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cc: "Strand, Jon" <JStrand@imf.org>
Subject: FW: UN ECE letter on ... matters relating to the environment

28/09/2006 17:01

Pl. see attached completed Questionnaire from Mr. Keen, IMF.

Pl. acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you.

Viswanathan
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QuestionnairePPIF completed.doc

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CONSULTATION PROCESS ON ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE AARHUS CONVENTION'S ALMATY GUIDELINES

The aim of this questionnaire is to elicit the views of international forums on the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums, in a context of exchange of experience between international forums on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice on environmental matters.

1. Please provide any comments on the Guidelines, in view of your forum's own processes, activities and particular characteristics.

No comment.

2. Does your forum have any formalized rules or procedures concerning access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters? If yes, please provide an overview.

No, given the Fund's limited mandate on environmental issues.

3. Does your forum have any non-formalized practices concerning access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters? If yes, please provide an overview.

No. In so far as environmental issues are touched on in the Fund's work, this will usually be in the context of wider country consultations (Article IV) and other, which commonly become public documents. Very rarely indeed, they may also arise in our technical assistance work; these reports are strictly confidential, and may be released only by national authorities. Our research-related work is of course ultimately public.

There are occasional meetings with CSOs on environmental issues.

4. Are there any current or future work plans of your forum that may affect the extent of or modalities for access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters? If yes, please provide an overview.

No

5. In particular, what kind of challenges, if any, has your forum encountered with regard to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (for example, low involvement of civil society, or practical difficulties in managing public participation)? If appropriate, please provide a description underlining those experiences you think could be most useful to consider when reviewing the relevance and practicality of the Almaty guidelines.

No comment.

Please note that the term "the public" is used throughout the questionnaire to mean one or more natural and legal persons, including non-governmental organizations.

Answering the questionnaire may require selection of a limited number of elements amongst what is often a complex field of rules and practice. To support or complement your answer, please feel free to provide existing relevant documentation about your forum.

The questions have been formulated in a broad manner so that each forum can approach the subject on the basis of its own views and experience. More specific indications of points that may be relevant to the consultation are provided by the Almaty Guidelines themselves.

Responses should be sent in writing to the Aarhus Convention Secretariat, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Bureau 332, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, fax: +41 22 917 0634, email: public.participation@unece.org.

Finally, please note that the deadline for responses to the questionnaire is 17 September 2006.

Thank you for your kind cooperation!