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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring  
(Third session, 29-30 August 2002)  
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

**STATUS OF ENVIRONMENT RECORD-KEEPING IN  
THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES**

**Corrigendum**

Paragraph 4: delete “the Republic of Moldova” and “Uzbekistan”

Paragraph 5: amend to read: “In Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, on the other hand, national reports on the state of the environment are produced regularly. In Tajikistan, for instance, production of national reports began in 1989. So far 12 such reports have been published.”

Paragraph 8: amend to read: “In Uzbekistan, besides national reports on the state of the environment, State statistical records have been published every year since 1991. On the basis of statistical records from businesses and organizations, the Department of Statistics at the Ministry of Macroeconomics and Statistics produces ...”

Paragraph 12: delete the first sentence. Begin the second sentence: “Businesses and organizations in Uzbekistan ...”

Paragraph 14: begin the first sentence: “Meanwhile, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan have ...”

Paragraph 15: after “organizations” add “providing essential information”

Paragraph 16: after “report” add “on the state of the environment”

Paragraph 18: delete “Uzbekistan”

Paragraph 20: after “the Russian Federation” add “Tajikistan”

Paragraph 25: after “Turkmenistan” delete “Uzbekistan”

Paragraph 26: amend to read: “Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, on the other hand, pay a good deal of attention to modern graphic and other technologies in producing their environment status reports, using colour graphics, diagrams and tables.”

Paragraph 28: delete “Kyrgyzstan” and “Uzbekistan”

Paragraph 30: after “Tajikistan” add “and Uzbekistan”

After paragraph 37, insert a new paragraph reading: “The Ministry of Environmental Protection in Tajikistan, as the government authority responsible for producing the national report, has access to the data bases at institutions and institutes providing material for the report, but only on a paying basis.”

Paragraph 38: replace “report” with “national report on the state of the environment”; after “material” add “for the report”

Paragraphs 48, 49 and 50: corrections not applicable to the English text.

Paragraph 52: delete “Uzbek”

After paragraph 52, insert a new paragraph reading: “In Uzbekistan, reports are issued on CD-ROM and available over the Internet. Environmental statistics are not released on CD-ROM or available over the Internet.”

Paragraph 57: amend to read: “Detailed information on the state of the environment and prospects for environmental conservation were published by the Republic of Moldova in 1995 in its National Strategic Programme of Action for Environmental Conservation. An Environmental Performance Review produced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was published in 1998 in English and Romanian. A compilation on the state of the environment was produced by a group of experts from non-governmental organizations and published in Romanian in 1999 with financial support from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).”

Paragraph 61 [previously paragraph 59]: after “bulletin” add “on the state of the environment”. At the end of the paragraph, add “The national report on the state of the environment is published in Russian and English.”

Paragraph 74: after “status reports” add “and national environmental conservation and sustainable development strategies and programmes”

Paragraph 77: after “resources” delete the words in brackets

Paragraph 79: delete “and Uzbekistan”

Paragraph 85: amend to read: “Armenia is an exception.”

Paragraph 87: after “Azerbaijan” add “and Uzbekistan”. At the end of the paragraph, add “Uzbekistan’s statistical records and statistical bulletin do not use graphics or other modern technology.”

After paragraph 90, insert a new paragraph reading: “The Republic of Moldova also uses modern technology - colour maps, graphs, diagrams and tables - to process and present environmental information in its national reports. Most of the numerical and cartographic information is accompanied by explanations, analysis and interpretation.”

Paragraph 92: replace by: “Graphics accompanied by analysis and interpretation are used to present material in the Tajik national report on the state of the environment.”

Paragraph 96: correction not applicable to the English text.

After paragraph 97, insert a new paragraph reading: “The layout and content of the Republic of Moldova’s national reports enable the reader to evaluate changes in the state of the environment, progress in the execution of State environmental conservation programmes and plans of action and the consistency of those programmes and plans with international environmental obligations. The layout of the reports has changed only slightly over the past 10 years.”

Paragraph 99: before “report” add “statistical”

Paragraph 100: delete the last sentence.

After paragraph 106, insert a new paragraph reading: “Statistical bulletins in Uzbekistan are used by the State Committee on Natural Resources, ministries and government departments engaged in State monitoring of the environment, and by the Cabinet of Ministers and the national Parliament in their work and decisions on nature conservation issues.”

Delete paragraph 116.

At the end of the document, add:

### III. CONCLUSIONS

From this review of the status of environmental record keeping in the newly independent States, the following conclusions can be drawn:

Not all countries produce environment status reports regularly. A number of States concentrate on producing statistical records and bulletins on the state of the environment, not national reports.

Networks of experts responsible for producing individual chapters of the reports do not exist everywhere. In countries that do have such networks, the draft reports are not always submitted for approval to the individuals who have contributed to their preparation.

Almost all the newly independent States are short of financial resources to produce national reports and cannot increase print runs, publish their reports in more than one language or use attractive designs to improve the presentation of their material.

Not all the government departments responsible for producing reports have their own data bases for producing the material required, or access to the data bases at other institutions and institutes supplying material for inclusion in the reports. Not all countries use electronic means of transmitting material for inclusion in the reports, and this makes report production much more difficult.

The general public does not have ready access to the information presented in the reports in all newly independent States. Print runs of reports released in hard copy are insufficient for wide distribution among the general public and interested organizations. Reports are not always available over the Internet or on CD-ROM. Not all countries produce short, easily readable publications (information bulletins, pamphlets, brochures and leaflets) based on the reports. The reports are virtually not disseminated through the mass media, and this means that the public at large is not fully informed about their contents.

Insufficient use is made of environmental modelling and forecasting to extrapolate data during the production of reports, and of graphics and other modern techniques to present data.

Many countries' reports do reflect State environmental priorities but do not allow progress in the execution of State environmental conservation programmes and plans, or how consistent such programmes and plans are with international environmental obligations, to be measured. A number of countries' reports are oriented towards the present and contain no recommendations for the future.

It must nonetheless be said that the range of topics covered in environmental status reports is quite extensive. Most countries produce thorough analyses of the state of the environment and environmental burdens. A variety of environmental indicators are used in the production of their reports.

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