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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Third Meeting
Geneva, 28–29 January 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Monday, 28 January 2008 at 3 p.m.¹

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its eleventh session, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) decided that its multi-year programme of work beyond 2003 would be organized on the basis of seven two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues.
2. Each “implementation cycle” would consist of a review year and a policy year. In the review year, the Commission would evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints, while in the policy year it would

¹ 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 UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/SustainableDevelopment/welcome.htm>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting either 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 <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome these obstacles and constraints.

3. The Commission furthermore invited the regional commissions to organize regional implementation meetings to provide regional inputs for the work of the Commission, preferably before the review sessions. The Economic Commission for Europe held two Regional Implementation Meetings on Sustainable Development, in January 2004 and December 2005 respectively, as a contribution to the twelfth and the fourteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

4. The Commission on Sustainable Development has now started its third two-year cycle. Its sixteenth session scheduled to be held from 5 to 16 May 2008 will focus on the following thematic clusters: agriculture; rural development; land; drought; desertification and Africa.

5. In line with the above, the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-second session decided to hold the Third Regional Implementation Meeting as a contribution to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on 28 and 29 January 2008 in Geneva.

6. While not all issues have the same relevance for all regions, the UNECE region is expected to provide inputs not only with regard to progress and challenges in its member countries, but also from a donor perspective, particularly for Africa.

7. The Third Regional Implementation Meeting will specifically address the role of partnerships and interlinkages between the thematic priorities within each session. The Meeting will focus on evaluation of the progress achieved and obstacles and constraints remaining in each thematic area. It will also assess the challenges ahead and necessary next steps to be taken.

8. Each session will have a different high-level chairperson. The session will be opened with a keynote address. Subsequently, two additional prepared statements will be presented, one from a government representative and one from a major group representative, followed by an open interactive discussion from the floor.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting and introduction by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of officers
4. Keynote speech by a Vice-Chair of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
5. Interactive discussion: Agriculture and rural development
6. Interactive discussion: Land management

7. Interactive discussion: Desertification and drought
8. Interactive discussion: Africa
9. Interactive discussion: Cross-cutting issues and interlinkages
10. Chair's summary and closure of the Meeting

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the Meeting and introduction by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

9. The UNECE Executive Secretary will deliver the opening speech.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

10. The Meeting is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 3: Election of officers

11. Delegates will be invited to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair. It is expected that the Chair of the meeting would be a cabinet Minister from a member Government.

Item 4: Keynote speech by a Vice-Chair of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

12. The Vice-Chair of CSD-16 for the Western and Other States Group (WEOG), Mr. Daniel Carmon, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, will deliver a keynote speech.

Item 5: Interactive discussion: Agriculture and rural development

13. The session will open with a keynote address by a minister or other high-level official. Subsequently, two additional prepared statements will be presented, one from a government representative and one from a representative of a major group, followed by an open interactive discussion from the floor. The Chair of the session will summarize the discussion.

Documentation: Agriculture, rural development, drought, desertification, and land issues affecting sustainable development in the UNECE region: achievements, trends and challenges (ECE/AC.25/2007/3)

Item 6: Interactive discussion: Land management

14. The session will open with a keynote address by a minister or other high-level official. Subsequently, two additional prepared statements will be presented, one from a government representative and one from a major group representative, followed by an open interactive discussion from the floor. The Chair of the session will summarize the discussion.

Documentation: Agriculture, rural development, drought, desertification, and land issues affecting sustainable development in the UNECE region: achievements, trends and challenges (ECE/AC.25/2007/3)

Item 7: Interactive discussion: Desertification and drought

15. The session will open with a keynote address by a minister or other high-level official. Subsequently, two additional prepared statements will be presented, one from a government representative and one from a major group representative, followed by an open interactive discussion from the floor. The Chair of the session will summarize the discussion.

Documentation: Agriculture, rural development, drought, desertification, and land issues affecting sustainable development in the UNECE region: achievements, trends and challenges (ECE/AC.25/2007/3)

Item 8: Interactive discussion: Africa

16. The session will open with a keynote address by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. Subsequently, two additional prepared statements will be presented, one from a government representative focusing in particular on the donor prospective, and one from a major group representative, followed by an open interactive discussion from the floor. The Chair of the session will summarize the discussion.

Documentation: Sustainable growth of African agriculture in the context of climate change and desertification (ECE/AC.25/2007/4)

Item 9: Interactive discussion: Cross-cutting issues and interlinkages

17. The session will be opened with a keynote address by the chairperson. Delegates may wish to address water and sanitation issues as one possible cross-cutting issue.

Documentation: Agriculture, rural development, drought, desertification, and land issues affecting sustainable development in the UNECE region: achievements, trends and challenges (ECE/AC.25/2007/3)

Item 10: General discussion: Chair's summary closure of the Meeting

18. The Chair will present her/his summary of the meeting, which will be submitted as the UNECE regional contribution to CSD-16.

19. The Chair's Summary will focus on particular obstacles encountered and major breakthroughs made regarding the implementation of actions, measures and partnerships related to the priority clusters and cross-cutting issues; on this basis, the summary could also highlight ways to improve the effectiveness of such implementation in the UNECE region and globally.

20. The Chair will then close the meeting.
