



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/2
8 April 2009

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Sixth meeting
Geneva, 24–26 November 2008

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND
TRANSFER REGISTERS ON ITS SIXTH MEETING**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The sixth meeting of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) was held from 24 to 26 November 2008 in Geneva.
2. The meeting was attended by delegations from the Governments of Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uzbekistan. The European Community was represented by the Commission of the European Communities (European Commission).
3. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, UNEP/GRID-Europe, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) and the Russian Regional Environmental Center attended the meeting.
4. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were represented: Global Legislators' Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) Europe and, within the framework of European ECO-Forum, the Center for Sustainable Production and Consumption (Kazakhstan), Ecoforum of Uzbekistan, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the NGO Ecopartners (Kyrgyzstan), "Greenwomen" Analytical Agency (Kazakhstan), Information Centre Volgograd-Ecopress (Ukraine), the NGO Eco-Action (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the NGO Scientific and Educational Centre for National Development (Armenia).
5. The following academic organizations were represented: Central European University (Hungary), South-Central European University (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the University of Geneva (Switzerland).

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The agenda for the meeting (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/1) was adopted.

II. STATUS OF RATIFICATION

7. The secretariat informed the Working Group of the status of ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs. Since the fifth meeting, seven further instruments of ratification had been deposited: by Croatia, Denmark, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia and Sweden. These brought the total number of ratifications to 12, with 11 by member States. Sixteen are required to bring about the entry into force of the instrument.

III. RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP, INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION AND ITS SPECIAL SESSION ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS

8. The Chairperson invited delegations to report on relevant developments and activities since the fifth meeting.

9. The secretariat reported on the relevant outcomes of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention, held from 11 to 13 June 2008 in Riga. The Meeting of the Parties had adopted a Statement on PRTRs that urged Signatories who had not yet ratified or implemented the instrument to do so as soon as possible, preferably in 2008, and invited other States, including those outside the UNECE¹ region, to accede to the Protocol. A high-level session on the Protocol had stressed the need for technical assistance for countries struggling to implement PRTRs, particularly in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The Chairperson reported on a side-event on PRTRs organized in Riga. The side-event had highlighted the needs for more assistance to countries facing challenges and for translation of guidance documents, especially into Russian.

10. The representative of Tajikistan reported that two major seminars on PRTRs (in Khujand and Dushanbe) held with support from the European Community TACIS programme for Central Asia and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The text of the Protocol had also been translated into the national language. A proposal had been made to organize a regional conference in mid-2009 supporting PRTR development in Central Asia within the framework of the TACIS project. International support for such an event was being sought.

11. The representative of Uzbekistan reported that limited laboratory facilities presented a challenge to monitoring and reporting on pollutant releases and transfers in that country. A national Web portal had been developed that presented information on the state of the environment, including on the monitoring of pollutant releases. Sweden reported that it was preparing a website to present its national PRTR data to the public, which it expected to launch in 2009. Germany and Norway also expected to launch websites presenting national PRTR information in 2009. Spain reported that it expected to publish the first cycle of PRTR data on its website in the first half of 2009.

12. The representative of Armenia reported on a seminar (Yerevan, 3–7 November 2007) supported by OSCE and attended by the secretariat and UNITAR. The event had provided training to government officials, civil society organizations and private-sector representatives, and had offered an opportunity to apply the guidance on the Protocol's implementation, which had been translated into Armenian, in a training setting.

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

13. The Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group reported that under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme, the project Strengthening Capacities for Developing a National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Georgia was providing technical and financial support to that country. The project covered implementation of specific PRTR design tasks and aimed to strengthen community right-to-know within the framework of the Convention and SAICM implementation in general. The project's expected outcome a national PRTR system endorsed by a multi-stakeholder process. This could serve as the core document for government decision makers responsible for formally institutionalizing a PRTR system and acceding to the Protocol.

14. UNITAR informed the meeting that with funding through the SAICM Quick Start Programme trust fund it was working with 37 countries, including several in EECCA. The countries were conducting national pilot projects and self-assessments as a contribution to priority-setting. One priority action for the SAICM pilot projects could be PRTR development.

IV. NATIONAL PREPARATIONS FOR RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS

15. The Chairperson invited delegations to report on activities related to preparation for the Protocol's implementation of the and on their expectations regarding the likely dates by which they would ratify it. Six delegations announced their Governments' intentions to ratify the instrument by the end of 2008 or during the first half of 2009 (Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary and Spain). Six others indicated that they expected to ratify sometime before the end of 2009 (Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia and Tajikistan). Several other delegations indicated that they had undertaken activities to prepare for implementation, but could not give specific dates for when this might be completed.

V. PREPARATIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PROTOCOL AND THE FIRST SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL

A. Scheduling and content of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties

16. On the basis of the information provided with respect to ratification plans, the Chairperson concluded that it was highly unlikely that there would be a sufficient number of ratifications in time for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to be held in 2009. He asked the delegations to consider whether to postpone the meeting to early 2010, to allow sufficient time for the requisite number of ratifications to be accumulated.

17. The Chairperson proposed that, in addition to the regular business of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the session could include substantive presentations raising the profile of important PRTR developments. He also proposed that there be a high-level segment at the session.

18. The Working Group agreed that while it was important not to lose momentum in the ratification process, it would be necessary to postpone the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to the first half of 2010. The Working Group agreed to give a mandate to its Bureau to organize a high-level segment. It further agreed to mandate the Bureau to prepare a draft declaration for consideration for adoption at this segment. The declaration could both recognize the importance of the Protocol and urge those States that had not ratified it to do so expeditiously.

19. The Chairperson invited delegations to consider who would host the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The Czech Republic indicated that it was ready to explore the possibility of hosting the meeting during the first half of 2010.

B. Draft decision on financial arrangements

20. The Chairperson presented the latest version of the draft decision on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/L.1) prepared by the secretariat pursuant to the request made by the Working Group at its fifth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/4, para. 29).

21. The Working Group proceeded to discuss the draft decision with a view to resolving all outstanding issues, taking into account inter alia the decision on financial arrangements adopted at the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention (decision III/7). The Working Group agreed on a number of changes to the draft decision, namely:

(a) To insert a new recital in the preamble and to revise paragraph 5 of the draft decision so as to indicate that in addition to contributions from Parties, Signatories and other States, contributions from organizations could also be made under the scheme of financial arrangements. It was noted that a similar approach had been taken in decision III/7.

(b) To modify paragraph 4 to indicate that such notification should be provided as soon as possible after the beginning of the year. This was needed because budgetary timetables varied from one Party to another, making it difficult for some Parties to notify the secretariat at the beginning of each year of their intended financial contributions. With this modification, the square brackets were removed from the paragraph.

(c) To add a provision to the effect that contributions towards activities in a given year should be made as early as possible and in no case later than the end of that year (para. 7).

(d) To modify a provision indicating that the practice under the Convention of routinely providing financial support through the UNECE trust fund to facilitate the participation of environmental NGOs in meetings under Convention should apply to meetings under the Protocol (para. 9) to indicate that this would be subject to the availability of funds. It was not possible, however, to reach agreement on the paragraph even following this modification. Thus, the Working Group agreed to leave the entire paragraph in square brackets for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Norway proposed that the text be replicated in the preamble, also in square brackets. France, on behalf of the European Union (EU), stated that it could not be able to agree to the inclusion of the paragraph in the draft decision, and suggested that

the idea could be recorded in the report of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. On the basis of the proposal by Norway, agreement was reached to replicate the text in the preamble, also in square brackets, as an alternative option. Participants further agreed to have a third option, namely to record the idea in the report of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(e) To delete the reference to a separate technical assistance mechanism in paragraph 11 (d), on the grounds that this matter would be addressed in the decision on the work programme.

22. With these modifications, the Working Group agreed to forward the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

C. Draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes

23. The Chairperson and secretariat presented a new version of the draft decision on the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/L.2), which had been prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat pursuant to a request made by the Working Group at its fifth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/4, para. 34).

24. The Working Group discussed the draft decision and made a number of modifications to the text. The main points of discussion were the following:

