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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 Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Fifth meeting  
Geneva, 22–24 October 2007

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH MEETING**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting on Monday, 22 October 2007, at 10 a.m. \*

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Relevant developments and activities since the fourth meeting of the Working Group.
3. National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

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\*New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Aarhus Convention's website ([www.unece.org/env/pp/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/practical.htm)), and to transmit it to the Aarhus Convention secretariat no later than 2 weeks prior to the meeting – namely, by **8 October 2007** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0634) or by e-mail to [public.participation@unece.org](mailto:public.participation@unece.org). 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 Convention's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the Aarhus Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1502 / 2682.

4. Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its Meeting of the Parties:
  - (a) Scheduling and content of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties
  - (b) Draft decision on rules of procedure;
  - (c) Draft decision on a compliance review mechanism;
  - (d) Draft decision on financial arrangements;
  - (e) Draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes;
  - (f) Draft decision on reporting requirements for the Protocol;
  - (g) Draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol.
5. Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange.
6. Future work.
7. Any other business.
8. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

The Working Group is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

### **Item 2: Relevant developments and activities since the fourth meeting of the Working Group**

The secretariat will inform the Working Group of the status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs). Delegations will be invited to report on relevant international and regional activities. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) will be invited to inform the meeting on the progress of national SAICM pilot projects. The secretariat will report on the outcome of a side-event on pollutant release and transfer registers scheduled to take place within the framework of the Sixth Ministerial 'Environment for Europe' Conference (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007).

### **Item 3: National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol**

Parties and Signatories to the Convention, Signatories to the Protocol and other States will be invited to inform the Working Group of activities undertaken to prepare for ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

**Item 4: Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its Meeting of the Parties**

**(a) Scheduling and content of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties**

On the basis of the information provided under agenda items 2 and 3, the Working Group is expected to review the prospects for scheduling the first ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties back-to-back with the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and if appropriate, to agree upon a procedure for drawing up the provisional agenda for the session.

**(b) Draft decision on rules of procedure, and**

**(c) Draft decision on a compliance mechanism**

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group that the contact group established to develop draft decisions on rules of procedure and a compliance review mechanism under the Protocol would hold its fourth meeting in Geneva on 18-19 June 2007. The group met and prepared revised version of both draft decisions (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.9 and ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.10). The Working Group is invited to review these draft documents and revise the texts as needed.

**(d) Draft decision on financial arrangements**

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group revised the draft decision on financial arrangements. It mandated the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a new draft decision on financial arrangements for consideration by the Working Group at its fifth meeting. The Working Group is invited to give a second reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.11, and to amend it as appropriate.

**(e) Draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes**

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group mandated the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes for consideration by the Working Group at its next meeting. The Working Group is invited to give a first reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.12, and to amend it as appropriate.

**(f) Draft decision on reporting requirements for the Protocol**

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group mandated the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a draft decision on a reporting mechanism under the Protocol for consideration by the Working Group at its fifth meeting. The Working Group is invited to give a first reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.13, and to amend it as appropriate.

**(g) Draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol**

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group requested that the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, prepare a draft decision on the establishment of an ad hoc subsidiary body with a technical mandate as well as a mandate to assist the Bureau in the preparation of the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for consideration by the Working Group at its fifth meeting. The Working Group is invited to give a first reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.14, and to amend it as appropriate.

**Item 5: Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange**

The secretariat will report on its efforts to coordinate capacity-building activities by international, regional and non-governmental organizations and on any outcomes of the framework programme on capacity-building for PRTRs. Delegations from countries requiring capacity-building or technical support in order to fulfil their future obligations under the Protocol will be invited to describe their needs. Other delegations will be invited to present information on any ongoing or planned activities aimed at building capacity or providing technical support. The secretariat will report on the outcome of the second meeting of the International PRTR Coordinating Group, held in Copenhagen (26 February 2007). A representative of the OECD Task Force on PRTR will report on the outcome of a scoping study for development of a 'crosswalk' between methodologies used in the reporting of transfers of waste. The secretariat will update the Working Group on the UNECE project to model the cost of implementation of the Protocol. It will also report on the publication of the guidance document. The Working Group may consider to what extent additional guidance is needed to support implementation of the Protocol.

**Item 6: Future work**

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group adopted a revised indicative workplan structuring its activities leading up to the first session of the Meeting of the Parties. The secretariat will propose further revision of the calendar of meetings and key documents in preparation for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties for consideration by the Working Group.

**Item 7: Any other business**

**Item 8: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

The secretariat will present the draft report of the meeting for review, comment and adoption by the Working Group.

### III. INDICATIVE TIME TABLE

#### Day 1: Monday, 22 October

10:00 – 10:15	Item 1
10:15 – 11:15	Item 4 (b) and (c)
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Item 4 (b) and (c)

#### Lunch

15:00 – 16:30	Item 4 (d)
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee
16:45 – 17:30	Item 3
16:45 – 18:00	Item 4 (a)

#### Day 2: Tuesday, 23 October

10:00 – 11:00	Item 2
11:00 – 11:30	Item 4 (e)
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:15	Item 4 (e) continued
11:45 – 13:00	Item 4 (f)

#### Lunch

15:00 – 15:30	Item 4 (f) continued
15:30 – 16:30	Item 4 (g)
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee break
16:30 – 18:00	Item 5

#### Day 3: Wednesday, 24 October

10:00 – 11:45	Item 6
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:00	Item 7

#### Lunch

15:00 – 16:30	Item 7 continued
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 – 17:00	Item 8

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