Economic Commission for Europe
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
First session
Geneva, 20-22 April 2010
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated Provisional Agenda

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 20 April 2010

I. Provisional agenda

1. Constitution of the Meeting of the Parties and opening of session.
2. Election of Chairperson.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
5. Election of officers and other Bureau members.
6. Credentials.
8. General statements.
9. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol:
   (a) Draft decision on review of compliance, including composition of the proposed Compliance Committee;
   (b) Draft decision on financial arrangements;
10. Programme of work and operation of the Protocol:
   (a) Draft decision on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes, including the work programme for 2011-2014;
   (b) Financing of the work programme for 2011-2014;
   (c) Other matters related to the work programme for 2011-2014.

11. Capacity-building, technical assistance and awareness-raising:
   (a) Capacity-building and technical assistance needs and priorities;
   (b) Information tools;
   (c) Other measures.

12. Relevant developments and interlinkages:
   (a) Synergies between the Protocol, the Aarhus Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;
   (b) Global and regional developments on issues related to pollutant release and transfer registers.

13. Preparation of the draft Geneva Declaration.

**High-level segment**

**Ceremonial statements**


15. Global and regional initiatives to promote the development of pollutant release and transfer registers.

16. Review and adoption of decisions.


18. Election of the members of the Compliance Committee.

19. Date and venue of the second ordinary session.

20. Any other business.

21. Adoption of the report.

22. Close of the meeting.
II. Annotations

1. Constitution of the Meeting of the Parties and opening of session

The Meeting of the Parties will be declared to be duly constituted and the session opened.

2. Election of Chairperson

The Meeting will elect a Chairperson.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be invited to adopt the agenda of the session as set out in the present document.

Documentation
Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/1)

4. Adoption of the rules of procedure

In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 (g), of the Protocol, the Meeting will be invited to consider and by consensus provisionally adopt rules of procedure for its sessions and those of its subsidiary bodies.

Documentation
Draft decision on rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.2)

5. Election of officers and other Bureau members

Subject to the content of the decision on rules of procedure adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, the Meeting is expected to elect, in addition to the Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.2, rule 18, paragraph 1). It is also expected to elect the remaining members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1 (b).

6. Credentials

The Meeting will be invited to approve the report on the credentials, prepared by its officers in accordance with the draft rules of procedure.

7. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

The secretariat will inform the Meeting about the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Protocol. It will also provide information about any
declarations made by the Parties upon the deposit of their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Delegations from States and regional economic integration organizations not yet party to the Protocol will be offered an opportunity to briefly inform the Meeting of their plans to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol.

Documentation
Status of signature, ratification, acceptance and approval of and accession to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/3)

8. General statements

Delegations will be provided with an opportunity to make statements of a general nature, having regard to the need to avoid duplication of statements that will be made during the high-level segment.

9. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol

(a) Draft decision on review of compliance, including composition of the proposed Compliance Committee

In accordance with article 22 of the Protocol, the Meeting will be invited to consider, revise as necessary and by consensus provisionally adopt a draft decision on review of compliance. The draft decision has been prepared by the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers established under the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

The secretariat will provide information on provisional nominations of candidates for election to the Compliance Committee. The Meeting will be invited to discuss a procedure for electing members to the Committee in preparation for their anticipated election under agenda item 18.

Documentation
Draft decision on review of compliance (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.3)
List of provisionally nominated candidates, together with curricula vitae and supporting documentation (unofficial documentation)

(b) Draft decision on financial arrangements

In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 (h), of the Protocol, the Meeting will be invited to consider, revise as necessary and by consensus provisionally adopt a draft decision on financial arrangements prepared by the Working Group.

