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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials
“Environment for Europe”

Fifth meeting
Geneva, 29 August 2007
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”**

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION¹

“Building Bridges to the Future”

Note by the secretariat²

¹ The present document is submitted on the above date, as it resulted from the second meeting of the Open-ended Drafting Group for preparing the Draft Ministerial Declaration held in Geneva on 2-3 July 2007.

² The document reflects the status of the discussions by the Open-ended Drafting Group by the end of its second meeting. It is submitted to the Working Group for information. After the Working Group has closed its session by 1 p.m. on 29 August, the Drafting Group will resume its work on the draft declaration at its third meeting, starting at 3 p.m. the same day and ending by 6 p.m. on 31 August in the same conference room (Salle VII) of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Delegates that will participate in both or either of these meetings are requested to complete the same registration form, which is available from the UNECE website (www.unece.org/env/efe/wgso/Belgrade/WGSOMeetings.htm), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting either by e-mail (efe@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0107). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website at www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by phone at +41 22 917 6307.

Introduction

1. We, the Ministers and Heads of delegation from ... countries in the UNECE region and the Representative of the European Commission, met at Belgrade, Serbia, from 10 to 12 October 2007, in the sixth of a series of Ministerial Conferences held as part of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process.

2. [We recognize the evolving political, social and economic landscape across the region and – ~~delete, Russian Federation~~]/[We – ~~Russian Federation~~] underline the important role of a focused, needs-driven EfE process [in promoting – ~~delete, USA~~]/[that produces real progress in – ~~USA~~] environmental protection and sustainable development in our region and its subregions. - ~~EU~~]

[EfE serves as a means to tackle [our environmental – ~~USA~~] challenges [raised by different economic, social and [environmental development – ~~reword, Russian Federation~~], and the cultural diversity, that exist in the [UNECE – ~~Croatia~~] region.] – ~~delete, USA~~]

[While we share common environmental goals the diversity of approaches to achieving them in the region is a strength. - ~~USA~~] It is an effective response to our common intention to improve the environment throughout our region while also contributing to poverty eradication and increased security [, to support the convergence of environmental [standards – ~~delete European Union (EU)~~]/[policies – ~~EU~~] and approaches [towards high international standards – ~~EU~~] – ~~delete, USA~~], and to encourage the participation of the civil society.

We also recognize the added value of EfE in its close links with other regional and subregional initiatives that help to integrate environmental and sectoral policies [, e.g. industry, agriculture, energy, transport, trade and others – ~~EU, European ECO-Forum~~]. We confirm our strong commitment to a needs-driven and prioritized approach to cooperation on environmental protection among countries in Europe, North America, Caucasus and Central Asia.

3. [We will continue to promote our citizens’ right to a good environment. – ~~delete, Russian Federation~~]/[We commit, with our citizens and civil society institutions, including the private sector, to strive to achieve and maintain a healthy environment. - ~~USA~~]/[We will continue to promote the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being – ~~Denmark, European ECO-Forum~~].

We also reconfirm our commitment to improving the [global – ~~delete, USA~~] environment and promoting sustainable development [which is increasingly affected by globalization – ~~Denmark~~]. In this regard, we will intensify our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to put in effect the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) by national, subregional, regional and global actions. Our regional contribution to the review cycle of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development is an example of these efforts. In working towards global environmental and sustainable development goals [and targets – ~~delete, Russian Federation~~], we will cooperate with other regions by providing leadership and sharing lessons learned and experience gained.

[3bis. We recognize the innovative role that the EfE process has played in including the [NGOs – ~~delete, USA~~]/[civil society - ~~USA~~] in its various processes and its transparent nature. We also recognise the constructive role environment [NGOs – ~~delete, USA~~]/[civil society - ~~USA~~] has

played in the EfE process so far. – EU, European ECO-Forum] – keep here, EU, European ECO-Forum] – move to another place, e.g. under partnerships, or delete, Russian Federation] - move to another place - Norway]

