



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 April 2011

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

Fourth session

Chisinau, 29 June–1 July 2011

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work and operation of the Convention:
implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011,
including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014**

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014

Report by the secretariat

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Introduction

1. This report provides an overview of the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.17) until March 2011, focusing on operational and organizational aspects, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014, adopted through decision III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16). The overview also includes some reporting on activities carried out in 2008 after the third session of the Meeting of the Parties (Riga, 11–13 June 2008).

2. The following objectives and related activities from the Strategic Plan 2009–2014 were not addressed among the activities of the current intersessional period and therefore are not reflected in the current report:

- Objective I.4 envisages a formal and non-formal environmental and citizenship education programme;
- Objective I.12 envisages consideration of measures for the implementation of article 3, paragraph 8, such as “whistleblower” protection;
- Objective III.1 envisages a comprehensive review of the Convention 10 years after its entry into force;
- Objective III.2 envisages a workshop on product information and the promotion of accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector;
- Objective III.6 envisages information exchange, capacity-building and exchange of good practice on the issue of criteria for standing.

3. It was also not feasible for the secretariat to thoroughly assess the implementation of other activities specified in the Strategic Plan that were expected to be implemented not only by the secretariat and the Convention’s subsidiary bodies, but also by Parties, civil society organizations and other partners.

4. During the intersessional period 2009–2011, income to the trust fund for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) initially showed a substantial decrease compared with the preceding years. For 2009, the total income fell short of the core requirement by more than \$200,000. Income rose again in 2010; however, the total income for 2010 remained below the core annual requirement as specified in the work programme for 2009–2011. Many contributions were made towards the end of the calendar year for which they were intended, or in some cases in the following year. As a consequence, the secretariat has observed caution in its allocation of resources, resulting in lower expenditures than projected in the work programme for various areas of work. In addition, the secretariat was faced with a need to increase staff capacity, since it was not feasible to fulfil all tasks with the originally estimated staff resources. Staff regularly worked overtime to ensure the timely delivery of work when there were competing priorities; however, this is not reflected in the report, as overtime work was not paid and therefore had no impact on financial resources. The secretariat has made various efforts during the intersessional period to encourage in-kind contributions and thereby reduce the impact on the trust fund.

I. Work programme for 2009–2011: overview of implementation

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
I. Compliance mechanism	<p>The Compliance Committee held four meetings in 2009 and four meetings in 2010, while five meetings were scheduled for 2011 – the third one back to back with the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. At these meetings (up to April 2011) the Committee reviewed communications from the public concerning alleged non-compliance by a Party.⁴ In 2009, 2010 and 2011 (up to April 2011) 23 new communications were received. All of these communications were considered by the Committee with respect to their admissibility. Those that were determined to be admissible are at various stages of consideration and for five of these communications the Committee has finalized its findings. No submissions were made to the Committee by Parties and the secretariat did not make any referrals during this period. In addition, the Committee has followed up on the implementation of decisions III/6a, III/6b, III/6c, III/6d, III/6e and III/6f with the six Parties concerned.</p> <p>With respect to decision III/6e, further to the invitation of the Government of Turkmenistan addressed to the Compliance Committee, the secretariat has organized a mission of members of the Committee to Turkmenistan to take place on 18 and 19 April 2011, to assist with the Convention's implementation.</p> <p>Expenditures for the compliance mechanism were higher than the overall requirement due to the increased workload, which created a need to extend the duration of the meetings of the Compliance Committee from three to four days, as well as a need for additional staff support.</p>	<p>General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1</p> <p>Specific: I.14</p>
II. Capacity-building activities	<p>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 the implementation of the Convention at the national and local levels. In 2010–2011, the secretariat has been invited by a number of international bodies, including the secretariat to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to provide advisory support to these secretariats. The fifth and sixth Aarhus Convention Capacity-Building Coordination meetings were held on 27 November 2008 and 7 December 2010, respectively, at which the work undertaken in this area for the Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) by the secretariat and partner organizations was reviewed, and coordination and possible strategic directions for future capacity-building activities were considered. More information about activities carried out by partner organizations can be found in the reports on capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2009/7 and ECE/MP.PP/2011/8).</p>	<p>General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1</p> <p>Specific: I.7, 9–13; III.5, 6</p>

