



# Economic and Social Council

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## 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 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the seventeenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on  
Wednesday, 26 February 2014\*

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

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\* As part of the accreditation procedures for delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form available on the web page for the meeting (<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp17.html>), and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat by no later than 12 February 2014 by e-mail ([public.participation@unece.org](mailto:public.participation@unece.org)). Delegates applying for financial support should submit the registration and the financial support forms by no later than 22 January 2014. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website, <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 5568. The meeting will be held back to back with the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice under the Convention (Geneva, 24–25 February 2014).



3. Substantive issues:
  - (a) Access to information;
  - (b) Public participation in decision-making;
  - (c) Access to justice;
  - (d) Genetically modified organisms.
4. Procedures and mechanisms:
  - (a) Compliance mechanism;
  - (b) Capacity-building and awareness-raising.
5. Accession by States not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and promotion of the Convention's principles in other regions.
6. Implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014, including financial matters.
7. Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums.
8. Other substantive preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties:
  - (a) Agenda of the fifth session;
  - (b) Strategic plan for 2015–2020;
  - (b) Programme of work for 2015–2017;
  - (d) Financial arrangements under the Convention;
  - (e) Reporting requirements;
  - (f) Declaration.
9. Practical preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
10. Other business.
11. Adoption of outcomes.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 10–10.10 a.m.*

The Working Group of the Parties under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will be invited to adopt the agenda for its seventeenth meeting as set out in the present document.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> All documentation for the session will be made available on a dedicated webpage on the Convention's website (<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp17.html>).

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

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 10.10–10.15 a.m.*

The secretariat will provide the Working Group with an overview of the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Aarhus Convention, the amendment to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs). Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments concerning ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect to these instruments in their respective countries. The Working Group is expected to take note of these developments.

## 3. Substantive issues

### (a) Access to information

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 10.15–11 a.m.*

The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the second meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information (Geneva, 6–7 December 2013) and recent developments with regard to electronic information tools. Delegations will be invited to contribute additional information regarding relevant developments. The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on access to information, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

#### *Documentation*

Report of the second meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/4)

Draft decision on access to information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.1)

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

### (b) Public participation in decision-making

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February 11–11.45 a.m.*

The Working Group of the Parties will consider recent developments with regard to public participation in decision-making. Delegations will be invited to contribute additional information on relevant developments. The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on public participation in decision-making, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

#### *Documentation*

Draft decision on public participation in decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.2)

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

(c) **Access to justice**

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 11.45 a.m.–12.30 p.m.*

The Working Group of the Parties will be informed about the outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice (Geneva, 24–25 February 2014). Delegations will be invited to provide additional information on relevant developments in this area. The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on access to justice, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

*Documentation*

Report of the sixth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/5)

Draft decision on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.3)

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

(d) **Genetically modified organisms**

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 12.30–1 p.m.*

The Working Group of the Parties will be informed about the outcomes of the round table on access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms (LMOs/GMOs) (Geneva, 16–17 October 2013). Delegations will be invited to provide additional information on relevant developments in this area, in particular related to the issue of ratification of the Convention's GMO amendment. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided and to discuss future activities in this area, based on the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017.

*Documentation*

Report of the round table on access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding LMOs/GMOs (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/6)

Draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.6)

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

## **4. Procedures and mechanisms**

(a) **Compliance mechanism**

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 3–3.45 p.m.*

The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the recent meetings of the Compliance Committee and about the procedure regarding preparation of the draft decisions regarding compliance matter. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided.

The Working Group will also be invited to consider relevant sections of the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017.

*Documentation*

Reports of the Compliance Committee on its forty-first, forty-second and forty-third meetings (ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/6; ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/8; and ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/11)

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/3)

Draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.6)

**(b) Capacity-building and awareness-raising**

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 3.45-4.30 p.m.*

The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided by the secretariat and delegations on capacity-building activities carried out since the last meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group is expected to take note of the developments and to discuss the future work in this area.

*Documentation*

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

## **5. Accession by States not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and promotion of the Convention's principles in other regions**

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 4.30–5.15 p.m.*

The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided by the secretariat and delegations regarding accession by States that are not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and promotion of the Convention's principles in other regions.

*Documentation*

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

## **6. Implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014, including financial matters**

*Timing: Wednesday, 26 February, 5.15–6 p.m.*

The Working Group is expected to take note of the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014, prepared by the secretariat, taking into consideration the discussion under the previous agenda items. Delegations will be encouraged to notify the Working Group of their planned financial contributions.

*Documentation*

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

## **7. Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums**

*Timing: Thursday, 27 February, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.*

The agenda for the thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums will be developed in close cooperation with the country leading this area of work and the Chair of the thematic session.<sup>2</sup> The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

### *Documentation*

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

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)

## **8. Other substantive preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

### **(a) Agenda of the fifth session**

*Timing: Thursday, 27 February, 3–3.45 p.m.*

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda prepared by the Bureau for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, from 30 June to 1 July 2014. The session will include a joint high-level segment with the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs on 2 July 2014. The Working Group is expected to comment the agenda and mandate the Bureau to finalize it for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

### *Documentation*

Draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.9)

### **(b) Strategic plan for 2015–2020**

*Timing: Thursday, 27 February, 3.45–4.45 p.m.*

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

### *Documentation*

Draft decision on the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.5)

Report on implementation of the current Strategic Plan (AC/WGP-17/Inf.1)

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<sup>2</sup> The programme for the session will be made available on the meeting web page in due course.

**(c) Programme of work for 2015–2017**

*Timing: Thursday, 27 February, 4.45–6 p.m.*

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

*Documentation*

Draft decision on the work programme for 2015-2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.6)

**(d) Financial arrangements under the Convention**

*Timing: Friday, 28 February, 10–10.45 a.m.*

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 at its fifth session.

*Documentation*

Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.7)

**(e) Reporting requirements**

*Timing: Friday, 28 February, 10.45–11.15 a.m.*

The Working Group will be informed about the status of submission of national implementation reports and 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 at its fifth session.

*Documentation*

Draft decision on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.10)

**(f) Declaration**

*Timing: Friday, 28 February, 11.15 a.m.–12.30 p.m.*

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

*Documentation*

Draft of the joint declaration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.8)

**9. Practical preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

*Timing: Friday, 28 February 12.30–12.55 p.m.*

The host country and the secretariat will provide information on practical preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

**10. Other business**

*Timing: Friday, 28 February 12.55–1 p.m.*

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

**11. Adoption of outcomes**

*Timing: Friday, 28 February 3–4 p.m.*

The Working Group will discuss and approve the outcomes of its seventeenth meeting.

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