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Implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including the financial report for 2009

Implementation of the work programme during 2009, including the financial report

Report by the secretariat¹

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¹ This document was submitted on the above date in order to allow for the inclusion of information on late financial contributions for 2009.

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Introduction

1. At its first session in 2002, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention adopted decisions I/11 and I/13, the former establishing procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and the latter establishing a voluntary scheme of financial arrangements to fund activities under the work programme not covered by the United Nations regular budget. At its third session in 2008, the Meeting of the Parties adopted decisions III/7 and III/9, the former extending the financial scheme established under decision I/13, the latter setting out a work programme for the period 2009–2011.

2. The present report provides information on the implementation of the first year of the work programme adopted through decision III/9, focusing on operational and organizational aspects. It aims to fulfil the request of the Meeting of the Parties to the secretariat, contained in decision III/7, paragraph 6, to prepare annual reports on the expenditure of funds for review by the Working Group of the Parties.

3. Annex I lists the contributions received for use in 2009. Annex II provides a breakdown of expenditure² incurred during 2009, including a subtotal for each budget line shown for comparative purposes alongside the estimated core and overall annual requirements as adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its third session.

I. Specific areas of activity under the work programme

4. A brief description of the activities foreseen in decision III/9 and the actual activities carried out under each area of activity in the work programme follows below, as well as a commentary on the financial expenditure for each area. The report concludes with some general observations concerning the financial aspects of the work performed in the context of the Convention.

1. Compliance mechanism

5. The objectives set out in activity I of the 2009–2011 work programme are to monitor and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the Convention. The Compliance Committee is identified as the lead body to achieve these objectives. The proposed work of the Committee includes the review of submissions, referrals and communications on cases of possible non-compliance, the preparation of decisions and reports and the undertaking of fact-finding missions. The secretariat is mandated to publicize the mechanism, develop a database of cases and service the Committee.

6. Four meetings of the Compliance Committee were held in 2009, at which the Committee reviewed communications from the public concerning alleged non-compliance.³ In addition, the Committee has followed up on the implementation of decisions III/6a, III/6b, III/6d, III/6e and III/6f with the five Parties concerned. In the course of 2009, nine

² Trust Fund expenditure figures are referred to as “net” and “gross” in this report. Net figures do not include 13 per cent programme support costs levied on expenditure from United Nations trust funds. Gross figures include programme support costs. Cumulative programme support costs for expenditure in 2009 can be found near the bottom of annex II to this report.

³ For full details, see the reports of the Committee’s twenty-third, twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings (ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2009/2, ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2009/4, ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2009/6 and ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2009/8, respectively).

new communications were received. All of these were considered with respect to their admissibility, and those that were determined to be admissible are at various stages of consideration. No submissions were made to the Committee by Parties and the secretariat did not make any referrals during the period.

7. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$202,628 and the estimated net overall requirement was \$244,983. The actual net costs of the activities of the Committee for 2009 were \$256,913, slightly higher than the overall requirement. The level of expenditure was higher than projected due to higher costs for staff time than expected. As a consequence of the increasing number of communications, one P-3 staff (20 per cent) and one P-2 staff (75 per cent) were contracted part of the way through the year in addition to the projected P-3 staff (65 per cent) in order to meet the demands on the secretariat with regard to servicing the Committee.

2. Capacity-building activities

8. The objectives of activity II of the 2009–2011 work programme are the coordination of capacity-building activities to assist countries in the effective implementation of the Convention, and the implementation of capacity-building measures at the subregional level. The work programme aims to achieve these objectives through inter-agency coordination meetings, training workshops and technical assistance, envisaging the secretariat as lead actor.

9. The secretariat has carried out this activity through the organization of, and participation in, workshops, conferences and advisory missions aimed at strengthening capacity for the implementation of the Convention. In addition, several international, regional and national organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have continued to initiate and undertake capacity-building activities aimed at supporting implementation of the Convention at the national and local levels.

10. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$67,543. The actual net expenditure in 2009 was \$32,380, thus lower than projected.⁴ The lower expenditure is partly attributable to the fact that the annual capacity-building coordination meeting that was scheduled for autumn 2009 was postponed and that part of the responsibility for capacity-building was transferred to the P-2 staff member funded through the United Nations regular budget, the costs of which are not included in the figures. In addition, some of the Convention's capacity-building activities were implemented within other activity areas of the work programme, such as access to justice (activity VII).

3. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, including through a communication strategy

11. Activity III of the 2009–2011 work programme aims to raise public awareness of the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region and beyond, increase the number of Parties to the Convention and support regional and global

⁴ As stated in part II of this report, income for use in 2009 fell well below even the estimated core costs of the work programme, hence there was a general need to keep average expenditure well below the estimated core costs. This point is not repeated in each of the paragraphs of this report where an explanation is given for the fact that costs were kept below the estimated core costs.

initiatives on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. To achieve these objectives, the work programme envisages participation in key regional and international events and processes, the development and implementation of a communication strategy and support to workshops, seminars and conferences organized by others. The envisaged work also includes the preparation of leaflets, publications, news bulletins and other materials, including an updated version of the Implementation Guide, as well as Web management and writing and reviewing articles on the Convention and the Protocol.

12. The secretariat has continued its efforts to raise awareness of the Convention by participating, or arranging participation of representatives of the Convention bodies, in conferences, seminars and workshops in various countries, mainly within but sometimes outside the UNECE region. Awareness-raising activities in 2009 included presentations made at events organized by UNECE member States, other United Nations bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), other international or supranational bodies such as the European Commission and the European Union, and various professional, academic or non-governmental institutions and associations.

13. The Working Group took a further step towards developing a communication strategy by establishing an expert group on such a strategy, mandating the Bureau to appoint its members and agreeing upon its terms of reference. At its twenty-third meeting on 20 November 2009, the Bureau appointed the members of the Expert Group on the basis of nominations made by Parties and requested the secretariat to prepare its first meeting.⁵ In addition, the secretariat has continued work on the preparation of an updated version of the Implementation Guide and other publications.

14. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$106,679. The actual net costs of the activities financed through the trust fund were \$80,793, lower than the core requirements. In light of the difficult financial situation and a perceived need for cautious spending, most of the time the secretariat found it necessary to adopt a reactive approach to awareness-raising, focusing on responding to invitations, initiatives and approaches from or by others. Notable exceptions were the side events organized by the secretariat in the context of the UNFCCC COP-15⁶ held in Copenhagen in December 2009, which focused on the links between the Convention and the PRTR Protocol respectively and the issue of climate change.

4. Pollutant release and transfer registers

15. The objective set out in activity IV of the work programme for 2009–2011 is to facilitate the ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs through meetings of the Working Group on PRTRs and expert groups, capacity-building activities and the development of technical and legal guidance and other information tools to support the development of national PRTRs. The work programme also envisages participation in other expert groups and inter-agency meetings, such as the International PRTR Coordinating Group and the OECD Task Force on PRTRs.

⁵ The Expert Group was supposed to complete its work in advance of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group. However, the unexpected departure of the staff member responsible for servicing the Expert Group and a subsequent delay in filling the post, coupled with a reassignment of tasks within the secretariat, led to a postponement of this activity.

⁶ Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. The Protocol on PRTRs entered into force on 8 October 2009, having secured its sixteenth ratification by a Member State of the United Nations. In recognition of the relevance of PRTRs to the climate change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, the Danish Ambassador to the United Nations Office at Geneva hosted a reception to mark the entry into force of the Protocol, at which the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General described the Protocol as a “milestone in the advancement towards environmental democracy”.

17. At its sixth meeting (24–26 November 2008), the Working Group on PRTRs had mandated the Bureau to prepare a draft declaration for consideration and adoption at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOPP-1), to be held in Geneva on 20–22 April 2010. In the course of 2009, delegations were invited to review this draft and submit comments to the secretariat. Since the various draft decisions to be considered at MOPP-1 had been finalized by the Working Group on PRTRs at its sixth meeting, no further meetings of the Working Group were held in 2009.

18. The secretariat has participated actively in the International PRTR Coordinating Group and the OECD Task Force on PRTRs, which both held their annual meetings in March 2009. It has also continued to collaborate with other international organizations working on PRTR issues.

19. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$144,221, while the actual net expenditure in 2009 was \$113,404. The expenditure was lower than the core requirement because the projected costs took account of the possibility that an additional meeting of the Working Group on PRTRs would be held in 2009. Given the advanced stage of the negotiations on the draft decisions for MOPP-1, it was decided that such a meeting would not be necessary.

