

Task Force on Electronic Information Tools
(Fifth meeting, Geneva, 23-24 November 2006)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held in Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 23 November 2006

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Relevant global, regional and national developments and processes
 - (a) Post-WSIS implementation and follow up – <http://www.itu.int/wsis>
 - (i) Geneva Plan of Action WSIS Action lines
 - a. C3: Access to information and knowledge
 - b. C7: ICT applications (E-government and E-environment)
 - (ii) United Nations system-wide follow up
 - a. ECOSOC Commission on Science and Technology for Development
 - b. United Nations Group on the Information Society
– <http://www.ungis.org/dnngen>
 - c. Internet Governance Forum (Association for Progressive Communications – Bluelink, Bulgaria)
– <http://www.intgovforum.org>
 - d. ICT Group for Development (UNECE)
 - e. World Information Society Day (Geneva, 17 May 2007)
– <http://www.itu.int/wisd/2006/index.html>
 - (ii) Towards a Global Partnership in the Information Society / eGov Action Plan (European Commission)
 - (b) Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building (UNEP)
– <http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-6-add-1.pdf>
 - (c) Neighbourhood Project update: Ozone conditions across Europe (European Environment Agency) – <http://www.eea.europa.eu/maps/ozone/welcome>
 - (d) E-access to waste licensing (United Kingdom)
 - (e) The Access Initiative (TAI) – <http://www.accessinitiative.org>
 - (i) TAI Assessment Toolkit (Version 2.0)
 - (ii) Global Findings Site – <http://research.accessinitiative.org>
 - (f) Other regional and national e-projects
3. Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism
 - (a) Progress report on Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy
– <http://aarhusclearinghouse.org>
 - (b) Development of national nodes of the Clearinghouse Mechanism (Belgium, United Kingdom)
 - (c) Upgrading content management in the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy (GRID-Arendal)
 - (d) National Implementation Reports online database project
 - (e) Guidance for the national nodes of the Clearinghouse Mechanism

4. Capacity-building activities
 - (a) Sub-regional workshop for the Aarhus Clearinghouse and electronic information tools (Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe)
 - (b) Other regional and national capacity-building activities
5. Monitoring implementation of decision II/3 of the Meeting of the Parties
 - (a) Questionnaire to assess implementation
 - (b) Issues in monitoring implementation
6. Innovative use of electronic information tools in processes under the Convention
7. Any other business
8. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. Relevant developments and processes

Coffee break

2. Relevant developments and processes (continued)

Lunch (13.00 - 15.00)

3. Aarhus Clearinghouse

Coffee break

3. Aarhus Clearinghouse (continued)

FRIDAY

4. Capacity-building activities

Coffee break

5. Monitoring implementation of decision II/3

Lunch (13.00 - 15.00)

6. Innovative use of electronic information tools

7. Any other business

Coffee break

8. Adoption of the report

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Item 1 Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chairman of the task force will open the meeting. The task force is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2 Relevant global, regional and national developments and processes

Experts designated by States and organizations, such as UNEP, the European Commission, European Environment Agency, ECO Forum, the Access Initiative, Environment Agency of England and Wales, as well as the secretariat, are invited to briefly present relevant activities they are engaged in. To facilitate this exchange of information and experience, experts are invited to submit to the secretariat any electronic resource which they wish to present in advance of the meeting. Experts are further invited to review these resources prior to the meeting with the aim of evaluating their practical application.

Item 3 Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism

Experts designated by States, such as Belgium and United Kingdom, are invited to report on development of national nodes of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and other organizations are invited to report on their contributions to the Clearinghouse mechanism. The secretariat is invited to report on the further development of the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy being undertaken in collaboration with GRID-Arendal. The task force is invited to consider further revision of the document 'The Aarhus Clearing-house Mechanism Guidance for National Nodes' which had been prepared by the secretariat, in light of the upgrades being implemented to the Clearinghouse.

Item 4 Capacity building activities

The task force is invited to review the prospectus for the sub-regional workshops on capacity building for the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Electronic Information Tools prepared and circulated by the secretariat. The task force is invited to discuss further preparations for the programme of capacity building in the field of electronic information tools. Experts designated by States and organizations are invited to present information on other regional and national capacity-building activities they are engaged in.

Item 5 Monitoring implementation of decision II/3 of the Meeting of the Parties

The secretariat is invited to report on the questionnaire on implementation of the recommendations annexed to decision II/3 on Electronic Information Tools and the Clearinghouse Mechanism. The task force is invited to discuss further measures to follow up and report on implementation of decision II/3.

Item 6 Innovative use of electronic information tools in processes under the Convention

The task force is invited to consider the innovative use of electronic information tools in processes under the Convention, e.g. web-based reporting on implementation and the further development of the PRTR Virtual Classroom. The secretariat is invited to report on the status of the PRTR cost model user interface.

Item 7 Any other business

Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 8 Adoption of the report and close of the meeting