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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Working Group for the Preparation of the
First Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
(Second meeting, Geneva, 22-24 May 2002)

DRAFT DECISION I/[..]

CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM AND CAPACITY-BUILDING SERVICE */

The Meeting,

Welcoming the work done by the Convention's secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to establish the Aarhus Convention clearing house and capacity-building service,

Believing that the clearing house facilitates substantially the useful sharing of national and international information related to access to information, public participation and access to justice in an efficient, simple and well-structured manner,

Acknowledging the desirability of a system to match up available financial resources with requests for financial support, addressing in particular the needs for assistance in countries in transition,

*/ Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

Wishing to address the urgent need for coordinated and systematic assistance, in particular in countries in transition, for effective implementation of the Convention,

1. Urges all Parties and other States to submit any relevant information to the clearing house in order for it to be as comprehensive as possible;

2. Encourages Parties and other States as well as all relevant organizations and the public to make use of the available information;

3. Urges donor countries to review project proposals submitted through the clearing-house mechanism and to contribute financially to specific projects and to projects facilitated by the capacity-building service;

4. Invites Parties, other States and non-governmental organizations to submit requests for assistance to the service when needs occur;

5. Encourages the secretariat and UNEP to continue and further develop the service, in particular with respect to assistance on electronic information tools and on pollutant release and transfer registers.