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

Seventh session

Geneva, 18–20 October 2021

Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda

Programme of work and operation of the Convention: future work programme for 2022-2025

Draft decision VII/5 on the work programme for 2022–2025

Prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat

Summary

At its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–14 September 2017), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) requested the secretariat to prepare a draft work programme for the intersessional period following the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, including a detailed breakdown of estimated costs, for consideration and further elaboration by the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1, decision VI/5, para. 10). The Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, was also requested to provide an estimation of the operational costs needed for the effective functioning of the Convention that was clearly distinct from the cost of other activities subject to the availability of resources (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1, decision VI/6, para. 10).

In accordance with those decisions, the present document contains the draft decision on the future work programme for 2022–2025 with: a draft work programme for 2022–2025 (annex I); draft estimated costs of activities of the work areas listed in the work programme for 2022–2025 (annex II); and an example of the possible distribution of different meetings under the Convention for the period 2022–2025 (annex III). The present document is based on draft elements of the work programme for 2022–2025 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2020/7) considered by the Working Group at its twenty-fourth meeting (Geneva, 1–3 July and 28 and 29 October 2020) with factual and editorial revisions only.

There were opportunities for open-ended consultations among national focal points and stakeholders on the present draft document after the twenty-fourth meeting of the Working Group. At its twenty-fifth meeting (Geneva, 3 May and 7 and 8 June 2021) the Working Group approved the draft decision on the work programme for 2022–2025



(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2021/8) and requested the secretariat to submit it to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its seventh session.

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling its decision I/11 on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes,¹

Taking into account the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) adopted through decision V/5,² and the scheme of financial arrangements adopted through decision VI/6,³

1. *Welcomes* the interest shown by countries from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region in acceding to the Convention and reaffirms its decision IV/5 on accession to the Convention by non-ECE member States,⁴

2. *Adopts* the work programme for 2022–2025, containing the estimated costs of each activity, as set out in annex I to the present decision;

3. *Agrees upon* the indicative allocation of resources and the resulting estimated costs set out in annexes I and II to the present decision, subject to annual review and, as appropriate, revision by the Working Group of the Parties on the basis of annual reports provided by the secretariat pursuant to decision VII/6 on financial arrangements;

4. *Encourages* Parties to endeavour to ensure that the funding of the activities of the work programme remains stable throughout the period 2022–2025;

5. *Also encourages* Parties, insofar as possible, and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, to contribute to the Convention's trust fund for a given calendar year by 1 October of the preceding year, so as to secure staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the priority activities of the work programme for 2022–2025;

6. *Reiterates* its commitment to implementing the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in International Forums,⁵ through all the activities of the work programme, as relevant;

7. *Decides* to give general priority⁶ to issues related to compliance and implementation, including capacity-building;

8. *Also decides* to give particular priority to the following substantive issues:

- (a) Access to justice;
- (b) Public participation;
- (c) Access to information;

9. *Calls on* the Parties, and invites signatories, other States and relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, to contribute actively to the activities contained in the work programme;

10. *Requests* the secretariat, taking into consideration the results of the implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025, to prepare a draft work programme for the next intersessional period, including a detailed breakdown of estimated costs, for

¹ See ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.12.

² See ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1.

³ See ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1.

⁴ See ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1.

⁵ See ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5, decision II/4, annex.

⁶ The primary function of the prioritization indicated in paragraphs 7 and 8, apart from explaining and reflecting the proposed allocation of resources in the annexes, is to provide guidance in situations in which there is a significant discrepancy between actual income and estimated financial requirements. If there is a significant shortfall in resources, then savings need to be made, and the prioritization provides guidance as to where those savings should be made. If there are surplus resources that are not earmarked, then the prioritization provides guidance as to how that surplus may be used. If the resources available closely match the estimated requirements set out in the annexes, the resources can simply be applied as indicated therein, i.e., there is no need for any further exercise of prioritization.

consideration and further elaboration by the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties, at the latest three months before the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties, with a view to possible adoption at that session.

