

Agenda 21 and the Information Society:

Assessing Progress on Closing the Digital Divide, Access to Environmental Information and ICT for Sustainable Development in the ECE Region

Salle IX, Palais des Nations

10:00 to 16:30 – Thursday 13 December 2007

Welcome – *Mr. Charles Geiger, Special Adviser for the UNCTAD Secretariat on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Chairperson of the Mini-conference*

Session One: Regional benchmarking and capacity-building (10:20 – 11:30)

Regional overview of the development of the Information Society – *Ms. Larissa Kapitsa, Professor, Moscow State Institute of International Relations*

Trends in access to environmental information among Parties to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) – *Mr. Chris Jarvis, Chairperson, Task Force on Electronic Information Tools and Freedom of Information Policy Manager, Environment Agency of England and Wales*

Regional capacity-building and guidance for policy makers in Central Asia – *Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Cooperation and Integration Division, UNECE*

Discussion on regional initiatives to promote ICT for Sustainable Development and provide access to environmental information – *Mr. Hans Hansell, Chairperson, ICT Group for Development and Chief, Trade Policy and Government Cooperation Section, Trade and Timber Division, UNECE*

Session Two: Making environmental information accessible: collaboration, networking and partnerships on clearing-house mechanisms (11:45 – 13:00)

The Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy: UNECE and GRID-Arendal – *Mr. Michael Stanley-Jones, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE*

Transport, Health and Environment: Lessons from THE PEP Clearinghouse: UNECE and WHO/Europe – *Mr. Martin Magold, Chief, Border Crossing Facilitation Section, Transport Division, UNECE*

The Good practices in Education for Sustainable Development and UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development web portals: UNECE and UNESCO – *Mr. Bernard Combes, Programme Specialist for Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO*

A Mini-Conference organized by the UNECE Aarhus Convention Task Force on Electronic Information Tools in cooperation with the UNECE Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Group for Development

Development of the Stockholm POPs Convention Clearinghouse – *Mr. David Odgen, Coordinator, Secretariat to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, UNEP*

The Biosafety Clearinghouse of the Convention on Biological Diversity – *Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Fillipp, UNEP - GEF Biosafety Protocol Unit, Geneva*

Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) and the “Aarhus” Public Environmental Centres – *Ms. Nana Janashia, Executive Director, CENN*

Discussion on lessons from clearing-house development and management for E-environment and sustainable development – *Mr. Chris Jarvis, United Kingdom*

Lunch (13:00 – 15:00)

Session Three: E-environment, E-commerce and E-democracy in Europe (15:00 – 16:15)

Directive 2007/2/EC establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) – *Ms. Meropi Paneli, Directorate-General Environment, Commission of the European Communities*

National perspectives on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) – *Ms. Michaela Dombrovská, Czech Environmental Information Agency*

E-commerce as a strategy for development – *Mr. Jean Kubler, Chief, Global Trade Solutions Section, UNECE*

Public/Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development – *Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, Chief, Cooperation and Partnerships Section, Economic Cooperation and Integration Division, UNECE*

E-democracy and the quest for environmental sustainability: the role of the Aarhus Convention – *Mr. Jeremy Wates, Secretary to the UNECE Aarhus Convention*

Discussion on the Aarhus Convention as a catalyst for implementation of the Information Society – *Mr. Jeremy Wates, UNECE*

Summary and concluding remarks (16:15 – 16:30) – Mr. Charles Geiger, UNCTAD