



NATIONS UNIES
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POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Project entitled

**AARHUS CONVENTION:
Promotion and Implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public
Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
(Project ID no. E104-ECE-EV-101)**

under the ECE Local Technical Co-operation Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of item II C of the Annex to ST/AI/285, it is certified that:

1. The trust fund is properly defined as a technical co-operation trust fund within the guidelines laid down in document ST/SGB/188;
2. The trust fund meets the other policies and guidelines for trust funds laid down in document ST/SGB/188;
3. There are no additional financial implications for regular budget other than those to be met by programme support costs;
4. Any proposed post at the L-6 or D-1 level or above to be located at an established United Nations office will be approved by the Office of Financial Services;
5. The trust fund agreements with the donors conform to the model appended to document ST/AI/285;
6. The appropriate offices have been consulted.

Danuta Hübner
Executive Secretary



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**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PROJECT WITHIN THE ECE LOCAL TECHNICAL
COOPERATION TRUST FUND**

PART I

Submitting Office (*if different from implementing office*):

Proposed implementing office: UN/ECE Environment and Human Settlements Division

Title of programme manager: Head of Division

Title of project: AARHUS CONVENTION: Promotion and Implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Project ID no: E104-ECE-EV-101

Approved by: Executive Secretary of UN/ECE

Donor(s): **Estimated amount and type of currencies (attached)***

DENMARK:	325,000 USD
OTHERS	892,000 USD

Although only the Danish contribution has been committed at this stage (see attached), future contributions are anticipated from Belgium, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and the European Commission, and the cost plan has been prepared on this basis.

Purpose: To support the promotion and effective implementation of the Aarhus Convention, in particular with regard to countries in transition and non-governmental organisations.

Relationship to regular budget (*specify section and programme*):

Subprogramme 1 Environment of Section 18, Economic Development in Europe

Relationship to other approved or proposed trust funds: None

Financial implementations for regular budget: None

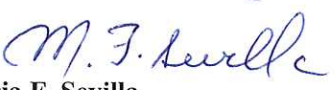

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Anticipated start date and duration:

1 May 2001 and open-ended for follow-up activities under Aarhus Convention.

Detailed description of the proposed project, a copy of the proposed agreement with the donor and income and expenditure estimates phased by calendar year.

Detailed description of the proposed project, copy of a letter from the initial donor and income and expenditure estimates phased by calendar year for 2001-2003 are attached.

Reviewed and recommended for approval	Approved
 Maria F. Sevilla Title: Executive Officer, Executive Office, UN/ECE Date: 14/5/2001	 Danuta Hübner Title: Executive Secretary, UN/ECE Date: 14/5/2001

PART II

Type of trust fund: Substantive Operational

Trust fund allotment code (IMIS BAC): 2001-ECE-0872-E104-2112

Fund subject to programme support at regular rate: 13% Programme Support Cost

Anticipated programme support income per project year:

Year 1

13% of US \$ 311,200 = US \$ 40,456

Year 2

13% of US \$ 394,500 = US \$ 51,285

Year 3

13% of US \$ 371,500 = US \$ 48,295

Certifying officer(s): Maria F. Sevilla
Susan Bartolo
Patricia Lapeyrière

Note: Allotment not to be issued before submission of cost plan and payment of contribution(s). See Administrative Instruction ST/AI/285.

ORIGINAL: Financial Resources Management and Electronic Services

COPIES: Submitting Office
Implementing Office
Accounts Section
Treasury

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**A PROJECT UNDER THE ECE LOCAL
TECHNICAL COOPERATION TRUST FUND**

AARHUS CONVENTION

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

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The Aarhus Convention

The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) was adopted and signed in June 1998 in the Danish town of Aarhus. Progress towards entry into force of the Convention has been relatively rapid, with ten countries having ratified, approved or acceded to the Convention and several others expected to do so shortly. As entry into force requires 16 ratifications, it is expected that the Convention will enter into force some time during 2001, and that the first meeting of the Parties will take place in 2002.

Background

At their first meeting (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, April 1999), the Signatories to the Convention agreed upon a work-plan pending its entry into force (CEP/WG.5/1999/2). This work-plan, which constitutes part of the basis for the activities under the Convention, is based on two main objectives: a) promotion, ratification and implementation of the Convention and b) preparations for the first meeting of the Parties.

Under these general headings, a number of specific working elements and tasks were agreed upon. These included the establishment of three task forces, dealing with compliance, pollutant release and transfer registers and genetically modified organisms respectively. The meeting also agreed upon a number of other issues concerning the work of the secretariat, e.g. increasing the use of the web site to distribute information, examining the links between the Aarhus Convention and other UN/ECE conventions and providing assistance in the form of handbooks and guides on the Convention.