(a) There was an exchange of views on the possible need for a separate technical assistance mechanism to assist countries with economies in transition in establishing PRTRs in line with the requirements of the Protocol. A separate mechanism of PRTRs would have the advantage that it might attract funding from donors that were not necessarily Parties or prospective Parties to the Protocol. A disadvantage could be that it would not be sufficiently focused on the Protocol. While it was agreed that it would be premature to establish such a mechanism at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, it was also agreed that there should be an evaluation of the need for such a mechanism during the first intersessional period. The Meeting of the Parties should therefore, at its first session, mandate the secretariat to look into this question using a questionnaire to gather information and opinions and analysing the results. The secretariat could then report back to the proposed Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol. Paragraph 4 and annex I, activity B (technical assistance), were modified accordingly to reflect this consensus. The secretariat was encouraged to undertake preparatory work towards the proposed evaluation in anticipation of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(b) Views differed as to whether there was a need to prepare a long-term strategic plan for the Protocol, and if so, at what stage. Some Parties considered that the fact that a strategic plan for the Convention had been considered useful did not automatically imply that such a plan was necessary for the Protocol, as scope of the Convention was much broader. Further, preparing such a plan for adoption at the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol would be premature, considering that the strategic plan for the Convention had only been adopted almost six years after first meeting of its Parties. Following discussion, it was agreed that at its first session, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol should only request

the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol to consider the need for such a plan, without specifying when it should be adopted, and if it deemed it necessary to take steps to prepare the plan. It was agreed to modify paragraph 9 of the draft decision accordingly.

(c) In annex I, activity G (technical assessment of provision of the Protocol), participants agreed to list the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol alongside the secretariat as lead body, thereby ensuring greater consistency in the method of work for promoting the activity, which included meetings of that Working Group.

25. The Working Group on PRTRs approved the text of the draft decision with these alterations. At the same time, it mandated the Bureau to update the figures in the annexes in the light of the latest information on costs at the time documentation was being prepared for submission to the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and to adjust the period of the work programme (and on a proportional basis, the figures) in the light of the timing of the first and second sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

D. Draft decision on reporting on implementation of the Protocol

26. The Chairperson and secretariat presented a new version of the draft decision on reporting on implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/L.3), which had been prepared by the Bureau taking into account delegations' comments from the previous meeting and through a subsequent written commenting process (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/4, para. 41).

27. The Working Group discussed the draft decision and made a number of modifications to the text. The main outcomes were:

(a) The Working Group agreed to remove the square brackets around the text in the preamble and in paragraph 3 referring to public involvement in the preparation of national implementation reports. Regarding the latter, it was agreed to make it clear that opportunities for public involvement should be timely, and to indicate that specific circumstances pertaining to regional economic integration organizations should be taken into account. France, on behalf of the EU, indicated its understanding that this did not in any way reduce the obligation on the European Community to involve the public, but rather concerned the modalities of doing so. Armenia and Uzbekistan maintained that the timing of public consultations should be determined by procedures specified in national legislation.

(b) With respect to the proposed requirement in paragraph 8 that the implementation reports be circulated in the official languages of the Protocol, the secretariat pointed out that while this was a desirable goal, it implied a considerable workload for the secretariat (notably editing and translation). It would also coincide with the workload arising from processing the implementation reports for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention when meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention and Protocol were held back-to-back, as had been recommended in article 17, paragraph 1, of the Protocol. Specific allocation of resources in the work programme for the processing of the reports might be necessary, especially taking into account that the draft decision did not specify any length limit for the reports. The secretariat drew attention to the fact that the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention would hold a

discussion on the implications of the implementation reports under the Convention being available in the three official languages. The Working Group on PRTRs took note of the secretariat's remarks, but agreed to retain the reference in paragraph 8 to the reports being available in the official languages of the Protocol. In its view, the matter could be given careful attention by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which could both take account of further discussions which by then would take place under the Convention and could mandate the proposed Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol to keep the situation under review.

(c) Regarding paragraph 4 of the draft decision, the Working Group confirmed its understanding that while the wording would require each Party to submit the implementation report in at least one national language of that Party, it would leave the choice to the Party as to whether to submit the report in additional national languages of the Party where these existed.

(d) The Working Group agreed on number of amendments to the reporting format contained in the annex to the draft decision. In question 1, it agreed to remove square brackets around the clause referring to how the public was consulted and how its views were taken into account. It agreed to delete sub-questions 3 (j) and (k), on the basis of a proposal from France on behalf of the EU. In question 5, the square brackets around "gathering" were removed and the sub-questions were deleted. Questions 10 and 13 were reformulated in the interest of clarity.

28. With these changes, the Working Group agreed to forward the draft decision for consideration and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

E. Draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol

29. The Chairperson introduced a draft decision on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, endorsed at the fifth meeting of the Working Group on PRTRs, for a second and final reading (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2008/L.4).

30. The Working Group adopted the text of the draft decision without amendment and agreed to forward it to the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for consideration and possible adoption.

