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RESOLUTION OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON
POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS
TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO
JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS



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Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
(Extraordinary meeting, Kiev, 21 May 2003)
(Item 2 of the agenda)

PROTOCOL ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS

Addendum

RESOLUTION ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS 1/

We, the Signatories 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,

Desiring to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, integrated, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) capable of facilitating public participation in environmental decision-making as well as contributing to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment,

Resolving to strive for the early entry into force of the Protocol,

Committing ourselves to making progress towards achieving the objectives of the Protocol to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force,

^{1/} This resolution was adopted at the extraordinary meeting of the Parties in Kiev on 21 May 2003 following the adoption of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

1. Request the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention to actively promote and to keep under review the progress made as regards the ratification of the Protocol and steps taken towards its implementation, and to prepare for the entry into force of the Protocol, pending the convening of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, inter alia by:

(a) Establishing a working group on pollutant release and transfer registers, as an open-ended subsidiary body to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, open to all Signatory States and regional economic integration organizations, and other interested States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to sign the Protocol under its article 24, to:

- (i) Identify and carry out activities that need to be undertaken pending the entry into force of the Protocol, in particular to prepare for the implementation of the Protocol through, inter alia, the preparation of guidance documents and the sharing of information and experience gained;
- (ii) Report periodically to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on progress made in respect of the ratification of the Protocol and steps taken towards its implementation;
- (iii) Prepare for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, taking into account the provisions of the Protocol; and
- (iv) Conclude its work by the time of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

(b) Giving full recognition within the work programme of the Convention to activities proposed by the working group, including in the allocation of resources;

2. Call upon Signatories and other States to make voluntary financial contributions, within the framework of the interim financial arrangements of the Convention or otherwise, to ensure that sufficient financial means are available to carry out the activities in the work programme of the Convention which are related to the Protocol;

3. Invite other donors to give high priority to projects aimed at furthering the objectives of the Protocol;

4. Acknowledge the active and constructive role played by intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations in the development of the Protocol, and invite them to participate in the same spirit in the working group and any related subsidiary bodies;

5. Acknowledge also that the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other key actors will play a crucial role in the implementation of the Protocol at national level and resolve to ensure opportunities for their appropriate involvement in the development of pollutant release and transfer registers;

6. Call upon each Signatory to promote public awareness of pollutant release and transfer registers and to encourage the public to make full use of pollutant release and transfer registers and of the opportunities that they offer to it;
7. Emphasize that capacity-building for all those involved is essential for the effective implementation and application of the Protocol, and encourage capacity-building and the sharing of experience, using existing mechanisms such as the Aarhus Convention's capacity-building service, where appropriate;
8. Welcome in this regard the emergence of the "virtual classroom" as an informal scientific and technical tool facilitating communication, education and capacity-building in pollutant release and transfer registers, including through the exchange of information on good practices;
9. Resolve to seek close cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and programmes, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;
10. Recognize that further work is desirable to promote compatibility amongst national pollutant release and transfer register systems, in particular with respect to the requirements for reporting on transfers and to thresholds determining the reporting obligation for specific facilities, and stress the importance of working towards greater harmonization among systems to further increase comparability of data, taking into account the overall effectiveness of the systems;
11. Encourage interested States and regional economic integration organizations to sign and ratify or accede to the Protocol in order to promote the availability and comparability of environmental information throughout the world and thereby contribute to the effective implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21;
12. Affirm our understanding that, with respect to the Parties to the Convention, no provision of this Protocol shall be construed as diminishing in any way the rights and obligations provided under the Convention.