At their second meeting (Dubrovnik, Croatia, July 2000), the Signatories reviewed the work undertaken since the first meeting, and decided to establish three intergovernmental working groups (on compliance and rules of procedure, on genetically modified organisms and on pollutant release and transfer registers) and two new task forces (on access to justice and on the use of electronic information tools). All task forces and working groups are serviced by the secretariat. In addition, the Aarhus Convention focal points are formally invited to participate in the negotiation of the proposed ECE protocol on strategic environmental assessment under the Espoo Convention, in recognition of the desirability of close co-ordination between the convention bodies on a matter of common interest.

A number of activities have been undertaken to support the implementation process. An Implementation Guide on the Convention has been prepared as a joint project between UN/ECE, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. Various workshops have been held to raise awareness of the Convention and the issues it covers. For example, the UK hosted an international workshop in Newcastle in December 1999 on public participation at local level, the results of which provided input to a handbook of good practices in this field. Two more general workshops on the Convention involving both government officials and NGOs were held, the first in Turkmenistan in May 2000 for five Central Asian countries, the second in Georgia in December 2000 for the countries of the South Caucasus region.

The Convention has also raised considerable interest outside the ECE region, because of its unique nature in the global context as a tool for environmental democracy. It has been described by the UN Secretary-General as 'the most ambitious venture in the area of "environmental democracy" so far undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations'. The opportunities arising due to the international importance of the Convention have also increased the workload under the Convention.

Objective of project

The objective of the project is to support the promotion and implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its principles, and to provide technical support to activities undertaken under its auspices.

In order to achieve this objective, various activities are envisaged. These include measures to strengthen the visibility and raise political and public awareness of the Convention and the issues it covers throughout the region, as well as measures to support the participation of key stakeholders,

notably experts from countries in transition and NGOs, in processes under the Convention. Among the specific types of activities envisaged under the project are the following:

- Planning and implementation of a programme of national and sub-regional multi-stakeholder seminars and workshops: these events will bring government officials, NGOs, parliamentarians and representatives of other relevant bodies into dialogue over the implementation of the Convention, facilitated by a team of trainers having both expertise in the provisions of the Convention and knowledge of the conditions in the relevant countries;
- Developing tools to improve information and outreach on the Convention: measures will include expanding the range of information materials on the Convention, seeking increased media coverage of the activities under the Convention and upgrading and improving the maintenance of the Convention website;
- Supporting and facilitating the participation of experts from countries in transition and NGOs in the various processes taking place under the auspices of the Convention or related to its implementation;
- Providing technical support to activities supporting the promotion or implementation of the Convention: this would include activities undertaken by the Parties collectively (e.g. related to the mechanism for monitoring and reviewing compliance which it is expected will be set up at the first meeting of the Parties) as well as activities undertaken at national level (e.g. provision of legal advisory services in the preparation of implementing legislation, or publication of the Convention or guidance material in national languages).
- Promotion of the Convention's principles in other international or regional instruments, including ECE instruments;
- Strengthening of activities aimed at promoting the Convention in other regions of the world: the preparatory process for and follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, summer 2002), where it is expected that the issues covered by the Convention will be discussed, could provide a relevant context for such activities.

Organisation

The project will fall under the responsibility of the Environment and Human Settlements Division. At operational level, it will be co-ordinated by the Secretary to the Aarhus Convention, who is accountable through the Teamleader of the Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development Team to the Director of the Division.

Financing

The costs of the activities to be carried out under the present project would be financed from contributions to the ECE Local Technical Co-operation Trust Fund for this project.

At present, Denmark has confirmed its contribution to the project (DKK 2,740,000, equivalent to approximately US \$ 325,000 - see attached). This contribution will be used for financing a project on information and outreach activities for a period of 2.5 years. Further fund raising efforts are needed to enable the other activities to take place, and to this end, consultations with other prospective donors are under way.

Contributions for the project would be transferred through the UNOG Chase Manhattan bank account details of which are provided at Annex I, for credit to the UN/ECE Trust Fund for Local Technical Co-operation.

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Annex I

Banking Information

The contribution should be made to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) by bank transfer as follows:

Account number: 001-1-508629
Bank name: Chase Manhattan Bank, New York
Account title: UNOG General Fund
General Ledger: UN-0503456 (for UNOG/Finance reference only)
Bank address: International Agencies Branch
270 Park Avenue, 43rd Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA
ABA: 021000021 (US Banking Code)
Reference: Indicate clearly "*For the Credit of account E104-ECE-EV-101 (ECE/Aarhus Convention Local Technical Cooperation Trust Fund)*"

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COST PLAN

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Programme: 1. Environment
Title of Trust Fund: Local Technical Co-operation Trust Fund
Title of project: Promotion and implementation of the Aarhus Convention
Project ID No: E104-ECE-EV-101
IMIS BAC: 2001-ECE-0872-E104-2112
Programme output: *Activities undertaken relate to the 2001 proposed programme budget (Section 18) Economic Commission for Europe, sub-programme 1, Environment, especially paragraphs 27-29.*

