

Public Participation in Decision-making and the UNFCCC

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Climate change features: impact on public participation in decision-making

- Diffuse pollution: difficult to link specific harm to specific activity.
- Transboundary effects: indeed global in character
- Uncertainties: ecological, social and economic
- Complexities: ecological, social and economic
- Integration of environmental, social and economic considerations

Public participation, “traditional” means of control: relevance for climate change

- Permits
- Environmental impact assessments
- Strategic impact assessments
- Supervision
- Plans and programmes
- Standard-setting through general norms and regulations e.g. on emissions and technologies)
- Liability and restoration schemes

Public participation and specific means for preventing climate change

- Emission trading
- Clean development mechanism
- Joint implementation
- Taxes
- Fees
- Eco labelling
- Auditing
- National policies

Aarhus Convention and climate change – I: Issues covered

- Decisions on specific activities, art 6
Several CO₂ emitting activities
- Decisions on plans and programmes, art 7
Also plans and programs on climate change
- Decisions on general norms/regulations, art 8
- Non-discrimination, art 3(9)
- Public participation in international organisations, art 3(7)

Aarhus Convention and climate change – II: Issues not covered

- Emission trading
- CDM (may require environmental permit)
- JI (may require environmental permit)
- Taxes
- Fees
- Eco labelling
- Auditing schemes
- Emission allocation schemes
- Liability schemes

UNFCCC and Public Participation

Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change, art 4(1i)

Promote and facilitate:

- “education and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects”,
- “public access to information” and
- “public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses”, art 6

Participation of NGOs etc. at MoPs, art 7(6)

Kyoto Protocol and Public Participation

All parties are to:

- Formulate programmes to improve quality of local emission factors
- Formulate programmes on measures to mitigate climate change
- Promote diffusion of env’l sound technologies
- Promote public awareness
- Include info on these issues in national report

Why public participation in decision-making on climate change?

- Transparent climate change governance
- Effectiveness of climate change policy
- Legitimacy of climate change policy
- Climate justice