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ОКРУЖАЮЩАЯ СРЕДА ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ
ЕУРОПА ҮШІН ҚОРШАҒАН ОРТА

ASTANA, 21–23 September 2011



Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

**Astana, Kazakhstan
21–23 September 2011**

Organization of work of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference



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Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

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Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

Organization of work for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference*

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Seventh “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference will begin at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 21 September 2011, and end at 6 p.m. on Friday, 23 September, lasting two-and-a-half days in total.
2. The two main themes of the Conference are: *sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems*; and *greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development*. The Conference will address several agreed “questions for discussion” (see section II of the present document) under these two main themes, as well as under a cross-cutting theme, *sustainable management of water and greening the economy* (i.e., there will be three thematic segments in total).
3. The Conference will be chaired by the Minister of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan. Each thematic segment will be chaired by a minister from a member State of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).
4. To enhance interaction between delegates, each of the three thematic segments of the Conference will consist of two parts:
 - A one-hour plenary session; followed by
 - A two-hour multi-stakeholder round table organized in three parallel sessions.

* The present document was submitted late due to the need to consult with partners.

5. Each plenary session will comprise several keynote addresses by different stakeholders in order to kick off the discussion in the round tables. The keynote addresses will focus on one or more of the “questions for discussion” identified for each of the thematic segments. Subsequent discussions will take place in the round table. Each parallel session of a given round table will address the same questions but, given the different participants involved, different perspectives may emerge in the discussions.
6. The consolidated results of the discussions from each thematic segment (both plenary and round-table sessions) will be presented by the respective chairs on the last day of the Conference and will serve as input into the Chair’s Summary of the Conference.
7. The official languages of the Conference are English, French and Russian (En, Fr, Ru). Simultaneous interpretation for these languages will be provided during the plenary sessions and during one of the parallel sessions of each round table. The two other parallel sessions of each round table will have simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian only.
8. The Conference agenda and documents (official and for information purposes) are available on the ECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/documents.html>). With regard to the Astana Water Action, countries were invited to register their commitments to water actions before the Conference; more information is available on the website.
9. To minimize the use of natural resources, **the Astana Ministerial Conference will be a paperless event**. In order to considerably diminish the printing of documents for the Conference, all Conference documents will be made available on the ECE website. Conference participants are encouraged to download them in electronic format and, if necessary, print them. Only documents produced during the preparatory meeting of the Committee and the Conference (e.g., the Ministerial Declaration and the Chair’s Summary) will be distributed, with two hard copies per delegation.
10. The host country will provide the necessary technical equipment (electric sockets and Wi-Fi Internet connection) to enable the use of laptops in the Conference plenary hall. Given financial resource constraints, the host country invites participants to bring their own laptops to the Conference.

II. Organization of work

Wednesday, 21 September 2011

Registration, greening-the-Conference-related events, 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

11. The Registration Desk will open at 8 a.m. The host country secretariat will ensure an efficient and smooth security check and registration procedure so as to enable timely registration of all participants in the Conference.
12. The host country will have the opportunity to organize greening-the-Conference-related events, such as tree-planting.

1. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

Plenary session, Wednesday, 21 September, 2–4 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Nurgali Ashim, Minister of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan

Welcoming address by Mr. Karim Massimov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

Introductory remarks by the Chair

Keynote address (up to five minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. Jan Kubiš, Executive Secretary of ECE
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme

Opening event by the host country

Family photograph of all ministers and heads of delegations

2. The “Environment for Europe” process: 20 years of pan-European cooperation

Plenary session, Wednesday, 21 September, 4–6 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Ashim

Introductory remarks by the Chair

Address on “From Dobříš to Astana: 20 years of pan-European cooperation” by Mr. Bedrich Moldan, former Minister of Environment and Senator, Czech Republic, followed by an EfE award ceremony (up to 15 minutes)

Presentation of the “Green Bridge” Partnership Programme by the Chair (up to 15 minutes)

Presentation of the key findings of the “Europe’s Environment Assessment of Assessments” report by Ms. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (up to 15 minutes)

Presentation of the findings of the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE Region* by Mr. Ville Niinistö, Minister of Environment, Finland (up to 15 minutes)

Statements/interventions from the floor by ministers and high-level representatives of the private sector and civil society (up to 3 minutes per intervention; a total of up to 40 minutes)

Concluding remarks by the Chair

3. Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems

Questions for discussion

(a) Which policies proved to be effective to value and protect water-related ecosystems, including payment for ecosystem services? What are the main obstacles and gaps?

(b) What policies proved to be effective in addressing human health issues related to water quality and quantity? What are the main obstacles and gaps?

(c) What are the priorities/challenges in adapting management of water and water-related ecosystems to extreme weather events and to climate change?

(d) What are the experiences and lessons learned from the cooperation in transboundary basins to improve water quality, manage water quantity and protect ecosystems?

Plenary session, Thursday, 22 September, 10–11 a.m.

