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Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties to the Convention
Sixth meeting
Geneva, 5–7 April 2006
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

REPORT ON FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES IN 2005^{/*}

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

1. The Parties to the Convention at their second meeting adopted decision II/6 on Financial Arrangements, in which they requested the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare annual reports for review by the Working Group of the Parties in order to ensure that the level of contributions matched the level of funding needed for the implementation of the work programme (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.10, para. 4).

^{/*} The document could not be submitted by the normal deadline because the definitive financial data for 2005 were not available until several weeks after that deadline.

2. Pursuant to this request, the secretariat has prepared:

- a) an overview of contributions from Parties and Signatories for the period 1 January – 31 December 2005, with information on contributions made for 2003 and 2004 included for comparison (annex I); and
- b) an overview of expenditures made in the period 1 January – 31 December 2005 (annex II).

3. A number of observations concerning the figures contained in the annexes are made in the following paragraphs.

4. At around US\$ 638,000, the overall level of contributions made through the Convention's Trust Fund is similar to the level of contributions for each of the previous two years (around US\$ 603,000 and US\$ 647,000 respectively). It remains somewhat below the estimated core annual requirement and substantially below the estimated overall annual requirement as revised by the Working Group at its first meeting (US\$ 681,000 and US\$ 1,144,00 respectively).

5. The Parties and Signatories that have made contributions for 2005 tend to be those that also made contributions for the previous years. Approximately half of the Parties did not make any contribution for 2005, and these are generally the same Parties that have failed to contribute in previous years. Even among those that have contributed, the burden of contributions does not appear to be spread evenly or equitably among the Parties and Signatories, and thus one may question whether the goal contained in decision II/6 that the system of financial arrangements be based upon the principle of a "fair sharing of the burden" is being met.

6. Leaving aside the substantial in-kind contribution by the Government of Kazakhstan through its hosting of the second meeting of the Parties, the level of expenditure for the year (around US\$ 725,000) was somewhat higher than the anticipated core requirement (US\$ 681,000) and significantly above the level of income (US\$ 638,000). This was made possible by the release of funds previously contributed through the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition for work on the Convention (around US\$ 123,000) and was considered justified by the fact that the second meeting of the Parties was to be held during 2005 and the need to prepare effectively for the meeting. However, in the longer term it will be necessary to keep a closer match between income and expenditure. As a step in this direction, the number of extra-budgetary professional staff was reduced to two from the end of July 2005 and remains at that level.

7. Expenditure in the following areas of activity fell well below even the estimated core requirements:

- genetically modified organisms (GMOs), where the work on preparing an amendment to the Convention was concluded within the framework of the Working Group of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties itself rather than under the Working Group on GMOs;
- access to justice, due to the fact that the newly established Task Force on Access to Justice did not meet during 2005; and
- financial arrangements, the task force on which topic had concluded its work in 2004.

Expenditure on awareness raising and capacity building was also less than the estimated core requirement, in the latter case due to a reduction in the secretariat's direct involvement in capacity-building projects following the decision to give increased priority to its coordination role.

8. By contrast, the expenditure on interlinkages with other conventions was significantly greater than even the estimated overall requirement, due to the holding of the first meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums in November 2005 in accordance with decision II/4. The expenditure on preparing and holding the second meeting of the Parties appears to be almost three times the estimated overall requirement for that activity, even without taking into account the substantial contribution in kind from the Government of Kazakhstan. However, it should be taken into account that this expenditure included the costs of preparing the synthesis report on implementation, which had not been separately foreseen. Also, the expenditure should be averaged out over the three-year period, and there was obviously much less spending in this area during the previous two years.

9. In all other areas, expenditure fell between the estimated core and overall requirements, usually closer to the former.

10. The slight decline in the level of financial contributions to the Trust Fund, despite the steady increase in the number of Parties, is a matter of some concern in the context of rising costs and the persisting gap between estimated requirements and actual income. Unless the level of funding increases, it is doubtful whether it will be possible to implement the work programme for 2006–2008 in the manner envisaged at the second meeting of the Parties.

