

Foreword to training on the use of web-based application

Sibiu, Romania, 1-3 April 2008



Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Decision 2006/3

Conference of the Parties

7. Decides to:

- (a) Enhance the current communication procedures of the System by introducing Web-based notification, while keeping fax notification as a back-up procedure;
- (b) Maintain the current requirements of the System and to implement the prototype of a simple Web-based notification application, developed jointly by the UNECE and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, to improve communication between points of contact;
- (c) Request the secretariat to outsource the task of making the prototype a working application, preferably by the end of 2007.

Procedure adopted for the development process

Joint meeting of the Bureau and Working group on Implementation (Geneva, 15-16 February 2007) accepted following procedure for the development process:

- Application development to be done by IT expert hired as a consultant to the Convention's secretariat and supervised by ITU section of UNECE
- Finalization of application requirements, testing and providing of overall guidance to the IT expert to be done by steering group established by the secretariat

Procedure adopted for the development process

Steps taken by the secretariat

- Selection of the consultant IT expert appointed in October 2007
- Establishment of a steering group invitation sent by e-mail to all points of contact on 27 February following points of contact confirmed their participation in the steering group: Italy, Romania, Switzerland and European Commission.

Steering group meeting, 8 October 2007

Finalization of user requirements

- Method of notification (notification sent by e-mail)
- Languages (application available in English, French and Russian)
- System use (normal and exercise mode)
- Steps in notification (access to the notification reports)
- Completing the reports (functions facilitating the completion)

All the agreed requirements were included in the minutes of the meeting and served as a basis for developing the application



Where are we now?

Application ready for use – points of contact need to register

Important

Accounts will be created only for points of contact officially nominated

Application will be operational after most of the points of contact request creating their accounts

Encouragement

Points of contact are encouraged to use the application, exercise sending notification and requests for assistance;

Points of contact are requested to report on any problems to the secretariat;

