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FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

Task Force on Access to Justice

Fourth meeting, Geneva, 7-8 February 2011

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING
OF THE TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

to be held in Salle V, Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday 7 February 2011

DAY 1: MONDAY, 7 February 2011

Afternoon session (3.00pm – 6.00pm)

Items 1 and 2: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

3.00 – 3.10 pm Opening by the Chair and adoption of the agenda by the Task Force

Item 3: Sharing experiences and inclusion of jurisprudence in the Clearinghouse

The Chair will outline the work already undertaken in cooperation with the secretariat and the national focal points on the development of the portal for the exchange of jurisprudence concerning the Convention for use by judges, legal professionals, academics and other stakeholders. Participants will be invited to review the progress made and make suggestions for the further development of the portal. Participants will also have the opportunity to exchange information about recent developments, including judicial reforms, at the national level.

3.10 – 3.25 pm Introduction by the Chair and report by the secretariat

3.25 – 3.35 pm Discussion

3.35 – 3.40 pm Sum up and conclusion by the Chair

Items 4: Capacity building (workshops and training materials) and outreach

The Chair and the secretariat will report on the progress of these activities. Experts from judicial training institutions and from international organizations will be invited to report on their activities relating to Aarhus issues.

3.40 – 3.50 pm Introduction by the Chair and report by the secretariat

- 3.50 – 4.05 pm The role of judicial education.
- 4.05 – 4.20 pm Activities on the issues related to the Aarhus Convention undertaken by other institutions.
- 4.20 – 4.35 pm *Coffee break*
- 4.35 – 4.55 pm Discussion
- 4.55 – 5.00 pm Sum up and conclusion by the Chair

Item 5: Analytical studies

The Chair will introduce this item and will explain the methodology followed for the conduct of the studies on costs and remedies. The study of the legislation and practice in the countries that are not located in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) has been undertaken by the Chair in close collaboration with a consultant (**Item 5 (a)**) and is broadly based on secondary sources available in the English language; the study of the legislation and practice in countries in EECCA has been undertaken by two consultants and examines primary and secondary sources (**Item 5 (b)**) in collaboration with identified experts in the twelve countries in EECCA.¹ Material related to the two studies will be made available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/a.to.j.htm> and distributed to the participants in advance of the meeting. The material will be presented during the meeting and participants will have the opportunity to comment the work and discuss how to follow-up in the future.

- 5.00 – 5.10 pm Introduction by the Chair
- (a) Analytical study on costs and remedies in non-EECCA countries
- 5.10 – 5.40 pm Presentation by the Chair and Ms. Epstein
- 5.40 – 6.00 pm Q&A, discussion and closing.

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 8 February 2011

Morning session (10.00am – 1.00pm)

Item 5: Analytical studies (*cont'd*)

- 10.00 – 10.30 am Discussion on Item 5 (a)
- (b) Analytical study on costs and remedies in countries in EECCA
- 10.30 – 11.15 am Presentation by Ms. Laevskaya and Mr. Skrylnikov
- 11.15 – 11.30 am *Coffee break*
- 11.30 – 12.00 am Q&A and discussion
- (c) General considerations related to the studies
- 12.00 pm – 1.00 am Discussion and comparative analyses of the substantive aspects related to the two studies
- 1.00 – 3.00 am *Lunch*

Afternoon session (3.00pm – 5.30pm)

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Item 5: Analytical studies (*cont'd*)

- 3.00 – 3.45 pm Follow-up work on the studies
3.45 – 4.00 pm Sum up and conclusion by the Chair
4.00 – 4.15 am *Coffee break*

Item 6: Future work on access to justice

The Chair will present a draft decision on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2011/L.2), prepared by the Bureau of the Parties with the assistance of the secretariat (the document will be made available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/a.to.j.htm>). The Chair of the Task Force was also consulted on the text of the document. The document was submitted to the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (9-11 February 2011) in view of its mandate to “make such proposals and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties as it considers necessary for the achievement of the purposes of the Convention” (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.15, para. 2 (d)), and further to a decision by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, taken at its twenty-sixth meeting (9 November 2010), on the need to enhance Parties’ implementation of their obligations under the Convention in this area. The draft decision takes into consideration that activities underway are going to be completed at the time of adoption of the text of the decision by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session (Chisinau, 15-17 June 2011), and proposes activities thereafter. The Task Force will be invited to provide its views on the draft decision. The Chair will report to the Working Group on the outcomes of the discussion.

The Chair will also present a proposal for setting up an informal group of “Friends of the Task Force” for discussion of substantive issues related to the work of the Task Force.

- 4.15 – 4.30 pm Introduction by the Chair
4.30 – 5.20 pm Discussion
5.20 – 5.25 pm Sum up and conclusion by the Chair

Item 7: Any other business

- 5.25 – 5.30 pm Experts who wish to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible

Item 8: Approval of outcomes of the meeting and closure

- 5.30 – 6.00 pm The Task Force is expected to approve outcomes of the meeting. The Chair will close the meeting.