

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

ENR/SO/ECNA(3)/Rep.  
20 September 1996

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ASIA**

Ulaanbaatar, 17-20 September 1996



**Part I**

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO  
THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION**

1. The Meeting adopted the "Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation" attached as an annex.
2. It recognized that it was a unique and remarkable event and a significant milestone in the subregion as the six countries of North-East Asian subregion for the first time came to a consensus and adopted an agreement on subregional environmental cooperation.
3. The Meeting decided that the Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia (SOMECA) would act as Governing Body for the Programme and provide overall policy guidance as well as project coordination and management. The Senior Officials Meeting would be held, in principle, annually in one of those participating countries on a rotating basis and would work towards step-by-step practical institutional and financial arrangements of the Programme, as appropriate.
4. The Meeting requested that, in the interim period, the secretariat support to the Senior Officials Meeting would continue to be provided by the ESCAP secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank and other relevant institutions pending the final decision on the future institutional arrangements of the Programme.
5. The Meeting recommended that the Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia would strive to reach a consensus on establishing a trust fund to be funded by donors/collaborating agencies and Participating Parties on a voluntary basis.
6. The Meeting also decided that the Framework, as adopted by the Meeting, should be presented to the Fifth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in March 1997 and the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 1997 as a substantive input outlining subregional cooperation in North-East Asia.

7. The Meeting recommended that it would be most appropriate if the fifty-third session of ESCAP could be requested to adopt a resolution endorsing that Framework after which it could be transmitted to Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on mid-term review of Agenda 21 for its information.

8. The Meeting requested that the Mongolian Government, as chairman of that Meeting, might take an initiative to present a resolution before the fifty-third session of the Commission on behalf of the six participating Governments of the Programme.

9. The Meeting further requested that the Mongolian Government might present the outcome of that Meeting including the adopted Framework and the resolution of ESCAP, if adopted, at the Fifth Session of Commission on Sustainable Development and the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as appropriate.

10. The Meeting recommended that the heads of delegations of the Governments participating in the Programme might wish to highlight adoption of that Framework as an important landmark of subregional cooperation when making their policy statements in the above forums.

11. The Meeting entrusted the Government of the Republic of Korea to negotiate and pilot a draft decision seeking financial and technical support for the Programme at the next Session of the Governing Council of UNEP scheduled for January 1997 on behalf of the participating Governments. The Meeting requested that Permanent Representatives to UNEP of the Participating Parties and that entrusted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Nairobi, Kenya should closely coordinate on this matter.

12. The Meeting requested the ESCAP secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to continue providing technical and financial support to the implementation of the Framework and approved priority projects, as their follow-up contribution to UNCED in the North-East Asian Subregion in line with Agenda 21 (Chapter 38).

13. The Meeting recommended that the North-East Asia Biodiversity Management Project might be submitted to GEF for funding starting from Phase I so that it would facilitate consideration of the follow-up phase of the project. In that connection, it requested the ESCAP secretariat to facilitate transmitting the approved project to GEF on behalf of the six participating countries after their endorsement.

14. The Meeting, in view of the ongoing staff cuts in the UN system, requested the Government of the Republic of Korea to consider possible ways of assistance to the secretariat, for example, providing an environmental expert on non-reimbursable loan basis to or extrabudgetary support to recruit an expert in the relevant Division of the ESCAP secretariat so as to enable it to effectively discharge its responsibility as a secretariat to that Subregional Framework and the Programme.

15. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for its offer to host the Fourth Senior Officials Meeting in August/September 1997 at Moscow with administrative, technical and financial support to be provided by the ESCAP secretariat, donor countries and other collaborating agencies.

16. In this connection, the Meeting also expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for its offer to provide some financial support through Japan-Economic Cooperation Fund (JECF) for the preparation and organization of the Fourth Senior Officials Meeting.

17. The Meeting recommended that the provisional agenda of the Fourth Senior Officials Meeting might be as follows:

1. Opening of Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of agenda.
4. Policy guidance on subregional cooperation and possible areas of subregional follow-up to the outcome of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
5. Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation:
  - (a) Review of implementation of the Framework including implementation of the

- approved priority projects;
- (b) Feasibility of establishment of trust fund;
  - (c) Institutional aspects.
6. Venue, date and provisional agenda of the Fifth Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia.
  7. Other matters.
  8. Adoption of the report.