I. PROGRESS MADE SINCE KIEV

4. We note [with appreciation – keep in brackets, Russian Federation] the fourth assessment report on the state of the environment (*Belgrade Assessment*) prepared by the European Environment Agency (EEA) with the support of countries and UNECE, and in cooperation with [the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and - Switzerland] – delete, EU, Norway] other partners. While noting some improvements in the state of the environment at the pan-European level and in some subregions, we are particularly concerned by the report's findings that in countries covered by the report:

- (a) Air pollution[, mainly by [[nitrogen oxides, - EU] fine particles and ground-level ozone, - delete, USA] [shortens – delete, USA]/[may shorten - USA] average life expectancy [by almost one year - delete, USA] and [affects - delete, USA]/[affect - USA] the healthy development of children;
- (b) More than 100 million people in total still do not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation across the pan-European region;[- interchange with (a), Norway]
- (c) Biodiversity decline and the loss of ecosystem services continue;
- (d) [Consumption and production patterns is a growing concern. Waste and - EU] [Transport volumes – delete, USA]/[Emissions from transportation - USA] are growing in parallel with economies across the pan-European region, leading to increasing environmental impacts;
- (e) Energy consumption and resulting greenhouse gas emissions have been increasing in the pan-European region, despite energy efficiency improvements and an increased use of renewable energy in certain areas;
- (f) Climate change impacts are projected to occur in [most – delete, USA] sectors of the economy and on natural resources [and ecosystems - EU, European ECO-Forum].

5. [We recognize that major bottlenecks are still hampering further progress in environmental improvement in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe and invite these countries to implement the recommendations addressed in the report on Critical issues in implementation of environmental policies highlighted by the UNECE environmental performance review (EPR) programme. – delete, Croatia, Russian Federation]/[We are committed to further environmental improvement in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. We also call upon the countries reviewed by the UNECE environmental performance review (EPR) programme to implement [the – delete, Russian Federation] recommendations addressed in the report on Critical issues in implementation of environmental policies [and - Russian Federation] to provide political support for resolving persistent environmental problems. – Croatia, Russian Federation]

[We call upon reviewed countries to provide political support for resolving persistent environmental problems, strengthening their environmental institutions, fostering integration of environmental policy into other sectors, [as well as into their general development plans and poverty reduction strategies, - Sweden] allocating sufficient financing for these actions, and

moving towards effective implementation. - ~~delete, Russian Federation~~]

[We invite UNECE to report to our next Conference on the results of the second round of its EPRs. - keep in brackets pending decision on future of EfE, USA]

6. We stress the need to further improve the indicator-based environmental assessments and reporting in the region. To this end, we [endorse – ~~delete, USA~~]/[note - USA] the UNECE recommendations on environmental indicators and indicator-based assessments, and the guidelines on enterprise monitoring for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. We invite UNECE to continue its efforts, in cooperation with EEA[, UNEP - Switzerland] and other partners, to make monitoring an effective instrument in environmental policymaking in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. [We call on EEA to prepare the fifth assessment report for our next EfE Ministerial Conference building on its partnerships and call upon those countries that will be covered by the report to fully participate in this work and to appropriately update their monitoring efforts. - keep in brackets pending decision on future of EfE, USA]

7. We acknowledge the report on the implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and [appreciate – ~~delete, USA~~]/[recognize - USA] the role the MEAs have played in addressing environmental problems in the region. However, we note with concern that major challenges remain with MEAs' ratification and implementation, and that the beneficial effects of these instruments are not being fully achieved. We recall the Kiev Guidelines for strengthening compliance with and implementation of MEAs in the UNECE region and urge further application of these by all Governments.

[We [urgently- EU] call for accelerating the ratification of regional environmental conventions and protocols, developing policies and measures to implement and comply with them, and encourage additional efforts to improve their effectiveness and coherence – ~~delete, USA~~] [and integration into other sectors - EU]. / [We invite countries that are not parties to the regional conventions and protocols to consider ratifying them. - USA]

We acknowledge the need for further efforts to create synergies in the implementation of the subregional, regional and relevant global MEAs and to share best experience gained. We invite MEA governing bodies to continue to explore opportunities for developing efficient mechanisms to aid implementation across the region, in particular for capacity-building [[and sustainable funding, - ~~delete, EU~~] – keep, Russian Federation] as well as for sharing their information and experience with regions outside UNECE. South-Eastern European countries are invited to continue progress in acceptance and implementation of MEAs. They are encouraged to develop national implementation plans as a useful tool for overcoming existing gaps and obstacles to implementation.

