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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Regional Office for Europe

High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health

DECLARATION

**adopted by the
SECOND HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
(Geneva, 5 July 2002)**

We Ministers of Transport, Environment and Health and representatives of Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe having met in Geneva on 5 July 2002,

RECALLING the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, recognizing the global responsibility of each sector to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and identifying transport as one of the key priorities for action at national and international levels;

EMPHASIZING the commitments made at the Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 24-25 September 2001) to work within existing regional processes for the integration of transport, environment and health;

RECOGNIZING that considerable efforts have already been undertaken by the transport, environment and health sectors, both at national and international levels, for achieving transport sustainable for environment and health, highlighted by the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Joint Action on Transport and Environment (POJA) in 1997 and the Ministerial Declaration and the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health in 1999;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant differences in progress towards transport sustainable for health and the environment in the countries of the region;

HIGHLIGHTING that increases in road, air and maritime transport have resulted in growing environmental and health impact and continued pressures on natural resources and eco-systems;

HIGHLIGHTING ALSO that, in view of the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, 2004), which will focus on the theme “The future of our children”, special attention within further activities should be given to groups at high risk, in particular children;

CONVINCED of the need to take further steps and to utilize the political momentum created by the Vienna and London follow-up processes with a view to achieving transport sustainable for health and the environment, in particular through integration of environmental and health concerns into transport policies;

RECALLING the decisions and recommendations of the First High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, convened jointly by the WHO/Euro and UNECE secretariats (Geneva, 4 May 2001) which inter alia welcomed the assessment of priorities for further work in the fields of transport, environment and health, endorsed the approach on rationalization of the international institutional mechanisms established under the Vienna and London follow-up processes, and requested further preparatory work to be able to decide whether to start negotiations of a Framework Convention on Transport, Environment and Health;

WELCOMING the important role played and the activities carried out by the Joint UNECE-WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health as mandated by the First High-level Meeting;

REITERATING the request already made by the First High-level Meeting that Contracting Parties to existing international agreements and legal instruments related to transport, environment and health should further enhance implementation of those instruments and should further develop them with a view to achieving transport sustainable for the environment and health;

DESIRING to convey to the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 26 August to 4 September 2002) that European countries will further strengthen the implementation of the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 through national actions and a concrete regional initiative in which, in an effective manner, national and international activities are coordinated and advanced with a view to integrating environmental and health aspects into transport policies;

1. **ENDORSE** the mid-term review of the Vienna Programme of Joint Action (POJA) prepared by the UNECE secretariat assessing progress achieved and difficulties met in implementing the POJA from 1997 to 2002.
2. **ENDORSE ALSO** the assessment report on the implementation of the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health prepared by the WHO/Euro secretariat which reviews progress achieved and issues encountered in the implementation of the Charter.
3. **TAKE NOTE** of the reports on the assessment of the appropriateness of elaborating a Framework Convention on Transport, Environment and Health and on the identification of possible elements to be addressed in such an instrument.
4. **RECOGNIZE** that negotiation of a Framework Convention on Transport, Environment and Health seems to be premature and should not be pursued for the time being.
5. **RECOGNIZE ALSO** that the next High-level Meeting, taking place not later than 2007, might wish to instruct the Steering Committee, in light of progress of THE PEP, to re-examine the question of whether to start negotiations of a framework convention.
6. **REAFFIRM** the commitments of Ministers made in Vienna and in London to carry out international work on transport, environment and health, focusing on the implementation of the priority areas agreed for joint work at the Pan-European level.

7. **DECIDE** to establish a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) as outlined in document ECE/AC.21/2002/5 - EUR/02/5040828/5 to be administered under the auspices of UNECE and WHO/Euro, and which will be the means whereby the London and Vienna processes will be taken forward. THE PEP consists of the following three components:

- (a) THE PEP Policy Framework, focusing on
 - integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policy
 - demand side management and modal shift
 - urban transport
 - cross cutting issues (specific needs and problems of Newly Independent States (NIS) and South Eastern European countries as well as ecologically particularly sensitive areas of the region);

- (b) THE PEP Work Plan, outlining a number of specific and concrete activities which could serve as examples of how tangible progress could be made in the priority areas. These activities should be undertaken possibly on a step-by-step basis, in co-operation with other international organizations, taking into account the work that has been undertaken so far;

- (c) The Steering Committee on Transport, Environment and Health, replacing the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment (JMTE) of UNECE as well as the London Charter Steering Group of WHO/Euro. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Steering Committee will promote, monitor, coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the programme, including through its ad hoc bodies, according to an agreed timetable, with clear milestones, and should also have a mechanism to follow-up its implementation.

8. **COMMIT** to ensure effective implementation of THE PEP including through allocation of adequate resources and financial means for carrying out the activities under the rationalized priorities, as outlined in the THE PEP Work Plan and to ensure adequate participation of representatives of NIS and South Eastern European countries, in accordance with the eligibility criteria adopted within the UNECE and WHO.

9. **REQUEST** the UNECE and the WHO/Euro secretariats to provide adequate secretariat services indispensable for the effective implementation of the THE PEP.

10. **DECIDE** to monitor the implementation of the newly established Transport, Environment and Health Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) and assess the progress achieved at a High-level Meeting to take place no later than 2007.

11. **REQUEST** the three Co-Chairpersons of the Meeting to transmit the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) to the secretariat of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in order to be considered as part of the list of partnerships which will be presented in Johannesburg within the framework of the “type two outcomes” of the Summit, on the ground that THE PEP is a regional initiative which launches new cooperative actions among countries of the WHO/Euro and UNECE regions in an area of crucial importance for sustainable development.
