



Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova

Public access
to environmental information

Introduction to the work of the Task Force
on Access to Information

Geneva 2013





Overview of the presentation

- Framework for advancing the implementation of the Convention's first pillar
- Mandate of the Task Force
- Proposed substantive scope of the future work
- Further steps



Framework for advancing the Convention's implementation

- Objectives I.7 and III.2 of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009-2014 and framework for its implementation
- Convention's Work Programme for 2012-2014
- Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information adopted through decision II/3 of the Meeting of the Parties



Mandate of the Task Force

- Set out in decision IV/1 of the Meeting of the Parties on access to information
- Terms of reference:
 - Exchange of information, experiences, challenges and good practices with focus on the identified substantive issues
 - Identify capacity-building needs, barriers and solutions
 - Monitor and support the implementation of decision II/3
 - Monitor relevant technical developments
 - Contributing to further developments of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and PRTR.net
- The activities will be based on the results achieved by the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools



Proposed substantive scope of the further work

- Presented in the document “Public access to environmental information: possible priorities for the work” (AC/TF.AI/Inf.3)
- Identified on the basis of the synthesis report, national implementation reports and the Compliance Committee findings
 - the document AC/TF.AI/Inf.2 with overview of the Convention’s implementation



Issues to be given particular priority

- The scope of environmental information and public access to environment-related information available to public authorities other than those responsible for environmental protection (e.g. land administration authorities);
- Providing sufficient environmental information with regard to products;
- Access to environmental information and copyright protection;
- Protection of a legitimate economic interest through protected by law confidentiality of commercial and industrial information related to the environment and the public interest served by disclosure of such information;
- Access to raw data and primary statistical data related to environmental information.
- Improving dissemination of priority categories of information in accordance with decision II/3 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.



Further steps

- Second meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 16-17 December 2013)
- Discussion of the future directions for the work in this area at the next meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention (Geneva, 19-21 June 2013) and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

