13 October 2011

Dear [...] ,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Major Groups Organizing Partner for Rio+20. The Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for the ECE region will take place in Geneva on 1-2 December 2011. The meeting is open to participation by representatives of all nine major groups from the ECE region. Participating organizations have to be in consultative status with ECOSOC, or included in the CSD roster, or registered with UNECE.

It is my pleasure to invite you and other representatives of the [...] Major Group to participate in the meeting and therefore ask you to spread this letter widely.

The objective of the Regional Preparatory Meeting is to elaborate the contribution from the UNECE region to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20 to be held on 4-6 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.

In particular, the Regional Preparatory Meeting will aim at identifying the specific challenges and priorities of the UNECE region with regard to the themes of the Rio+20 Conference, including policy recommendations and good practices. The results of the meeting, in the form of a non-negotiated outcome (co-Chairs’ Summary) will be transmitted to and presented at the Second Intersessional Meeting for UNCSD to be held in New York on 15-16 December 2011.
The objectives of the Rio+20 Conference are to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of major summits on sustainable development and to address new and emerging challenges.

Substantive discussion will focus on two themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The Regional Preparatory Meeting will be divided into three thematic segments:
- Assessment of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and address new and emerging challenges
- A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- The institutional framework for sustainable development

The meeting will be co-chaired by two ministers from different parts of the ECE region. The first segment will take the form of a multi-stakeholder panel discussion with presentations by the panelists followed by a question & answer session. The second segment will be divided into a one-hour plenary session and a two-hour multi-stakeholder round table. Finally the third segment will revert to the form of a multi-stakeholder panel discussion with presentations by the panelists and a question & answer session. The consolidated results of discussions from the round table and the two panels will serve as input into the co-Chairs’ Summary of the meeting.

The provisional annotated agenda of the RPM is enclosed with this letter. A draft organization of work for the meeting will be elaborated by the secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations and bodies working for sustainable development in our region.

I would appreciate if you could kindly inform the secretariat if the [...] Major Group is interested in delivering a keynote address in one of the sessions or in proposing a panelist. Please provide the secretariat with an expression of your interest at your earliest convenience, but no later than 31 October 2011.

Regarding the registration process for this event, kindly note that the relevant form is attached to this letter and is also available online at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/RPM2011/first/RegistrationForm.doc
For any other information related to the Regional Preparatory Meeting, please contact:

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Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Ján Kubiš

Attachments:
1. Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) - E/ECE/RPM/2011/1
2. Registration Form for the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)