

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making

Eight meeting

Geneva, 8–9 October 2018

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Ensuring effective public participation

SELECTED RELEVANT RESOURCES

Background paper¹

Prepared by the secretariat

This background paper directs participants to selected sections of relevant resources relating effective public participation in environmental decision-making, specifically: (a) meaningful and early public participation; (b) the availability of all relevant documents to the public; (c) effective notification and time frames for public participation; and (d) ensuring that greater account is taken of the comments from the public in the final decisions and ensuring the appropriate provision of feedback on how the public's comments have been taken into account in the decisions. The document is not intended to provide an exhaustive account of every relevant section of these resources, but instead to signal some selected sections which may provide a useful starting point for pre-reading and subsequent discussion under the auspices of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making.

¹ The document was not formally edited.

Introduction

The present document lists references to the selected resources including the Aarhus Implementation Guide 2nd edition,² the Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters (the Maastricht Recommendations),³ and the 2017 Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention⁴ and 2017 Summary report on the results of the survey on the implementation of the recommendations on electronic information tools⁵. Participants are kindly advised to ensure that they have, in particular, a copy of the Maastricht Recommendations with them at the meeting.

For additional information, please consult a compilation of answers to the questions XV-XXVII in the 2017 National Implementation Reports, which is available in document AC/TF.PP-8/Inf.3⁶.

Specific resources related to agenda item 2 include (but are not limited to) the following.

Ensuring effective public participation

(i) meaningful and early public participation

See especially Aarhus Convention article 6 (paragraphs (4) and (5)), article 7 (second sentence), article 8 (first sentence).

See especially Implementation Guide pages 126-130, 144-146, 173-179, 181-183.

See especially Maastricht Recommendations paragraphs 7-12, 78-83, 151, 152, 153, 157-162, 184-186.

See especially 2017 Synthesis report paragraphs 125, 136-139, 155, 165-166, 269 (d).

(ii) the availability of all relevant documents to the public

See especially Aarhus Convention article 6 (paragraph (6)), article 7 (first-third sentences), article 8 (second sentence, paragraph b)).

See especially Implementation Guide pages 147-153, 176-180, 183-184.

² Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35869&L=0>

³ See document ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2, available from

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop5/Documents/Post_session_docs/ece_mp.pp_2014_2_add.2_eng.pdf (in English)

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop5/Documents/Post_session_docs/ece_mp.pp_2014_2_add.2_fre.pdf (in French)

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop5/Documents/Post_session_docs/ece_mp.pp_2014_2_add.2_rus.pdf (in Russian)

http://www.unece.org/env/pp/publications/maastricht_recommendations

⁴ See document ECE/MP.PP/2017/6, available from:

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop6/English/ECE_MP.PP_2017_6_E.pdf (in English)

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop6/Russian/ECE_MP.PP_2017_6_R.pdf (in Russian)

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop6/French/ECE_MP.PP_2017_6_F.pdf (in French)

⁵ See Annex to document ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/4 and AC/WGP-21/Inf.2

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/wgp/WGP-21/Documents/English/ECE_MP.PP_WG.1_2017_4_E.pdf (in English)

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/wgp/WGP-21/Documents/French/ECE_MP.PP_WG.1_2017_4_F.pdf (in French)

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/wgp/WGP-21/Documents/Russian/ECE_MP.PP_WG.1_2017_4_R.pdf (in Russian)

⁶ Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/ppdm8.html>.

See especially Maastricht Recommendations paragraphs 85-107, 174-177, 186, 187.

See especially 2017 Synthesis report paragraphs 140, 155, 159, 165-166, 170-171, 269 (d).

See especially 2017 Summary report on the results of the survey on the implementation of the recommendations on electronic information tools paragraphs 13, 14-15, 20, 24, 28, 52 and 53.

(iii) effective notification and time frames for public participation

See especially Aarhus Convention article 6 (paragraphs (2) and (3)), article 7 (second and third sentences), article 8 (second sentence, paragraphs a) and b)).

See especially Implementation Guide, pages 134-144, 178-180, 183-184.

See especially Maastricht Recommendations, paragraphs 52-77, 170-174, 185-187.

See especially 2017 Synthesis report, paragraphs 132-134, 155, 165-167, 269 (d).

See especially 2017 Summary report on the results of the survey on the implementation of the recommendations on electronic information tools paragraphs 16, 20, 24, 28, 52 and 53.

(iv) ensuring that greater account is taken of the comments from the public in the final decisions and ensuring the appropriate provision of feedback on how the public's comments have been taken into account in the decisions

See especially Aarhus Convention article 6 (paragraphs (8) and (9)), article 7 (second and third sentences), article 8 article 8 (second sentence, paragraph c).

See especially Implementation Guide pages 155-158, 179-180, 184-185.

See especially Maastricht Recommendations paragraphs 124-143, 178-181, 188-190.

See 2017 Synthesis report paragraphs 142-145, 155, 158, 169, 269 (d).