## **Part II**

### **PROCEEDINGS**

#### **FRAMEWORK FOR NORTH-EAST ASIAN SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

(Item 4 of the agenda)

18. The representative of the ESCAP secretariat introduced agenda item 4 "Framework for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation" as contained in document ENR/SO/ECNA(3)/2. The Meeting also considered the non-paper submitted by the Republic of Korea on that agenda item.

19. The Meeting noted that the document provided a very good basis for elaboration of the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, as it had built on practical and step-by-step approach towards the subregional cooperation. The Meeting recommended such an approach would be very useful for building blocks for strengthening subregional cooperation in future.

20. The Meeting decided that it was not yet an appropriate time to develop a strategy for subregional cooperation since it required definition of future prospects after careful and extensive consideration based on the evolution of the subregional cooperation in North-East Asia over time. The Meeting also recommended that the Section I - Background Note and Section II - Framework for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation should be integrated. The document should accordingly be entitled "Framework for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation".

21. The Meeting recommended that it would be useful to present its positive and tangible outcome, in particular the agreed Framework for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation to the next Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in March 1997 and the Special Session of United Nations General Assembly in June 1997. The Meeting further considered that it would be most appropriate, if a resolution was adopted at the next session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) seeking its support and endorsement of that Framework document, and requesting the ESCAP secretariat and the collaborating agencies to continue their cooperation for the furtherance of the subregional cooperation, as elaborated in the Framework document.

22. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to UNEP for its financial and technical assistance and recommended that similar assistance might be sought at the next Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to be held in January 1997 to ensure continued financial and technical support of UNEP.

23. The Meeting requested the ESCAP secretariat to transmit the report of the Meeting together with the adopted Framework to the Executive Director of UNEP, the Administrator of UNDP, and the Presidents of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to apprise them of those significant developments in the subregion.

24. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to ADB for its continued support to the environmental cooperation in North-East Asia in particular for financially supporting the three approved projects on energy and air pollution, and capacity-building.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS: REDUCTION OF SO<sub>2</sub> IN OLDER COAL-FIRED PLANTS;  
CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY; ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION DATA COLLECTION AND  
MANAGEMENT; BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RESEARCH  
AND INFORMATION BASE ON FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS**

(Item 5 of the agenda)

25. The representative of ESCAP secretariat introduced document ENR/SO/ECNA(3)/1 --  
"Implementation of projects: Reduction of SO<sub>2</sub> in older coal-fired plants; Clean coal technology;

Environmental pollution data collection and management" and ENR/SO/ECNA(3)/2 -- "Biodiversity management and the development of a research and information base on forests and grasslands". The representative of ADB also provided further elaboration on the projects and the mid-term and final review meetings to be organized to monitor execution of the projects.

26. The Meeting noted the hosting requirement of the activities of the three projects. In that connection, it expressed appreciation for the offer of Republic of Korea for hosting the Expert Group Meeting for Project 3. As regards other events, the participating countries were requested to communicate their intention to the ESCAP secretariat by 15 October 1996 after which a sequence for implementing the events would be developed.

27. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the offer of the Government of the People's Republic of China to host the first demonstration-cum-workshop at Tong Liao Power Plant of the Northeast China Electric Power Group Corporation to be organized in the end of October 1996. The Meeting further noted that as per provision of the project the workshop should be participated by two people involved in power plants, at least one of whom should be the power plant manager or the chief engineer. The ESCAP secretariat was requested to issue letters of invitation for the workshop as soon as possible.

28. The Meeting recommended that the emphasis of the Project 3 should be on intercountry comparability of the relevant national data focusing on the standardization of the monitoring methods and data comparability. In view of that, the Meeting desired that the title of the Project 3 should be "Environmental Pollution Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis" and requested the Asian Development Bank for taking necessary steps to note that change in the title of that project.

29. The Meeting considered the project proposal on North-East Asian Biodiversity Management and the development of a research and information base on forests and grasslands very important and one of the top priority areas of subregional cooperation. However, it was felt that the proposal in its present form was too big in terms of its scope and financial implications. The Meeting, therefore, decided to treat Phase I and II of the project proposal separately. The Phase II of the project need to be costed at the conclusion of Phase I. The cost estimates for Phase I should also be reviewed.

