



**Economic and Social
Council**

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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

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Addendum

DECISION I/13

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

adopted at the first meeting of the Parties
held in Lucca, Italy, on 21-23 October 2002

The Meeting,

Recalling article 10, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which states that the Meeting of the Parties may, as necessary, consider establishing financial arrangements on a consensus basis,

Recalling also article 12, which stipulates that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe shall carry out secretariat functions,

Recalling further its decisions I/11 and I/12 on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and on the work programme for 2003-2005,

Recognizing that effective implementation of the Convention depends, inter alia, on the availability of sufficient financial and human resources,

Believing that the need for stable and predictable sources of funding and a fair sharing of the burden should be the guiding principles of any financial arrangements established under the Convention,

Determined to ensure that the necessary resources are available for implementing the core elements of the work programme,

Believing that a voluntary scheme of contributions by Parties and other States or regional economic integration organizations, based upon a system of equal shares, can provide an effective and workable solution in the short to medium term,

Convinced that, in the longer term, the levels of contributions should be based upon the United Nations scale of assessments or other appropriate scales, and that consideration should be given to establishing stable and predictable financial arrangements,

1. Establishes an interim voluntary scheme of contributions to be sustained by contributions from Parties, Signatories and other States having opted to participate in the scheme;
2. Recognizes that activities under the work programme for 2003-2005 not covered by the United Nations regular budget should be covered by voluntary contributions corresponding to 59 shares of US\$ 20,000 per year, of which 43 shares would cover core requirements and 16 shares would cover the remaining requirements;
3. Invites Parties, Signatories and other States in a position to do so to contribute, in cash or in kind, an amount corresponding to one or more shares or parts thereof, especially to core activities identified in the work programme. No contribution should be less than US\$ 200;
4. Welcomes the participation in the scheme of those Parties, Signatories and other States not Party to the Convention that have pledged contributions;
5. Requests that all such contributions in cash be made to the UNECE Trust Fund on Local Technical Cooperation (Aarhus Convention);
6. Welcomes any additional contributions towards activities under the work programme of the Convention;
7. Endorses the guiding principles 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 Aarhus Convention and other relevant activities established and periodically updated by the Committee on Environmental Policy, while recognizing that the provision of any financial support is subject to the availability of funds;
8. Requests the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare a report for the next meeting of the Parties, including information on how much Parties and other participating States contributed to the budget of the Convention in cash and in kind, and on how the contributions were spent;

9. Establishes a task force, under the authority of the Working Group of the Parties, to:

(a) Consider the feasibility of and modalities for introducing a system of financial arrangements based on the United Nations scale of assessments or other appropriate scales;

(b) Explore the possibility of establishing stable and predictable financial arrangements; and

(c) Develop recommendations concerning the above matters for consideration by the Working Group of the Parties with a view to their possible adoption at the second ordinary meeting of the Parties; and

10. Agrees to review the question of financial arrangements at its second ordinary meeting, on the basis of the work of the task force and any proposals from the Working Group of the Parties.