Annex I

Status of contributions for 2005 received through the Trust Fund (a)						
Country (b)	Date received	Currency	Amount	Amount in US\$	Contributions for 2003 US\$	Contributions for 2004 US\$
Albania			0	0	0	0
Armenia			0	0	0	0
Austria		\$	0	0	9,730	11,856
Azerbaijan			0	0	0	0
Belarus	22.07.2005	\$	1,000	1,000	0	0
Belgium	16.03.2005	€	10,000	13,210	0	21,963
Belgium	05.05.2005	€	945	1,223		
Belgium	13.10.2005	€	3,465	4,164		
Belgium	14.10.2005	€	8,499	8,499		
Bulgaria	21.12.2005	\$	5,000	5,000	0	0
<i>Croatia</i>			0	0	0	0
Cyprus			0	0	0	0
Czech Republic			0	0	0	0
Denmark (c)	23.03.2005	DKK	115,000	20,605	49,081	39,108
Estonia	27.09.2005	\$	20,000	20,000	0	0
Finland	28.12.2004	\$	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
France	22.07.2005	€	60,000	72,377	62,630	73,507
Georgia			0	0	0	0
<i>Germany</i>	23.02.2005	€	46,265	60,476	73,484	59,420
Greece			0	0	0	0
Hungary			0	0	0	0
<i>Iceland</i>			0	0	0	0
<i>Ireland</i>			0	0	0	0
Italy	13.04.2005	€	100,000	129,702	100,000	123,370
Kazakhstan	05.05.2005	\$	315	315	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	29.03.2005	\$	990	990	0	0
Latvia	16.03.2005	\$	200	200	0	0
Latvia	17.10.2005	\$	1,000	1,000		
<i>Liechtenstein</i>			0	0	0	0
Lithuania			0	0	0	0
Luxembourg			0	0	0	0
Malta	20.12.2005	\$	1,000	1,000	0	231
<i>Monaco</i>			0	0	0	0
Netherlands	06.12.2005	\$	19,992	19,992	43,057	55,054
Norway	11.02.2005	\$	19,984	19,984	53,870	30,816
Norway	15.08.2005	\$	15,662	15,662		
Poland			0	0	0	0
Portugal			0	0	0	0
Republic of Moldova			0	0	0	1,000
Romania			0	0	0	0
Slovakia			0	0	0	0
Slovenia	30.03.2005	€	3,500	4,624	0	1,500
Slovenia	23.06.2005	\$	4,051	4,051		
Spain	01.03.2005	€	20,000	26,420	22,857	24,876
Sweden	27.01.2005	\$	19,974	19,974	19,975	19,975
<i>Switzerland</i>			0	0	0	0
Tajikistan	08.06.2005	\$	400	400	0	0
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			0	0	0	0
Turkmenistan			0	0	0	0
Ukraine			0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	08.04.2005	GBP	30,000	56,497	40,000	53,500
European Community	23.08.2005	€	100,000	120,919	118,765	120,374
Total				638,284	603,449	646,550

(a) The contribution from Denmark was received by the United Nations but was not credited to the Trust Fund during 2005 due to incorrect labelling of the contribution.

(b) Signatories and Parties to the Aarhus Convention (Signatories are in italics).

(c) A contribution of 230,000 DKK was made for activities in 2005 and 2006. At the request of the donor country, the contribution has been apportioned equally between the two years.

Status of contributions for 2005 received in kind						
Country	Date received	Currency	Amount	Amount in US\$	Contributions for 2003 US\$	Contributions for 2004 US\$
Belgium				0	54,700	0
Bulgaria				0	10,000	0
Kazakhstan	25.05.2005	KZT	30,315,217	233,194	0	0
Total				233,194	64,700	0

Annex II

Overview of expenditures for 2005 through the Trust Fund					
Activity		Item	2005 (a)	MOP-1 estimation (as revised) average per year (b)	
				Overall	Core
I.	Compliance mechanism				
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.60; secretarial support (G-4): 0.50	91,220	125,000	53,000
	Equipment	PC, printer, USB, fax	1,824	5,000	5,000
	3 meetings of Compliance Committee	Travel, DSA (committee members, other participants)	50,740	40,000	40,000
	Expert missions	Travel, DSA (staff)	0	10,000	5,000
	Translation outside UN, expert advice	Consultancy, subcontracts (c)	12,264	40,000	30,000
	Subtotal		156,049	220,000	133,000
II.	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)				
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.40; secretarial support (G-4): 0.15	73,066	125,000	43,000
	Equipment	PC, printer	1,824	10,000	5,000
	1 meeting of Working Group	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	22,851	30,000	30,000
	3 meetings of Task Force per year	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	0	30,000	10,000
	Preparation of guidance material	Consultancy, subcontracts (d)	3,750	30,000	10,000
	Awareness raising regarding the Protocol and participation in international events	Travel, DSA (staff)	1,368	10,000	5,000
	Subtotal		102,859	235,000	103,000
III.	Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)				
	2 Working Group meetings per year	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	0	30,000	30,000
	Preparation of guidance material	Consultancy, subcontracts	0	10,000	5,000
	Subtotal		0	40,000	35,000
IV.	Access to justice				
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.10; secretarial support (G-4): 0.05	13,421	15,000	15,000
	2 Task Force meeting per year	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	0	25,000	25,000
	Collection and examination of case studies	Consultancy, subcontracts	0	10,000	0
	Subtotal		13,421	50,000	40,000
V.	Electronic information tools				
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.10; secretarial support (G-4): 0.20	25,149	0	0
	2 Task Force meetings per year	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	17,555	30,000	25,000
	Collection and examination of case studies	Consultancy, subcontracts	0	15,000	5,000
	Subtotal		42,704	45,000	30,000
VI.	Financial arrangements				
	Staff time	Professional staff and secretarial support	0	10,000	10,000
	1 meeting per year	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	0	10,000	10,000
	Subtotal		0	20,000	20,000
VII.	Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities				
	2 meetings of Working Group of the Parties per year	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	41,399	40,000	30,000
	Bureau meetings	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	2,365	5,000	5,000
	Subtotal		43,764	45,000	35,000
VIII.	Capacity-building activities				
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.40 (Jan-Jul), 0.30 (Aug-Dec)	44,707	65,000	65,000
	Capacity-building activities according to the work plan	Various	0	100,000	20,000
	Materials, studies	Consultancy, subcontracts (e)	407	10,000	10,000
	Subtotal		45,114	175,000	95,000

