



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/4
31 January 2008

Original: ENGLISH

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 of the Parties

Ninth meeting
Geneva, 13–15 February 2008
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS

**REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON ELECTRONIC
INFORMATION TOOLS ON ITS SIXTH MEETING¹**

Report prepared by the Task Force

1. The sixth meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools established by the Meeting of the Parties was held in Geneva on 13 and 14 December 2007.
2. The meeting was attended by experts designated by the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Serbia, Spain, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and by the European Commission (EC).

¹ This document was submitted on the above date for technical reasons.

3. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Secretariat to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) were represented. UNECE was represented by four of its divisions: Economic Cooperation and Integration; Environment, Housing and Land Management (ELHM); Transport; and Trade and Timber.
4. The following international non-governmental and regional organizations were represented: Caucasus Environmental NGO² Network (CENN), European ECO-Forum, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and GLOBE Europe.
5. The following Aarhus Centres were represented: Information Centre on Aarhus Convention (Kyrgyzstan) and Aarhus Centre Georgia.
6. In the framework of European ECO-Forum, the following national non-governmental and academic organizations were represented: An Taisce (Ireland), Association “For Sustainable Human Development” (Armenia), Azerbaijan Greens Movement (Azerbaijan), BlueLink Information Network (Bulgaria), CARNet (Kyrgyzstan), Hellenic Society for the Preservation of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage (Greece) and Ural Ecological Union NGO (Russian Federation).
7. The following academic and business organizations were represented: Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russian Federation) and WiMAX Forum (Russian Federation).

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Chair of the Task Force, Mr. Chris Jarvis (United Kingdom), opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to Geneva.
9. With a view of its mandate, the Task Force agreed upon the following agenda of work:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Global, regional and national developments and processes relevant to decision II/3;
 - (c) Monitoring implementation of decision II/3 of the Meeting of the Parties;
 - (d) The Aarhus clearinghouse mechanism;
 - (e) Capacity-building activities;

² Non-governmental organization.

- (f) Possible future activities on electronic information tools in the Convention's Work Programme for the triennium 2009–2011;
- (g) Any other business;
- (h) Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND PROCESSES RELEVANT TO DECISION II/3

10. The bulk of the discussion and information exchange under the agenda item on global, regional and national developments and processes relevant to decision II/3 took the form of a mini-conference on “Agenda 21 and the Information Society: Assessing progress on closing the digital divide, access to environmental information and ICT³ for sustainable development in the ECE Region”. The Chair invited Mr. Charles Geiger, Special Advisor for the UNCTAD Secretariat on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and former Executive Director of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to chair the mini-conference.

11. Mr. Geiger noted that the United Nations Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 2006/46 on “Follow-up to the WSIS and review of the CSTD”, assigning to CSTD the role of focal point in the system-wide follow-up of WSIS. From the Geneva Plan, WSIS had adopted 11 action lines, including C1 (The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICT for development), C3 (Access to information and knowledge) and C7 (ICT applications), the latter covering in particular e-government and e-environment, which had particular relevance to implementation of the Aarhus Convention⁴. Mr. Geiger further noted that there were clear links between the WSIS process and principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development. The implementation of WSIS outcomes had not been assigned to any single agency, instead depending on a multi-stakeholder approach. Action line facilitation was a new process within the United Nations and CSTD would need to consider how to achieve future effectiveness along with the goals of sustainable development and environmental democracy.

12. The first session of the mini-conference addressed regional benchmarking and capacity-building. Ms. Larissa Kapitsa, Professor of International Economics at Moscow State Institute of International Relations, provided an overview of development of the Information Society in the UNECE region. Between 2001 and 2005, countries in the region had expanded digital access in all subregions, but the relative gap between leading States and lagging ones had remained largely unchanged. Thus with very few exceptions, the UNECE region as a whole had failed to close the digital divide. States with advanced developed economies continued to increase access to the Internet via fixed broadband, while States with economies in transition relied primarily on mobile telephony as the means of obtaining access due to cost and infrastructure constraints. This trend suggested that the digital divide would persist in the pan-European region. Policy instruments could be found to accelerate progress in countries that were lagging behind, but

³ Information and communications technology.

⁴ The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

should be based upon an understanding of the cultural and political constraints inhibiting development. Ms. Kapitsa recommended that UNECE provide technical assistance for developing e-government services in States with economies in transition as a way of overcoming attitudes among decision makers inimical to ICT development.