5. Electronic information tools and the clearinghouse mechanism

20. The objectives set out in activity V of the work programme for 2009–2011 are as follows: to implement recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools, facilitate information flow on good practices, provide policy and practical guidance for the clearinghouse mechanism, monitor technical developments in information and communication technologies, and ensure the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society. In addition, the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy is to be used to facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to the national implementation of the Convention and relevant global and regional developments regarding principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. To achieve these objectives, the work programme envisages various methods that include the review of policies and practices concerning the use of information and communication technologies for the implementation of the Convention, the collection of good practices and development of online reporting systems and e-learning courses, capacity-building workshops and the provision of technical assistance to national and information nodes of the clearinghouse mechanism.

21. The eighth meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools, scheduled to be held in Tirana in autumn 2009, was postponed until 2010 because of a temporary suspension of the UNECE procedure for the assignment of grants, which prevented the secretariat from contracting a local organizer for the event. The secretariat continued its management of the Aarhus Clearinghouse to facilitate the exchange of information related to implementation of the Convention and relevant global and regional developments, and also continued the preparation of a compendium of good practices in the use of electronic information tools. In addition, the secretariat participated in relevant international and regional e-initiatives.

22. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$105,086 and the actual net expenditure was \$69,551. The expenditure was lower than projected mainly because of the postponement of the eighth meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools. Furthermore, an upgrade of the Aarhus Clearinghouse envisaged to be implemented in the fall of 2009 through a grant to GRID-Arendal was rescheduled to early 2010, due to a temporary suspension of the assignment of grants by UNECE.

6. Public participation

23. The objectives of activity VI of the 2009–2011 work programme are to coordinate information-sharing on the implementation of the public participation provisions of the Convention, including through the collection of good practices, and to prepare draft guidance on implementation of articles 6, 7 and 8. The envisaged methods include expert group and Task Force meetings, workshops, the electronic exchange of information and expert studies. The work programme also recommends the exploration of synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

24. The Expert Group on Public Participation, established through decision III/9, met once during 2009. At that meeting, it discussed draft terms of reference for a future task force on public participation in decision-making on environmental matters, which was subsequently discussed by the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention at its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 8–10 July 2009). It also focused on the exchange of information and experience and the collection of examples of good practices in the area of public participation in environmental decision-making.⁷

25. Representatives of the secretariat and the Convention's Compliance Committee participated in meetings held under the auspices of the Espoo Convention.

26. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$98,814. The actual net costs of these activities incurred by the trust fund were \$30,113, significantly lower than projected. The difference between the estimated and actual expenditure on this activity is partly due to the fact that the projected costs for this activity were calculated on the assumption that the staff servicing the new work in this activity area would be funded from extrabudgetary sources. However, it was decided that regular budget staff time would be used to support this work rather than extrabudgetary staff or consultants. As a result, no staff costs or consultancy costs were incurred for the Convention's trust fund in this activity area.

7. Access to justice

27. The objectives of activity VII are the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties, the exchange of information on good practices, raising awareness and building capacity among key stakeholders such as the judiciary and other legal professionals. The work programme proposes to reach these objectives through meetings of the Task Force on Access to Justice, the development of information and training materials, case-study collection and examination, capacity-building workshops and seminars, and the identification of further activities.

⁷ For full details, see the report of the first meeting of the Expert Group on Public Participation (ECE/MP/PP/WG.1/2010/3).

28. The Task Force on Access to Justice, established through decision II/2, met once during 2009. At its third meeting, the Task Force focused on the development of a jurisprudence database as part of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and on the undertaking of analytical studies, including proposed topics and the methodology to be used. The Task Force decided to prioritize studies on costs and financial arrangements, including litigation costs, legal aid and support for public interest lawyers, as well as on remedies, including injunctive relief and timing. A third issue identified for further analysis was that of standing, the details of which would be discussed at the next meeting. The Task Force also initiated the organizing of a subregional workshop for senior members of the judiciary in Central Asia in 2010 and requested the secretariat to investigate the possibility of holding a seminar for public interest lawyers. It further requested the secretariat to liaise with the Chair on the development of training materials and to make material from previous meetings available via the website.⁸

29. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$115,679 and the actual net expenditure was \$57,842. Expenditure was significantly lower than projected because the projected amount included (a) costs for a capacity-building workshop, which was not implemented in 2009 due to the scheduling of the Task Force meeting late in the year and (b) costs for a consultancy contract for the collection of case studies, which was not needed because the work was implemented within the regular staff resources of the secretariat, with the support of interns and expert oversight from the Chair of the Task Force.