[[Donors and international financial institutions (IFIs) should – ~~delete, Italy~~]/[We encourage donors and IFIs to - Italy] provide financial and technical support to assist the South-Eastern European countries in developing national implementation plans and other tools for implementation. – keep in brackets, USA] – Serbia, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE)]

[7bis. We note with appreciation the first assessment of the status of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region, prepared under the auspices of the UNECE Water Convention. Calling for basin solidarity and for an integration of policies, we invite the Meeting

of Parties to the Convention to contribute to and prepare actively the second assessment of transboundary waters for our next Conference. – Switzerland, EU] – ~~delete, Turkey~~] – keep in brackets pending decision on future of EfE, USA]

8. [We, participants in the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) process, welcome the progress made in developing and implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD in close cooperation between education and environment authorities. We stress the importance of the ESD process as a prerequisite and framework for capacity-building initiatives and multi stakeholder partnerships in the region. We welcome the Statement on ESD by Ministers of Education and of the Environment, and the outcome of their joint session and urge countries, which have adopted the UNECE Strategy for ESD to further strengthen efforts for the implementation of the Strategy at all levels by the end of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. – ~~delete, USA~~]

[8 Alt. The improvement of education for sustainable development is an important goal for all governments as reflected in the JPOI of WSSD. We, Governments, that have joined the Statement on Education for Sustainable Development made by the Ministers of Education and Environment welcome further efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Strategy at all levels by the end of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. - USA]

9. [[We, participants in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), note that since 2003, regional, subregional, national, subnational and local activities have been ongoing in various subregions to address [the overall objective endorsed by the WSSD to halt the loss of biological diversity by the year 2010 – ~~delete, Switzerland~~]/[the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and WSSD commitment to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity and the pan-European commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity endorsed in Kiev 2003 - Switzerland]. [Unfortunately, achieving the objectives reflected in the Kiev Resolution on biodiversity goes slower than was expected. - European ECO-Forum]

[We recognize the initiatives and activities carried out at the pan-European level to assist in the achievement of the Kiev biodiversity targets promoting the WSSD objective [and we commit to enhancing our efforts to meet them. - European ECO-Forum]. We will continue to [cooperate with PEBLDS and - European ECO-Forum] support the implementation of the Pan-European Ecological Network as an important means [for protecting – ~~delete, Switzerland~~]/[for the conservation and sustainable use of - Switzerland] biodiversity in Europe [and call upon Governments to provide an adequate legal basis for that. - European ECO-Forum]

[While recognizing these achievements we also recognise the challenge that remains to achieve the 2010 target. We reconfirm our commitment to the targets in the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity. To achieve these goals, we commit to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral policies and to mobilize the necessary partnerships and resources, promoting, inter alia, the PEBLDS as a regional tool and report upon the achievements to the next Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”. – Switzerland]

[Moreover, we call upon the PEBLDS to foster exchanges, experiences and expertise enabling the preparation of the Conference of Parties of the CBD. To this end we expect this network to promote synergies and partnerships with other regional instruments. - France]

We welcome the endorsement of a Belgrade Statement on Biodiversity. - ~~delete the whole para,~~

USA]

[9Alt. The loss of biodiversity remains an environmental challenge which all Governments of the UNECE region are committed to continue addressing. We, the Governments that participate in the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), welcome the Belgrade Statement on Biodiversity to address this issue. - USA]

II. BUILDING CAPACITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

10. We recognize the importance of capacity-building as a cross-cutting priority area for environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development in the region, with a particular focus on Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia [, and South-Eastern Europe – keep in brackets, European Commission]. All stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society organizations, should work in partnership to deliver further progress.