F. Draft declaration

31. The Chairperson invited the Working Group to agree on a procedure for preparing a draft statement or declaration for consideration and eventual adoption at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

32. The Working Group would invite delegations to provide the secretariat with suggestions regarding the content of the draft declaration to be by the end of February 2009. It mandated the Bureau to prepare a draft declaration reflecting the comments received and to circulate the draft electronically by 30 April 2009. Delegations of the Working Group would be invited to provide comments on the draft declaration by 30 June 2009. In autumn 2009, the Bureau, taking into account any comments received, would circulate to the Working Group a second version of the draft and a proposal for an agenda for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, The Bureau

would then finalize the draft declaration and provisional agenda and submit them for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its first session.

VI. NEEDS AND PROSPECTS FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL SUPPORT, GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

33. A representative of the secretariat informed the Working Group about the outcome of the third meeting of the International PRTR Coordinating Group (Paris, 11 March 2008). He thanked the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for hosting the meeting. The meeting had been attended by experts from 10 countries involved in PRTR development as well as by representatives from UNECE, UNEP, UNITAR and OECD. The Coordinating Group had agreed to report on PRTR capacity-building activities in the context of the SAICM Global Plan of Action to the second meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, scheduled to be held from 11 to 15 May 2009 in Geneva. The fourth meeting of the Coordinating Group would be held on 10 March 2009 in Paris.

34. The Chairperson briefed the meeting on the OECD Task Force on PRTRs meeting (12–14 March 2008), including the launch of PRTR.net², a global portal to PRTR information, and the publication by OECD of a brochure on PRTRs developed by the Task Force. He also informed the meeting about other activities of the OECD Task Force in its recently approved 2009–2012 workplan. The Task Force's twelfth meeting would be held from 11 to 13 March 2009, immediately following the International PRTR Coordinating Group's fourth meeting, scheduled for 10 March 2009. The Task Force invited the Working Group to collaborate on completion of a scoping study on the development of a "crosswalk" between different reporting systems on transfers of waste. The Chairperson noted that the issue of the different reporting systems of waste transfers was important for ensuring the comparability of data addressed in the Protocol.

35. The secretariat reported on the activities of the Framework Programme for capacity-building for PRTR since the fifth meeting of the Working Group. The secretariat outlined four external sources of funding for promotion of PRTR development in the UNECE region: (a) the TACIS Programme of the European Union, (b) the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through its support for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), (c) the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative; and (d) the SAICM Quick Start Programme. Under the ENVSEC Initiative, a national PRTR workshop had taken place in Armenia in 2007 with the support of OSCE and the secretariat. Subsequently, the Initiative had decided not to support inclusion of additional PRTR activities in its portfolio of projects to be considered for future support, in part due to the portfolio's over-subscription.

36. UNEP reported on the approval of a two-year GEF PRTR project in the context of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, which would involve seven countries in Asia, Latin America and the pan-European region. Six of the country participants would seek to develop PRTR implementation plans; the seventh, Chile, would implement a national PRTR system. In the

² <http://www.prtr.net>

UNECE region, Kazakhstan and Ukraine would receive assistance with development of their national PRTRs. UNEP welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with other agencies and Governments on PRTR development, while stressing the need to coordinate activities and avoid overlapping efforts. For the two-year project, which would start in early 2009, UNEP would act as the executing agency and UNITAR would act as the operating agency of.

37. A representative of the TACIS Programme reported on its activities supporting PRTR development in the EU. Since 2007, a number of activities supported by Switzerland and the United States of America had been undertaken. National workshops on the theme of meeting obligations under the Protocol had been organized in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. In Kyrgyzstan, a project had been launched to identify the main PRTR characteristics for developing a national PRTR system and to conduct a feasibility study. The representative of the Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption (Kazakhstan) reported that a pilot PRTR system covering facilities and transport in greater Almaty was being developed through support from the TACIS project.

38. REC briefed the meeting on a March 2008 training workshop in, held under the auspices of the EU-funded Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession on developing and operation of the European PRTR/PRTR systems for public authorities from eight countries in South-Eastern Europe (SEE). An interactive training module was currently being prepared on e-PRTRs. REC also mentioned further support needs for preparations by SEE countries for ratification of the Protocol.

39. Norway mentioned a bilateral project that had assisted Poland with improving its emissions register and implementing the Protocol. The project had focused on providing environmental information to the public. In turn, Poland had provided useful inputs to Norwegian efforts to improving the latter country's website on PRTRs.

