



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

“IMPLEMENTING THE AARHUS CONVENTION TODAY: PAVING THE WAY TO A BETTER ENVIRONMENT AND GOVERNANCE TOMORROW”

SUBREGIONAL MEETING DEVOTED TO THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

**Rahat Palace Hotel,
Almaty, Kazakhstan
22-23 May 2012**

Provisional Programme

A. Overview of the sessions

Chair of the subregional meeting:

Mr. Jan Darpo, Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice

22 May 2012

8:30 – 9:30	Registration	
SESSION I: Opening (joint session)		
9:30 – 10:00 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p><i>Welcoming statements:</i></p> <p>Mr. Anatoliy Dernovoy, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Ms. Jeannette Kloetzer, Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana</p> <p>Mr. Vladimir Borissov, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>Introductory statement:</i></p> <p>Ms. Maryna Yanush, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</p>	Plenary
SESSION II: Laying the ground (joint session)		
Moderated by Ms. Jeannette Kloetzer , Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana		
10:00 – 10:30 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>1. Environmental and Human rights: Linkages in International Law</p> <p>The session will explore the genesis of environmental rights as well as interlinkages of the Aarhus Convention with other multilateral environmental and human right agreements.</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i></p> <p>Mr. Jan Darpo, Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice</p>	Presentation followed by a discussion at plenary

10:30 – 11:00 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	2. Advancing the implementation of the Aarhus Convention The session will provide an overview of recent trends and challenges in implementing three Convention's pillars: access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice. <i>Speaker:</i> Mr. Vadim Ni , Executive Director of the Asian American Partnership, a former Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee member		Presentations followed by a discussion at plenary
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break		
SESSION III: Parallel Workshops (see section B of the Programme)			
11:15 – 13:00	WORKSHOP I: Greening Justice and the role of the Judiciary in this process	WORKSHOP II: How to implement the Aarhus Convention: learning practical experiences	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch		
14:30 - 16:30	WORKSHOP I: continued	WORKSHOP II: continued	
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee Break		
16:45 – 18:30	WORKSHOP I: continued	WORKSHOP II: continued	
19:00	RECEPTION at the kind invitation of the OSCE Centre in Astana		

23 May 2012

SESSION III: Parallel Workshops – continued			
9:00 – 11:00	WORKSHOP I: continued	WORKSHOP II: continued	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15 – 13:00	WORKSHOP I: continued	WORKSHOP II: continued	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch		
14:30 – 16:00	WORKSHOP I: continued	WORKSHOP II: continued	
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break		

SESSION IV: Taking stock and looking forward (joint session)		
16:15 – 17:30 <i>(Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</i>	<p>1. Strengths, Challenges and Solutions</p> <p>The session will inform about the outcomes of the parallel workshops highlighting strengths, challenges, solutions and good practices in implementing and enforcing the Aarhus Convention in the Central Asian countries.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ms. Elena Laevskaya / Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov Mr. Andriy Andrushevych / Ms. Heghine Hakhverdyan Ms. Esra Buttanri, Environmental Adviser, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Mr. Kanybek Isabayev, Aarhus Centre in Osh Ms. Mara Silina, Coordinator Public Participation Campaign, European ECO Forum</p>	Presentations followed by a discussion at plenary
17:30 – 17:50 <i>(Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</i>	<p>2. Education and awareness raising as key tools to develop national capacity</p> <p>The session will provide a platform for a discussion on how stakeholders could contribute through educational and awareness raising activities to building capacity for the Convention's implementation.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Aarhus Centres, judicial training institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders</p>	Plenary
17:50 – 18:00 <i>(Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</i>	Closing remarks by the Chair	

B. Detailed Programme of the Workshops

(a) Programme of the Workshop I

22 May 2012

SESSION III - Workshop I: Greening Justice and the role of the Judiciary in this process		
Chaired by Mr. Jan Darpo , Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice and moderated by Ms. Elena Laevskaya , Belarusian State University, member of the Specialized Panel of Arbitrators of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov , Attorney, Head of the Bureau of Environmental Investigation		
9:30 – 11:00	Joint sessions I and II (see section A of the Programme)	
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:15 – 11:45 <i>(Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</i>	<p>1. Introduction to the workshop</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Ms. Maryna Yanush, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</p>	Presentation followed by tour-de-table

