

**Introductory comments to the Communicant intervention on the
Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
concerning compliance by Spain with the provisions of the Convention in
connection with decision-making on a residential development project in
the city of Murcia, Spain
(Ref. ACCC/C/2008/24)**

**23rd Meeting of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, Geneva
March-April 2009**

Geneva, 1 April 2009

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Distinguish Committee

My name is Angeles Moreno-Micol. I was born and live in the HUERTA in the city of Murcia. I came here with my son and my neighbours.

Murcia is in the middle of the desert, crossed by the river Segura. The HUERTA is the origin of our culture.

HUERTA in English means garden, but we cannot use that word because it is not just a piece of land where you grow something. It is a place that makes your life, traditions, music, food, games ...

Because of its environmental, cultural and landscape values the HUERTA was protected by City Planning. In the last eight years 40% of the HUERTA has disappeared without any environmental impact assessment.

The cause of this loss is the unsustainable development, as recognized by the European Parliament in the Auken report.

Joven Futura is the clearest example of this kind of development. A developer, who buys protected fertile land at a low price advised by the local urban development authorities, got the charge of the urban plan and build with the permission of the authorities without environmental control.

We come here to help other people to deal with projects who can damage the HUERTA; this is not possible without the enforcement of the Aarhus Convention.

I would like you to see the destruction of the HUERTA (some more slides are shown)

Thank you for your attention.