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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Eighth meeting

Geneva, 16-18 December 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth meeting*

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Wednesday, 16 December 2020****

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Designation of national focal points.
4. Promotion and coordination:
 - (a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies;
 - (b) Global promotion of the Protocol.
5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms.
6. Development of the Protocol.
7. Implementation of the work programme for 2018–2021, including financial matters.

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

** Due to availability of interpretation for remote participation the meeting will be held as follows: on 16 December (full day), on 17 December (morning) and on 18 December (morning). Information on registration for the meeting and other practical arrangements will be made available on the meeting web page at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53322>



8. Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
 - (a) Hosting and preparatory timeline;
 - (b) Substantive preparations:
 - (i) Agenda for the fourth session;
 - (ii) Declaration;
 - (iii) Programme of work for 2022–2025;
 - (iv) Reporting requirements;
 - (v) Financial arrangements under the Protocol.
9. Subregional and national activities: achievements, needs and challenges for capacity-building.
10. Calendar of meetings.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 10–10.10 a.m.

The Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters will be invited to adopt the agenda for its eighth meeting as set out in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/1)

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 10.10–10.15 a.m.

The secretariat will inform participants of the status of ratification, acceptance and approval of and accession to the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on recent or anticipated developments in that regard. The current status of ratification of the Protocol may be consulted online.²

3. Designation of national focal points

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 10.15–10.20 a.m.

The secretariat will inform the participants of the status of designation of national focal points. Delegations will be invited to report on any developments in that regard.

¹ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page on the Protocol's website: www.unece.org/index.php?id=53322.

² See www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html.

4. Promotion and coordination

(a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 10.20–10.50 a.m.

The Working Group of the Parties will consider potential areas for cooperation with partner organizations. In that connection, it will be informed of the relevant activities of, among others, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/5)

(b) Global promotion of the Protocol

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 10.50–11.05 a.m.

The Working Group will discuss any relevant matters in relation to the promotion of the Protocol.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/5)

5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 11.05–11.30 a.m.

The Working Group will consider any developments with regard to the compliance mechanism and the status of submission of national implementation reports.

Documentation

Membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/3)

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/5)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its eighth meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2020/2)

6. Development of the Protocol

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

Parties and stakeholders will be invited to share relevant activities regarding developments concerning pollutant release and transfer register systems. The Working Group will consider the report on the outcomes of the survey on the experiences in implementing the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, prepared by the Bureau.

Documentation

Report on the outcomes of the survey on the experiences in implementing the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/4)

Responses to the Survey on the experiences in implementing the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR/WG.1/2020/Inf.1)

Report on the development of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/6 and Add.1)

Comparative analysis of different international reporting obligations related to annexes I, II and III of the Protocol on PRTRs (PRTR/WG.1/2019/Inf.2).

7. Implementation of the work programme for 2018–2021, including financial matters

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 4–4.15 p.m.

The Working Group will consider the status of implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2018–2021, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020.

The Working Group will be informed of the contributions received to support implementation of the Protocol's current work programme and the expenditures incurred during 2019 and projected for the period 2020–2021. Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/5)

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/6)

8. Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

(a) Hosting and preparatory timeline

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 4.15–4.30 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed of the preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Documentation

Note on the preparatory timeline for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (PRTR/WG.1/2020/Inf.2)

(b) Substantive preparations

Time: Wednesday, 16 December, 4.30–6 pm and Thursday, 17 December, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider substantive preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(i) Agenda for the fourth session

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft outline of the provisional agenda for the fourth session, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft outline of the agenda for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/7)

(ii) Declaration

The Working Group will be invited to consider a draft outline of a declaration prepared by the Bureaux of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, and to mandate the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to finalize it in cooperation with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the joint high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties to both treaties.

Documentation

Draft outline of the Declaration (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/11)

(iii) Programme of work for 2022–2025

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on the programme of work for 2022–2025, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft decision on the work programme for 2022–2025 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/8)

(iv) Reporting requirements

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on reporting requirements prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft decision on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/10)

(v) Financial arrangements under the Protocol

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on financial arrangements prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/9)

9. Subregional and national activities: achievements, needs and challenges for capacity-building

Time: Friday, 18 December, 10–11.45 a.m.

During the session, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences gained through implementing and developing pollutant release and transfer registers in different countries and to learn how to make use of synergies with other reporting obligations, in order to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of pollutant release and transfer registers. Participants will also be invited to consider needs and challenges for capacity-building in relation to establishing and maintaining pollutant release and transfer registers.

10. Calendar of meetings

Time: Friday, 18 December, 11.45–11.50 a.m.

The Working Group will be informed of the tentative calendar of meetings for 2021.

11. Other business

*Time: Friday, 18 December, 11.50–11.55 a.m.*³

Delegates wishing to suggest points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting

*Time: Friday, 18 December, 12.20–1 p.m.*⁴

The Working Group is expected to adopt the decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

³ There will be a break to prepare decisions and outcomes from 11.55 a.m. to 12.20 p.m.

⁴ To ensure equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations while saving paper, the draft text of the meeting decisions and outcomes will be projected onto a screen about 30 minutes before the close of the meeting and presented orally by the Chair in English, with interpretation into the other languages. The list of decisions will be distributed to participants by email after the meeting.