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Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

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Sub-item 4.1.2 of the provisional agenda

**Report on the third meeting of the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED
held on 30 October 2002, Geneva, Switzerland**

The meeting was attended by 5 participants from France, Slovakia, Slovenia and Poland. The meeting was chaired by Mr. M. Murín (Slovakia).

What follows represents the conclusions of the third meeting, containing proposals of the Team on the future work in the area of sustainable economic and ecological development of the chemical industry.

Conclusions reached at the third meeting in 2002 of the Team of Specialists on Chemiseed

as adopted by the Team at the end of its meeting, Geneva, 30 October 2002

1. Possible future work

1. The Team made the following proposal for future work.

Programme on sustainable industrial restructuring, use of chemicals, and soil and groundwater quality

Brief description: The programme focuses on the development processes leading to new industrial structures in ECE member countries, with particular reference to restructuring as affecting the chemical industries. The sustainability of the emerging structures is a major criterion for development. In terms of sustainability, the management of all aspects related to the use of chemicals is a priority concern in all ECE member countries. The maintenance of soil quality by the new industrial structures is, in turn, a major determinant of sustainability. The programme is designed to review national and international industrial restructuring strategies and practices in this conceptual context. In addition, the programme is intended to become a vehicle for the solution of the large number of soil and groundwater pollution problems in the countries in transition that are the result of past unsustainable use of chemicals in the region.

Methods of work: Assistance to the organization of seminars, congresses and workshops dealing with the use of chemicals in terms of soil and groundwater quality; provision of a framework, in the form of ad hoc meetings of specialists, for the consideration of (national) presentations regarding general or specific aspects of soil pollution from the use of chemicals; providing a framework for the identification, description and implementation of soil and groundwater decontamination projects.

Project 1: Soil and groundwater contamination: Analysis, treatment, rehabilitation

Brief description: The project is designed to enable the continuation of assistance to the organization of events in the 'Intersol' series. This Congress is to be seen as a unique event, where scientists, industry and governmental as well as non-governmental institutions gather to exchange practices and upgrade their substantive professional information.

Method of work: Continuation of cooperation with the organizers of 'Intersol', in accordance with established practice.

Project 2: Sustainable management of the use of chemicals

Brief description: Periodic assessments of lessons learnt from relevant practices of local, regional and national land planning from the point of view of maintenance of soil quality. In addition, relevant developments underway in international institutions will be presented and discussed in their regional implications.

Method of work: Preparation, by national or international rapporteurs, of reports on relevant national and international plans and practices, and consideration of such reports at ad hoc meetings of specialists.

Project 3: Soil and groundwater decontamination projects in transition countries

Brief description: The contamination of soil and groundwater is widespread in countries in transition, in various forms and from various sources (storage of obsolete agro-chemicals and pharmaceuticals, abandoned chemical plants, risky storage of hazardous wastes, contamination

of previous military sites, etc.). The identification of the related 'hot spots' has to precede the improvement of their storage conditions and their treatment. Such work stages are expensive and difficult to implement. This project will assist in all actions necessary for a lasting remediation of 'hot spots', including in fund raising efforts.

Methods of work: (a) Follow-up as adequate to the list of priority projects established under the Task Force on the Pilot Project on Soil Decontamination; (b) organization of 'project fairs', where possible, at which projects can be presented to potential donors; participation in the implementation of remediation projects subject to availability of funds, and other activities contributing to problem solution.

2. Suggested organization of the proposed future work

2. The Team decided to concentrate on the substance of work it considers ECE to be well placed to pursue (set out under section 1 above). In addition, a few suggestions were also made that might be useful for the organization of the work. The following proposals are submitted to the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development in this regard:

- a) The work proposed above exhibits links to industrial concerns, to environmental protection and to technical cooperation. The work should therefore be organized in such a way that the relevant concerns from the three work areas can be recognized in the work.
- b) While, in principle, the proposed work programme on sustainable industrial restructuring, use of chemicals, and soil and groundwater quality could be organized in any of the ECE work programmes relevant for the three reference areas, the Team suggests to maintain the work in the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development, provided that the coordination issues with the units responsible for technical cooperation and environmental protection will have to be undertaken.
- c) In addition, the Working Party may wish to delineate organizational measures that satisfy the following:
 - Stable and uninterrupted secretariat services should be available to project implementation.
 - Facilitation of contacts between potential donor and potential recipient institutions as well as assistance to fund raising for purposes of Project 3 in the above programme should be an explicit part of secretariat services.
 - Follow-up to the list of priority projects established under the Task Force on the Pilot Project on Soil Decontamination should be decided on the basis of a secretariat proposal to the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development.