11. [We take note of the progress made in the implementation of “Environmental Partnerships in the UNECE Region: Environmental Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” as presented in the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) Task Force’s assessment report. In particular, we acknowledge that the speed of progress varies across policy areas: noticeable progress seems to have been made on assuring compliance, water supply and sanitation, water resources management and agriculture; at the same time, less progress has been made on [soil protection, - EU] waste management, biodiversity, transport and energy efficiency. [We acknowledge that the speed of progress varies across policy areas and realize that implementation remains the main problem. We especially wish to draw the attention to the fact that the UNECE region is far from reaching the MDGs, both regarding access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as the target concerning biodiversity. Water, including both rural and urban water supply and sanitation as well as transboundary aspects of water, should be one of the priority areas for the next period within the EfE-process. – Norway] [We are concerned that overall, progress did not accelerate after our last Conference, and that implementation remains the main problem. We call upon countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to follow up on the report recommendations. - delete, USA]/[We recommit ourselves to focus our efforts on actions that result in real improvements to the environment and for sustainable development. - USA] - move this para as 4bis. – Germany] - delete, Finland, Norway and United Kingdom]

[11 alt. to be moved after para 4. We also welcome the report *Policies for a Better Environment: Progress in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia* prepared by the EAP Task Force through a broad, participatory multistakeholder process. It compliments the *Belgrade Assessment* by focusing on the policy actions taken by the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. We note that the report documents about 200 examples of progress and shows that some countries are now achieving results because of sustained efforts made over several years. Nevertheless:

- (a) Environment generally remains low on the policy agenda and progress overall has not accelerated since the Kiev Conference; in some cases the authority and capacities of environment ministries have been downgraded;
- (b) Progress is also uneven with advances in some areas (water supply and sanitation, compliance assurance, water resources management and agriculture), but not in others (waste management, biodiversity, transport and energy efficiency);

- (c) Important progress has been made in reforming policies and legal frameworks but the key bottleneck is implementation, particularly at the local level;
- (d) Policy and institutional reforms are needed to ensure that existing financial and human resources are used cost-effectively;
- (e) The capacities of environmental authorities also need to be strengthened so that they can engage in meaningful cross-sectoral policy dialogue, particularly with Economics and Finance Ministries. - Finland, Norway and United Kingdom]

[11 alt bis. The Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia adopted at the Kiev Conference recognised that these countries have the primary responsibility for achieving their environmental goals but that other partners in EfE process could provide valuable support. Cooperation involving IFIs has slightly increased since the turn of the century while bilateral cooperation overall has fallen. The EAP Task Force report, *Policies for a Better Environment: Progress in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*, provides useful guidance on where further efforts and partnerships should be directed. There is a need for more results-based, action-oriented activities to achieve environment and sustainable development objectives in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Among the priorities for further action are the water-related MDGs, particularly in the rural sector; Integrated Water Resource Management including transboundary issues; biodiversity; and energy efficiency as part of environmentally sustainable energy strategies. Achieving progress in these areas will require strong commitment from the Governments of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, more efficient and effective environmental policies and institutions as well as more financial resources. Strengthening environmental enforcement and compliance, as well as capacities at the local level, are particularly important in this regard. - Finland, Norway and United Kingdom]

[11 ter. We stress the need to strengthen our efforts to secure both urban and rural water supply as well as work on integrated water resources management and transboundary waters, which play an important role in the region. Their reasonable and equitable use is crucial for human health, sustainable development and security. In this context we welcome strategic regional initiatives and partnerships in order to achieve real improvements. We recognise the possibility of achieving real improvements through further work in new and existing partnerships, such as the EU Water Initiative. – EU, Norway]

12. We [welcome – ~~delete, USA~~]/[note-USA] various initiatives submitted to our Conference aimed at building capacities of countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in various areas of policy and management[, including]/[and endorse - EU] the guiding principles for environmental permitting systems, the initiative on strategic environmental assessment and the Central Asian Initiative on sustainable development.

13. [Recognizing our region's vulnerability to climate change, - EU] [We support the G-8 call on all parties to actively and constructively participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Indonesia in December 2007 with a view to achieving a comprehensive post 2012 (Kyoto)-agreement that should include all major emitters – Norway, Serbia].