Documentation
Draft decision on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.4)

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

In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 (e), of the Protocol, the Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider, revise as necessary and provisionally adopt a draft decision
establishing a subsidiary body, to be known as the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, which will be entrusted with overseeing the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol between the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties. The draft decision has been prepared by the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

**Documentation**

Draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.5)

(d) **Draft decision on reporting on implementation of the Protocol**

In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2, of the Protocol, the Meeting of the Parties is required to keep under continuous review the implementation and development of the Protocol on the basis of regular reporting by the Parties and, pursuant to subparagraph (b) of that provision, to establish guidelines facilitating reporting by the Parties to it. In the draft decision on the review of compliance, reference is made to the necessity for rigorous reporting by the Parties on their compliance with the Protocol.

On this basis, the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers has prepared a draft decision on reporting on implementation of the Protocol, annexing a format for each Party to use when reporting on its implementation of the Protocol. The Meeting will be invited to consider, revise as necessary and provisionally adopt the draft decision.

**Documentation**

Draft decision on reporting on implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.6)

(e) **Designation of focal points**

In order to facilitate communications concerning matters related to the Protocol, the Meeting of the Parties may wish to invite Parties, Signatories, other interested States and other concerned stakeholders to designate focal points for the Protocol if they have not already done so.

**Documentation**

No documentation has been prepared for this item. However, delegations may wish to refer to decision I/9 of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention on designation of focal points (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.10)

10. **Programme of work and operation of the Protocol**

(a) **Draft decision on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes, including the work programme for 2011-2014**

In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 (c), of the Protocol, the Meeting is expected to consider, revise as necessary and provisionally adopt a draft decision on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes under the Protocol, annexing a work programme covering the period up to and including the next session of the Meeting. The draft decision has been prepared for submission to the Meeting by the Bureau of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers at its request, on the basis of an earlier draft prepared by the Working Group (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/2, paragraph 25).
Documentation

Draft decision on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.7)

(b) Financing of the work programme for 2011-2014

The draft decision on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes annexing the work programme for the period 2011-2014 includes an estimation of the expected costs of implementing the work programme. In order to gather information on the means of financing the work programme, it is expected that Parties, Signatories and other interested States and regional economic integration organizations will inform the Meeting of their intention to contribute to the financial resources of the Protocol under the proposed voluntary scheme of contributions envisaged in the draft decision on financial arrangements, including the amount and, where possible, the timing of the expected contribution. The Meeting is expected to take note of this information.

Documentation

Draft decision on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.4)
Draft decision on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.7)

(c) Other matters related to the work programme for 2011-2014

The Meeting of the Parties may wish to discuss the need for a strategic plan in the light of the reference to such a plan in the draft decision on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.7).

Documentation

Draft decision on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.7)

11. Capacity-building, technical assistance and awareness-raising

(a) Capacity-building and technical assistance needs and priorities

Representatives of Parties, Signatories and other interested States, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to share their views on outstanding needs and priorities for capacity-building related to pollutant release and transfer registers.

The secretariat will present an overview of ongoing and planned capacity-building activities dealing with pollutant release and transfer registers, as reflected in the matrix of those activities that was initially prepared under the auspices of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and of the efforts made to coordinate activities. Governments and international and regional organizations engaged in those capacity-building activities will be invited to elaborate on them.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the ongoing and planned capacity-building activities and to provide guidance on the future direction of such activities so as to ensure that capacity-building needs are met. This theme will be taken up again during the high-level segment under agenda item 14.

The Working Group has recommended that the Meeting of the Parties, at its first session, mandate the secretariat to look into the possible need for a technical assistance mechanism,
using a questionnaire to gather information and opinions, analysing the results and reporting back to the proposed Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/2, paragraph 24 (a)). The Meeting will be invited to consider this recommendation and decide upon further action as appropriate.

**Documentation**

Matrix of capacity-building activities related to pollutant release and transfer registers (unofficial documentation)

**(b) Information tools**

The secretariat will present information tools to foster capacity-building and awareness-raising with regard to the Protocol, such as prtr.net and the clearinghouse mechanism. The secretariat will also invite feedback on the matrix of capacity-building activities related to pollutant release and transfer registers. The Meeting may wish to discuss, and where appropriate, invite Parties and other stakeholders to support these tools.

