

<p>Minutes of the meeting Meeting of the Chair of the Compliance Committee of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health and the Chairpersons of the Human Right Treaty Bodies</p>	<p>26 June 2014 9.30-10.00am Palais Wilson Geneva</p>
<p>Participants Mr. Veit Koster, Chair of the Compliance Committee of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health Ms. Fiona Marshall, Environmental Affairs Officer – Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, UNECE Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE Mr. Yves Lador, NGO EarthJustice Chairpersons of the Human rights Treaty Bodies (cf list of participants in Annex) Ms. Birgit Van Hout, Secretary of the Meeting of Human Rights Treaty Bodies Chairpersons, OHCHR</p>	
<p>Outcomes of the meeting Veit Koester highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He represented also the chairs of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee and of the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) - He clarified that the objective of the meeting was to explore the possibilities of liaising with the annual meeting of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies (HRTB) Chairpersons - There is a number of similarities between the compliance mechanism under the HRTB and the three UNECE Compliance Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o They are dealing both with procedural environmental rights and substantive human rights (such as the human right to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health) o The 3 UNECE compliance committees are composed of independent experts, and their mandate is to review implementation of the agreements o The procedure is non adversarial, and aims to provide assistance to governments <p>Yves Lador clarified that similarities between the different compliance mechanisms are structural, functional but also related to the content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The model used to create the 3 UNECE compliance committees was rooted in the model of the HRTB when countries from the UNECE region decided to create bodies to supervise the implementation of the agreements. - Similar jurisprudence (as at June 2014, 98 compliance cases have been submitted to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee) - Similar challenges <p>➔ A coherent approach is needed, for more clarity for the States.</p> <p>Ms. Kirsten Sandberg (Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child) invited UNECE to make a presentation at the next meeting of the CRC to discuss the rights of the children to comment on environmental impact of big projects.</p> <p>Mr. Zdzislaw Kedzia (Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) referred to the General Comment No. 15 on the right to water and the General Comment on the right to the environment (currently under development), inviting the ECE compliance mechanisms to consider cooperation to work on these common issues. He highlighted the importance of the question of access to water and sanitation.</p> <p>Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) invited UNECE to speak during the September session of access to justice for persons</p>	

with disabilities.

Mr. Jose Francisco Cali Tzai (Chair of Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) invited UNECE to visit the Committee meeting in August (or in one of the 3 meetings in 2015) to discuss the issues of water-related problems affecting indigenous people and environmental racism.

Mr. Malcolm Evans (Chair of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture) expressed interest in exploring details of common interest related to compliance as well as procedural development. He also highlighted the problem of access to water as an area of substantive engagement for the work under the Optional Protocol.

Veit Koester concluded by requesting to explore the possibility to establish links between the UNECE compliance mechanisms and the human rights compliance mechanisms, e.g. by having a joint session with the ECE and HRTB chairs whenever the HTRB chairs hold their meeting in Geneva.

Malcolm Evans agreed that the Chairpersons of the HRTB would think and decide on possible interaction, and would inform ECE of the outcomes of the discussion.

Follow up actions

- Follow up with interested chairs, and OHCHR officers that support them, to organize potential presentations by ECE during upcoming Committee meetings
- Follow up with CESCR for a meeting to further explore possible cooperation
- Follow up with Chair of the HRTB (or supporting OHCHR officer) on whether the meeting of the HRTB had discussed possible cooperation between the meeting and the ECE compliance mechanism going forward, eg by inviting the ECE chairs to be observers at their annual meetings and/or joint sessions at HRTB meetings held in Geneva.

Annex

List of participants of the 26th meeting of the Chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies

NAME	TREATY BODY	TITLE
Ms. Nicole AMELINE	CEDAW	Chairperson
Mr. Jose Francisco CALI TZAY	CERD	Chairperson
Ms. Maria Soledad CISTERNAS REYES	CRPD	Chairperson
Mr. Emmanuel DECAUX	CED	Chairperson
Mr. Francisco CARRIÓN MENA	CMW	Chairperson
Mr. Malcolm EVANS	OPCAT (SPT)	Chairperson
Ms. Felice GAER	CAT	Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Zdzislaw KEDZIA	CESCR	Chairperson
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Mr. Nigel RODLEY	CCPR	Chairperson
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Ms. Kirsten SANDBERG	CRC	Chairperson
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