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**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

Fourth meeting  
Geneva, 14–16 February 2007  
Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda

**ANALYSIS OF PROCEDURES FOR THE PREPARATION, ADOPTION AND  
MONITORING OF WORK PROGRAMMES<sup>1</sup>**

Prepared by the Bureau

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.

<sup>1</sup> This document was submitted on the above date to ensure its compatibility with the draft decision on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.3) and the document on further analysis of the options for establishment of subsidiary bodies to the Protocol (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.4).

1. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention initially adopted separate decisions on (a) the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes (decision I/11), and (b) the work programme for 2003–2005 (decision I/12). Given the experience gained under the Convention and the general decision to avoid overcomplication, it may be possible, in the case of the Protocol, to address both issues in a single decision.

## **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ON WORK PROGRAMMES**

2. Recalling article 17, paragraph 2 (c), of the Protocol, which requires Parties to keep under continuous review the implementation and development of the Protocol, and to establish a programme of work for this purpose, as well as to consider and undertake any additional actions that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Protocol, a work programme should be prepared for adoption at each ordinary session of the meeting of the Parties.

3. The Meeting of the Parties may consider establishing a work programme of activities under the auspices of the Protocol which would (a) identify and prioritize activities to be undertaken under the auspices of the Protocol, and (b) provide a framework guiding the undertaking of such activities during the intersessional period following that meeting. The procedures for preparing, adopting and monitoring the work programme should be clear and transparent. The work programme should identify, as far as possible, the main proposed activities for the forthcoming intersessional period and their objectives, estimated costs, time frames and expected outcomes.

4. The need for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme and for the Parties to have the possibility of adjusting the activities to changing circumstances in the framework of the agreed work programme should be recognized, particularly in case of unforeseen events and minor changes. The ability to adjust the work programme may be granted to the Bureau or another intersessional subsidiary body, if one is established.

## **II. LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANS**

5. It may be considered useful to prepare and adopt a long-term strategic plan for the Protocol. The Meeting of the Parties at its first session could consider establishing procedures for the preparation of a draft long-term strategic plan with a view to its adoption at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties. The relationship with the long-term strategic plan being developed under the Convention would need to be carefully considered. In decision I/11 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes, the Meeting of the Parties recognized the need to adopt a long-term strategic plan for that instrument. At their second meeting, the Parties recognized that a strategic plan for the Convention would also cover the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), while acknowledging the future role that the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol would have in shaping the activities under the Protocol (decision II/8).

6. The procedures that are the subject of this decision are closely linked with the issue of financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.4). Contributions received under any scheme of financial arrangements would be expected to cover, first and foremost, activities prioritized within the work programme. They should be reviewed at the latest in connection with any review of financial arrangements envisaged in a future decision on that topic.
7. For each activity in the work programme, the following details should be indicated:
- (a) Objective(s) and expected output
  - (b) Lead country, body or organization
  - (c) Method of work
  - (d) Approximate time frame
  - (e) Estimated costs and expected sources of funding (if other than the United Nations regular budget), with core requirements distinguished from non-core requirements.
8. Core requirements should have priority in the allocation of the budgetary resources made available under whatever scheme of financial arrangements is adopted by the Meetings of the Parties. Parties, Signatories and other States should be encouraged to contribute to non-core activities not covered by these resources as the need arises.
9. The Parties may request the secretariat to provide a more detailed assessment of the activities in the work programme covering the period between the first two sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, including a breakdown of the cost estimates of each activity, and to report to the Bureau or other intersessional body of the Parties.

### **III. POSSIBLE ELEMENTS FOR A WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008–2011**

10. Among the topics which the first session of the Meeting of the Parties may wish to consider for inclusion in the work programme covering the first intersessional period are:
- (a) Compliance mechanism
  - (b) Reporting mechanism
  - (c) Mandating and developing information tools, notably the Clearinghouse, the Virtual Classroom and the capacity-building activities matrix
  - (d) Technical assistance mechanism and capacity-building
    - i. Listing of specific capacity-building needs per topic and Party
    - ii. Cooperation with other international organizations and processes (United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Regional Environmental Centres, etc.) on funding of capacity-building projects
  - (e) Awareness raising and promotion of the Protocol
  - (f) Interlinkages with the Aarhus Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements

- (g) Information exchange on a technical level, on topics such as:
  - i. How to identify PRTR reporting facilities
  - ii. The use of electronic tools
  - iii. How to measure, calculate and estimate releases and transfers
  - iv. Which releases from diffuse sources to identify, and how
  - v. How to present the data on releases and transfers
  - vi. How to organize public participation in the development of PRTRs
  - vii. Economic and social impacts of PRTRs
- (h) Technical assessment of PRTRs, including:
  - i. Drafting of assessment report(s) on experience gained in the development of national PRTRs according to Article 6 (2) of the Protocol
  - ii. Drafting of recommendations on technical issues to the Meeting of the Parties, based on the assessment report(s)
- (i) Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, including preparation of the second session of the Meeting of the Parties and drafting of the programme of work under the Protocol.

11. The Meeting of the Parties may request the Bureau or other intersessional body to consider further the prioritization of the activities in the work programme for the period between the first two sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, and to report on its conclusions at its second meeting.

12. The Meeting of the Parties may also agree to review the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes at its second meeting.