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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE
TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION**

Twenty-fourth session
Geneva, 11–14 December 2006
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**PROCEDURES FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

Report by the Bureau of the Executive Body

1. The Executive Body at its twenty-third session considered the issue of participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the work of the Convention. It took note of the information provided by the secretariat (EB.AIR/2005/5, paras. 4–9) that its accreditation of NGOs was broadly in line with the procedures used by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which used an NGO's accreditation status with the United Nations as the criterion for determining whether it might participate in the work of UNECE. The Executive Body noted that there were situations where more flexibility might be useful, and it agreed to consider a new process for accreditation of NGOs. It requested its Bureau to consider the matter further and propose details at its twenty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/87, para. 73(a)).

2. The Bureau discussed the matter at its meetings in 2006, taking into account information on the various procedures used by other multilateral environmental agreements and recognizing the effectiveness of the current practices of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies. The Bureau also believed the Convention had benefited greatly from the positive contributions made by NGOs having United Nations accreditation. However, it noted

that there were a few organizations without accreditation that might also play a useful role in the Convention's work. It also recognized the problems that had arisen occasionally when NGO delegates were uncertain of their status with regard to accreditation and hence their eligibility for attending meetings.

3. The Bureau agreed that United Nations accreditation should remain the starting point for the Convention's accreditation process. However, it considered that it would be useful to extend accreditation to some other NGOs that could make relevant inputs to meetings under the Convention. It further considered that any extension of the Convention's accreditation should be at the sole discretion of the Executive Body.

4. The Bureau of the Executive Body therefore invited the Executive Body to note the need for greater flexibility to ensure participation by all relevant NGOs in its work, while recognizing that the existing mechanism for accreditation had functioned well on most occasions in the past. The Bureau recommends the following decision for consideration by the Executive Body at its twenty-fourth session:

The Executive Body

Decides:

- (a) That all NGOs having United Nations accreditation will continue being accredited for its meetings;
- (b) To consider further applications from NGOs for accreditation made to the secretariat at least 60 days before a meeting of the Executive Body;
- (c) That the Bureau, assisted by the secretariat, will consider applications for accreditation, taking account of each applicant's relevance to the work of the Convention and its ability to represent a broad group of interests, and will make a recommendation to the Executive Body on each application;
- (d) That the Executive Body will decide on the recommendations of its Bureau at the beginning of the session following the application;
- (e) That the secretariat will assist the Bureau and the Executive Body with its decisions by providing information on NGOs seeking accreditation;
- (f) That the secretariat will maintain a list of additionally accredited NGOs; and
- (g) To continue to allow ad hoc observers to attend meetings of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies at the discretion of the body concerned.