



Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America

Expert Advisory Board on Children's Health and the Environment Session 02-01

22 February 2002, 14:00-15:00 EST
via teleconference

Summary Record

1. Opening Remarks

The chairperson, Dr. Irena Buka, welcomed participants and all present took a minute to reflect on the untimely passing of Dr. Montoya.

2. Preview of Upcoming Meetings in Mexico City

The Secretariat updated the Board on the series of events planned for 6-8 March 2002:

March 6th (Wednesday), 14:00-18:00 – Session 02-02 of the Expert Advisory Board: The purpose of this meeting is for the Board to discuss the Draft Cooperative Agenda on Children's Health and the Environment in North America, prepare for the joint meeting with JPAC and discuss potential advice to Council.

March 7th (Thursday), 9:00-17:00 – Joint Meeting of the JPAC and the Expert Advisory Board (Session 02-03). This full day public meeting will be co-chaired by Irena Buka and the JPAC Chair, John Plaut. The aims of the meeting are: to obtain public input on the CEC's children's environmental health initiative and in particular the Draft Cooperative Agenda; to share information on relevant initiatives at the national, regional and global levels; and to foster collaboration between the JPAC and the Expert Advisory Board.

During the opening session, Board members will be invited to briefly introduce themselves. Following the national, global and CEC updates, most of the remainder of the session will be devoted to a discussion with the public on the elements of the Draft Cooperative Agenda. Members of the trilateral CEH Team and the Secretariat will present the proposed activities, and then the Board, the JPAC and the public will have an opportunity to provide comments and ideas. There will be one hour at the end of the day that will be an open forum for public discussion.

It was noted that the meeting is open to the public, but that participants are asked to register in advance (details available on CEC website at <www.cec.org>). The Secretariat noted that more than 80 people have registered so far. Participants will include representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), professional organizations, industry, academics and other interested parties. The Secretariat agreed to send the list of registered participants to date.

Following the close of the public session, the Board will have a private meeting from 17:30-18:30 to discuss follow-up.

The CEC is also inviting public comments on the Draft Cooperative Agenda in written form. The document has been posted on the CEC website. Following the public meeting and the comment period, a revised version of the Cooperative Agenda will be prepared taking into account comments received, with a view to having a final version ready for consideration by Council in June 2002.

March 8th (Friday) – Optional events:

The Board is invited to participate in the continuation of the JPAC meeting on 8 March (8:30 - 13:00). The JPAC will discuss a potential advice to Council on children's environmental health at 9:45 am.

The Board is also welcome to participate in an informal planning meeting to discuss the project to assist cottage industries (micro-industries) to reduce/eliminate the use of lead. This meeting will take place from 14:00-17:00 at the Maria Isabel Sheraton. Participants from the three governments and other relevant organizations will further develop the strategy for working with selected industries including, but not limited to, the ceramics industry in Mexico. A community group that has been working to reduce lead use in ceramics, with support from the CEC's North America Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC), will also be at the meeting to share results of their work. Given that some Board members have flights departing on Friday, the Secretariat agreed to look into arranging an informal breakfast or lunch discussion for those who are interested in discussing the project but not able to participate in the meeting.

Social events: Meals to be organized for the Board include: a private lunch on Wednesday, a dinner with the governments on Wednesday, and both lunch and dinner with JPAC on Thursday. Details of these events are available from the Secretariat. Members of the Board expressed their interest in having time to interact socially with one another. To this end, an informal cocktail hour will be arranged for Wednesday prior to the dinner.

4. Meeting Documents. The Secretariat will send a full set of the relevant meeting and background documents in advance to each Board member unless otherwise requested.

5. Discussion of objectives, expected outcomes: The Chair invited Board members to share their ideas on their objectives and expectations for the series of meetings. There was not sufficient time, however, to enter into a full discussion. It was also agreed that the Board's discussion of the Draft Cooperative Agenda would be deferred to the meeting on 6 March.

6. Close of session. The conference call was interrupted at 15:00. Some members were able to rejoin the call, and the chair closed the session at approximately 15:10.

Participants:

Irena Buka - Chair
Beatriz Barraza-Roppé
Bruce Lanphear
Irma Aurora Rosas
Michael Shannon
Kue Young

CEC Secretariat:

Erica Phipps
Joanne O'Reilly