11:45 – 13:00 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>2. Access to justice in environmental matters: general overview</p> <p>The item will provide a general overview of article 9 of the Convention and its linkages to other provisions of the Convention, including articles 3, 4, 6 and 7 as well as Annex I.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Jan Darpo Ms. Barbara Ruis, Legal Officer, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office Ms. Elena Laevskaya / Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov</p>	Presentations followed by questions and answers
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>3. Access to justice in cases involving access to information and public participation in decision-making</p> <p>The item will provide a detailed overview of legal requirements with respect to Article 9, paras. 1 and 2, of the Convention, their implementation challenges, examples and cases.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ms. Elena Laevskaya / Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov</p>	Presentations followed by questions and answers
15:30 – 16:30 (Consecutive English / Russian interpretation)	<p>Discussing a case-study involving access to information</p> <p>Participants will be split in two groups to brain storm on a case study related to Article 9, para. 1, of the Convention.</p>	Groups' Discussion
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee Break	
16:45 – 17:30 (Consecutive English / Russian interpretation)	<p>Discussing a case-study involving public participation in decision-making</p> <p>Participants will be split in two groups to brain storm on a case study related to Article 9, para. 2, of the Convention.</p>	Groups' discussion
17:30 – 18:30 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>Summing up</p> <p>The item will summarize the outcomes of the groups' discussion highlighting strengths, challenges and solutions in implementing access to justice in cases involving access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> identified rapporteurs</p>	Plenary

23 May 2012

SESSION III - Workshops I: continued		
09:00 – 09:45 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>4. Access to justice and public's right to enforce national law relating to the environment</p> <p>The item will provide a detailed overview of legal requirements with respect to Article 9, para. 3, of the Convention, their implementation challenges, examples and cases.</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Mr. Werner Heermann, Vice-President of the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)</p>	Presentations followed by questions and answers

09:45 – 10:30 (Consecutive English / Russian interpretation)	Discussing a case-study related to the public's right to enforce national law relating to the environment Participants will be split in two groups to brain storm on a case study related to Article 9, para. 3, of the Convention.	Groups' discussion
10:30 – 11:00 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	Summing up The item will summarize the outcomes of the groups discussion highlighting strengths, challenges and solutions in implementing access to justice in cases related to the public's right to enforce national law relating to the environment. <i>Speakers:</i> identified rapporteurs Mr. Werner Heermann	Plenary
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:15 – 12:15 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	5. Remedies, timeliness of procedures and costs The item will provide a detailed overview of legal requirements with respect to Article 9, paras. 4 and 5, of the Convention, their implementation challenges, examples and cases. <i>Speakers:</i> Ms. Elena Laevskaya / Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov	Presentations followed by questions and answers
12:15 – 13:00 (Consecutive English / Russian interpretation)	Discussing a case-study related to the available remedies and costs Participants will be split in two groups to brain storm on a case study related to Article 9, para. 4, of the Convention.	Groups' discussion
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 – 15:15 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	Summing up The item will summarize the outcomes of the groups' discussion highlighting challenges and solutions in providing adequate and effective remedies and reducing financial and other barriers to access to justice. <i>Speakers:</i> identified rapporteurs	Plenary
15:15 – 16:00 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	6. The way forward The item will inform about the outcomes of the Workshop I highlighting strengths, challenges and solutions in ensuring effective access to justice in environmental cases and the role of judiciary to facilitate the way forward.	Plenary
16:00-16:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:15-18:00	Joint session IV (see section A of the Programme)	