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
III. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs	<p>Expenditures for capacity-building were below the core requirement, inter alia because costs for capacity-building activities are reflected under the respective substantive areas of work.</p> <p>The secretariat has carried out this activity through participation, or arranging for the participation of representatives of the Convention bodies, in conferences, seminars and workshops in various countries, mainly within but sometimes outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region.</p> <p><i>The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide (ECE/CEP/72)</i> has been revised by experts with the assistance of the secretariat and the draft revised text has been forwarded to the national focal points and stakeholders for comments.</p> <p>The Convention website was regularly updated in the intersessional period. A consultant has assisted the secretariat in the migration of the Convention website to a new platform in November/December 2010 and has provided support in drafting a communication strategy.</p> <p>The draft communication strategy has been submitted to the Working Group of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, where it was agreed that the strategy should be finalized for consideration at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.</p> <p>The secretariat participated in and organized a number of events to promote and raise awareness of the Convention and its Protocol at the international level, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It delivered a presentation on the Aarhus Convention and the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) at a conference on the transposition and implementation of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures (Bucharest, Romania, 19 October 2009); - It delivered a presentation at the workshop “Civil society and the right to access to State-held information: responses following the European Court of Human Rights decisions” (Budapest, Hungary, 7–8 December 2009); - It actively participated in the development of the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, which were adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council on 26 February 2010, and in informal consultations on mercury organized by UNEP; - It serviced the fifth meeting of the International Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) Coordinating Group and delivered two presentations at the related meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) PRTR Task Force (Paris, 18–19 May 2010); 	General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1 Specific: I.4, 13; II.1, 4, 5

- It promoted the Convention in the Workshop on Information and Public Participation in Water and Health-Related Issues (Bucharest, 15–16 June 2010);
- It promoted the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs at the fourteenth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, 8 June 2010) in relation to toxic waste and human rights;
- It provided a contribution to a new edition of the UNECE/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) sourcebook, *International Forest Sector Institutions And Policy Instruments For Europe* (forthcoming) on how the Convention and the PRTR Protocol encompass forest-related issues;
- It promoted the Convention and shared experience regarding the Convention's governing structure and implementation at the seminar "Developing an effective international legal instrument: Learning from the experience of the ECE Conventions and beyond" (Geneva, 7 September 2010);
- It delivered two presentations on the Aarhus Convention and the other UNECE environmental Conventions at the OSCE South-Eastern Europe Regional Coordination Meeting on the Environment (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 13–14 December 2010);
- It promoted the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs at a briefing for countries of Central Asia (Geneva, 23 March 2011).

Details of other subregional and international events are set out under each individual activity area.

Regarding events at the national level, the secretariat led a training event on the Aarhus Convention organized by the OSCE for Albanian local authorities, the private sector and NGOs (Tirana, May 2009); participated in a roundtable on the development of national PRTRs and the possible participation of Kazakhstan in the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Astana, May 2010); made a presentation at a workshop on supporting the implementation of the Aarhus Convention held in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, 17–18 May 2010); and delivered a presentation on the Aarhus Convention for Japanese environmental experts at the invitation of Aarhus Net Japan (Tokyo, October 2010). It is also organizing, in cooperation with the OSCE, a multi-stakeholder training on the Convention on 19 April 2011 in conjunction with the mission of the members of the Compliance Committee and the secretariat to Turkmenistan.

To further promote the Convention and the Protocol, the secretariat took part in a seminar on accountability mechanisms for environmental protection and human rights in projects funded by international financial institutions and the European Union, organized by Central Eastern Europe Bankwatch Network in Budapest on 18 November 2010, as well as in the conference "Transparency in marine fisheries: The role of the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy" in Brussels on 26 January 2011. In addition, in 2010–2011