30. The Meeting recommended that on the basis of the project proposal together with the detailed written comment provided by the delegation of the People's Republic of China, the participating countries should provide their comments by the end of November 1996 following which the ESCAP secretariat should finalize the draft of the document by February 1997. The document would then be sent to the participating countries for endorsement after which the secretariat on behalf of six countries may submit it to the potential donors.

31. The Meeting noted with appreciation the offer of possible support by the Government of Japan through JECF in some the follow-up phases to the projects 1 and 3 and also for the preparatory phase of the North-East Asia Biodiversity project.

32. The Meeting also requested the Asian Development Bank to consider co-funding the preparatory phase of the North-East Asian Biodiversity Management Project.

**SUBREGIONAL ASPECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL  
ACTION PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 1996-2000**

(Item 6 of the agenda)

33. The representative of ESCAP introduced document ENR/SO/ECNA(3)/4 under the agenda item 6.

34. The meeting considered that the document highlighted various activities of North-East Asian environmental cooperation in line with the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. The two comparative programmes could be complementary to each other and the Regional Action Programme could be a good basis for development of its future activities.

35. The Meeting recommended that while developing new priority areas, a practical and step-by-step approach should be applied, as indicated in the Framework and priority should be given to the five priority projects to be implemented over time, it was worth-while to indicate several possible areas for cooperation for future activities. The following areas were suggested tentatively by the

delegates:

- (a) Environmental education, public awareness and training: China, Mongolia;
- (b) Implementation of the international environmental conventions and appropriate regional conventions: Mongolia;
- (c) Environmental impact and risk assessment and environmental audit: Mongolia;
- (d) Use of economic instruments: Mongolia;
- (e) Natural resource accounting: Mongolia;
- (f) Air quality: Republic of Korea;
- (g) Urban environmental issues: Republic of Korea;
- (h) Environmental and natural resource monitoring and assessment: Republic of Korea;
- (i) Toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes: Russian Federation.

It would be necessary to discuss those areas further, keeping in mind the availability of funding support.

### **Part III**

#### **ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

36. The Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, organized by ESCAP in cooperation with UNEP, UNDP, and ADB and the World Bank was held at Ulaanbaatar from 17 to 20 September 1996.

##### **A. Attendance**

37. The Meeting was attended by senior officials from all the six participating countries of the North-East Asian subregion namely China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation.

38. UNEP, UNDP, ADB and the World Bank were also represented at the Meeting.

##### **B. Opening session**

39. H.E. Dr Ts. Adyasuren, Minister, Ministry of Nature and the Environment, delivered the inaugural address. The message of the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was read by the representative of ESCAP. The representatives of United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank also made statements.

### **C. Election of officers**

40. Kh. Olzvoy (Mongolia) was elected Chairperson. Five Vice-Chairpersons were elected: Zhong Shukong (China), Kim Gwang Ju (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Nobuhiko Agatsuma (Japan), Whan Bok Cho (Republic of Korea), Andrei Sergeevich Peshkov (Russian Federation). Andrei Sergeevich Peshkov (Russian Federation) was also elected Rapporteur.

### **D. Adoption of the agenda**

41. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the Meeting.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Adoption of the agenda.
  4. Framework for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation.
  5. Implementation of projects:
    - (a) Reduction of SO<sub>2</sub> in older coal-fired plants;
    - (b) Clean coal technology;
    - (c) Environmental pollution data collection and management;
    - (d) Biodiversity management and the development of a research and information base on forests and grasslands.
  6. Subregional aspects of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000.
  7. Other matters.
  8. Adoption of the report.

**OTHER MATTERS**

(Item 7 of the agenda)

42. The Meeting expressed its sincere gratitude to the Government of Mongolia for its excellent host facilities, field visit, and elaborate arrangements in the organization of the Meeting and to the Minister, Ministry of Nature and the Environment for his inspiring opening address. It also thanked the collaborating agencies, ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP and ADB and the World Bank for their existing and potential support for subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.

43. The Meeting discussed the possible means for reporting the outcome of the environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, in particular, on the agreed Framework for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Fifth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, fifty-third session of ESCAP and to the 19th Session of the UNEP Governing Council. The Meeting also discussed the arrangements in respect of the Fourth Senior Officials Meeting for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. Furthermore, it discussed the issue of strengthening of the secretariat support, in particular, possible extrabudgetary expert's support from the Republic of Korea and Japan.

