



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

The Executive Secretary

Under-Secretary-General

Ref: ECE/EHLM/357/2009/L

8 September 2009

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

It is my pleasure to invite a Minister or high-level official of your Government to participate in the Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM-4) on Sustainable Development which will take place in Geneva on 1-2 December 2009.

The aim of the Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting is to prepare the contribution from the UNECE region to the 18th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development which will be held from 3-14 May 2010 in New York.

The CSD-18 will open the fourth two-year cycle of its multi-year work programme with a focus on the following main thematic clusters:

- Transport
- Chemicals
- Waste Management (Hazardous and Solid Waste)
- Mining
- 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns

The CSD-18 will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals in the above areas and identify obstacles and constraints. It will also address the challenges ahead and necessary next steps to be taken.

It is expected that the RIM meeting will be chaired by a Minister (preferably of Environment) who would then take part in the CSD-18 as the ECE Region's representative to present the outcomes of the discussions of the Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting, in the form of a Chair's Summary.

The provisional agenda of the RIM-4 is enclosed with this letter. A draft organization of work for the meeting will be put together by the Secretariat in consultation with UNEP and other partners in the coming weeks.

.../...

[the letter was addressed to Ambassadors of UNECE member States]



Regarding the format of the meeting, sessions with interactive discussions will take place on all thematic clusters. Each session would have a different high-level chairperson. The session would be opened with a keynote address. Subsequently, two additional statements could be presented, one from a government representative and one from a major group representative, followed by an open interactive discussion from the floor. In addition the meeting would specifically address the role of partnerships and cross-cutting issues within each session.

At the end of each session, the chairperson would present a summary of the session which would become a part of the overall Chair's summary of the meeting.

As the Secretariat is developing the organization of work for the meeting, I would appreciate if you could kindly inform us if your Government is interested in chairing the meeting, any of the sessions, or would like to deliver a keynote address in one of the sessions. Please provide the Secretariat with the expression of your interest at your earliest convenience, but no later than **18 September 2009**.

To prepare for and convene RIM-4, it is estimated that approximately US\$ 25,000 will be needed for travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) of one representative from each of the eligible member States. UNDESA is providing a maximum of US\$6,400 for the funding of travel costs only for the participation of countries from the ECE region that are currently members of the CSD: Croatia, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine. I very much hope that your Government will be able to provide a financial contribution for the meeting in order to ensure broad participation from all parts of the ECE region and from NGOs.

For the above and any other issues related to the RIM-4, please contact:

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I look forward to hearing from you and remain, dear Ambassador,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Ján Kubiš