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
IV. Pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs)	<p>the secretariat engaged in an enhanced outreach exercise, distributing materials about the Convention and the PRTR Protocol to national focal points, national bar associations, judicial training centres, Aarhus Centres, national and European consumer authorities, national and European Ombudsmen and national financing and development aid agencies in the UNECE region.</p> <p>Expenditures for awareness-raising fell below the core annual requirement, due to the secretariat's caution in allocating resources to this area of work in light of the uncertainty and unpredictability of the level of income.</p> <p>The Protocol on PRTRs entered into force on 8 October 2009 and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol was held in Geneva from 20 to 22 April 2010. At that session, the Protocol's Work Programme for 2011–2014 and other key decisions were adopted. The first meetings of the Bureau and the Compliance Committee were held on 14 and 27-28 January 2011 respectively.</p> <p>The secretariat has also served as the secretariat of the International PRTR Coordinating Group and has participated actively in its meetings. A special meeting of the International PRTR Coordinating Group was held back to back with the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.</p> <p>In addition, the secretariat has managed and upgraded the PRTR.net global portal.</p> <p>Close cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), GRID-Arendal and regional environmental centres on PRTR-related issues was maintained.</p> <p>Coordination of capacity-building activities related to the PRTR Protocol was considered at the sixth Aarhus Convention Capacity-Building Coordination Meeting, held on 7 December 2010.</p> <p>The Russian version of the <i>Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers</i> was published and widely disseminated. A simplified guide on the PRTR Protocol will be published in English and Russian in 2011.</p> <p>Expenditures for PRTR activities were on average below the core requirement, partly due to the fact that participation costs for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol turned out to be lower than expected because many participants were prevented from attending the meeting by the volcano eruption in Iceland in April 2010. In addition, staff costs were lower than expected due to changes in personnel, leading to the secretariat's PRTR post being temporarily unfilled in 2010.</p>	General: I.6, 16 Specific: I.8; II.2

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
V. Electronic information tools and clearinghouse mechanism	<p>The Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy was used to facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to national implementation of the Convention and relevant global and regional developments regarding Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.</p> <p>The seventh meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools (11–12 December 2008) reviewed the Task Force's new mandate adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and discussed activities in support of the Work Programme for 2009–2011. The Task Force featured a Forum on Information Clearinghouses, in which managers of national and information nodes of the Aarhus Clearinghouse were invited to debate how their activities could strengthen the Convention's clearinghouse mechanism.^b</p> <p>Following consultations by the secretariat and at the invitation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a Workshop on Electronic Information Tools to Support the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South-Eastern Europe took place in Skopje on 25 and 26 November 2010.^c</p> <p>In November 2010, the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy was migrated to a new publishing platform, an identical platform to the one used by the PRTR.net global portal. The content management system (CMS) is different to the previous one and makes it easier to manage and publish information. In addition, the new platform provided enough space to incorporate the jurisprudence database and has appropriate search features that will allow for easier access to the information contained in it. Please note that the costs of the development of the jurisprudence database are reflected under the activity area of access to justice in the overview of expenditures.</p> <p>The secretariat has also developed an online reporting system and organized a training on how to use it.</p> <p>In addition, the secretariat took part in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, held in Geneva from 10 to 14 May 2010.</p> <p>Expenditures in this area of work fell below the core requirement, in part because no meetings of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools took place in 2009 and some costs are reflected under other areas of work.</p>	<p>General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1</p> <p>Specific: I.4, 9, 12, 15; III.3, 4, 5, 7</p>
VI. Public participation	<p>The Expert Group on Public Participation met once during 2009 to discuss draft terms of reference for a future task force on public participation in decision-making on environmental matters, to exchange information and experience and to collect examples of good practices in this area.</p> <p>At an extraordinary session (Geneva, 30 June 2010), the Meeting of the Parties established a Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making and agreed upon its terms of reference. At its first meeting (Geneva, 25–26 October 2010), the Task Force continued the work of the Expert Group with regard to the exchange of information and good practice examples in implementation of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the</p>	<p>General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1</p> <p>Specific: I.4, 9, 12, 15; III.3, 4, 5, 7</p>

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
VII. Access to justice	<p>Convention, agreed on its programme of work for the period up to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, and developed a proposal for its workplan for the period 2011–2014 (up to the fifth session), subject to the decision of the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session.^d</p> <p>Representatives of the Convention's Compliance Committee and the secretariat participated in meetings related to public participation held under the auspices of the Espoo Convention with the aim of promoting the Aarhus Convention.</p> <p>Expenditures in this area of work fell below the core requirement. This is partly due to the secretariat's decision to use regular budget staff time to support the 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.</p> <p>The Task Force on Access to Justice held its third and fourth meetings in Geneva on 14 and 15 October 2009 and on 7 and 8 February 2011 respectively.^e Further to its mandate as set out in decision III/3, the activities of the Task Force have been focused on the development of a jurisprudence portal as part of the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, and on the conduct of analytical studies on: (a) costs and financial arrangements, including litigation costs, legal aid and support for public interest lawyers; and (b) remedies, including injunctive relief and timing. Due to the already available material and regional particularities, it was decided that the two thematic studies would be carried out with a subregional focus, i.e. implementation in Western and Central Europe was examined separately from implementation in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The thematic study for Western and Central Europe has been concluded and evaluated by the Task Force at its fourth meeting and the follow-up study on "Good practices in dealing with costs and remedies" is expected to be concluded by June 2011. The thematic study for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia is expected to be concluded by the end of July 2011. The second subregional workshop on access to justice in environmental matters for high-level members of the judiciary for South-Eastern Europe took place on 17 and 18 November 2008 in Tirana.^f</p> <p>The next subregional workshop for senior members of the judiciary in Central Asia, to be organized in cooperation with the OSCE, has been tentatively postponed to the spring of 2012.</p> <p>Expenditures in the area of access to justice fell below the core requirement in 2009 and 2010, in part because the subregional workshop was postponed to the spring of 2012 and the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice was postponed from late 2010 to early 2011.</p>	<p>General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1</p> <p>Specific: I.4, 10, 11; III.6</p>

