



Public Participation and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents





Requirements of the Convention



- *Article 9. Information to and Participation of the Public*
 - Information to the public
 - adequate information is given to the public in the areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident arising out of a hazardous activity
 - transmitted through such channels as the Parties deem appropriate
 - includes the elements contained in Annex VI
 - Public Participation
 - give the public in the areas capable of being affected an opportunity to participate in relevant procedures
 - given to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to that given to the public of the Party of origin
 - Access to Justice
 - provide natural or legal persons with access to the relevant administrative and judicial proceedings
 - equivalent to affected Party and Party of origin





Public access and the Convention



- Full access to documents on the website
 - Official documents
 - Working and draft documents
 - Guidelines and recommendations
- National implementation reports are confidential
 - Data about hazardous activities
- Efforts to share information
 - Official reports and publications
 - Unofficial publications
 - Press releases, side events, roundtables and workshops
 - Media coverage





Public participation in the governing of the Convention



- The Rules of Procedure
 - participation of representatives of international non-governmental organizations in meetings and decision-making
 - No voting rights
- Stakeholder dialogues
 - Consultation during drafting of documents
 - Cooperation with public
 - Experience of the NPD
- NGO's support in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work
 - Cooperation through grants
 - Target group in projects under the Assistance programme





Compliance monitoring under the Convention



- Working group of implementation
 - Monitors implementation and reports to the COP
 - Reviews the national implementations reports
 - Assists the Bureau in facilitating implementation and/or ratification of the Convention by UNECE member States
 - Monitors the Strategic Approach of the implementation of the Assistance Programme
 - Elected at the CoP
- Meetings of the WGI
 - Minutes of the WGI meetings are publicly available
 - Meetings are closed
 - Observers/experts can be invited





Future changes of the Convention



- Review of provisions relating to access to information
 - To be proposed to CoP 7 and approved by CoP 8
 - Enhanced access to information to the public
- Increased public participation in the processes and substantive work of the Convention
- Review of rules of compliance procedure to increase access to information/public participation in the compliance procedure
 - Public access to the national implementation reports





Challenges



- Limited interest from the public
 - Very complex and technical subject
 - Requires significant level of expertise
- Concerns regarding public disclosure of information
 - Security vs Safety
 - Risk vs Hazard
- Language barriers and limited resources to translate documents
- Lack of infrastructure
 - Data generation
 - Data analysis
 - Data dissemination





Thank you!

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