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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

(First meeting, Lucca, Italy, 21-23 October 2002)
(Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT DECISION I/10

CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM AND CAPACITY-BUILDING SERVICE

The Meeting.

Welcoming the work done by the Convention's secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to establish the Aarhus Convention clearing-house and capacity-building service,

Welcoming also the cooperation of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Environmental Law Centre through their Joint Environmental Law Service (JELS) with the secretariat on capacity-building activities,

Believing that the clearing house facilitates substantially the useful sharing of national and international information related to access to information, public participation and access to justice in an efficient, simple and well-structured manner,

Acknowledging the desirability of a system to match up available financial resources with requests for financial support, addressing in particular the needs for assistance in countries in transition,

Wishing to address the urgent need for coordinated and systematic assistance, in particular in countries in transition, for the effective implementation of the Convention,

1. Requests the secretariat to continue its efforts, within the resources available, to develop the clearing-house mechanism and capacity-building service, in cooperation with the other partners;
2. Urges all Parties, Signatories and other States to submit any relevant information to the clearing house in order for it to be as comprehensive as possible;
3. Encourages Parties, Signatories and other States as well as all relevant organizations and the public to make use of the available information;
4. Urges donor countries to review project proposals submitted through the clearing-house mechanism and to contribute financially to specific projects and to projects facilitated by the capacity-building service;
5. Invites Parties, Signatories, other States and non-governmental organizations to submit requests for assistance to the service when needs occur;
6. Encourages the secretariat and UNEP to continue and further develop the service, continuously reviewing its effectiveness, in particular with respect to assistance on electronic information tools and on pollutant release and transfer registers.