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
VIII. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	<p>The secretariat supported the implementation of the Convention's provisions regarding GMOs and the Lucca Guidelines on GMOs and promoted the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention adopted through decision II/1, inter alia through its participation in, and organization of, workshops regarding GMOs, through cooperation with the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and through the use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse to facilitate exchange of information on good practices.</p> <p>At the invitation of the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Convention secretariat wrote an article on "Promoting Public Participation and Access to Information with respect to GMOs: Experiences and lessons learned under the Aarhus Convention" for the sixth issue of <i>Biosafety News</i>, published in July 2009.</p> <p>The secretariat also gave presentations at several regional events, including the fifth European Conference on GM-Free Regions (Lucerne, Switzerland, 24–25 April 2009) and the thirteenth European Biosafety Association Annual Conference (Ljubljana, 22–23 June 2010).</p> <p>At the invitation of the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in early 2010 the secretariat provided comments on the Cartagena Protocol's draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation regarding living modified organisms (LMOs). The Aarhus and Cartagena secretariats also collaborated in the organization of a joint workshop on public awareness, access to information and public participation regarding GMOs held in Nagoya, Japan, on 8 and 9 October 2010, immediately before the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol. In addition, the secretariat attended the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol during the discussion and adoption of the programme of work on public awareness, education, and participation regarding LMOs.</p> <p>Expenditures in this area of work were slightly above the overall annual requirement in 2010, due to the fact that (a) the joint Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol workshop in Nagoya also had a capacity-building purpose, but the related costs are reflected under the activity area of GMOs rather than that of capacity-building; and (b) the costs of the Nagoya workshop were higher than the projected requirements for this activity area, mainly because the location of the event was outside the UNECE region.</p>	General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1 Specific: II.3

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
IX. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	<p>The Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums met three times during 2009–2011, on 6 July 2009, 29 June 2010 and 23–24 February 2011. Both the fifth meeting of the Task Force (29 June 2010) and the sixth meeting (23–24 February 2011) were held back to back with workshops. The workshop held back to back with the fifth meeting focused on “Experiences in promoting the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums”. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum in which Aarhus Parties, civil society and academia could exchange good practices and challenges with respect to the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7, of the Aarhus Convention and the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums. The workshop included a special session on the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (December 2009), in which the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat participated. The Task Force agreed on draft elements for a reporting mechanism on article 3, paragraph 7, to be forwarded to the Working Group of the Parties for its consideration. Parties have been invited, on a voluntary basis, to use this mechanism in their reporting on article 3, paragraph 7, in the 2011 national implementation reports.</p> <p>The workshop held back to back with the Task Force’s sixth meeting focused on the role of third parties, such as international financial institutions. The workshop also included an update on the UNFCCC revised processes, following earlier input from the Task Force; on challenges for public participation for the UNECE Conventions; and on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The workshop, inter alia, concluded that it would be important for Parties and the secretariat to feed experiences in applying the Aarhus Convention into the Rio+20 discussions.</p> <p>With the guidance of the Task Force, the secretariat prepared a short document evaluating the outcomes of the consultation process carried out in the last intersessional period, as well as an electronic compendium of good practices based on the experiences collected during the recent Task Force meetings.⁸</p> <p>In addition, the secretariat supported efforts to promote the principles of the Convention in various international forums, working with other United Nations bodies such as UNEP, UNITAR, the United Nations Development Programme and the UNFCCC secretariat; environmental treaty bodies such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; other international or supranational bodies such as the OSCE and OECD; and various professional, academic or non-governmental institutions and associations.</p> <p>Expenditures in this area of work were higher than the overall requirement in 2010, due to the fact that no staff costs were included in the projected requirements. However, the organization and servicing of the meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums and the associated workshops required staff time, which was secured through extrabudgetary staff resources.</p>	General: I.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 16; III.1 Specific: II.6, 7; III.7