13. The Chair of the Task Force recounted the main findings of the survey it had undertaken in late 2006 and early 2007 on implementation of decision II/3 by the Parties to the Convention. Although practices in the provision of environmental information via the Internet were improving across the region, especially where provision involved annual or one-off production and dissemination of information, the survey found less progress in the application of e-tools providing two-way communication between governments and the public. Specific factors inhibiting public participation in environmental decision-making regarding permitting or licensing processes, and the posting of third-party comments, included decisions requiring a higher volume of information or a short time frames for decision-making, thus limiting the window of opportunity for public input. Lack of awareness of participation opportunities was also cited as a cause of low public participation, even where e-tools had been provided to facilitate public involvement. The Chair noted that training in use of e-access and participation tools was lacking across the region.

14. Ms. Michiko Enomoto (UNECE, Economic Cooperation and Integration Division) reported on regional capacity-building activities on ICT policy development in Central Asia. The United Nations Special Programme on Economies in Central Asia (SPECA) Project Working Group on ICT for Development supported ICT development in seven countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. A *Guide for ICT Policymakers* focusing on legal issues had been published in 2007. Through the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project on Knowledge Networks through ICT Access Points for Disadvantaged Communities, UNECE and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) were preparing a regional review of ICT access points in Central Asia. Additional capacity-building activities were being prepared in the subregion for the period 2008–2009.

15. In the second session, on “Making environmental information accessible: collaboration, networking and partnerships on clearing-house mechanisms”, Mr. Michael Stanley-Jones (UNECE, EHLM Division) reviewed recent upgrades to the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy. These were aimed at making information more accessible through improvements in navigation. A second aim was to increase interactivity and participation by Parties and other stakeholders in the clearinghouse mechanism. Participation in the mechanism and ease of use were viewed as key indicators of the project’s success.

16. Mr. Martin Magold (UNECE, Transport Division) gave a presentation on Transport, Health and Environment: Lessons from THE PEP⁵ Clearinghouse, a joint project of UNECE and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. In the development of THE PEP, a

⁵ Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme.

clear decision had been made to automate the maintenance of its website to the maximum extent possible. This required relatively large investments in IT (information technology) applications during the development of the site and the elaboration of protocols for entry and validation of materials submitted to the Clearinghouse. The approach had reaped the benefit of low ongoing maintenance costs. Although one key target audience of THE PEP was decision makers in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), most of the materials contained on the website were in English. Creating multilingual resources, in particular in Russian, had therefore been identified as a priority for future development of THE PEP.

17. Mr. Bernard Combes (UNESCO) presented the web portals for UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development and UNECE Good Practices in Education for Sustainable Development. A recent Web audit of the UNESCO portal had recommended that its interactivity and multimedia be reinforced, and also found that frequent updates of news items and web pages kept users coming back to the site.

18. Mr. Osmany Pereira Gonzalez (UNEP) reported on the management approach to development of the Stockholm Convention clearinghouse mechanism. The mechanism, which was being implemented over a 10-year period, would include an interactive website, contacts database, document management system, correspondence tracking system and private sub-webs for user groups. He emphasized the importance of human capital in its development system, correspondence tracking system and private sub-webs for user groups.

19. Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Fillipp (UNEP) presented the Biosafety Clearinghouse of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Parties to the Protocol were obliged to make some types of information specified in the Protocol available to the Clearinghouse, in which 120 countries currently participated. The development of online training modules and hands-on training workshops had been found to be useful methods of building capacity among national focal points and regional advisors.

20. Ms. Nana Janashia (CENN) addressed e-networking initiatives undertaken by CENN and the Aarhus Centres in the Caucasus and their usefulness as vehicles for promoting public participation in the Aarhus Clearinghouse and understanding of the Aarhus Convention. CENN operated eight electronic mailing lists serving a regional base of 14,000 subscribers, as well as targeted lists aimed at political decision makers and the media. A weekly bilingual (English and Russian) news digest and monthly bulletin distributed environmental news to subscribers. With offices in five countries of the region, CENN relied on partnerships with NGOs and private and public sector organizations in the South Caucasus, which included cooperation with the Aarhus “Public Environmental Information Centres” supported by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

21. The third session of the mini-conference, “e-Environment, e-commerce and e-democracy in Europe”, addressed how key initiatives bringing environmental information services to the European public could be applied to achieving environmental protection and sustainable development.

