

Economic Commission for Europe
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Seventeenth meeting

Geneva, 26-28 February 2014

Item 7 of the provisional agenda:

Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums

**Promotion of the principles of the Convention on Access to Information, Public
Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
(Aarhus Convention) in international forums**

Provisional programme for item 7

to be held on Thursday, 27 February 2014, Salle XIX from 10.00 to 13.00

**Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in
international forums**

Chair: Mr Jit Peters, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

Documentation:

*Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums
(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.4)*

- a) Discussion on the draft decision
- b) Conclusions by the Chair

Thematic session on promoting the principles of the Convention in international forums

Chair: Mr Etienne Ballan, Chair of the thematic session

Item 1: Introduction and follow up from previous thematic session

Recalling the outcomes of the thematic session held during the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 19-21 June 2013), this session will consider:

- a) Update on progress by Parties to develop national action plan to systematically promote the principles of the Convention in all international forums dealing with matters relating to the environment in

which they take part, using the checklist of measures to be borne in mind by Parties when developing such plans (*summary analysis of 3-minute survey results to be carried out prior to the session*).

- b) Update on establishment of High Level Political Forum by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- c) Update on civil society engagement in the processes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- d) Update on actions to actively promote the principles of the Aarhus Convention in the upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in particular in view of the open-ended biennial meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (24-28 March 2014) and of the next UNEA meeting (Nairobi 24-27 June 2014) with respect to the further development of paragraphs 5(e), 7 and 17 of decision 27/2 of the UNEP Governing Council.
- e) Policy reviews by international financial institutions.

Item 2: Focus on ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Recalling the constructive engagement of the ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other ECE bodies in the consultation process on PPIF carried out under the Aarhus Convention in June 2006-July 2007,¹ this session will feature an interactive discussion on the basis of a note prepared by the secretariat which will include:

- a) An update provided by the secretariats of ECE MEAs regarding the application of the Almaty Guidelines, including a synthesis analysis of the answers received from MEAs secretariats based on a checklist of critical matters per issues area: i) Access to information (e.g. public availability of documents); ii) Public participation (e.g. introduction of relevant provisions in the Rules of Procedure, participation of NGOs at various bodies, public consultations in preparing various documents, studies and surveys); iii) access to review mechanisms (e.g. meetings of implementation/compliance committees open to the public, documents of those bodies posted online or available on request, public trigger) and iv) the use of the Almaty Guidelines.
- b) A list of National Focal Points (NFPs) for ECE MEAs. Aarhus Convention NFPs will be invited to contact their colleagues prior to travelling to the session to inform them about the agenda of the session and to coordinate with them any inputs, as required.

Item 3: Other relevant issues

Closing: Chair's summary of the outcomes of the items 1, 2 and 3

¹ The responses received from the ECE MEAs and other ECE bodies during the 2006-2007 consultation process are available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ppif-response.html> (see section on Pan-European Forums).