



## ***PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY***

Geneva and Strasbourg, 18 September 2006

STRA-CO (2006) 19 addendum

### **BUREAU OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY STRATEGY**

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13<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
22 September 2006  
Room 15, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

**State of Preparation of the Ministerial Conference  
“Environment for Europe”  
October 2007**

*Document prepared by  
the Joint Secretariat for PEBLDS*

### **Addendum**

Please replace page 2 of document STRA-CO (2006) 19 *State of Preparation of the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" October 2007* with the following page:

The primary agenda item of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group of Senior Officials for the preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> *Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference* was the discussion of possible agenda items for the Ministerial Conference in Belgrade, October 2007.

UNEP, on behalf of the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, submitted a Biodiversity concept paper (see Annex 1) to the preceding meeting of the Executive Committee (Execom) held in February and it was redistributed to the WGSO. Prior to the WGSO, discussions had taken place between the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat and civil society on organization of a stakeholders' session on biological diversity during the conference under the joint auspices of PEBLDS and ECO-Forum (see ECO-Forum proposal for the Belgrade Conference in Annex 3).

The WGSO discussed a possible draft outline of the Belgrade Conference, with the revised draft version adopted *ad referendum* and the roundtable discussion on biodiversity was included in this revised draft version of the agenda for the Belgrade Conference (see Annex 2 and the Report of the WGSO meeting <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2006/ece/cep/ac.11/ece.cep.ac.11.2006.2.e.pdf>). It was also agreed that UNEP, on behalf of the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat, and in collaboration with EcoForum, should take the lead in preparing the biodiversity topics for discussion at the conference.

It was agreed that the agenda should focus on three clusters: Evaluation and Implementation, Capacity-Building and Partnerships and The way forward, but the US would not accept issues to be singled out for discussion, as it should be up to each government to present what they found relevant. The European representatives were all in favour of identifying specific issues to focus the debate around.

There was agreement that Belgrade should be a conference of delivery, demand driven. Most delegations agreed with the importance of the sub-regional dimension, even though the European Commission openly questioned whether Efe was the optimum forum to discuss SEE priorities effectively.

The key points in the draft revised agenda are that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Biodiversity have been allocated the first afternoon session after the opening, but as processes parallel to the Environment for Europe process.

The US opposed that either of the two issues become agenda items and presented the WGSO with their understanding that discussions and conclusions of these parallel processes could not be reflected in the overall ministerial statement of the conference. This understanding was not shared by any European representative and will be the main bone of contention at the next WGSO in October and most likely until the adoption of the ministerial declaration at the conference.

Several countries proposed that Mountain Ecosystems would be highlighted as an agenda topic and the regions of Caucasus, Balkans and Central Asia were singled out. A paper will be worked out with UNEP's involvement on that issue and submitted.

The agenda also highlights the sub-regional differences and divides the discussion on the needs of the South Eastern European region from the EECCA region.

The next meeting of WGSO will take place 12-13 October in Geneva (see the annexes).