

Amendment to the Convention: Article 1 (Definitions)

6th meeting of the
Working Group on Development
30 November-2 December 2015
Geneva, Switzerland

Background

- COP–8 (Dec 2014) mandated the Working Group on Development (WGD) to prepare a draft amendment revising art. 1 for adoption at its ninth meeting
- Rationale:
 - Alignment with other ECE Conventions (Aarhus / Espoo)
 - Alignment of definitions to internationally accepted developments
 - Improve clarity
 - Improve legal certainty
 - Internal consistency within the Convention
- WGD–5 (May 2015) discussed draft revised art. 1

Recap: WGD-5 – «the public»

- WGD-5 agreed on the amended definition of “the public” (art. 1(j)):

(j) “The public” means one or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organizations or groups;

Recap: WGD-5 – «effects»

- WGD-5 suggested changes to the def. of “effects” (art. 1 (c)) to achieve closer alignment with the Protocol on SEA
- Secretariat was tasked to review the alignment with other ECE MEAs and to prepare on that basis a revised draft:
 - (c) “Effects” means any direct or indirect, immediate or delayed adverse consequences caused by an industrial accident on, inter alia:
 - (i) Human beings, ~~flora and fauna~~ **biological diversity and its components;**
 - (ii) Soil, water, air ~~and~~, **landscape and climate;**
 - ~~(iv)~~ **(iii) Natural sites, Material assets and cultural heritage, including historical monuments;**
 - ~~(iii)~~ **(iv) The interaction between the factors in (i) ~~and~~, (ii) and (iii).**

Thank you for your attention