



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 April 2014

Original: English

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

Eighteenth meeting

Maastricht, the Netherlands, 29 June 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth meeting

**To be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, starting at 12 p.m. on
Sunday, 29 June 2014**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties:
 - (a) Leadership for task forces and areas of work.
 - (b) Draft decisions:
 - (i) Draft decisions on compliance;
 - (ii) Draft decision on financial arrangements;
 - (iii) Draft decision on public participation in decision-making;
 - (iv) Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums;
 - (c) Maastricht Declaration;

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- (d) Election of the Compliance Committee;
 - (e) Practical arrangements for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
4. Other business.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 12–12.05 p.m.

1. The Working Group of the Parties to 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 as set out in the present document.

2. Status of ratification of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 12.05–12.10 p.m.

2. The secretariat will provide the Working Group with an overview of the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the 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 and accession with respect to these instruments in their respective countries. The Working Group is expected to take note of these developments.

3. Preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties

(a) Leadership for task forces and areas of work

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 12.10–12.15 p.m.

3. The Working Group will be invited to consider the issue of leadership for the task forces and areas of work under the Convention, with a view to the consideration of this topic by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.

(b) Draft decisions

(i) Draft decisions on compliance

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 12.15–2 p.m.

4. The Working Group is expected to review the draft decision on general issues of compliance as well as supplementary draft decisions concerning specific cases of non-compliance, and forward these for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties. The Chair of the Compliance Committee and other members of the Committee will be present to address any questions raised by the Working Group.

Documentation

Draft decision V/9 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.9)

Supplementary draft decisions concerning specific cases of non-compliance (ECE/MP.PP/2014/10, and following)

(ii) Draft decision on financial arrangements

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 2–2.30 p.m.

5. The Working Group revised the draft decision on financial matters (AC/WGP-17/CRP.7)¹ at its seventeenth meeting, approved it and forwarded it for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session. The Working Group, however, did not reach a consensus at that meeting on several parts of the text of the draft decision.

6. The Working Group will be invited to consider draft decision V/7 on financial arrangements with a view to reaching an agreement on the text and its submission for adoption at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

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

(iii) Draft decision on public participation in decision-making

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 2.30–2.50 p.m.

7. The Working Group revised the draft decision on public participation in decision-making (AC/WGP-17/CRP.2) at its seventeenth meeting, approved it and forwarded it for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session. However, the Working Group did not reach a consensus at that meeting on several parts of the text of the draft decision.

8. The Working Group will be invited to consider the draft decision V/2 on public participation in decision-making, with a view to reaching an agreement on the text and its submission for adoption at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

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

(iv) Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 2.50–3.10 p.m.

9. The Working Group revised the draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (AC/WGP-17/CRP.4) at its seventeenth meeting, approved it and forwarded it for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session. However, the Working Group did not reach a consensus at that meeting on several parts of the text of the draft decision.

¹ Documents as revised by the Working Group at its seventeenth meeting are available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp17.html>

10. The Working Group will be invited to consider draft decision V/4 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums, with a view to reaching an agreement on the text and its submission for adoption at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

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

(c) Maastricht Declaration

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 3.10–3.30 p.m.

11. The Working Group revised the draft Maastricht Declaration (AC/WGP-17/CRP.8) at its seventeenth meeting, approved it and forwarded it for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session. However, the Working Group did not reach a consensus at that meeting on several parts of the text of the declaration.

12. The Working Group will be invited to consider the draft Maastricht Declaration with a view to reaching an agreement on the text and its submission for consideration and adoption at the joint High-level Segment under the fifth session of the Meeting of Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the second session of the Meeting of Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 2 July 2014).

Documentation

Draft Maastricht Declaration (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.26–ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.1)

(d) Election of the Compliance Committee

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 3.30–3.50 p.m.

13. The Working Group is expected to review the status of nominations for election to the Compliance Committee and consider the election procedure, bearing in mind the desirability of electing the Committee by consensus if possible (see decision I/1, annex, rule 35, para. 1, and decision I/7, annex, para. 7).

Documentation

Membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/11)

(e) Practical arrangements for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 3.50–3.55 p.m.

14. The Netherlands, as host country for the fifth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, and the secretariat will make any relevant announcements regarding practical arrangements for the fifth session. The Working Group will be invited to take note of this information.

4. Other business

Timing: Sunday, 29 June, 3.55–4 p.m.²

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

² The meeting may continue for another hour, if required.