

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

Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making

Ninth meeting

Geneva, hybrid, 1–2 March 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth meeting¹

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 1 March 2021***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in decision-making.
3. Effective public participation without significant resources.
4. Emerging technologies- related decision-making.
5. Decision-making in extractive industries sector, on energy and climate.
6. Any other business.
7. Closing.

II. Annotations

The Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making was established, and its mandate laid down, by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its resumed second extraordinary session (30 June 2010) (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1, decision EMP.II/1)². The mandate was further extended in time by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention through decision VI/2 (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1)³ adopted at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–14 September 2017). Paragraph 11 of decision VI/2 sets out the issues to be addressed by the Task Force.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

* Information on registration for the meeting and other practical arrangements will be made available on the meeting web page at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/ninth-meeting-task-force-public-participation-decision-making-under>

² The text of the decision (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1) is available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/emop2010.html#.

³ The text of the decision (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1) is available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop6_docs.html.

The present meeting aims to provide a platform for discussing in greater details participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in decision-making and will allow for exchange of practices that facilitate more effective public participation without entailing additional significant resources on the part of public authorities. The thematic focus of the meeting will be on decision-making in the extractive industries sector, energy and climate; and regarding emerging technologies.

The Task Force continues its work based on the outputs delivered at its previous meetings. The background material for the meeting will include relevant information derived from the 2017 national implementation reports⁴, the Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention⁵, the Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide⁶, the Maastricht recommendations on promoting effective public participation in decision-making in environmental matters⁷, and relevant Compliance Committee findings of a systemic nature.

Due to travel restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held in a hybrid format with remote and on-site participation. Owing to limited availability of interpretation for remote participation, the meeting will take place from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 14.00 to 16.00 on 1 March and from 10.00 to 12.00 on 2 March.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Monday, 1 March, 10–10.10 a.m.

The Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.⁸

2. Participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in decision-making

Timing: Monday, 1 March, 10.10–11.30 a.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in decision-making.

3. Effective public participation without significant resources

Timing: Monday, 1 March, 11.30 a.m.–12.00 p.m. and 2.00–2.30 p.m.

Participants will be invited to exchange practices that facilitate more effective public participation without entailing additional significant resources on the part of public authorities.

4. Emerging technologies- related decision-making

Timing: Monday, 1 March, 2.30–4 p.m.

Participants will be invited to share good practices and challenges on emerging technologies-related decision-making.

⁴ Available from <http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/index.asp>.

⁵ ECE/MP.PP/2017/6; available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop6_docs.html.

⁶ 2nd edition, 2014; available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35869>.

⁷ ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2; available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5_docs.html#.

⁸ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page on the Convention's website xxx

5. Decision-making in extractive industries sector, on energy and climate

Timing: Tuesday, 2 March, 10.00–11.30 a.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices and challenges with regard to the decision-making on the following interrelated subjects: extractive industries sector, energy and climate.

6. Any other business

Timing: Tuesday, 2 March, 11.30–11.35 a.m.

7. Closing

Timing: Tuesday, 2 March, 11.35–12.00 a.m.