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities	<p>The objectives of activity X of the 2009–2011 work programme were the coordination and oversight of the activities under the Convention and the preparation of substantive contributions to 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.</p> <p>The Working Group of the Parties met once in 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively, and one additional meeting is scheduled in 2011 in June back to back with the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.^h The Bureau met three times per year on average in 2009 and 2010, respectively.</p> <p>Expenditures in this area of work remained on average at the level of the core annual requirement.</p>	Focal areas I–III
XI. Fourth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	<p>The fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties will be held in Chisinau from 29 June to 1 July 2011, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The Bureau and the secretariat, in consultation with the host country, held discussions in the course of 2009, 2010 and 2011 on preparations for the upcoming session. A mission to Chisinau was undertaken by the secretariat and the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties on 16 and 17 September 2010 to discuss with the Government its arrangements for the fourth session, and to discuss with key partners in the country (UNDP, OSCE Mission to Moldova, and the EU Delegation to Moldova) possibilities for providing support to the Government in preparations for the event, as well as to visit the meeting venue. At its thirteenth meeting, the Working Group of the Parties was informed by host country representatives about the progress in preparations for the upcoming event.</p> <p>Expenditures for the preparation of the fourth session were higher than the overall requirement in 2010, due to the fact that no staff costs were included in the projected requirements. However, the preparations for the fourth session and the associated meetings and events required additional staff time, which was secured through extrabudgetary staff resources. One full-time staff was recruited to support this work, as well as the work in the areas of compliance, access to justice and coordination and oversight of intersessional activities.</p>	Focal areas I–III
XII. Reporting mechanism	<p>According to decision II/10, implementation reports should be submitted to the secretariat no later than 180 days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties for which they are prepared. A new reporting cycle has been started. A training session on the preparation of national implementation reports took place in Geneva on 30 June 2010. Further to the decision of the Working Group of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, a proposal of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums, and a proposal of the Compliance Committee, a consolidated version of the reporting format has been prepared, incorporating reporting on implementation of the GMO amendment and article 3, paragraph 7, concerning public participation in international forums, and information about follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance. The revised reporting format is expected to be formally adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.</p>	Focal area I

Activity	Overview of the implementation of the Convention's work programme during 2009–2010	Relevant focal area/ objective of Strategic Plan 2009–2014
	Expenditures in this area of work were below the core requirement for 2009 and 2010, partly due to the fact that the costs for the preparation of the synthesis report on implementation were incurred in 2011. In addition, the secretariat did not recruit additional secretarial support staff, due to the decision by the Bureau not to publish the national implementation reports as official United Nations documents in this intersessional period.	
XIII. Horizontal support areas	During 2009–2011, the objective of activity XIII was to provide overall support that covered multiple substantive areas of the work programme, inter alia through secretarial support and staff training. Expenditures in this area of work fell below the core requirement.	Focal areas I–III

^a For details, see the reports of the Compliance Committee's twenty-third through thirty-second meetings (ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2009/2, 4, 6 and 8; ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2010/2, 4, 6 and 8; and ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2011/2 and 4).

^b For details, see the report of the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2009/4).

^c For details, see the report of the subregional workshop on electronic information tools (Skopje, 25–26 November 2010) (ECE/MP.PP/2011/4).

^d For details, see the report of the first meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2011/5).

^e For details, see the reports of the Task Force on Access to Justice on its third and fourth meetings (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2010/6 and ECE/MP.PP/2011/5).

^f For details, see the report on a workshop on access to justice in environmental matters for high-level members of the judiciary for South-Eastern Europe (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2009/5).

^g For details, see the reports of the fourth, fifth and sixth meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2010/4, ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2011/5 and ECE/MP.PP/2011/6).

^h For details, see the reports of the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Working Group of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2009/2, ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2010/2 and ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2011/2).