22. Ms. Meropi Paneli (European Commission) introduced the Directive 2007/2/EC establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

and the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), which aimed at creating an integrated, common, shared multi-purpose and sustained environmental information system for public policymakers and citizens in Europe. She identified the limited capacity to quickly turn environmental data into policy-relevant information as one of the key challenges facing the European Union (EU). INSPIRE had laid down general rules to establish an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe. SEIS would be built upon infrastructures for spatial information established and operated by EU member States and would cover 34 spatial data themes. Ms. Paneli proposed deepening cooperation between the Task Force and the Environment Directorate-General (DG Environment) and its partner institutions with regard to development of rules for implementation of the INSPIRE Directive.

23. Ms. Michaela Dombrovská (Czech Environmental Information Agency) provided a national perspective on SEIS. She stressed that implementation of a shared information system need not wait for the completion of a European-wide system, but could be accomplished with a given country's neighbours.

24. Mr. Jean Kubler (UNECE, Trade and Timber Division) presented UNECE work in the field of e-commerce and the experience of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) in deploying ICT. He stressed that the alignment of a firm's strategy, management, organization, culture and technology were essential ingredients for the successful deployment of e-business. ICT was a powerful tool only when deployed in support of effective strategies.

25. Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton (UNECE, Economic Cooperation and Integration Division) reported on UNECE efforts to foster public-private partnerships (PPPs) for sustainable development. Sustainable development and public participation were currently not priorities in the development of PPPs. UNECE had recently developed guidelines on promoting good governance in PPPs, which drew on the principles of the Aarhus Convention. These encouraged information disclosure, public consultation and the involvement of independent auditors to oversee that the public interest was respected in PPPs. Developing a portal highlighting good practice in public participation through PPP case studies could increase awareness about the value of sustainable development among PPP investors.

26. Mr. Jeremy Wates (UNECE, EHLM Division) concluded the session with a presentation on "e-Democracy and the quest for environmental sustainability". He drew attention to the environmental benefits and costs of ICT and how e-democracy and access to information could ultimately contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Information Society.

27. In his closing remarks, Mr. Geiger said UNECE could function as a catalyst translating technical input into policy dialogue and playing a bridging role between the technical dimensions of the Information Society and the policy or political dimensions. Since UNECE had a broad mandate in economic development and regional integration, it could promote a cross-sectoral and integrated approach to the many and different aspects of Information Society policies, ranging from environment to transport and trade. These activities could include the identification of good practice and the cross-country comparison of what does and does not work in ICT policies, thereby laying the groundwork for development of policy guidelines aiming to close the digital divide and promote knowledge-based economies. In practice, this could include:

- (a) Providing a forum for policy dialogue between countries at different stages of digital development;
- (b) Continuing to mainstream and develop ICT aspects in the work of the different sectoral committees;
- (c) Defining targeted and focused technical assistance programmes;
- (d) Consolidating and extending partnership arrangements with other organizations, business and civil society.

28. Mr. Geiger concluded that UNECE was uniquely placed to draw policy lessons from those countries which are most advanced in ICT, while at the same time was capable of enacting a policy dialogue between countries at very different stages of digital development.

29. Following the close of the mini-conference, the Task Force exchanged further information on the promotion of good practices in the use of electronic tools to increase public access to environmental information. The Chair presented information on the Virtual Environmental Planning project⁶ undertaken by the Environment Agency for England and Wales, which aimed to increase public participation in environmental decision-making. The project provided members of the public with an online three-dimensional visualization tool, which, using Google Earth maps, allowed the public to run environmental models against various decision scenarios. It had been tested through consultations with the public on the building of flood defences.

30. The representative of BlueLink informed the Task Force of the Best Practices Forum organized at the second Internet Governance Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 12 November 2007 by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the Council of Europe and UNECE. The Forum had presented the Aarhus Convention as an example of good practice in public participation in environmental decision-making. APC and the Council of Europe had committed at the forum to explore development of a self-regulatory mechanism for States to support public participation in Internet governance.

31. The Task Force considered that the mini-conference held during the meeting, in particular the session on clearinghouses, had been very useful in giving the “bigger picture” and in promoting synergies, and recommended that similar events should be organized in the future.

III. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION II/3 OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

32. The secretariat informed the Task Force that the Working Group of the Parties had agreed to circulate the questionnaire on implementation of decision II/3 (on electronic information tools and the clearinghouse mechanism) every three years during the intersessional period. Monitoring implementation of the recommendations, the Chair concluded, could provide a basis for future

⁶ More information is available at: www.veps3d.org.

activities of the task force in the Convention's work programme. The Chair invited the meeting to consider whether additional activities were needed in support of such monitoring.

