

STATEMENT ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS

adopted at the third meeting of the Parties
held in Riga on 11-13 June 2008

We, the Ministers and Heads of delegation from Parties and Signatories to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and Signatories to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, together with representatives of other States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians and other representatives of civil society from throughout the UNECE region and beyond, gathered at the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling the resolution adopted at the extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention in Kiev on 21 May 2003 by the Signatories to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers,

Recalling also paragraph 7 of the Almaty Declaration adopted at the second meeting of the Parties on 27 May 2005,

1. *Affirm* the importance of the Protocol as a major instrument with regard to the implementation of some of the provisions of the Convention dealing with collection, dissemination and access to environmental information;
2. *Reaffirm* our resolution to strive for its early entry into force;
3. *Commend* in this regard those having already ratified or implemented the Protocol;
4. *Urge* the other Signatories do so as soon as possible, preferably in 2008;
5. *Invite* other States, including those outside the UNECE region, to accede to the Protocol;
6. *Welcome* the substantive progress made by the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers towards preparation of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;
7. *Aim* to hold the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in 2009.