Chair: Mr. László Borbély, Minister of Environment and Forests, Romania

Introductory remarks by the Chair

Keynote addresses (up to five minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. Sándor Fazekas, Minister of Rural Development, Hungary
- Mr. Gheorghe Şalaru, Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova
- Ms. Sascha Gabizon, co-Chair of the European ECO-Forum Board, Executive Director of Women in Europe for a Common Future
- Ms. Letitia Obeng, Chair of the Global Water Partnership
- Mr. Sagit Ibatullin, Chairman, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
- A representative of the International Federation of Private Water Operators (to be confirmed)

Presentation of the Astana Water Action by Ms. Sibylle Vermont (Switzerland), Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (up to seven minutes)

Remarks by the Chair

Round-table discussion, Thursday, 22 September, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Three parallel sessions of a multi-stakeholder round table on sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems (for details please refer to the annex of the present document, as well as to the list of round-table participants to be presented in an addendum to the present document)

Round-table parallel session 1 (En/Fr/Ru), moderated by Ms. Vermont

Round-table parallel session 2 (En/Ru), moderated by Mr. Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Ambassador, Deputy-Director General for the Environment and the Netherlands' Special Envoy for Climate Change, the Netherlands

Round-table parallel session 3 (En/Ru), moderated by Mr. Chyngyzbek Uzakbaev, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Water Resources and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan

4. Sustainable management of water and greening the economy

Questions for discussion

(a) What policy mixes and practical tools, such as integrated water resources management (IWRM), pricing, standards and water users associations, can be most effective to improve water efficiency by different water users, especially in agriculture, households and industrial operations?

(b) How can we encourage investments to take into account the impacts on water quantity and water quality, energy and resource efficiency and vulnerable populations?

Plenary session, Thursday, 22 September, 3–4 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Bruno Oberle, State Secretary, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

Introductory remarks by the Chair

Keynote addresses (up to five minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. Ville Niinistö, Minister of Environment, Finland
- Mr. Rinat Gizatulin, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Russian Federation
- Ms. Anna Golubovska-Onisimova, President of the Ukrainian environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) “MAMA-86”, the European ECO-Forum
- Mr. Simon Upton, Director, Environment Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Mr. Mykola Melenevskiy, President of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
- Mr. Tulegen Sarsembekov, Deputy Chief, Department of Technical Assistance, Eurasian Development Bank

Remarks by the Chair

Round-table discussion, Thursday, 22 September, 4–6 p.m.

Three parallel sessions of a multi-stakeholder round table on sustainable management of water and greening the economy (for details please refer to the annex of the present document, as well as to the list of round-table participants to be presented in an addendum to the present document)

Round-table parallel session 1 (En/Fr/Ru), moderated by Mr. Gheorghe Constantin, the Chair of the European Union Water Initiative Working Group for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Romania

Round-table parallel session 2 (En/Ru), moderated by Mr. Zaal Lomtadze (Georgia), Chair of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy

Round-table parallel session 3 (En/Ru), moderated by Mr. Marek Gromiec, Professor, International Expert in Water Resources Management, Award-winner in 2010 of the Grand Prix Cannes Water Award, the Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award, and the Culligan Gold Water Award, Poland

5. Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development

Questions for discussion

(a) What policy mixes have the potential to secure the achievement of a green, inclusive and competitive economy, through an integrated approach, including sectors such as transport, housing, energy, agriculture and education?

(b) How can resource efficiency improve sustainability and competitiveness in local, regional and global markets?

(c) How can research, innovation and investment help the transition towards a green economy?

(d) How could the “Environment for Europe” process contribute to outcomes on green economy in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20)?

Plenary session, Friday, 23 September, 10–11 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Ruslan Bultrikov, Vice-Minister of Environment Protection, Kazakhstan

Introductory remarks by the Chair

Keynote addresses (up to five minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. Milan Hovorka, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic
- Mr. Gerald Farthing, Deputy Minister of Manitoba Education, Canada
- Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, President of the Federal German Environment Agency, Germany
- Mr. Jan Rączka, President of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Poland
- Mr. Janis Brizga, Head of the Board of Green Liberty, European ECO-Forum
- Ms. Martina Bianchini, Vice President of European Union Government Affairs and Public Policy, Dow Chemical, and Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce Green Economy Task Force

Remarks by the Chair

Round-table discussion, Friday, 23 September, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Three parallel sessions of a multi-stakeholder round table on greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (for details please refer to the annex of the present document, as well as to the list of round-table participants to be presented in an addendum to the present document)

Round-table parallel session 1 (En/Fr/Ru), moderated by Ms. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency

Round-table parallel session 2 (En/Ru), moderated by Mr. Jan Dusik, Deputy Director of the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme

Round-table parallel session 3 (En/Ru), moderated by Mr. Deltcho Vitchev, Director, Renaissance Finance International, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

6. Reporting on the outcomes of the discussions under the thematic segments

Plenary session, Friday, 23 September, 3–4.30 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Ashim, Minister of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan

Introductory remarks by the Chair

Reporting by Mr. Borbély, the Chair of the thematic segment on sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, on the main findings of both the plenary and round-table sessions under this thematic segment (up to 10 minutes)