Overview of expenditures for 2005 through the Trust Fund					
Activity		Item	2005 (a)	MOP-1 estimation (as revised) average per year (b)	
				Overall	Core
IX. Clearinghouse					
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.20	28,909	10,000	5,000
	Technical assistance for maintenance and upgrading, training of national experts	Consultancy, subcontracts	0	40,000	15,000
	Subtotal		28,909	50,000	20,000
X. Awareness raising and promotion of the Convention					
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.30 (Jan-Jul), 0.15 (Aug-Dec); secretarial support (G-4): 0.10	33,678	40,000	35,000
	Participation in relevant events where no other funding is available	Travel, DSA (staff)	5,396	15,000	10,000
	Subtotal		39,074	55,000	45,000
XI. Interlinkages with other Conventions, including PPIF					
	Staff time	Professional support (L-3): 0.17 (Jan-Jul); 0.02 (Aug-Dec)	22,957	20,000	5,000
	Meetings on PPIF, including 1st meeting of Task Force on PPIF	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	17,033	0	0
		Travel, DSA (staff)	0	0	0
	Participation in relevant events where no other funding is available	Travel, DSA (staff)	2,747	10,000	10,000
		Consultancy, subcontracts (f)	6,000	0	0
	Subtotal		48,736	30,000	15,000
XII. Second ordinary meeting of the Parties (g)					
	Staff time	Professional staff (L-3): 0.20 (Jan-Jul)	13,808	7,000	7,000
	Participation	Travel, DSA (eligible participants)	96,138	28,000	14,000
	Participation	Travel, DSA (staff)	5,657	7,000	7,000
	Technical assistance, information materials	Consultancy, subcontracts (h)	18,200	5,000	4,000
	Subtotal		133,802	47,000	32,000
XIII. Miscellaneous					
			50	0	0
	Subtotal		50	0	0
	Total 1		654,481	1,012,000	603,000
	Adjustments to prior year's figures		-12,286	0	0
	Total 2		642,195	1,012,000	603,000
	Total subject to programme support costs		636,195		
	Programme support costs 13%		82,705	131,560	78,390
	GRAND total		724,901	1,143,560	681,390

(a) The figures for 2005 also include the costs of travel for eligible participants in some meetings organized under the auspices of the Convention that were covered by the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).

(b) The MOP-1 estimated costs were revised by the Working Group in 2003 (see document "Assessment and Prioritization of Extrabudgetary Activities in the 2004-2005 Work Programme", MP.PP/WG.1/2003/7).

(c) These funds were spent on translation of documents submitted to or produced by the Compliance Committee.

(d) These funds were spent on the preparation of documents in connection with the Protocol on PRTR, notably the technical guidance and background documents on the rules of procedure and the compliance mechanism.

(e) These funds were spent on participation of a UNITAR expert in national planning meetings for the preparation of national profiles to assess the capacities for implementation of the Convention in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

(f) These funds were spent from the regular budget on the preparation of documentation for the first meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums.

(g) See table below.

(h) These funds were spent on the preparation of the synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention.

Overview of expenditures for 2005 in kind			
Activity	Item	2005	
XII. Second ordinary meeting of the Parties	Funds spent by Kazakhstan on the meeting facilities and preparation	233,194	
Total		233,194	