



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.EIA/2008/18
3 March 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

Fourth meeting
Bucharest, 19–21 May 2008
Item 8(i) of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF THE WORK DONE BY THE WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES WITH
ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE UNECE REGION

**Draft decision IV/9 on financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in
transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the UNECE region**

Draft decision proposed by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment

The following draft decision, which was discussed and endorsed by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment at its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 21–23 November 2007), is recommended for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

The Meeting of the Parties,

Aware of the importance of wide participation by the Parties in its activities in order to ensure progress,

Aware also of the need to facilitate the participation of certain countries with economies in transition that may otherwise not be able to take part,

Recalling the amendment to the Convention (decision II/14), which allows United Nations Member States that are not members of UNECE to accede to the Convention, and recalling article 23, paragraph 3, of its Protocol, which allows United Nations Member States not members of UNECE to accede to the Protocol,

1. *Calls upon* countries with economies in transition to finance to the extent possible their own participation in the activities under the Convention and its Protocol in order to ensure that the limited funds available are used efficiently;

2. *Urges* Parties and encourages non-Parties and relevant international organizations to contribute financial resources to enable countries with economies in transition and non-governmental organizations to participate in the meetings under the Convention and its Protocol;

3. *Recommends* that there should be no differentiation between Parties and non-Parties within the UNECE region for the purposes of providing financial assistance;

4. *Also recommends* that the Convention and its Protocol should apply the guiding criteria established and periodically updated by the Committee on Environmental Policy for financial assistance to support the participation of experts and representatives from countries with economies in transition in meetings and workshops organized within the framework of the Convention and its Protocol and other relevant activities, depending upon the availability of funds;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to grant, subject to the availability of funds, financial assistance for the participation in meetings under the Convention and under its Protocol of designated experts from non-governmental organizations identified in a list to be drawn up by its Bureau, subject to a maximum of five (5) such experts for each instrument, unless otherwise decided by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment or a subsidiary body established under the Protocol to assist in the management of the workplan, respectively;

6. *Decides* that its Bureau shall, depending on the availability of funding, and subject to priority being given to funding (a) the workplan and (b) the participation of experts and representatives referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5, examine requests for possible financial assistance for the participation in meetings under the Convention and its Protocol by representatives and experts from States outside the UNECE region.

* * * * *