Proposed cost plan for 1 May 2001 - 31 December 2003

Old TC Obj. code	IMIS Obj. Class	Object of expenditure	2001 (US\$)	2002 (US\$)	2003 (US\$)	2001-2003 (US\$)
11-01	441	Project personnel	100,000	100,000	75,000	275,000
11-51	441	Consultants	27,000	32,000	32,000	91,000
13-01	441	Administrative Support Personnel	7,000	10,500	10,500	28,000
15-01	441	Travel on official business	15,000	20,000	20,000	55,000
16-01	441	Travel of Experts	100,000	170,000	170,000	440,000
21-01	442	Sub-contract	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
22-01	442	Grants	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
42-01	444	Non-expendable Equipment	7,000	3,000	5,000	15,000
45-01	444	Expendable Office supplies	700	1,000	1,000	2,700
51-01	445	Operation and Maintenance of Equipment	1,500	2,000	2,000	5,500
53-01	445	Sundry	5,000	7,000	7,000	19,000
53-02	445	External printing	17,000	17,000	17,000	51,000
53-03	445	Hospitality	1,000	2,000	2,000	5,000
	(1)	Net Total:	311,200	394,500	371,500	1,077,200
	(2)	13% Programme support cost of (1)	40,456	51,285	48,295	140,036
	(3)	15% Operating Reserve of (1) + (2)	52,748	66,867	62,969	182,585
	(4)	GRAND TOTAL: (1) + (2) + (3)	404,404	512,652	482,764	1,399,821

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Title of Trust Fund: Project for implementation and outreach activities under the Aarhus Convention

Project ID No: E104-ECE-EV-101

IMIS BAC: 2001-ECE-0872-E104-2112

Resource requirements for 2001-2003

11-01 Project Personnel

The proposed provision under this object of expenditure is intended to cover the salary and related entitlements of an implementation and outreach project co-ordinator, including instalment and separation costs.

11-51 Consultants

This provision is related to obtaining outside expertise inter alia for facilitating a programme of national and sub-regional multi-stakeholder workshops to promote awareness, understanding and effective implementation of the Convention. It also covers expenses related to provide external training at the envisaged workshops by international experts. Furthermore, some consultancy assistance is needed for developing publicity materials on the Convention.

13-01 Administrative Support Personnel

Requirements foreseen under this object code are to cover the salaries and related entitlements of a secretary or temporary secretarial assistance to support the project (25% at \$3,500 per month).

15-01 Travel on official business

Provisions under this object code are to cover the travel costs of project staff and regular staff to enable their participation at meetings, workshops and seminars under the auspices of or related to the Convention, where no other funding is available.

16-01 Travel of Experts

Requirements foreseen under this heading are to cover the travel and subsistence costs of experts related to their participation in or facilitation at meetings, workshops and seminars held under the auspices of or related to the Convention. These include the programme of multi-stakeholder workshops promoting awareness, understanding and effective implementation of the Convention and meetings of the working groups and/or task forces on pollutant release and transfer registers, genetically modified organisms, compliance and rules of procedure, access to justice, electronic information and strategic environmental assessment, as well as meetings of the Signatories or Parties.

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21-01 Sub-contract

Provisions under this heading are needed to contract for the local organization of meetings, workshops and seminars under the auspices of or related to the Convention or addressing specific topics of the Convention, including payment of conference room services, interpretation, audiovisual transmission of proceedings, local transportation and other facilities, as well as to provide for translation of documentation needed for such meetings, workshops and seminars.

22-01 Grants

Provisions under this heading are needed to provide support for activities undertaken by third parties of a non-commercial nature (such as NGOs) to further the promotion and implementation of the convention, such as the preparation of publications and other materials publicising the Convention, or the organisation of workshops and seminars raising awareness of the Convention.

42-01 Non-Expendable Equipment

Requirements under this object code are to acquire or upgrade IT and communication equipment for the project activities.

45-01 Expendable Office Supplies

The requirements under this object code are intended to cover the costs of small items of non-durable value such as office supplies (e.g. stationery, toner cartridges).

51-01 Operation and Maintenance of equipment

The requirements under this object code are intended to cover the costs of maintenance and repair of IT and communications equipment.

53-01 Sundry

Requirements under this heading are needed to cover the costs of telephone charges and unforeseen and miscellaneous expenses.

53-02 External printing

This heading is meant to cover external printing of information materials publicizing the Convention and elaborating on its requirements.

53-03 Hospitality

Requirements under this heading are foreseen in circumstances where it is required to offer hospitality in the form of food or drink to meeting participants, e.g. in connection with very long meetings or meetings taking place outside normal working hours, or to cover the cost of receptions at important moments during a process.

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