33. Some delegations supported surveying national e-strategies and national and local e-participation policies related to the environment across the region, to identify good practices and weaknesses in implementation of the recommendations.

IV. THE AARHUS CLEARINGHOUSE MECHANISM

34. The secretariat reported on the further development of the Aarhus clearinghouse mechanism.⁷ To strengthen analyses of capacity-building needs, gaps and priorities, the Aarhus Clearinghouse home page and resource directory had been redesigned and new navigation and ranking features had been added. National implementation reports had been integrated into an interactive database through the Clearinghouse and a password-protected online reporting form had been added. Parties and signatories could submit their 2008 reports online. The Clearinghouse had been re-launched at the Regional Commissions side-event to the annual meeting of the CSTD held on 24 May 2007 in Geneva.

35. The Task Force discussed the document on Draft guidance for national nodes of the clearinghouse mechanism, which had been amended following the fourth meeting and welcomed by the Working Group of the Parties. The secretariat proposed publishing a limited number of hard copies, for distribution to national and information nodes, of an updated electronic version of the guidance on the Convention's website. The Task Force agreed that, given the continuous improvement of the central node of the Clearinghouse, electronic publication of the guidance document would ensure that the technical information it contained would be accurate and up-to-date.

36. The representative of An Taisce (Ireland) reported on the proposal by the Irish Ministry of Environment to assign responsibility for development of the national nodes of the clearinghouse to ENFO, Ireland's Office of Environmental Information. He requested information on the cost and methods of developing a multilingual, national web portal.

37. The representative of Belgium offered to provide information on the development and maintenance costs of the Belgian national node of the Aarhus Clearinghouse.⁸ The Belgian national node had been awarded "Best National Node 2007" at the first workshop on capacity-building for the Aarhus clearinghouse mechanism and electronic information tools (see paras. 39–40).

38. The Chair welcomed the offer of cooperation between member States and NGOs on the development of the Aarhus clearinghouse mechanism at the national and regional levels.

⁷ See: <http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>

⁸ See: <http://www.aarhus.be> (redirects to https://portal.health.fgov.be/portal/page?_pageid=118,8292438&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

39. REC reported on the outcome of the first subregional workshop, “Capacity-building on electronic information tools and the clearinghouse mechanism”, organized by the UNECE secretariat in partnership with REC. The workshop was designed for designated experts from non-EECCA UNECE member States and civil society organizations, in particular targeting those from South-Eastern Europe, and aimed to help governmental agencies and NGOs to set up their national web portals on the Aarhus Convention and Aarhus-related issues. The workshop had been attended by 26 participants from 10 countries and Kosovo (Serbia).

40. The workshop had made recommendations for further development of the Aarhus clearinghouse mechanism guidance document (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2006/5/Add.1). National node administrators should be visibly designated and listed in the central node of the Clearinghouse. Terms of reference should also be developed for contributors to clearinghouse national and central nodes. National nodes should be assisted with technical help by Web developers or designated NGO experts. In future workshops, separate break-out sessions addressing, ICT on the one hand, and content-related communication issues on the other, were recommended.

41. CAREC reported on the outcome of the second workshop for EECCA countries, held in English and Russian on 11 and 12 June 2007 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Twenty-seven experts from nine EECCA countries attended the workshop. They were joined by representatives from REC and CARNet, who assisted with the workshop.

42. The workshop had recommended that Russian-language material be further developed in the Aarhus Clearinghouse, to make the information in the Clearinghouse’s central node more widely accessible and to increase participation. Participants supported launching information campaigns on the Clearinghouse and preparing information brochures and a manual for users and national node administrators in national languages.

43. As a result of this workshop, CAREC and CARNet were working in cooperation in the Central Asia region. A first step included preparation of the booklet “CARNet: Practice of Using Electronic Information Tools of the Aarhus Convention”, which had been published in English and Russian by CARNet with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). CARNet and CAREC had also undertaken an information campaign via the CARNet web portal about environmental issues in collaboration with the business sector. The partnership had led to preparation of a two-year joint workplan for Central Asia, which included the proposed development of a manual on the application of e-tools to support implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the region.

44. The delegate from Spain reported that the Green Spider Network⁹, the environmental communication network operating in EU member States, EU accession States, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, had organized a workshop in the framework of the Green Spider annual

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/networks/greenspider/index_en.htm

meeting on strategic communication of the Aarhus Clearinghouse on 19 October 2007 in The Hague.