We [welcome – ~~delete, USA~~]/[note-USA] the Belgrade Initiative “Enhancing regional cooperation of South-Eastern European countries in the field of climate change”[, and [the]/[their - USA] recognition of the need for the development of their Climate Change Framework Action Plan (CCFAP) to support implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change (UNFCCC), particularly its Nairobi Work Programme. – ~~delete, Serbia~~

[The establishment of a sub-regional virtual climate change-related center in Belgrade would provide a means to develop and implement programmes and projects under South-Eastern European CCFAPs, as well as to strengthen international partnerships that foster exchanges of experience and expertise in the fields of climate research and observation, education, public awareness raising and capacity-building.]/[We recognize [also welcome the recognition by South-Eastern European ministers of – ~~Serbia~~] the need for developing subregional climate change framework action plans[, i.e. – ~~delete, Serbia~~]/[and – ~~Serbia~~] establishing a climate change centre in Belgrade for implementing [South-Eastern European – ~~Serbia~~] programmes and strengthening international partnerships within research, observation, education, public awareness raising and capacity-building – ~~Norway, Serbia~~]

14. [We recognize the need for further integrating climate change, environmental aspects and sustainable development into energy in the region. - ~~EU~~]

We call for further efforts to improve energy efficiency and to promote [up-to-date [climate – ~~delete, EU~~]/[environment - ~~EU~~]-friendly – ~~delete, Russian Federation~~]/[low-carbon - ~~Russian Federation~~] and energy-saving - ~~delete, USA~~]/[further development and deployment of clean energy - ~~USA~~] technologies and renewable energy sources [as a means of meeting - ~~delete, USA~~]/[in order to meet - ~~USA~~] environmental and sustainable energy objectives [bearing in mind that in many economies in transition investments in the energy sector are highly needed, and at the same time greenhouse gas mitigation costs in those countries are expected to be lower than in Western Europe. - ~~EU~~]/[We emphasize the importance of developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, such as renewable energy technologies, hydro included. - ~~Turkey~~]

We welcome the project on Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and we will consider participating as public-sector investors in the energy efficiency investment fund, which is being created through the Energy Efficiency 21 Project. [In this context we welcome the use of the Kyoto mechanism (joint implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism) and green investment schemes. - ~~EU~~]

[We agree that in order to improve energy efficiency a number of reforms are necessary, including:

- (a) The reform of energy prices and the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, in order to increase energy efficiency and strengthen environmental policies;
- (b) The development of the environment-related taxation policies reflecting the potential benefits that improved energy efficiency can bring to the environment through the use of highly performing technologies and energy services;
- (c) The development of environmental and cost-effective criteria for the selection of energy efficiency and renewable technologies to be promoted by environmental programmes and funds;
- (d) The introduction of various energy efficiency measures, such as labelling and audits, in the development of environmental strategies and programmes. - ~~European ECO-Forum~~

15. We welcome the mountain partnerships within and between the Alps, the Carpathians, the South-Eastern European mountain region, the Caucasus and the mountain regions of Central

Asia]. We recognize the benefits from the existing legally binding instruments for the protection and sustainable development of the mountain regions like the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention and welcome the initiative of South-Eastern European and Caucasian countries to develop such instruments. – EU]/, including the development of framework instruments for the protection and sustainable development of the mountain regions in South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus - delete, EU]. We encourage the international Mountain Partnership to promote and foster exchanges of experience and expertise with other mountain regions in the world. – delete, EU]

[15bis. We welcome and support the Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development (CAI) as a well-timed subregional approach to focus on environmental problems of Central Asia and to solve those problems employing visible multistakeholder efforts of Central Asian countries supported by the international community. We appreciate the mutual understanding and progress achieved by Central Asian countries regarding the CAI and the facilitating role of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC). We invite donors to support the CAI which is now backed up by concrete and feasible project proposals covering both sub-regional and national priorities of Central Asian countries. - Uzbekistan and CAREC]

16. [We call for launching national, subregional and regional partnerships to promote sustainable use of resources and changing production and consumption patterns with regard to the decoupling of economic growth from resource use and reducing [negative - France] environmental [and social - France] impacts.]

