

STATEMENT

by Mr. Simon Papyan, Head of Armenian Delegation,
First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia

Dear Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Armenian delegation, let me greet the participants of the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and congratulate you upon the tenth anniversary of Espoo Convention coming into force.

We value the effectiveness of this instrument for regional cooperation that contributes to trustful relations between neighbors.

In this connection, we consider very important findings of the sub-regional workshop on capacity building, which took place in Yerevan in September 2007 with active participation of the Convention's Secretariat and financial support of the Swiss Government.

Within the workshop, Armenia broad forward an initiative on Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment pilot project implementation and elaboration of draft bilateral agreement on support measures to the Convention's provisions observance. The Implementation Committee supported this initiative and submitted it to the Conference of Parties for approval within the framework of recommendations on Armenia.

We especially appreciate support of the Secretariat and the Implementation Committee to improvement of the national legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment. We hope for continuous partnership and constructive co-operation in further improvement of legislation.

Experience of co-operation with Armenia demonstrates a good perspective of the Committee's activities in this field; this would contribute to a more complete observance of the Convention's provisions by the member states.

In conclusion, let me sincerely thank the Romanian Government and the Secretariat for good organization of the meeting and warm hospitality.