8. Genetically modified organisms

30. The objectives set out in activity VIII of the work programme for 2009–2011 are to support the implementation of the Convention in the area of genetically modified organisms and the application of the Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with respect to Genetically Modified Organisms (MP.PP/2003/3 – KIEV.CONF/2003/INF/7), and to promote the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention concerning those organisms adopted through decision II/1. The proposed means to achieve these objectives include the use of the clearinghouse mechanism to facilitate exchange of information on good practices, an expert workshop and cooperation with relevant bodies under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

31. In 2009, the secretariat continued to promote awareness of the activities and requirements under the Convention concerning access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to genetically modified organisms by participating in a workshop, handling information requests and updating the Aarhus Clearinghouse. It has also collaborated with the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the preparations for a joint workshop on genetically modified organisms, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. In the course of 2009, national focal points and other stakeholders were invited to submit comments on suggested topics for the joint Aarhus-Cartagena workshop, after which the Bureau provided guidance on setting priorities among the suggestions.⁹

32. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$13,136 and the actual net expenditure was \$4,577. Expenditure was lower than projected mainly because an envisaged consultancy contract to support the work in this activity area was implemented as

⁸ For full details, see the report of the third meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2010/5).

⁹ For full details, see the report of the twenty-third meeting of the Aarhus Convention Bureau on the Convention website at http://www.unece.org/env/pp/bureau/ACB23_report.pdf.

a temporary part-time P-3 staff contract and there were delays in completing the recruitment procedure for the P-3 staff member in question.

9. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes

33. The objectives of activity IX of the 2009–2011 work programme are to further the application of the principles of the Convention in the context of relevant international bodies and processes, inter alia by promoting recommendations on electronic information tools and the guidelines on public participation in international forums and monitoring their implementation. The Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums and the secretariat were identified as the lead actors in achieving these objectives, while the methods proposed included participation in workshops relevant to the Convention and joint activities with other conventions and multilateral processes.

34. The Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums, established through decision II/4, met once in 2009. At its fourth meeting, the Task Force focused on sharing experiences in implementing article 3, paragraph 7, of the Convention, including steps Parties have taken to implement the Guidelines and a proposal for a workshop for Parties to share good practices and challenges in this area. In addition, the meeting discussed national reporting on the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7, as well as the preparation of a compendium of good practices and a proposal for future outreach to interested international forums.¹⁰

35. The secretariat has continued to support efforts to promote the principles of the Convention in various international forums, working with other United Nations bodies such as UNEP, UNITAR and UNFCCC; environmental treaty bodies such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; other international or supranational bodies such as the European Commission and the European Union and various professional, academic or non-governmental institutions and associations.

36. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$45,000 and the actual net expenditure was \$23,588. The expenditure was lower than projected because the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums was held in conjunction with the eleventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (8–10 July 2009). Since many representatives whose participation was financially supported by the secretariat attended both meetings, travel costs were incurred only once and total expenditure was kept to a minimum. Furthermore, whereas the secretariat had originally envisaged that the main servicing of the work in this area would be provided through a consultancy contract, for administrative reasons it proved more expedient for a part-time staff member to provide this assistance.

10. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities

37. The objectives of activity X of the 2009–2011 work programme are the coordination and oversight of the activities under the Convention and the preparation of substantive outcomes of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, through meetings of the Working Group of the Parties (foreseen as one meeting per year) and the Bureau, and through electronic consultations among Bureau members.

¹⁰ For full details, see the report of the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2010/4).

38. The Working Group of the Parties met once in 2009.¹¹ In the course of the year, the Bureau met three times: in March, July and November.¹²

39. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$30,000 and the estimated net overall requirement was \$40,000. The actual net expenditure in 2009 was \$30,676, slightly above the core requirement.

11. Fourth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties

40. Article 10 of the Convention requires the Meeting of the Parties to meet at least once every two years, “unless otherwise decided by the Parties”. The practice to date has been for the Parties to decide otherwise, with meetings being held at approximately three-year intervals.

