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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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22 June 2007

To: Non-governmental organizations engaged in international forums
dealing with environmental matters and other concerned stakeholders

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Comments on experiences with the application of the Almaty Guidelines

As you may be aware, at their second meeting, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in May 2005, the Parties to the Aarhus Convention adopted a set of guidelines on promoting the principles of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in international forums dealing with the environment ("the Almaty Guidelines").ⁱ

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention established a Task Force to enter into consultations regarding the Guidelines with relevant international forums within the scope of the Guidelines.ⁱⁱ The Meeting of the Parties also invited Parties, Signatories, other interested States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors to submit to the secretariat comments relating to their experience regarding the application of the Guidelines for consideration by the Task Force.

In accordance with the Meeting of the Parties' invitation, I am writing to invite you to provide us with any comments that your organization may have relating to its experience regarding the application of the Guidelines.

The Task Force will be considering the outcomes of the consultation process on the Almaty Guidelines at its meeting in autumn 2007. We would therefore be grateful to receive your organization's comments by **Monday, 1 October 2007**.

If you have any questions about the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address or my colleague, Fiona Marshall, at fiona_marshall@unece.org.

I thank you for your attention and we look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Wates

Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

ⁱ Decision II/4 of the Meeting of the Parties, ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5, may be viewed at <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2005/pp/ece/mp.pp.2005.2.add.5.e.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ The consultation process is described in more detail on the Aarhus Convention website at www.unece.org/env/pp/ppif.htm.