44. The Meeting encouraged the participation of the countries of the subregion at the third Conference of Parties on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be hosted by the Government of Japan in Kyoto City in December 1997.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT**

(Item 8 of the agenda)

45. The report was unanimously adopted by the Meeting on 20 September 1996.

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## Annex

### FRAMEWORK FOR THE NORTH-EAST ASIAN SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

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## BACKGROUND NOTE

1. The Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia held at Seoul in February 1993 was the first attempt at the official level to promote subregional environmental cooperation in the North-East Asia. Besides identifying three priority areas initially, for the development of project profiles, the Meeting recommended that as a follow-up to the UNCED, the subregional cooperation programme should be developed on a step-by-step basis on agreed priority areas. The Meeting also observed that there was a need for an overall framework for subregional environmental cooperation and some kind of support arrangement to carry forward the agreed programme. In this connection, it was agreed that the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 could serve as a basis for the elaboration of the general framework for such cooperation.

2. The Second Meeting of Senior Officials held at Beijing in November 1994 approved five priority projects for implementation, and discussed the issue of overall framework **of cooperation** in detail. It made the following observations in this regard:

(a) It would be advisable to follow a practical approach towards subregional cooperation which should be promoted step by step;

(b) The Meeting of Senior Officials would act as the governing body for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia. It would also serve as a forum for sharing of experience on policy matters, information exchange, consultation and stock taking on activities which would promote environmental cooperation in North-East Asia;

(c) Since a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly has been scheduled for mid-term review of the implementation of Agenda 21 comprehensively in 1997, it would be most appropriate if the North-East Asian region could show tangible results of subregional cooperation and formulate an appropriate framework of cooperation by 1997;

(d) There are several principles in the Rio Declaration that are relevant in the context of subregional cooperation.

(e) Commonality of interest, contribution to capacity-building, priority setting by the countries themselves, the impact on the environment and sustainable development efforts, cost effectiveness and tangible subregional environmental benefits should contribute to the general guidelines for the selection of projects for subregional cooperation.

(f) The ESCAP secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank should continue to provide professional, financial and technical support for furthering the activities of subregional cooperation.

3. The ESCAP Secretariat transmitted a letter to the focal points of North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation to seek their views and comments on the overall framework for the subregional cooperation. The comments received by the secretariat have been incorporated in the draft Framework prepared for the consideration of the Meeting.

4. The governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation have already signed a Memorandum of

Understanding on Environmental Principles Governing the Tumen River Economic Development Area in North-East Asia. The Memorandum of Understanding details out the responsibilities of and the cooperation to be extended by the Contracting Parties in attaining environmentally sound and sustainable development of North-East Asia and the Tumen River Economic Development Area in particular. This could be considered as an example for the participating governments in promoting the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation.

5. The document, elaborates an overall framework for sustaining and strengthening subregional cooperation in North-East Asia. It elaborates the geographical coverage, programme objectives, the functions and responsibilities of Senior Officials Meeting in promoting cooperation on the environment, and coordination and management and financial mechanisms of such cooperation. This document was adopted in a non-binding format by the Third Senior Officials Meeting.

## **II. FRAMEWORK FOR NORTH-EAST ASIAN SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

1. The Senior Officials designated by the Governments of the of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Participating Parties, having met at their Third Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (17-20 September 1996), have agreed as follows:

### **1. General**

1.1 The Participating Parties affirm their commitment to promote subregional cooperation to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development in North-East Asia by actively and effectively promoting the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, as a follow-up of the UNCED of 1992.

1.2 The Programme will be coordinated, to the extent possible, with other ESCAP's regional arrangements and activities to enhance overall effectiveness of environmental cooperation in the subregion.

1.3 The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, as adopted by the UNCED, should continue to provide general policy guidance on the subregional cooperation in North-East Asia.

### **2. Geographical Coverage**

2.1 The geographical scope of the Programme is defined as the areas under the jurisdiction of the following Participating Parties:

- The People's Republic of China

- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Japan
- Mongolia
- The Republic of Korea
- The Russian Federation.

2.2 Other Parties and relevant institutions that have interest and commitment in furthering cooperation in North-East Asia, may be invited to join in the Programme activities and provide financial support, as appropriate.

### **3. Programme Objectives**

3.1 The principal objective of the Programme is to promote subregional environmental cooperation and sustainable development efforts for enhancement of quality of life and well-being of present and future generations in line with the spirit of UNCED.