41. The fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties is envisaged to be held in Chisinau in June 2011, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The Bureau and the secretariat, in consultation with the host country, held preliminary discussions in the course of 2009 on the preparations for the fourth session.

42. No costs had been projected for 2009 in this area of activity, since expenditure related to the preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties was only forecast for 2011. Correspondingly, no costs were incurred in this area in 2009.

12. Reporting mechanism

43. The objective set out in activity XII of the work programme for 2009–2011 is to produce a full set of national implementation reports and a synthesis report, in accordance with decisions I/8 and II/10, through the processing and analysis of implementation reports submitted by Parties and the adjustment of guidance on reporting requirements.

44. According to decision II/10, implementation reports should be submitted to the secretariat no later than 180 days before the meeting of the Parties for which they are prepared. The deadline for submission of implementation reports for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties will therefore fall in December 2010. As a consequence, no activities were undertaken in this area in 2009.

45. No costs had been projected for 2009 in this area of activity, since expenditure related to the reporting mechanism was only forecast for 2010–2011. Correspondingly, no costs were incurred in this area in 2009.

13. Horizontal support areas

46. The objective of activity XIII of the 2009–2011 work programme was to provide overall support that covers multiple substantive areas of the work programme, through secretarial support, staff training and equipment.

47. During 2009, the secretariat found it necessary to draw on the resources available for the implementation of the Convention’s work programme to bring in additional supporting

¹¹ For full details, see the report of the eleventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2009/2).

¹² For full details, see the reports of the Aarhus Convention Bureau’s twenty-first, twenty-second and twenty-third meeting on the Convention website at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/bureau.htm>.

staff for the benefit of the various substantive areas of work. These areas of activity included general support tasks such as financial administration, correspondence and Web maintenance. Whereas it was foreseen in the work programme that such support would be provided by secretarial staff, it proved more appropriate to assign professional staff to the tasks in question.

48. The estimated net core requirement for 2009 was \$33,925, whereas the actual net expenditure in this area of activity was \$17,698, well within the core requirement forecast.

II. General considerations

49. The United Nations regular budget covers certain costs related to the Convention secretariat. The most significant of these are the salary and related entitlements for two staff members in the professional category (one P-4 and one P-2), amounting to approximately \$311,600 per year (\$182,800 and \$128,800, respectively). The salary of one staff member in the General Service category is covered by the 13 per cent overhead charges levied from the trust funds of the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division to cover programme support costs. In addition, one half-time staff member in the General Service category is covered by the regular budget. The United Nations regular budget contributions also cover the costs of the provision of conference services by the United Nations Office at Geneva, including meeting rooms and interpreters, and the costs of the preparation and distribution of official documents and publications.

50. During 2009, NGOs continued to participate actively in the activities taking place under the Convention. Financial support to enable their participation was provided through the Convention's trust fund. As a general rule, this support covers four representatives per meeting of a subsidiary body, with the selection being made on the basis of a recommendation from the European ECO-Forum.

51. In conclusion, the following observations may be made:

(a) Contributions to the Convention's trust fund dropped substantially from \$1,085,507 for 2008 to \$840,879 for 2009, a decrease of some \$245,000, or 22.5 per cent. When interest and currency exchange adjustments are taken into account, the decrease is from \$1,138,208 for 2008 to \$882,190 for 2009, i.e. roughly \$256,000, which is again 22.5 per cent. The number of Parties and Signatories contributing also fell from 38 for 2008 to 33 for 2009. It is very probable that the global financial crisis of 2008–2009, and the subsequent economic downfall that caused serious financial constraints for many countries in the UNECE region and beyond, have led to a reduction in contributions in 2009. However, a closer comparison of the 2008 and 2009 contributions shows that more than half of the contributing Parties maintained or actually increased their levels of contribution, apparently unaffected by the financial crisis. At the same time, this was vastly outweighed by the fact that a few large contributions for activities in 2008 were not repeated on the same scale in 2009. In addition, 2008 had been the year of the convening of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, which brought higher costs but also higher contributions intended to cover those costs. Since 2009 was an ordinary intersessional year, a lower income than the previous year was perhaps to be expected. Finally, the fact that some major contributors make their contributions in euros, coupled with the recovery in the value of the US dollar against the euro, explains part of the reduction in income in 2009.¹³

¹³ For example, a contribution of €100,000 in July 2008 converted to about \$157,000 at the time, whereas the same amount contributed in February 2009 converted to about \$131,000, a difference of some \$26,000.

