First Preparatory Conference
to the Fifteenth OSCE Economic Forum
“Land Degradation and Soil Contamination”
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 16-17 November 2006

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday, 16 November

09.00 - 09.30 Opening Plenary Session (open to Press)

Welcoming remarks by:
• Representative of the host country – Minister of Environment of Kyrgyzstan
• Ambassador Christian Meerschman, Embassy of Belgium to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Belgian OSCE Chairmanship
• Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorrin, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship
• Ambassador Markus Müller, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek
• Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

09.30 - 11.00 Plenary Session I – The challenges of land degradation and soil contamination; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development

Keynote speeches followed by Discussion

• Ms. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (tbc)
• Mr. Mikhail Outkine, Officer in Charge for Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
• Ms. Claudia Olazábal, Soil and Agriculture Unit, DG Environment, European Commission (tbc)
11.00 – 11.30  Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00  **Plenary Session II – The impact of hazardous activities on environmental security**

- **Mr. Christopher King**, Ph.D., P.E., Dean of Academics, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College *(tbc)*
- **Mr. Yerzhan Kumarbekov**, Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan – Melange Destruction Programme *(tbc)*
- **Mr Philip Peck**, Associate Professor, The International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Mining & Environment Consultant, UNEP, GRID Arendal
- World Bank Representative in Kyrgyzstan

Topics:
- Soil contamination from industrial and military legacies
- Transport of hazardous substances and trafficking on hazardous waste

Discussion

13.00 – 14.30  Lunch

14.30 – 16.00  **Plenary Session III – Forest management**

- **Mr. Peter Herbst**, Consultant on Forestry Law, Austria
- **Mr. José María Solano López**, Head of Area, Forest Management and Planning Section, Biodiversity Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain.
- Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan

Topics:
- Understanding the economic/environmental importance of forest resources
- Forest management as a tool to prevent floods and landslides
- Good forest management practices

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30  Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00  **Plenary Session IV – The challenge of environmental migration**

- **Mr. Anis Bajrektarevic**, Professor for International Law and Global Political Studies, IMC FH Krems University, Austria
- **NGO Representative**
- **UNHCR (tbc)**

Topics
- Understanding the linkages and challenges
- Possible solutions

Discussion

19.00  **Reception**
Friday, 17 November

09.00 – 10.30  **Plenary Session V - Sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security**

- **Mr. Robert Everitt**, Senior Project Specialist, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, East and Central Asia Department, Asian Development Bank - Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (tbc)
- **Mr. Guriqbal Singh**, Technical Co-ordinator, Programme for Water and Soil fertility management, Collaborative Research Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus, ICARDA – CAC, Office in Tashkent
- Local NGO from Kyrgyzstan

Topics:
- Understanding the links between land degradation, unsustainable agriculture and food security
- Good governance issues; strategic planning/thinking

Discussion

10.30 – 11.00  Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30  **Panel I – Integrated Watershed Management**

Panellists’ Introductory remarks followed by Discussion

- **Mr. Miguel Antolín Martínez**, Head of Area, International Affairs Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain
- **Mr. Victor A. Dukhovny**, Ph.D., Director, Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission in Central
- **Mr. Almabek Nurushiev**, Head of the International Foundation for the Aral Sea (tbc)
- Representatives of Governments, NGOs, local authorities, business community and international organizations active in the region

12.30 – 14.00  Lunch

14.00 – 16.00  **Panel II- Public and private response to meeting the challenges of land degradation an soil contamination**

Panellists’ Introductory remarks followed by Discussion

- **Ms. Gulsara Edilbaeva**, Executive Director, Kazakh Business Council for Sustainable Development (tbc)
- **Mr. Ysmail Dairov**, Manager of Environmental Policy Programme, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (tbc)
- Representatives of Governments, NGOs, local authorities, business community and international organizations active in the region
Topics:
- Effective governance practices
- Participation of the civil society
- Responsibility of the private sector

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00 Panel III – The role of the OSCE and co-operation with other International Organizations; Follow up to the 15th Economic Forum

- Ambassador Adriaan van der Meer, Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Almaty (tbc)
- Mr. Malik Ashraf, Country Director, Kyrgyz Republic Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (tbc)
- Mr. Bo Libert, Environmental Department, UNECE (tbc)
- Ms. Inkar Kadyrzhanova, ENVSEC Regional Desk Officer for Central Asia, UNDP Kazakhstan
- Cleaner Production Programme, UNIDO, Cleaner Production Center, Uzbekistan (tbc)

Topics:
- Developing co-operation with other international organizations
- The ENVSEC initiative
- OSCE presences and field mission’s activities

Discussion

18.00 – 18.30 Conclusions and Closing (open to Press)

- Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorrin, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship
- Representative of the host country