THE AARHUS CONVENTION

“This treaty’s powerful twin protections for the environment and human rights can help us respond to many challenges facing our world, from climate change and the loss of biodiversity to air and water pollution. And the Convention’s critical focus on involving the public is helping to keep Governments accountable.”

Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary-General
Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration:

“Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”
Three pillars of the Aarhus Convention:

1. Access to environmental information
2. Public participation in decision-making in environmental matters
3. Access to justice in environmental matters