II. Contributions received in and/or for 2009, 2010 and 2011

(in United States dollars)

<i>Countries (Parties and Signatories) and other donors</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2009</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2009^a</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2010</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2010^a</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2011^b</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2011^a</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	800.00	800.00	780.00	780.00			
Armenia	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00			
Austria	13 947.00	13 947.00	13 605.44	13 605.44			
			3 032.42	3 032.42			For PRTR
Azerbaijan							
Belarus	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00			
Belgium	44 273.97	44 273.97	43 550.66	43 550.66			
Bosnia and Herzegovina							
Bulgaria	7 200.00	7 200.00	7 920.00	7 920.00			
Croatia	6 000.00	6 000.00	6 000.00	6 000.00	6 000.00	6 000.00	
Cyprus							
Czech Republic	19 960.00	15 000.00	15 000.00	19 960.00		15 000.00	
			10 000.00			10 000.00	For PRTR
Denmark		33 724.91		22 390.00	67 170.00	22 390.00	^c
				11 190.00	33 570.00	11 190.00	For PRTR ^c
Estonia	200.00	200.00	2 628.12	2 628.12			
Finland	12 048.19	13 927.58		12 048.19			
France	129 496.41	129 496.41	146 394.55	146 394.55			
					39 267.02	39 267.02	For PRTR
Georgia	1 394.70	1 394.70	250.00	250.00			
Germany	60 000.00	60 000.00	60 000.00	60 000.00	60 000.00	60 000.00	
Greece	10 000.00	10 000.00	10 000.00	10 000.00			
Hungary	5 000.00	5 000.00	5 000.00	5 000.00			

<i>Countries (Parties and Signatories) and other donors</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2009</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2009^a</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2010</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2010^a</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2011^b</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2011^a</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Iceland							
Ireland	7 267.44	7 267.44	6 353.24	6 353.24	6 811.99	6 811.99	
Italy	205 716.81	194 141.80	202 429.15	134 952.77	137 362.64	137 362.64	Partially for PRTR
Kazakhstan	593.00	311.50	311.50	281.50		311.50	
Kyrgyzstan	300.00	300.00		300.00			
Latvia	2 557.54	2 590.67	2 617.80	2 557.54		2 617.80	
			1 360.54	1 360.54			For PRTR
Liechtenstein							
Lithuania							
Luxembourg		7 002.80	13 732.28	6 729.48			
Malta	1 000.00			1 000.00			
Monaco							
Montenegro							
Netherlands	59 866.82	26 990.55	52 403.51	25 412.96			
			25 412.96	25 412.96			For PRTR
Norway	20 000.00	20 000.00	53 227.00	53 227.00			
			25 088.00	25 088.00			For PRTR
Poland							
Portugal							
Republic of Moldova	1 000.00	1 000.00	1 000.00	1 000.00	500.00	500.00	
Romania							
Serbia	1 506.02			1 506.02	500.00	500.00	
Slovakia	956.00	956.00					
Slovenia	9 186.36	4 593.18					
Spain	28 776.98	28 776.98	27 777.78	27 777.78			
Sweden	19 975.00	19 975.00	19 975.00	19 975.00			
			4 980.00	4 980.00			For PRTR
Switzerland	29 970.03		38 986.35	68 956.38			For PRTR

<i>Countries (Parties and Signatories) and other donors</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2009</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2009^a</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2010</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2010^a</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2011^b</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2011^a</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Tajikistan	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00			
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia							
Turkmenistan		200.00	400.00	200.00			
Ukraine	4 316.55	4 316.55	4 016.06	4 016.06			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	42 492.92	45 871.56	45 871.56	47 543.58	47 543.58		
European Union	131 233.60	131 233.60	134 952.77	134 952.77			
Swiss Network for International Studies	4 160.26	4 160.26					For PRTR
Total	876 895.60	820 224.88	985 756.69	959 032.96	398 725.23	311 950.95	
Gain — interest and foreign exchange	41 311.58	41 311.58	31 203.61	31 203.61	0.00	0.00	
Grand total	918 207.18	861 536.46	1 016 960.30	990 236.57	398 725.23	311 950.95	

^a “Adjusted Contribution” columns are intended to offer a more realistic picture of the actual income available for use in a given year. Contributions by Parties and Signatories are often intended for use in a year other than the year the contribution was deposited and/or received. The adjusted contribution figure in a given year is derived from the actual contribution in that year minus any part of that contribution that was earmarked for use in a different year plus any contributions made in years other than the reference year but were earmarked for use in the reference year.