3.2 The activities under the Programme are intended to enhance capacities of the Participating Parties in environmental management efforts through subregional cooperation. To facilitate complete and effective participation of national institutions at all levels in sustainable development efforts, activities of the programme will be primarily aimed at strengthening their relevant technological and managerial capabilities.

3.3 It would be advantageous to have a step-by-step and practical approach towards this subregional cooperation and consolidate the results as the Programme develops in the future. That approach could be used as building blocks for strengthening subregional cooperation over time.

### **4. Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia (SOMECEA)**

4.1 The Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia (SOMECEA) will act as the Governing Body for the Programme. It will, accordingly, provide overall policy guidance as well as project coordination and management to the Programme.

4.2 The Senior Officials Meeting for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia will make all policy decisions concerning all substantive and financial matters related to the Programme and, in particular, will

- (a) Keep under constant review the Programme with a view to identifying further areas of cooperation and project-related activities in a step-by-step approach;
- (b) Review the progress in implementing the Programme/projects and evaluate the result achieved;

- (c) Approve the budget and work plan of the Programme/projects;
- (d) Attempt to formulate a common framework of policies on subregional/international environmental issues over time, on the basis of the Rio Declaration as adopted by the UNCED.
- (e) Review the institutional and financial arrangements for the subregional cooperation and suggest appropriate mechanisms; and
- (f) Serve as a forum for sharing of experience on policy matters, information exchange, consultation and stocktaking on activities which would promote environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.

4.3 The Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia will be held, in principle, annually in one of the Participating Parties, on a rotating basis.

4.4 The Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia will work towards practical institutional and financial arrangements for the Programme, as appropriate.

4.5 During the interim period, the secretariat support to the Senior Officials Meeting is requested to be provided by the ESCAP secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and other relevant institutions, pending the final decision on the future institutional and financial arrangements of the Programme.

## **5. Participation, Coordination and Management**

5.1 Each Participating Party will designate National Focal Points (NFP) whose responsibilities will, *inter alia*, be the following:

- (a) Undertake routine work in connection with the relevant Programme activities;
- (b) Act as official channel of communication between the institutions participating in the Programme, the Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, the ESCAP secretariat and other collaborating agencies and institutions;
- (c) Consult with and provide guidance to the relevant national institutions in connection with the implementation of the approved projects;
- (d) Collate and present on the implementation of the approved projects and activities, as appropriate;
- (e) Assist participating and collaborating institutions, and international agencies in undertaking the implementation of the approved projects and activities.

5.2 The activities under the Programmes will generally be executed by the secretariat. The Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia may also designate one or more agencies to assume overall responsibilities for implementing any specific project. The secretariat and the designated agencies will accordingly develop project proposals and activities including budgetary

support requirements, seek funding support and present periodic reports, as desired.

5.3 The participating institutions (such as government agencies, research centres, laboratories, universities, etc.) will be designated by the Participating Parties to implement and carry out the relevant approved activities under the Programmes.

5.4 Regional consultants and institutions will be used, to the extent possible, for the implementation of approved projects/activities.

## **6. Collaborating Agencies**

6.1 The United Nations bodies and agencies such as ESCAP, UNDP and UNEP and multilateral financing institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are invited to assist in the implementation of the Programme, as their follow-up contribution to the UNCED in the North-East Asian subregion in line with Chapter 38 of Agenda 21. Their technical, financial and managerial support will be sought on a continuing basis to further the work of the Programme. Other collaborating agencies will be invited as necessary.

## **7. Financial Mechanism**

7.1 Financial support for the activities of the Programme may be available from:

- (a) Participating Parties voluntary contribution in cash or in kind or both;
- (b) Collaborating agencies on a project funding basis;
- (c) Bilateral and multilateral donors' contributions; and
- (d) Private sector on a project funding basis, and
- (e) Other contributions.

7.2 The Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia will strive to reach a consensus on establishing a trust fund, to be funded by donors/collaborating agencies and Participating Parties on a voluntary basis, to ensure effective and efficient Programme implementation over a longer time frame.

## **8. Criteria for Project/Activity Selection**

8. Commonality of interest, contribution to capacity-building, priority setting by the countries themselves, the impact on environment and sustainable development efforts, tangible subregional environmental benefits, and cost effectiveness will be the principal factors in the selection of projects for subregional cooperation.