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ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

Task Force on Access to Justice

Fifth meeting, Geneva, 13-14 June 2012

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH MEETING  
OF THE TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

to be held in Salle XXI, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10am on Wednesday 13 June 2012

**DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 13 June 2012**

***Morning session (10.00am – 1.00pm)***

10.00 – 10.10 am      Opening by the Chair and adoption of the agenda

**Item 1: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

This item will address the implementation of decision IV/2, para. 13. The main topics of the item are: standing, costs and remedies. The focus of the mini-conference will be placed on **standing**: a general discussion among participants will set the ground for future analytical studies.

On **costs** and **remedies**, analytical studies have been concluded during the previous intersessional period. Participants will discuss any developments at the national and international levels and will agree on how to use this material.

**1 (a) Standing**

**Mini-conference “Access to courts for individuals and groups”**

10.10 – 10.20 am      Opening by the Chair of this item and the mini-conference

10.20 – 10.30 am      Key note address by a Speaker

10.30 – 11.30 am Speakers from EU countries on standing and discussion

11.30 – 11.50 am *Coffee break*

11.50 am – 12.50 pm Speakers from non-EU countries on standing and discussion

12.50 – 1.00 pm Sum up by the Chair of the morning discussion

1.00 – 3.00 pm *Lunch*

***Afternoon session (3.00pm – 5.30pm)***

3.00 – 4.10 pm Discussion / exchange of information and experiences among the participants, including on new developments in this area (focus on e.g. representatives from courts, judicial institutions and civil society) on

- (i) standing before national courts and quasi-judicial bodies/administrative review tribunals
- (ii) standing issues flagged by decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties on compliance relating to standing

4.10 – 4.30 pm *Coffee break*

4.30 – 5.25 pm Elements of a possible new study on standing and provisional timeline (identifying needs and avoiding duplication of work)

5.25 – 5.30 pm Conclusions by the Chair on STANDING

**DAY 2: THURSDAY, 14 June 2012**

***Morning session (10.00am – 1.00pm)***

**Item 1 - SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES (*cont'd*)**

10.00 – 10.05 am Introduction by the Chair to the session: overview of the programme

**1 (b) Costs & Financial Arrangements**

10.05 – 11.20 am Discussion on **costs and financial arrangements**, including the loser pays principle, legal aid and other methods of funding for public interest litigation:

- (a) Decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties on compliance relating to costs
- (b) Exchange of information and experiences among the participants / any recent developments after the conclusion of the analytical studies on costs
- (c) Conclusions by the Chair on COSTS

11.20 – 11.40 am      *Coffee break*

### **1 (c) Remedies**

11.40 am– 12.55 pm Discussion on remedies, including injunctive relief:

- (a) Decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties on compliance relating to remedies
- (b) Exchange of information and experiences among the participants / any recent developments after the conclusion of the analytical studies on remedies
- (c) Conclusions by the Chair on REMEDIES

12.55– 1.00 pm      Sum up by the Chair on item 1

1.00 – 3.00 pm      *Lunch*

### ***Afternoon session (3.00pm – 5.30pm)***

3.00 – 3.30 pm      Open discussion on substantive issues and conclusion by the chair

## **Item 2 - SHARING EXPERIENCES AND BUILDING CAPACITY**

This item will address the maintenance of the jurisprudence database and capacity-building initiatives according to decision IV/2, para. 14.

### **2 (a) Jurisprudence database**

The secretariat will make a presentation on the updates of the jurisprudence database. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange information about recent developments in the use of electronic tools (databases) for the publication and free access to decisions of national courts. They will be encouraged to submit more cases to the jurisprudence database.

3.30 – 3.40 pm      Introduction by the Chair and report by the secretariat

3.40 – 3.55 pm      Discussion (*which countries are not represented and why? Which issues are mainly referred to in national judgements? Further population of the database*).

3.55 – 4.00 pm      Sum up and conclusion by the Chair

4.00 – 4.20 pm      *Coffee break*

## **2 (b) Workshops**

The Chair will report on the subregional Central Asian workshop for high-level judiciary to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 22 and 23 May 2012. The use of the analytical studies material for the purpose of the training will be highlighted.

Experts from judicial training institutions and from international organizations will be invited to report on their activities relating to the issues regarding the Aarhus Convention.

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| 4.20 – 4.30 pm | Introduction by the Chair and report by the secretariat   |
| 4.30 – 4.40 pm | Statement by a judge from Kazakhstan                      |
| 4.40 – 5.00 pm | Discussion: tour de table on capacity-building activities |
| 5.00 – 5.10 pm | Sum up and conclusion by the Chair                        |

### **Item 3 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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| 5.10 – 5.20 pm | Participants wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible. |
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### **Item 4 - APPROVAL OF OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING AND CLOSURE**

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| 5.20 – 5.30 pm | The Task Force is expected to approve outcomes of the meeting. The Chair will close the meeting. |
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