^b Contributions received in 2011 as of 22 March 2011.

^c The Danish contributions for the Convention and the PRTR Protocol received in 2011 cover the period 2010–2012.

III. In-kind contributions 2009–2011

<i>Countries (Parties and Signatories) and organizations</i>	<i>In-kind contribution</i>	<i>Year</i>
Azerbaijan	Supported participation of the secretariat in a workshop on efficient and transparent land management in the UNECE region (UNECE Working Party on Land Administration), Baku (travel, accommodation)	2010
Belarus	Translated into Russian of “Your Right to a Healthy Community: A simplified guide to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers” and offered to host a workshop to promote the PRTR Protocol in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (e.g., providing meeting venue, interpretation at the workshop)	2010
Spain	Offered to provide translation into Spanish of the UNECE Guidance on implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs; publication of 1,000 hard copies and their distribution mainly to Latin American countries; publication of electronic version online	2011
Switzerland	Proofread the German pages of PRTR.net	2010
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Provided meeting venue including facilities and partly meals for participants for a workshop on electronic information tools for countries in South-Eastern Europe, Skopje	2010
Bankwatch	Supported participation of the secretariat in a seminar on accountability mechanisms for environmental protection and human rights in international financial institution- and EU-funded projects, Budapest (travel, accommodation, terminal expenses)	2010
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions ^a secretariat (chemicals and waste cluster multilateral environmental agreements)	Promoted the PRTR Protocol through Safe Planet: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes, in community forums in Houston, United States of America, and Pune, India	2010
Center for Legal Resources (CLR)	Supported participation of the secretariat in a conference on the transposition and implementation of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures, Bucharest (travel, accommodation)	2009
Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements and TransparentSea	Supported participation of the secretariat in the seminar “Transparency in marine fisheries: the role of the European Union’s Common Fisheries Policy”, Brussels	2011

<i>Countries (Parties and Signatories) and organizations</i>	<i>In-kind contribution</i>	<i>Year</i>
Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat	Provided meeting venue for the joint Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol workshop on public awareness, access to information and public participation with respect to genetically modified organisms, Nagoya, Japan	2010
European Biosafety Association (EBSA)	Supported participation of the secretariat in the EBSA Annual Conference 2010 in Ljubljana (travel, accommodation, meals)	2010
GRID-Arendal	Hosted the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and PRTR.net	2009–2011
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	Supported Training on the Aarhus Convention for Public Authorities and the Private Sector in Tirana (airfare, daily subsistence allowance (DSA), venue lunch for participants, interpretation and translation of materials into Albanian)	2009
	Supported participation of the secretariat in workshop on civil society and the right to access to State-held information in Budapest (travel, accommodation, meals)	2009
	Supported participation of the secretariat in OSCE South-Eastern Europe Regional Coordination Meeting on the Environment in Sarajevo (travel, accommodation, meals)	2010
	Supported participation of several experts in the joint Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol workshop on public awareness, access to information and public participation with respect to genetically modified organisms, Nagoya, Japan	2010
	Supported meeting of the members of the Compliance Committee and the secretariat with the authorities of Turkmenistan (e.g., interpretation) and a multi-stakeholder training on the Convention associated with the mission (organizational matters, including providing venue, interpretation, meals)	2010
Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)	Provided staff (three working days) for the organization of the workshop on electronic information tools for countries in South-Eastern Europe, Skopje	2010

^a The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

IV. Overview of expenditures for 2009 and 2010

(in United States dollars)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2009</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2010</i>	<i>Core requirement (average per year)*</i>	<i>Overall requirement (average per year)*</i>
I. Compliance mechanism				
Staff time	149 373	184 728	97 628	104 983
Travel, DSA (Experts/participants)	111 736	99 237	70 000	80 000
Travel, DSA (Staff)	0	0	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	-4 195	14 400	30 000	50 000
Subtotal	256 913	298 365	202 628	244 983
II. Capacity-building activities				
Staff time	29 074	28 808	32 543	48 454
Travel, DSA (Experts/participants)	0	0	0	5 000
Travel, DSA (Staff)	3 306	3 084	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	0	0	30 000	110 000
Subtotal	32 380	31 892	67 543	173 454
III. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs				
Staff time	55 332	26 437	40 679	64 605
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	3 113	3 442	5 667	11 333
Travel, DSA (Staff)	21 917	4 727	30 000	40 000
Subcontracts	431	30 750	21 667	40 000
Subtotal	80 793	65 356	98 013	155 938
IV. Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers				
Staff time	85 758	69 366	73 221	72 680
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	4 308	68 234	47 667	88 333
Travel, DSA (Staff)	9 526	1 332	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	13 813	9 791	10 000	30 000
Subtotal	113 404	148 723	135 888	201 013

