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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms
(Fourth meeting, Geneva, 18-20 October 2004)

DRAFT DECISION ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS¹

The Meeting,

Recognizing the importance of further developing the application of the Convention to activities with genetically modified organisms (GMOs) through applying inter alia more precise provisions than those set out in article 6, paragraph 11, of the Convention,

Recalling decision I/4 of the Meeting of the Parties,

[Noting the progress in the implementation of the Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with respect to Genetically Modified Organisms (MP.PP/2003/3), which it adopted as a non-binding, voluntary instrument];

Noting [also] relevant developments under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that have been taken into account in the work on GMOs under the Aarhus Convention with a view to maximizing synergy and avoiding duplication of effort,

Believing that, notwithstanding these developments, the Convention provides the most appropriate international framework for further developing access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs,

¹ Prepared by the Bureau and the secretariat.

Encouraging the exchange of information and further collaboration between the secretariat of the UNECE Aarhus Convention and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting the activities and reports of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms,

1. Adopts the amendment to the Convention set out in annex to this decision;
2. Encourages Parties to ratify, accept or approve the amendment at the earliest opportunity and to apply it to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force;
3. Also encourages Parties to renew their efforts to implement the Guidelines; and
4. Resolves to review progress in the ratification, acceptance and approval of the amendment and the implementation of the Guidelines at its third meeting.