[We recognize the need for the development and establishment of – delete, European ECO-Forum]/[We agree to take the initiative to develop - European ECO-Forum] a collaborative pan-European framework [within – delete, European ECO-Forum]/[contributing to - European ECO-Forum] the Marrakech process, to support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns. - delete, USA]

16 Alt. [We call for national programmes, strategies and implementation plans, subregional and regional partnerships, in order to promote sustainable use of resources and changing consumption and production patterns with regard to the decoupling of economic growth from resource use and reducing environmental and social impacts involving industry, consumers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). We recognize the need for the development and establishment of a collaborative pan-European framework of UNECE countries within the Marrakech process focussed on countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to support the implementation and follow-up of sustainable consumption and production patterns for diffusion of best practices and promoting the work by cleaner production centres and the Regional Environmental Centres (RECs).- Sweden]

[16bis. We recognize the need to improve the chemicals management in countries of the region and to take care of old legacies including when chemicals have become waste. We support the implementation of the SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Management) and the need to promote a global regulation of heavy metals and to improve synergies between MEAs to facilitate chemicals management in the region. – EU]

17. We emphasize [that - delete, EU]/[our commitment to ensure that promoting – EU] the goal of international competitiveness of domestic industry [is not – delete, EU, Switzerland, European ECO-Forum]/[does not have to be - European ECO-

Forum] [in contradiction- ~~delete, EU, Switzerland~~]/[goes hand in hand - EU]/[is mutually supportive - Switzerland] with the objective of achieving sustainable development and of decoupling national economic growth from environmental pressures.

[[This will - ~~delete, EU~~]/[Achieving this will, inter alia, - EU] require adequate design of environmental policy instruments to ensure cost-effectiveness and incentives for stimulating the development and diffusion of [clean - ~~delete, EU~~]/[energy-efficient - EU] technologies [as well as capitalizing on the potential to trade and market environment goods and services - EU]. We note that international cooperation in the design [and implementation - EU] of environmental policies [including through MEAs - EU] can play a very useful role [both in ensuring a high level of environmental protection and in levelling the playing field, in particular - EU] in mitigating the potential competitiveness effects of more stringent policies in pollution-intensive sectors in individual countries. - ~~delete, USA~~]

[We will follow and support the process on globalization launched under UNEP at the 24th Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) in order to promote potential gains of globalization for the benefit of the environment. - Denmark]

[17bis. We reconfirm our recognition of the important interlinkages between trade and environment policies. We commit to working in support of the activity of UNEP, United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to strengthen the mutual supportiveness of these two policy areas and to minimize the potential for conflict between them as a contribution to the transition towards sustainable development. - European ECO-Forum]

18. [We support better coordination of donors' activities and to build synergies amongst institutions and programmes to make more effective use of limited financial resources. - EU] [We take note of the report on Mobilizing finance for environmental priorities: recommendations for the future prepared by the Project Preparation Committee (PPC), the EAP Task Force, REC-CEE and the World Bank. - ~~delete, Norway~~] We recognize that inadequate funding remains a barrier to environmental improvement. Insufficient institutional capacity hinders the exploitation of emerging opportunities. [We call upon a stronger commitment of the countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to support effective use of financial resources from domestic budgets and to intensify their efforts for the preparation of feasible, cost-effective and results-oriented environment programmes anchored in their general development plans, and to integrate environment into other sectors in order to prioritize investments and to encourage and thus to achieve a stronger interest of donors and to integrate environmental issues in poverty reduction strategies and other major documents for economic development. - EU] We commit to make optimal use of all available sources of environmental financing, including through innovating economic instruments, such as payments for ecosystem services and the promotion of private financial investments for the sustainable use of biodiversity, at the national and subnational levels to support environmental improvement in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. In this regard, we recognize the need to intensify efforts for the preparation of feasible, cost-effective and results-oriented environment programmes to prioritize investments and to encourage more private environmental investment in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

19. [[We note with concern that [some environmental problems may cause security risks between countries and in countries. - ~~delete the entire sentence, Turkey~~] We will support

transboundary environmental cooperation in zones of tension as part of peace-building processes, while reducing environment-related security risks through the Environment and Security Initiative. – ~~delete, EU~~/[serious environmental degradation is harming public health, increasing migration and triggering social unrest. We recognize the environment and security agenda as new window of opportunities to strengthen and deliver on global and regional environmental policies in areas of climate change, sustainable use of natural resources or transboundary water and landscape management - EU, Switzerland]. We will support transboundary environmental cooperation in zones of tension as part of peace-building processes, while reducing environment-related security risks through the Environment and Security Initiative. - ~~delete entire para., Russian Federation~~]