45. The Vice-Chair, Mr. Antoine Zahra (Malta), reported on the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) eApplications system. MEPA was the national agency responsible for land-use planning and environmental regulation and also handled applications for development and environmental permits. Plans, documents and correspondence with various stakeholders were processed for each application. eApplications brought together different platforms and technologies into one homogeneous system that allowed clients to view application details, submit and pay for applications online and send and receive correspondence digitally, thus increasing participation, efficiency and transparency. Internal case processing was also digitized, whereby internally generated documents were digitally recorded within the system. A role-based security system allowed users with various rights to interact with the system in a secure Web-based environment.

46. The representative from WiMAX Forum (Russian Federation), a trade organization, reported on his organization's efforts to raise awareness of the development of mobile telephony. He showed a film on the rapid spread of wireless telecommunication technologies globally.

47. The Chair thanked the workshop organizers and also the Green Spider Network for their contribution to the capacity-building workshops and for organizing a workshop on strategic communication.

VI. POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES ON ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS IN THE CONVENTION'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE TRIENNium 2009–2011

48. The Chair invited the Task Force to consider possible elements for inclusion in the Convention's work programme for the triennium 2009–2011. He explained that at its eighth meeting, the Working Group of the Parties had mandated its Bureau to prepare a draft decision addressing the issue of further work in the field, taking into account the views expressed by the Task Force at its sixth meeting, for eventual adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

49. The Task Force agreed to recommend to the Bureau that its mandate be extended and adjusted to include the following areas:

(a) Identification of needs, barriers and solutions with respect to electronic access to information, including in the context of public participation and access to justice, and implementation of the solutions identified;

(b) Further development and use of the questionnaire on implementation of the recommendations in decision II/3 during the intersessional period, as previously proposed by the Task Force and supported by the Working Group (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/L.3/Add.2, para. 6, and ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/2, para. 47), including a survey of relevant national electronic information access strategies;

- (c) Capacity-building workshops and training courses on the Aarhus clearinghouse mechanism and electronic information tools, and the facilitating of partnerships in capacity-building activities;
- (d) Implementation of pilot projects, or supporting the implementation of such projects, e.g. through facilitating fund-raising;
- (e) Preparation, further development and online presentation of guidance materials, as needed, e.g. guidance on electronic tools for the Convention, guidance on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, Clearinghouse guidance for national and other information nodes; and online e-learning courses on the Convention for delegates and stakeholders;
- (f) Updating and expanding the compendium of good practices (case studies) in e-access and participation;
- (g) Supporting further development of the online reporting system in the Aarhus Clearinghouse;
- (h) Providing technical assistance to support the development of national nodes of the Aarhus clearinghouse mechanism;
- (i) Monitoring technical developments, e.g. community monitoring technologies, that might impact access to information, public participation and access to justice in the future, and which contribute to and/or explore synergies with other regional initiatives (e.g. INSPIRE, SEIS, regional follow-up to WSIS, the e-Participation initiative of the Council of Europe, the e-Justice initiative of the European Council);
- (j) Development of strategic communication strategies using e-tools, including methods and actions to identify types of users of environmental information, their particular needs, and the subsequent targeting of services based on electronic tools to meet them, to further implementation of the Convention;
- (k) Expert meetings to exchange information on good practices, such as the mini-conference.

50. The Task Force further agreed to recommend that opportunities be provided at the third meeting of the Parties to carry out activities aimed at raising awareness of the use of electronic information tools. Furthermore, Parties should recognize the important function played by portals hosting discussions between involved stakeholders on environment-related matters and the need for such portals to be adequately resourced.

51. The representative of the EC proposed holding a meeting between the EC, the secretariat and the national nodes for the Aarhus Clearinghouse to find ways to develop synergies between the Convention and the INSPIRE directive. The EU Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL Network), an informal network of environmental authorities of the EU member States, EU acceding and candidate countries and Norway, could

also provide a useful forum for exchange of information on the implementation and enforcement of the INSPIRE directive.

52. The Task Force noted the difficulties arising from the fact that it had primarily only been able to work in English, and expressed its appreciation of those occasions where interpretation had been provided. It recommended that, as far as possible, interpretation and translation should be provided for activities related to the work of the Task Force.

VII. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

53. The Chair thanked the delegates for their substantial work and the secretariat for its support of the work of the Task Force and organization of the mini-conference, and closed the meeting.