(b) Expenditure in 2009, inclusive of the 13 per cent programme support costs, was \$749,465, well within the level of income intended for use in 2009 (\$882,190). The level of expenditure was noticeably lower than the estimated core requirement (\$1,087,863), and significantly lower than the estimated overall requirement (\$1,662,665). This was made possible by the postponement of some elements in the work programme, as detailed in previous sections. While this might be seen as underspending, it should be borne in mind that a large proportion of the funding contributed for use in 2009 arrived late and without any predictability, requiring the secretariat to adopt a prudent approach.

(c) Expenditure in most individual activity areas falls well within what was estimated by the Meeting of the Parties to be the core requirement for the year, and rarely exceeds the overall requirement. One exception to this is accounted for by the demand for extrabudgetary staff time under the compliance mechanism, exceeding projections, as detailed in the previous section of this report (see activity area I).

(d) With respect to the income received, a relatively small part of the contributions given for use in 2009 – approximately \$65,000 – was contributed in 2008 and 2007. This pattern is reflected in annex I, which differentiates between contributions received in 2009 and those received for use in 2009, the latter being of the greater relevance in terms of ensuring a prudent balance between income and expenditure. While the provision of contributions in advance increases the complexity and resources needed for the accuracy of financial reporting, it is a welcome occurrence in a substantive sense because it contributes to the goals of regularity, predictability and timeliness of the Convention's finances necessary for the satisfactory implementation of the work programme.

(e) Concerning the sources of contributions, significant disparities continue to exist in the levels of contributions made by different Parties, whether assessed in gross, per capita or GDP terms or according to the United Nations scale of assessments. A "fair sharing of the burden", recognized in decision I/13 as one of the guiding principles of any financial arrangements established under the Convention, has still not been achieved under the Convention's present financial scheme. The generous contributions made by Parties to date, particularly those with economies in transition, are to be welcomed. Parties that have not so far contributed under the scheme should be encouraged to make every effort to do so.

(f) As indicated in financial reports of previous years, a higher level of regularity, predictability and timeliness in the receipt of contributions would have a positive impact on the effective and timely implementation of the work programme in the future. It is noticeable and welcome that some Parties have started making their contributions earlier in the year. However, the secretariat continues to be confronted with financial uncertainty at times when management decisions need to be taken, affecting inter alia staff continuity. This is in part a consequence of the voluntary nature of the scheme of financial arrangements and in part related to the uneven timing of contributions. Regarding the latter point, only about 83 per cent (about \$694,000) of the eventual total contribution for 2009 had been received by the end of 2009. The remaining 17 per cent (\$147,000) was only received in the first few months of 2010. The secretariat therefore continues to face the need to adopt a cautious approach to spending. In this regard, it is important to note that aside from the support provided through the United Nations regular budget, the secretariat's activities in servicing the work programme of the Convention remain largely reliant on the contributions made by Parties and Signatories under the present voluntary scheme.

Annex I

Contributions received in and/or for 2009^a

(in United States dollars)

<i>Countries (Parties and Signatories) and other donors</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2009</i>	<i>Received in 2009 for year other than 2009</i>	<i>Received in 2009 for 2009</i>	<i>Received in year other than 2009 for 2009</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2009^b</i>
Albania	800.00		800.00		800.00
Armenia	200.00		200.00		200.00
Austria	13 947.00		13 947.00		13 947.00
Azerbaijan					0.00
Belarus	300.00		300.00		300.00
Belgium	44 273.97		44 273.97		44 273.97
Bulgaria	7 200.00		7 200.00		7 200.00
Croatia	6 000.00		6 000.00		6 000.00
Cyprus					0.00
Czech Republic	19 960.00	19 960.00 ^c	0.00	15 000.00 ^d	15 000.00
Denmark				33 724.91 ^e	33 724.91
Estonia	200.00		200.00		200.00
Finland	12 048.19	12 048.19 ^c	0.00	13 927.58 ^d	13 927.58
France	129 496.41		129 496.41		129 496.41
Georgia	1 394.70		1 394.70		1 394.70
Germany	60 000.00		60 000.00		60 000.00
Greece	10 000.00		10 000.00		10 000.00
Hungary	5 000.00		5 000.00		5 000.00
Iceland					0.00
Ireland	7 267.44		7 267.44		7 267.44
Italy	205 716.81	79 051.39 ^f	126 665.42	67 476.38 ^h	194 141.80
Kazakhstan	593.00	281.50 ^c	311.50		311.50
Kyrgyzstan	300.00	300.00 ^c	0.00	300.00 ^d	300.00
Latvia	2 557.54	2 557.54 ^c	0.00	2 590.67 ^d	2 590.67
Liechtenstein					0.00
Lithuania					0.00
Luxembourg				6 729.48 ^h	6 729.48
Malta	1 000.00	1 000.00 ^c	0.00		0.00
Moldova	1 000.00		1 000.00		1 000.00
Monaco					0.00

