

Ladies and gentlemen!

I am pleased to greet you on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and thank you for organizing today's meeting.

Preliminary analysis of the documents submitted, consultations with stakeholders regarding the substance of the message, allowed the following conclusions to be made.

When deciding on the provisional admissibility of communication No. 182 with respect to Belarus, we would like to draw your attention to paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Report of the Compliance Committee, which was adopted during the Chisinau Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in 2011.

Upon examination of the presented facts and given legal reasoning, it becomes obvious that they are similar to the facts that were already discussed when considering the communications regarding Belarus and became the basis for adopting the conclusions and recommendations of decision VI / 8c. It should be noted that the Belarusian side is already working with the Committee to fully ensure compliance with the recommendations set out in this decision.

There are also facts in the communication that fall within the scope of subparagraphs b) and c) of paragraph 20 of the Annex to Decision I / 7, constituting an abuse of the right to make such communications and manifestly unreasonable.

Taking into account that the mechanism for considering communications from the public with respect to a state party to the Aarhus Convention is not a remedy, but acts as a mechanism to assist states in fulfilling their international obligations and, referring to the stated position, we believe that the communication is not acceptable.

We confirm our readiness to provide written comments on all the issues raised, and ask today to confirm whether we correctly understand the rules of the procedure for considering communications, according to which we have 5 months to send our position before a final decision will be taken.

Thank you for your attention.