kingdom), Mama-86 (Ukraine), Netherlands Women’s Council (the Netherlands), Northern Alliance for Sustainability (the Netherlands), Soil Science Society of America (United States), Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future (United Kingdom), Stockholm International Water Institute (Sweden), the Tamedia (Switzerland), Union for the Defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya (Uzbekistan), Vlaams Overleg Duurzame Ontwikkeling (Belgium), Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (United States), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (Switzerland), World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Federation of Engineering Organizations (Switzerland), World Society for the Protection of Animals (United Kingdom), World Wildlife Fund (WWF International), Za Zemiata (Bulgaria), and Youth Action for Change.

8. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Constantin Mihailescu (Moldova), Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources.

9. Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of UNECE, delivered the opening speech. The keynote address of Mr. Daniel Carmon, Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in New York and Vice-Chair of CSD-16 for the Western European and Other States Group, was delivered on his behalf by Mr. Ilan Fluss, Counsellor of the Mission of Israel to the United Nations in New York.

10. The sessions of the Meeting were focused on agriculture and rural development, land management, desertification and drought, Africa, and cross-cutting issues. Each session included a number of keynote addresses, followed by an interactive discussion with broad stakeholder participation. At the end of each session, the respective Chair presented a summary of the discussions.

11. The session on agriculture and rural development was chaired by Mr. Manfred Bötsch (Switzerland), Director General, Federal Office for Agriculture. Keynote addresses were delivered by: Ms. Colien Hefferan (United States), Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Department of Agriculture; Mr. Leonard Mizzi, Directorate General Agriculture, European Commission, observer organization to UNECE; Mr. Volker Sasse, Forestry Officer, FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe; and Ms. Elisabeth Gauffin (Sweden), Vice President, International Federation of Agricultural Producers Development Cooperation Committee and Chair, Swedish Farmers' Federation.

12. The session on land management was chaired by Mr. Peter Creuzer (Germany), Head, Agency for Geoinformation of Land Development and Real Estate of Hannover, Chairman of the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration. Keynote addresses were delivered by: Mr. Marek Bryx (Poland), Head, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Warsaw Office, on behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure; Mr. Makhmudzhon Khabirov (Tajikistan), Deputy Director, Agency for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography; and Mr. Rune Fjellheim (Denmark), Executive Secretary, Arctic Council – the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat.

13. The session on desertification and drought was chaired by Mr. Jiri Hlavacek (Czech Republic), Director of Department, Ministry of Environment. Keynote addresses were delivered by: Mr. Paolo Soprano (Italy), Head of Division, Directorate General for Development and Environmental Research of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea; Mr. Bakhtioyr Kadyrov (Uzbekistan), Director, Center of the Hydrometeorological Service; Mr. Leopoldo Rojo Serrano (Spain), Chief of Service, the Ministry of Environment; and Mr. Arvid Solheim (Norway), Director, the Development Fund.

14. The session on Africa was chaired by Mr. Ton Boon von Ochssée (the Netherlands), Ambassador for Sustainable Development. Keynote addresses were delivered by: Mr. Josué Dioné, Director, Food, Security and Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa; Mr. Jiri Hlavacek (Czech Republic), Director of Department, the Ministry of Environment; and Ms. Marta Hirpa, Director, Gender Equity Programme, Heifer International.

15. The session on cross-cutting issues was chaired by Ms. Hefferan. Keynote addresses were delivered by: Ms. Nadine Gouzée (Belgium), Task Force on Sustainable Development, Federal Planning Bureau; Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, Vice President, EBRD; and Mr. Lucien Royer (France), Senior Policy Advisor, International Trade Unions Confederation and Trade Union Advisory Council to OECD.

16. The Meeting agreed that the Chair would present his summary of the discussions to CSD-16. The Chair's Summary is contained in document ECE/AC.25/2008/5.