Questions/comments from the floor on the main findings of the thematic segment on sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems (a total of up to 15 minutes)

Reporting by Mr. Oberle, the Chair of the thematic segment on sustainable management of water and greening the economy, on the main findings of both the plenary and round-table sessions under this thematic segment (up to 10 minutes)

Questions/comments from the floor on the main findings of the thematic segment on sustainable management of water and greening the economy (a total of up to 15 minutes)

Reporting by Mr. Bultrikov, the Chair of the thematic segment on greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development, on the main findings of both the plenary and round-table sessions under this thematic segment (up to 10 minutes)

Questions/comments from the floor on the main findings of the thematic segment on greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (a total of up to 15 minutes)

Concluding remarks by the Chair

7. Adoption of Conference outcomes

Plenary session, Friday, 23 September, 4.30–5.30 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Ashim, Minister of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan

Introductory remarks and presentation of the draft Ministerial Declaration by the Chair

Adoption of and statements on the Ministerial Declaration

Summary of commitments on the Astana Water Action and acknowledgement of participating States

Comments on the Conference's contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 2012 (Rio+20):

Mr. Bedrich Moldan (Czech Republic), Vice-Chair of the Preparatory Bureau for the Rio+20 Conference

Concluding remarks by the Chair

8. Closure of the Conference

Plenary session, Friday, 23 September, 5.30–6 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Ashim, Minister of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan

Chair's Summary of the Conference

Remarks by Mr. Kubiš, Executive Secretary of ECE

Closing remarks by the Chair

Annex

Guidance notes for speakers and arrangements for round tables

A. Statements and interventions from the floor under agenda item 2

1. The Conference will address four main issues under agenda item 2: “From Dobříš to Astana: 20 years of pan-European cooperation”; the “Green Bridge” Partnership Programme; Europe’s Environment Assessment of Assessments; and the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE Region*.
2. Following the four presentations, ministers and high-level representatives of the private sector and civil society will have the opportunity to make statements or interventions from the floor of up to three minutes. These statements or interventions may cover one or more of the four issues discussed under this agenda item.
3. Several speakers have asked to make statements or interventions. They are listed in a separate addendum to the present document, which will be regularly revised up until the Conference.
4. Final copies of statements and interventions made should be sent to the ECE secretariat (efe@unece.org) after the Conference for posting on the website.

B. Keynote speakers under agenda items 3, 4 and 5

5. Each keynote speaker will have up to five minutes for delivering a keynote address. The speech will be made from the lectern situated on the podium. For a more efficient use of time, seats for the keynote speakers will be reserved in a designated area close to the lectern. The Chair of the thematic segment will invite speakers to deliver their keynote address in accordance with the established order as per section II of the present document. The necessary technical equipment will be provided for PowerPoint presentations. Nonetheless, the five-minute time limit must be respected and it is therefore suggested that any PowerPoint presentation should be limited to 5 slides.
6. Keynote speakers are invited to submit to the ECE secretariat (efe@unece.org) a copy of their keynote address as soon as possible and not later than Tuesday, **13 September 2011**. The secretariat will provide these copies to the interpreters and also use them to extract the key messages for the Chair’s Summary of the Conference. The entire Chair’s Summary will be made available at the end of the Conference.
7. Final copies of the keynote addresses should be sent to the ECE secretariat (efe@unece.org) after the Conference to be posted on the website.

C. Arrangement for round tables under agenda items 3, 4 and 5

8. A round-table parallel session will comprise up to 30 participants, including ministers and heads of delegation of ECE member States, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), regional environmental centres (RECs), NGOs and private sector representatives. NGOs and the private sector should be represented at the highest level, with the latter represented preferably by chief executive officers. To allow for participation of each of the 56 ECE member States in round-table discussions, the composition of each of the parallel sessions will be as follows:
 - (a) ECE member States will have up to 19 seats;

- (b) IGOs will have up to 2 seats;
- (c) RECs will have up to 2 seats;
- (d) NGOs will have up to 4 seats; and
- (e) Private sector representatives will have up to 4 seats.

9. The list of round-table participants is presented in a separate addendum to the present document, which will be regularly revised up until the Conference.

10. In addition, some 200 registered participants in the Conference will be accommodated in each of the parallel sessions to participate as observers to the round-table discussions. If time permits, these participants will be given the opportunity to pose questions to the round-table participants.

11. Each of the round-table's parallel sessions will open with introductory remarks by the moderator. Participants in the round table will be invited to engage actively in the discussion, and to address the agreed questions for discussion. In their interventions, participants can address one or more questions for discussions and/or react to interventions of others.

12. Speeches that have been prepared in advance are strongly discouraged during the round tables; instead, participants should exchange views on the theme under discussion. To allow each participant at the round table to intervene at least once during the discussion, the time limit for interventions will be three minutes.

13. Following the discussion, the moderator will highlight key points to be brought to the attention of the Conference plenary (agenda item 6).