40. The representative of the Netherlands reported on that country's cooperation with Croatia on the development of a national register in line with the requirements of the European PRTR. In 2009, it would commence a second project, to assist Armenia in the context of the European Commission TIREX project.

41. The secretariat presented the recently published *Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers*. The *Guidance* had been translated into Russian and would soon also be available in French. A CD-ROM of the publication was also available in English. Armenia, the Czech Republic and Georgia reported that they had translated the *Guidance* into their respective national languages. The Chairperson welcomed the publication's completion.

42. The secretariat updated the Working Group on the UNECE project to model the cost of implementation of the Protocol. The secretariat had hired a consultant to complete the model and expected to conclude the project by March 2009. European ECO-Forum had introduced a Russian-language PRTR training application, which it expected to launch on a dedicated Web portal in late 2008.

43. REC reported on an ongoing PRTR capacity-building project it was leading in SEE. A training session for SEE experts had been held in Bristol, United Kingdom, hosted by the

Environment Agency of England and Wales. REC was developing an interactive training module for agencies, which would be available in English from mid-2009 for participants in the SEE PRTR network. Proposed activities included (a) examining legal requirements in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, (b) conducting capacity-building workshops for operators and NGOs in Montenegro and Serbia and (c) a pilot PRTR project in Albania under a broader proposal submitted to the European Stability Initiative.

44. The Working Group underlined the need to support regional and country-based technical assistance and capacity-building projects. It mandated the Bureau to draft a questionnaire on capacity-building needs that would be circulated to Parties to the Protocol at the beginning of the intersessional period, following the first session of the Meeting of the Parties.

VII. FUTURE WORK

45. The Working Group adopted a revised indicative workplan structuring its activities leading up to the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. This included a mandate for the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a draft questionnaire on the needs of States with economies in transition for capacity-building and technical assistance with respect to PRTRs. The revised workplan is shown in the table below.

46. The Working Group decided that the final versions of all the revised draft decisions should be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for consideration and possible adoption at its first session.

47. The Working Group agreed that it would probably not be necessary to hold a further , even just before the first session of the Meeting of the Parties. However, the Working Group mandated the Bureau to convene such a meeting should it prove necessary. In addition, while there was no need for the Working Group to meet in 2009, it would be important nonetheless to hold some events to keep the PRTR issue in the spotlight and to build momentum towards the first session of the Meeting of the Parties. In this regard, the possibilities of side-events at the meetings of the governing bodies of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as an international conference in Tajikistan, were mentioned. The Working Group further mandated the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to explore possible dates for holding the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and to invite nominations for the proposed Compliance Committee.

Table. Calendar of meetings and key documents in preparation for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties

Meeting	Date	Analysis	Draft decisions, first reading	Draft decision, second and subsequent readings	Meeting of the Parties review and adoption
Working Group on PRTRs, third meeting	May 2006	Financial arrangements, subsidiary bodies	Compliance review mechanism, rules of procedure		
Working Group on PRTRs, fourth meeting	14–16 February 2007	Subsidiary bodies, programme of work, reporting mechanism, technical assistance mechanism	Financial arrangements	compliance review mechanism, rules of procedure	
Working Group on PRTRs, fifth meeting	22–24 October 2007	Technical assistance mechanism (assessment)	Programme of work, reporting mechanism, subsidiary bodies	Compliance review mechanism, financial arrangements, rules of procedure	
Working Group on PRTRs, sixth meeting	October–December 2008			Financial arrangements, programme of work, reporting mechanism, subsidiary bodies	
Bureau and secretariat, based upon input from the Working Group	2009	Questionnaire on technical assistance needs prepared		Declaration, agenda	

Meeting	Date	Analysis	Draft decisions, first reading	Draft decision, second and subsequent readings	Meeting of the Parties review and adoption
First session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol	January– June 2010				Compliance review mechanism, declaration, financial arrangemen ts, rules of procedure, programme of work, reporting mechanism, subsidiary bodies

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSE OF THE MEETING

48. The Working Group adopted its report with the understanding that the Chairperson and the secretariat would finalize the text and that French- and Russian-speaking delegations would reserve their positions until the report was available in French and Russian.

49. The Chairperson thanked the delegations adopting a spirit of compromise, which had enabled the Working Group to conclude its work.
