

Aarhus Convention role in furthering SDGs



Effective and inclusive engagement of members of the public, non-governmental organizations, academia and other stakeholders could greatly reinforce and complement the ability of the Governments to achieve the Goals. The Convention ensures broad public participation in the implementation of the Goals, so that **NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND**



Main achievements in supporting countries

- **Effective frameworks for access to information, public participation and access to justice**
- **Built authorities' capacities to provide information and apply public participation procedures**
- **Built judiciary capacities on access to justice**
- **Enhanced transparency and public participation in international decision-making**
- **Fostered dialogue among authorities, technical experts, NGOs and other stakeholders**
- **Advisory services to countries in and beyond the region and to international organizations**
- **Facilitated political commitments – the Budva Declaration**
- **Recommendations, guidance material and online information platforms**



Lessons learnt and challenges

- **Access to information, public participation and access to justice - universal principles guiding action and providing spillover effects on other sectors**
- **Provided a platform to share experiences and address challenges in achieving the Goals**
- **Become a benchmark for other processes and set standards for other regions and in other sectors**
- **Partner organizations played a significant role in capacity-building**
- **Need to foster effective interministerial and intra-ministerial cooperation mechanisms**
- **Need to promote the Convention's obligations in SDG decision-making**
- **Urgent need for protection of environmental defenders**
- **Need to ensuring sustainability of Aarhus Centres as a platform to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue on SDGs**

Further steps in assisting countries

- **Identify and apply measurable indicators for environmental dimension of Goal 16 and other relevant Goals**
- **Use NIRs, other reviews to collect information on how public participation and access to information and justice were promoted in the context of SDGs**
- **Greater political support to pursuing SDGs with transparency and the effective public participation - using Convention's principles and approaches**
- **Eliminate standing-related, financial and other barriers, strengthen capacities of review bodies**