[19 alt. Addressing common environmental problems offers opportunities for cooperation amongst governments diffusing tension and contributing to a greater cooperation and security. - USA]

[19 bis. We underscore the growing importance of multistakeholder partnerships as a mechanism for advancing our objectives and implementing our commitments concerning the environment and sustainable development. We commit ourselves to spurring activities and producing results through partnerships at all levels. We call on UNECE, UNEP and other environmental organizations and MEAs of which we are members/parties to pursue action-oriented partnerships vigorously. - USA]

[19 ter. We commit ourselves to eliminate lead from petroleum and to take steps to significantly reduce the amount of sulphur in motor fuels in order to improve human health and the environment, and note with appreciation the work of the clean fuels vehicles partnerships. - EU]/[Commitment to getting the lead out of petroleum and to take steps to significantly reducing the amount of sulphur in motor fuels in order to improve human health and the environment including through participation in and support for the Clean Fuels and Vehicles Partnerships. - REC-CEE]

[19 quater. We call for further efforts to promote sustainable forest management emphasizing the benefits of forests for, inter alia, climate and biodiversity and look forward to the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in November 2007. - Denmark]

III. THE WAY FORWARD

20. We are committed to continuing [and strengthening – ~~delete, USA~~]/[the EfE process through focussing on result-based action-oriented activities that improve the environment and sustainable development in the region and to strengthening delivery from - USA] the EfE process. While reconfirming the EfE goals as agreed at our previous Conference in Kiev, we will adapt the operational modalities of the EfE process to specifics of the region [to reflect the evolving political and economic landscape as well as the environmental specifics of our region, such as its vulnerability to climate change, biodiversity loss, [water resources management, - Switzerland] exposure to new chemicals, health threats, and unsustainable consumption and production patterns - ~~delete, USA~~]. [We will focus on partnerships especially with the private sector to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our efforts. - USA] [We will contribute to eliminating gaps between and within States with subregional or national initiatives, where appropriate, bearing in mind the importance of engaging all countries in the region. - ~~delete, USA~~]

[20 bis. We consider the EfE process as an important framework for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the pan-European region. We acknowledge the value of EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). However the EfE-process goes beyond the scope of ENP. Furthermore, the future process should focus on a few topics which are not sufficiently taken care of in other international processes. Examples of such topics are water and sanitation, biodiversity and environmental governance (policy instruments, capacity-building). We also find it very important that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) continues to serve as a secretariat for the EAP Task Force. However, we agree that some of the tasks of the OECD secretariat could be transferred to the RECs in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. We also support the integration of PPC into the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It is, however, of great importance that PPC will be part of the multilateral cooperation in the pan-European region, and thus take part in the communication and exchange between stakeholders on environmental investment needs and projects. – Norway]

21. While maintaining the UNECE region wide scope of the EfE process, we are committed to concentrating our efforts on the identified needs in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe which are not addressed by other cooperative frameworks in the region and its subregions. In doing so, we will strengthen links and synergies with other ministerial processes in the region[using, for instance, PEBLDS as a tool to achieve the Belgrade commitments on biodiversity - PEBLDS]. We will actively seek partnerships to leverage our efforts and seek their experience and expertise in effecting change to improve environmental conditions in the region. We agree to use delivery as a major criterion of the effectiveness of the EfE process.

22. [We reconfirm the periodicity of every 4-5 years for our Conferences. - delete, EU]/[We welcome the offer of Kazakhstan to host the next Conference in 2011. – EU] We invite the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy to undertake a mid-term review of decisions taken in Belgrade to maintain political momentum and ensure continuity.

23. We agree to improve the structure of the EfE by.....

24. We express our gratitude to the Government of Serbia for having hosted this Conference and we wish to thank it and the Serbian people for the warm hospitality that we have received.