<i>Countries (Parties and Signatories) and other donors</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2009</i>	<i>Received in 2009 for year other than 2009</i>	<i>Received in 2009 for 2009</i>	<i>Received in year other than 2009 for 2009</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2009^b</i>
Netherlands		(31 672.00) ^g (28 194.82) ^f			
	59 866.82	59 866.82	0.00	26 990.55 ^h	26 990.55
Norway	20 000.00		20 000.00		20 000.00
Poland					0.00
Portugal					0.00
Romania					0.00
Serbia	1 506.02	1 506.02 ^c	0.00		0.00
Slovakia	956.00		956.00		956.00
Slovenia	9 186.36	4 593.18 ^f	4 593.18		4 593.18
Spain	28 776.98		28 776.98		28 776.98
Sweden	19 975.00		19 975.00		19 975.00
Switzerland	29 970.03	29 970.03 ^c	0.00		0.00
Tajikistan	200.00		200.00		200.00
The fYR of Macedonia					0.00
Turkmenistan					0.00
Ukraine	4 316.55		4 316.55		4 316.55
United Kingdom	42 492.92	42 492.92 ^f	0.00	45 871.56 ^h	45 871.56
European Union	131 233.60		131 233.60		131 233.60
Swiss Network for International Studies	4 160.26 ⁱ		4 160.26		4 160.26
Total	881 895.60	253 627.59	628 268.01	212 611.13	840 879.14
Gain – interest and foreign exchange	41 311.58		41 311.58		41 311.58
Grand total	923 207.18	253 627.59	669 579.59	212 611.13	882 190.72

^a The figures in the table refer to contributions received through the ECE Trust Fund for Technical Cooperation (Aarhus Convention Project: E104).

^b Column 4 + column 5 (total).

^c Contribution in 2009 for 2010.

^d Contribution in 2008 for 2009.

^e Contribution in 2007 for 2009.

^f Contribution in 2009 for 2008.

^g Contribution in 2009 for 2007.

^h Contribution in 2010 for 2009.

ⁱ Grant received from the Swiss Network for International Studies for a partnership with UNECE to develop and finalize the cost model for the PRTR Protocol in early 2009.

Annex II

Overview of expenditures for 2009

Aarhus Convention: detailed actual expenses by activity
(1 January to 31 December 2009)

Activity	Description	Amount	Third Meeting of the Parties estimates ^a	
			Core	Overall
I. Compliance mechanism				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.75 (P-2); 1.05 (P-3)	149 373	97 628	104 983
Travel, DSA ^b (experts/participants)	Committee members, other participants (4 meetings of Compliance Committee per year)	111 736	70 000	80 000
Travel, DSA (staff)	Expert missions	0	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	Consultancy (translation outside the United Nations, expert advice) ^c	-4 195	30 000	50 000
Subtotal		256 913	202 628	244 983
II. Capacity-building activities				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.20 (P-3)	29 074	32 543	48 454
Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Eligible participants (annual meeting of capacity-building partners)	0	0	5 000
Travel, DSA (staff)	Workshops, seminars, trainings	3 306	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	Consultancy (capacity-building activities, materials, studies)	0	30 000	110 000
Subtotal		32 380	67 543	173 454
III. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs, including through communications strategy				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.05 (P-2); 0.35 (P-3)	55 332	40 679	64 605
Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Experts meeting	3 113	6 000	12 000
Travel, DSA (staff)	Travel, DSA for participation at relevant events where no other funding is available	21 917	30 000	40 000
Subcontracts	Consultancy (studies, publications, materials)	431	30 000	55 000
Subtotal		80 793	106 679	171 605
IV. Pollutant release and transfer registers				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.05 (P-2); 0.40 (P-3)	85 758	73 221	72 680
Travel, DSA (Experts/participants)	Eligible participants (Meetings of the Parties, working group, expert group)	4 308	56 000	100 000
Travel, DSA (staff)	Travel, DSA for capacity-building for the Protocol and participation in international events	9 526	5 000	10 000