**(c) Other measures**

The secretariat will update the Meeting on the project of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to model the cost of establishing pollutant release and transfer registers in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol. Representatives of Parties, Signatories and other interested States and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to present further information on such activities. The Meeting will be invited to take note of and, as appropriate, indicate its support for these measures.

12. **Relevant developments and interlinkages**

**(a) Synergies between the Protocol, the Aarhus Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements**

The secretariat will provide summary information on ongoing or planned activities under the Aarhus Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements having relevance to those under the Protocol. Representatives of these agreements will be provided the opportunity to present supplementary information.

The Meeting will be invited to explore ways of further promoting synergies between the Protocol, the Aarhus Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements.

**(b) Global and regional developments on issues related to pollutant release and transfer registers**

Representatives of bodies involved in global or regional activities related to the development and implementation of pollutant release and transfer registers will be invited to inform the Meeting of those activities. The secretariat will briefly inform the Meeting of the activities of the International Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Coordinating Group, for which it provides the secretariat. The matters raised may be discussed further within the high-level segment under agenda item 15.

13. **Preparation of the draft Geneva Declaration**

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider, revise as necessary and provisionally approve a draft of the Geneva Declaration.
Documentation
Draft Geneva declaration (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.1)

High-level segment

Ceremonial statements
Welcome address by Mr. Ján Kubiš, Under-Secretary General, United Nations, and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Opening remarks by Mr. Jan Dusík, Minister for the Environment, Czech Republic, Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

14. Achievements, opportunities and challenges in establishing pollutant release and transfer registers: perspectives from government, industry and the public

Ministers and Heads of delegation of Parties, Signatories and other States, as well as leading representatives of international, regional and non-governmental organizations and the private sector will be invited to speak about their past experiences and future challenges in relation to pollutant release and transfer registers. The agenda item will encompass selected demonstrations, panel discussions and general debate. Further information will be provided in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation
Programme for high-level discussion (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/1/Add.1)

15. Global and regional initiatives to promote the development of pollutant release and transfer registers

The Meeting will be invited to discuss global and regional initiatives to promote the development of pollutant release and transfer registers. The agenda item will involve selected presentations and a panel discussion followed by general debate. Having regard to article 17, paragraph 2 (d), of the Protocol, the Meeting may wish to consider and, where appropriate, adopt measures to strengthen international initiatives. Further information will be provided in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation
Programme for high-level discussion (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/1/Add.1)

16. Review and adoption of decisions

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review and confirm the adoption of the draft decisions referred to under the preceding agenda items.

Documentation
All draft decisions mentioned in this agenda, as amended during the course of the session.
17. **Consideration and adoption of the Geneva Declaration**

Ministers and Heads of delegation of Parties, Signatories and other States, as well as international, regional and non-governmental organizations and representatives of other concerned stakeholders will be invited to consider and adopt a declaration based on the preparatory work undertaken under the auspices of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and during its current session.

**Documentation**
Draft Geneva declaration (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/L.1), as amended during the discussion under agenda item 13

18. **Election of the members of the Compliance Committee**

Subject to the content of the decision on review of compliance adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, the Meeting is expected to elect the members of the Compliance Committee envisaged in the draft decision, having regard to the nomination procedure set out in the decision and taking into account the requirements concerning the composition of the proposed committee.

19. **Date and venue of the second ordinary session**

The Meeting is expected to consider the options with respect to the date and venue of its second ordinary session, having regard to the requirement under article 17 of the Protocol that ordinary sessions of the Meeting be held sequentially with or parallel to ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, unless otherwise decided by the Parties to the Protocol.

20. **Any other business**

Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

21. **Adoption of the report**

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the report of its first session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

22. **Close of the meeting**

The Chairperson of the high-level segment will close the meeting.
## III. Organization of work

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