

Strengthening Training and Capacity Development in Developing and Transition Countries to Support the Use of E-Democracy Tools in Environmental Governance

Invited Session, Wednesday 3 December 2008

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A review of the literature, as well as practical experience gained in developed and some developing countries suggest that e-democracy tools may, under certain conditions, provide value added in engaging the public in environmental planning and decision-making. These e-tools may range from electronic means to collect and analyze public comments, to more sophisticated tools, such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) that may assist citizens in contributing towards complex analytical processes. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), through its Environmental Governance and E-Governance Programmes, is currently exploring the development of training materials and implementation of country-based pilot projects which have the objective to support interested countries in their efforts to explore the use of e-democracy within a broader environmental governance context. The conference session has the objective to introduce UNITAR's environmental governance and e-governance activities and to engage participants in an interactive dialogue concerning the content and method of future training on environmental e-democracy. It also seeks to engage potential partners in the process of further developing relevant activities of the Institute.