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2009</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2010</i>	<i>Core requirement (average per year)*</i>	<i>Overall requirement (average per year)*</i>
V. Clearinghouse mechanism and electronic tools				
Staff time	69 551	33 082	65 086	64 605
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	0	13 932	15 000	25 000
Travel, DSA (Staff)	0	1 768	0	5 000
Subcontracts	0	35 897	25 000	55 000
Subtotal	69 551	84 679	105 086	149 605
VI. Public participation				
Staff time	0	0	48 814	72 680
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	30 113	18 652	23 333	40 000
Travel, DSA (Staff)	0	0	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	0	0	15 000	25 000
Subtotal	30 113	18 652	92 147	147 680
VII. Access to justice				
Staff time	30 947	39 045	40 679	40 378
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	25 555	0	26 667	43 333
Travel, DSA (Staff)	1 340	0	5 000	10 000
Subcontracts	0	9 455	30 000	50 000
Subtotal	57 842	48 500	102 346	143 711
VIII. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)				
Staff time	4 577	11 028	8 136	16 151
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	0	25 518	5 000	15 000
Travel, DSA (Staff)	0	4 998	0	0
Subcontracts	0	2 957	5 000	10 000
Subtotal	4 577	44 501	18 136	41 151

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2009</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2010</i>	<i>Core requirement (average per year)*</i>	<i>Overall requirement (average per year)*</i>
IX. Promotion of Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes				
Staff time	13 732	33 083	0	0
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	9 857	21 752	15 000	25 000
Subcontracts	0	11 386	15 000	25 000
Subtotal	23 588	66 221	30 000	50 000
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities				
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	30 676	46 753	40 000	43 333
Travel, DSA (Staff)	0	3 244	0	0
Subtotal	30 676	49 997	40 000	43 333
XI. Fourth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties				
Staff time	0	33 431	0	0
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	0	0	14 000	28 000
Travel, DSA (Staff)	0	3 826	7 000	7 000
Subtotal	0	37 257	21 000	35 000
XII. Reporting mechanism				
Subcontracts	0	0	20 000	26 667
Secretarial Support (G-5)	0	0	17 283	17 283
Subtotal	0	0	37 283	43 950
XIII. Horizontal support areas				
Staff time	17 584	15 175	0	0
Equipment	0	0	4 000	4 000
Secretarial support (G-5)	0	0	34 567	51 850
Training of staff	114	4 354	2 000	2 000
Subtotal	17 698	19 529	40 567	57 850

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2009</i>	<i>Actual expenditure in 2010</i>	<i>Core requirement (average per year)*</i>	<i>Overall requirement (average per year)*</i>
XIV. Adjustment and savings on prior year meetings and activities				
Miscellaneous	-15 501	-28 039	n/a	n/a
Travel, DSA (Staff)	-1 058	-1 893	n/a	n/a
Travel, DSA (Experts/Participants)	-37 735	-19 807	n/a	n/a
Subtotal	-54 294	-49 739	n/a	n/a
(1) Net Total	663 243	863 933	990 636	1 487 667
(2) Programme support costs (13%) of (1)	86 222	112 311	128 783	193 397
(3) Grand total (1) + (2)	749 465	976 244	1 119 419	1 681 064

* Figures on core and overall requirements per year for 2009 and 2010 are based on ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.17, annex II.

V. Overview of estimated expenditures for January and February 2011

(in United States dollars)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Staff time	Professional support: one P-2, three P-3's and one administrative support staff	83 070
Travel, DSA (Experts/participants)	Participation in meetings of PRTR Bureau, PRTR Compliance Committee, Task Force on Access to Justice, Working Group of the Parties, Convention Compliance Committee and Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums	120 852
Travel, DSA (Staff)	Expert missions, participation at relevant events	0
Subcontracts	Consultancy (Translation outside United Nations, preparation of studies on access to justice and synthesis report)	55 026
(1) Net Total		258 948
(2) Programme support costs (13%) of (1)		33 663
(3) Grand total (1) + (2)		292 611