



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/AC.25/2005/2
30 January 2006

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development
Geneva, 15–16 December 2005

**REPORT OF THE SECOND UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Prepared by the secretariat

1. The second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region took place in Geneva on 15–16 December 2005, pursuant to a decision of the UNECE at its sixtieth session, in February 2005. The purpose of the Forum was to assess the situation in the region with respect to energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change and related cross-sectoral issues and to report on these issues to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session, from 1 to 12 May 2006, as an integral part of the first (review) year of its two-year implementation cycle. Approximately 250 persons participated, representing governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

2. Representatives from 42 UNECE member States participated: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Holy See was represented. A representative of the European Commission also participated.

3. The secretariat was provided by the UNECE.
4. 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 Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the World Bank and the World Health Organization were also represented.
5. The following non-governmental and private-sector organizations were represented: Academy of Mining Sciences (Russian Federation), Association of Conscious Consumers (Hungary), Association for Environmental Education (Russian Federation), Carbon Management International, CEEWEB (Hungary), Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity, Dutch Platform for Sustainable Development, NCDO (Netherlands), European Advisory Council for Technology (Monaco), European Eco-Forum, Helio International (France), Intermediate Technology Development Group Limited (ITDG (United Kingdom), International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Netherlands Women's Council (Netherlands), Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED), Public Services International, Shell Hydrogen B.V., Stakeholder Forum, The Russian Cleaner Production Center, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, World Energy Council and WWF International.
6. Also represented were the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, the Regional Environmental Centre for the Republic of Moldova and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Europe and Eastern Europe.
7. The Forum was chaired by Mr. Elliot Morley (United Kingdom), Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment. Mr. Darius Mesca (Romania), State Secretary for Energy Policy, was elected Vice-Chair.
8. Mr. Paolo Garonna, Acting Executive Secretary of UNECE, delivered the opening speech. The keynote address of Mr. Aleksis Aleksishvili (Georgia), Finance Minister and Chair of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, was read out in his absence by his advisor Ms. Ketevan Sandroshvili.
9. The first three sessions of the Forum focused on the substantive issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. They each included a keynote address and two additional prepared statements, followed by an interactive discussion with broad stakeholder participation.
10. The session on Energy for Sustainable Development was chaired by Mr. Walter Steinmann (Switzerland), Director of the Federal Office of Energy. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Elfriede-Anna More (Austria), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The prepared statement by a government was given by Mr. Jonathan Margolis (United States of America), Special Representative for Sustainable Development, State Department. The prepared statement by a major group was given by Ms. Jacqueline Côté, World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

11. The session on Industrial Development and Linkages to Energy for Sustainable Development was chaired by Mr. Viktor Baranchuk (Ukraine), Deputy Minister of Industrial Policy. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Viveka Bohn (Sweden), Ambassador for the Environment. The prepared statement by a government was given by Ms. Ivana Halle (Croatia), Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship. The prepared statement by a major group was given by Mr. Fre Maes, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.
12. The session on Air Pollution/Atmosphere and Climate Change and Linkages to Energy for Sustainable Development was chaired by Mr. Zaal Lomtadze (Georgia), Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. The Chair explained that the order of prepared statements was slightly different from that of the previous sessions, with a prepared statement by a government to start with, followed by the keynote address by the European Commission, observer organization to UNECE, and the prepared statement by a major group. The prepared statement by a government was given by Mr. Harold Dovland (Norway), Ministry of Environment. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Soledad Blanco, Directorate General Environment, European Commission, observer organization to UNECE. The prepared statement by a major group was given by Mr. Gunnar Boye Olesen, European Eco-Forum.
13. The fourth session, chaired by Mr. Elliot Morley, examined the linkages among these issues as well as their linkages with other cross-cutting issues, such as financing, production and consumption patterns, poverty, education for sustainable development, governance and information for decision-making. At the end of the session, the Chair presented an oral summary of the meeting.
14. An informal showcase of partnerships as they relate to each theme of the interactive discussions was held during lunchtime on 16 December. The informal segment was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Mr. Darius Mesca. The following partnerships gave presentations highlighting successes as well as ongoing challenges in their work: Adriatic Action Plan 2020, Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP), Vinyl 2010, Collaborative Labelling and Appliance Standards Programme (CLASP), Clean Energy Initiative.
15. The meeting agreed that the Chair would provide his summary of the discussions to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Chair's summary is found in document E/ECE/1442.