(b) Programme of the Workshop II

<p>SESSION III - Workshop II: How to implement the Aarhus Convention: learning practical experiences</p> <p>Chaired by Mr. Philip Kearney, Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making, and moderated by Mr. Andriy Andrusevich, Resource and Analysis Center “Society and Environment” and Ms. Haghine Hakhverdyan, Yerevan State University, member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee</p>		
9:30-11:00	Joint sessions I and II (see section A of the Programme)	
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:15 – 11:45 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>1. Introduction to the workshop</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ms. Haghine Hakhverdyan Mr. Alexander Peytchev, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Astana</p>	Presentation followed by tour-de-table
11:45 – 13:00 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>2. Monitoring the Convention’s implementation</p> <p>The item will provide a general overview of reporting and other mechanisms under the Aarhus Convention as a key sources of information for monitoring the Convention’s implementation and identifying the countries’ needs for further building capacities.</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Mr. Andriy Andrusevych</p>	Presentations followed by questions and answers
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 – 15:30 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>3. Access to environmental information</p> <p>The item will provide a detailed overview of key provisions of the Convention related to access to environmental information (articles 4 and 5) and their practical application.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ms. Haghine Hakhverdyan Ms. Gulsara Yeskendirova, National Aarhus Centre, Ministry of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan</p>	Presentations followed by questions and answers
15:30 – 16:30 (Consecutive English / Russian interpretation)	<p>Discussing a case-study related to access to environmental information</p> <p>Participants will be split in two groups to brain storm on a case study related to access to environmental information.</p>	Groups’ discussion
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:45 – 17:30 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)	<p>Summing up</p> <p>The item will summarize the outcomes of the groups discussion highlighting strengths, challenges, solutions and good practices in providing and getting access to environmental information.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> identified rapporteurs</p>	Plenary

<p>17:30 – 18:30 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</p>	<p>4. Public participation in environmental decision-making</p> <p>The item will provide a detailed overview of key provisions of the Convention related to public participation in environmental decision-making (articles 6, 7 and 8) and their practical application.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Philip Kearney, Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making Ms. Mara Silina, Coordinator Public Participation Campaign, European ECO Forum Mr. Kanybek Isabayev, Aarhus Centre in Osh Ms. Shynar Izteleuova, Zahik-Caspian Aarhus Centre, Atyrau</p>	<p>Presentations followed by questions and answers</p>
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23 May 2012

SESSION III - Workshops II: continued		
<p>09:00 – 10:15 (Consecutive English / Russian interpretation)</p>	<p>Discussing a case-study related to public participation in environmental decision-making</p> <p>The participants will be split in two groups to brain storm on a case study related to public participation in environmental decision-making.</p>	<p>Groups' discussion</p>
<p>10:15 – 11:00 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</p>	<p>Summing up</p> <p>The item will summarize the outcomes of the groups' discussion highlighting strengths, challenges, solutions and good practices in ensuring public participation in environmental decision-making.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> identified rapporteurs</p>	<p>Plenary</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:15</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>	
<p>11:15 – 12:15 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</p>	<p>5. Access to justice as a guarantee of environmental rights</p> <p>The item will provide a detailed overview of key provisions of the Convention related to access to justice in environmental matters (article 9) and their practical application.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Andriy Andrusevych Mr. Dmitriy Prudskikh, Aarhus Centre in Khujad</p>	<p>Presentations followed by questions and answers</p>
<p>12:15 – 13:00 (Consecutive English / Russian interpretation)</p>	<p>Discussing a case-study related to access to justice</p> <p>Participants will be split in two groups to brain storm on a case study related to access to justice in environmental matters.</p>	<p>Groups' discussion</p>
<p>13:00 – 14:30</p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>	
<p>14:30 – 15:15 (Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</p>	<p>Summing up</p> <p>The item will summarize the outcomes of the groups' discussion highlighting strengths, challenges and solutions in ensuring access to justice in environmental matters.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> identified rapporteurs</p>	<p>Plenary</p>

<p>15:15 – 16:00 <i>(Simultaneous English / Russian interpretation)</i></p>	<p>6. The way forward The item will inform about the outcomes of the Workshop II highlighting strengths, challenges, solutions and good practices in the practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention with special focus on the role of Aarhus Centres in the region.</p>	<p>Plenary</p>
<p>16:00-16:15</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>	
<p>16:15-18:00</p>	<p>Joint session IV (see section A of the Programme)</p>	