The Meeting,

Aware of the importance of wide participation by the Parties in its activities in order to ensure progress,

Aware also of the need to facilitate the participation of certain countries with economies in transition that may otherwise not be able to take part,

1. Calls upon countries in transition to finance to the extent possible their own participation in the activities under the Convention in order to ensure that the limited funds available are used efficiently;

2. Urges Parties and encourages non-Parties and relevant international organizations to contribute financial resources to enable countries with economies in transition and non-governmental organizations to participate in the meetings under the Convention;

3. Recommends that there should be no differentiation between Parties and non-Parties within the UNECE region for the purposes of providing financial assistance;
4. Also recommends that the Convention should seek to apply the guiding criteria established and periodically updated by the Committee on Environmental Policy for financial assistance to support the participation of experts and representatives from countries with economies in transition in meetings and workshops organized within the framework of the Convention and other relevant activities, depending upon the availability of funds;

5. Requests the secretariat to grant, subject to the availability of funds, financial assistance for the participation in meetings under the Convention of designated experts from non-governmental organizations identified in a list to be drawn up by its Bureau, subject to a maximum of five (5) such experts, unless otherwise decided by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment;

6. Recalling the amendment to the Convention (decision II/14) which allows United Nations Member States not members of UNECE to accede to the Convention, decides that its Bureau shall, depending on the availability of funding, and subject to priority being given to funding (i) the work plan and (ii) the participation of experts and representatives referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5, examine requests for possible financial assistance for the participation in meetings under the Convention by representatives and experts from States outside the UNECE region.