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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Geneva, 15 to 16 December 2005

**ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,  
AIR POLLUTION/ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:  
ACHIEVEMENTS, TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE UNECE REGION\***

Background document by the UNECE Secretariat for the  
Second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development

Addendum

**Questions For Discussion**

**I. Introduction**

This paper provides a set of questions for each of the areas to be discussed at the Second Regional Implementation Forum. The questions address major challenges in each area as identified in the main background paper (CEP/AC.11/2005/3). Governments might want to consider them as guidance in preparing for the discussions. However, the questions suggested do not preclude any other issues to be raised at the meeting.

**II. Energy for Sustainable Development**

1. In the 1970s and early 1980s energy supply and demand were tightly balanced and energy markets rocked by two sharp oil price rises. Are the underlying fundamentals re-emerging? How can energy security risks be mitigated?

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\* This document was submitted late due to delayed inputs from other sources.

2. What is the best approach to deal with the issue of climate change in the light of today's realities (e.g., lack of options to quickly switch to less carbon intensive energy sources over the medium term)?
3. How realistic is it to seek to achieve rapid development and commercialization of renewables, and in particular wind and solar power? What could be done to enhance the penetration and commercialization of renewables?
4. The best energy is the one that is saved. How can governments be more proactive in promoting energy conservation and improving energy efficiency?
5. How can more environmentally friendly and energy efficient transport be promoted without compromising the competitiveness of the sector and of the economy in general? What is the future role of public transport in urban areas? Are there technological breakthroughs expected in the development of vehicles that could improve the overall environmental impact of road transport?
6. Which are the priority areas for providing capacity building and technical assistance to the most disadvantaged UNECE countries in the area of energy for sustainable development?
7. What are the respective roles of Governments, international organizations, private sector and other stakeholder groups in addressing the above-mentioned issues? What is the specific role of partnerships for sustainable development in these areas?

### **III. Industrial Development and Linkages to Energy for Sustainable Development**

1. What is the best way to integrate the issue of environmentally-friendly production and consumption patterns into the sustainable industrial development agenda at national and regional levels?
2. How could the regulatory framework and incentive schemes aimed at promoting cleaner production and eco-efficiency be improved?
3. How can the objective of a better protection of the environment and associated costs for enterprises be reconciled with the competitiveness priorities in industry?
4. Can the transfer of environmentally sound technologies help promote the sustainable industrial development in less developed countries of the region?
5. How can instruments such as the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers be used to increase transparency about pollution and thereby exert a downward pressure on levels of emissions?
6. What are the respective roles of Governments, international organizations, private sector and other stakeholder groups in promoting the sustainable industrial development? What is the specific role of partnerships for sustainable development?

**IV. Air Pollution/Atmosphere and Climate Change and Linkages  
to Energy for Sustainable Development**

1. How can UNECE member States and international organizations work together to contribute to developing coordinated policies, using the links and synergies between the control of emissions of air pollutants and GHGs?
2. In the absence of a global UN forum on air pollution, what steps can be taken to assist other regions that are still developing and to control air pollution that is transported between regions?
3. Emissions of reduced nitrogen from intensive agriculture show few signs of decreasing; how can UNECE governments further address the problems of excess nitrogen deposition (e.g. polluted water reserves, damaged sensitive ecosystems)?
4. UNECE faces challenges in implementing conventions and protocols across its entire region; how can UNECE encourage governments to accede to international agreements, especially for air pollution, as a step towards regional success?
5. What are the respective roles of Governments, international organizations, private sector and other stakeholder groups in promoting further emission reductions? What is the specific role of partnerships for sustainable development?