Subcontracts	Consultancy (preparation of guidance material)	13 813	10 000	30 000
Subtotal		113 404	144 221	212 680
V. Clearinghouse mechanism and electronic tools				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.60 (P-2); 0.30 (P-3)	69 551	65 086	64 605
Travel, DSA (experts/participants) year	Eligible participants (1 task force meeting per year)	0	15 000	25 000
Travel, DSA (staff)	Travel, DSA	0	0	5 000
Subcontracts	Consultancy (technical assistance for maintenance and upgrading, training of national experts; collection and examination of case studies)	0	25 000	55 000
Subtotal		69 551	105 086	149 605
VI. Public participation				
Staff time		0	48 814	72 680
Travel, DSA (experts/participants) group or international workshop per year; workshop on articles 7 and 8)	Eligible participants (1 meeting of expert group or international workshop per year; workshop on articles 7 and 8)	30 113	15 000	20 000
Travel, DSA (staff)	Travel, DSA	0	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	Consultancy (material, and expert studies)	0	30 000	50 000
Subtotal		30 113	98 814	152 680
VII. Access to justice				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.25 (P-3)	30 947	40 679	40 378
Travel, DSA (experts/participants) year and 1 capacity-building workshop)	Eligible participants (1 task force meeting per year and 1 capacity-building workshop)	25 555	40 000	70 000
Travel, DSA (staff)	Expert missions	1 340	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	Consultancy (collection and examination of case studies)	0	30 000	50 000
Subtotal		57 842	115 679	170 378
VIII. Genetically modified organisms				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.10 (P-3)	4 577	8 136	16 151
Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Eligible participants (workshop)	0	0	0
Subcontracts	Consultancy (expert studies)	0	5 000	10 000
Subtotal		4 577	13 136	26 151
IX. Promotion of Almaty guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.30 (P-3)	13 732	0	0
Travel, DSA (experts/participants) per year, international workshop)	Eligible participants (1 meeting of task force per year, international workshop)	9 857	15 000	20 000
Subcontracts	Consultancy (material, studies)	0	30 000	50 000
Subtotal		23 588	45 000	70 000

X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities				
Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Eligible participants (Meetings of Working Group of the Parties , Bureau meetings)	30 676	30 000	40 000
Subtotal		30 676	30 000	40 000
XI. Fourth ordinary meeting of the Parties				
Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	Eligible participants	0	0	0
Travel, DSA (staff)	Travel, DSA	0	0	0
Subtotal		0	0	0
XII. Reporting mechanism				
Subcontracts	Consultancy (technical assistance, processing of national reports, synthesis report)	0	0	0
Secretarial support (G-5)	Assistance in processing of reports	0	0	0
Subtotal		0	0	0
XIII. Horizontal support areas				
Staff time	Professional support: 0.55 (P-2); 0.05 (P-3)	17 584	0	0
Equipment	PC, printer		6 000	6 000
Secretarial support (G-5)	General support		25 925	51 850
Staff training	Various training activities to enhance staff skills	114	2 000	2 000
Subtotal		17 698	33 925	59 850
XIV. Adjustment and savings on prior year meetings				
Miscellaneous		-15 501	n/a	n/a
Travel, DSA (staff)		-1 058	n/a	n/a
Travel, DSA (experts/participants)		-37 735		
Subtotal		-54 294	n/a	n/a
(1) Net Total		663 243	962 710	1 471 385
(2) Programme support costs (13%) of (1)		86 222	125 152	191 280
(3) Operating reserve (15%) of (1)		99 486	144 407	220 708
(4) GRAND total (1) + (2) + (3)		848 951	1 232 269	1 883 373
(5) GRAND total (1) + (2)		749 465	1 087 863	1 662 665

^a Figures on core and overall requirement for 2009 are based on ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.17, Annex II.

^b Daily subsistence allowance.

^c This amount results from a reimbursement to offset a similar contract in 2008 to the 2009 contract. The actual expenditure for 2009 was \$472.