Annex I

Draft work programme for 2022–2025

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US dollars)^a</i>
Substantive issues				
I. Access to information, including electronic information tools	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision VII/1 on promoting effective access to information. (mainly supports SDGs 3, 11, 12 and 17 and SDG target 16.10)	Task Force on Access to Information Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties Secretariat, enlisting technical support as necessary	Task Force meetings and workshops; survey(s); participation in other relevant regional initiatives, as appropriate, through development of sector-based partnership approaches; pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national level, which are expected to be funded by partners. Central management of the Aarhus Clearinghouse ^b and promotion through online social media; provision of advice to and coordination of national information nodes of the Clearinghouse mechanism; information- sharing and promotion of electronic tools through maintaining online databases for jurisprudence, good practices and national implementation reports, and maintaining online case studies on: (a) electronic information tools; (b) public participation at the national level; and (c) public participation in international forums.	79 900 (6 500)
II. Public participation	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision VII/2 on promoting effective public participation in decision-making	Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making	Task Force meetings; workshops; the use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, its good practice database and collection of case studies to facilitate exchange of information on good practices; exploring	82 900 (8 500)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US dollars)^a</i>
	(mainly supports SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 and SDG target 16.7).	Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties Secretariat, enlisting expert support as necessary	synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under other multilateral environmental agreements and partner organizations. Participation in other relevant regional initiatives as appropriate; pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.	
III. Access to justice	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision VII/3 on promoting effective access to justice (mainly supports SDG target 16.3).	Task Force on Access to Justice Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties Secretariat, enlisting expert support as necessary	Task Force meetings, if feasible back-to-back with other relevant events, to be organized in liaison with partner organizations active in access to justice, and through the development of sector-based partnership approaches, where appropriate. Strengthen the network of the judiciary, judicial training institutions and other review bodies in the pan-European region and cooperation with other existing networks of judges and other legal professionals, and other international forums; use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, its jurisprudence and good practice databases to facilitate exchange of information on good practices; exchange information and support capacity-building. Develop analytical and training materials. Pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.	107 100 (10 500)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US dollars)^a</i>
IV. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	Support the implementation of decision II/1 on GMOs (GMO amendment) and relevant provisions of the Convention in this area, as well as the application of the Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with Respect to Genetically Modified Organisms (MP.PP/2003/3), inter alia, by promoting exchange of information on common difficulties in and the main obstacles to their implementation, as well as good practices to address them (mainly supports SDGs 15 and 16).	Secretariat, in close cooperation with other stakeholders Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties	Workshop(s), round table(s); survey(s); advisory support to, and cooperation with, relevant bodies under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity; advisory support to countries upon request; and use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and its good practice database to facilitate exchange of information on good practices.	24 500 (2 000)
Procedures and mechanisms				
V. Compliance mechanism				584 600
V.1 Compliance Committee	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the Convention. Increase support to individual Parties in following up on decisions on compliance. (mainly supports SDG targets 16.6 and 16.10 and SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15)	Compliance Committee Secretariat	Compliance Committee to review submissions, referrals, requests and communications on cases of possible non-compliance, prepare findings and reports and undertake fact-finding missions. Compliance Committee to explore possible synergies with other relevant forums. Secretariat to assist the Committee as required, including with legal support, publicize the compliance mechanism and manage the Committee's web page.	

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US dollars)^a</i>
			Secretariat to prepare background material on relevant issues of a systemic nature identified through the work of the Compliance Committee to support discussion at the meetings of the task forces and respective thematic sessions of the Working Group of the Parties.	
V.2 Rapporteur on matters related to article 3 (8)	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision VII/9 on a rapid response mechanism to deal with cases related to article 3 (8) of the Convention (mainly supports SDG target 16.10)	Rapporteur on environmental defenders Secretariat	Rapporteur to examine, monitor, advise, undertake fact-finding missions and prepare decisions and reports on matters related to article 3 (8). The use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse library on the protection of environmental defenders. Preparation of training material for different target groups such as officials of public authorities, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, members of the judiciary, private security service providers and developers.	
VI. Capacity-building	Coordination of capacity-building activities to assist countries in the effective implementation of the Convention; implementation of capacity-building measures at the regional and subregional levels. Advisory support to Parties, in particular, with regard to implementation of MOP decisions on compliance.	Secretariat, in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Compliance Committee and relevant stakeholders	Inter-agency coordination meetings; maintaining the Convention web pages with information on capacity-building activities; the use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, its databases and other capacity-building material to facilitate exchange of information on good practices; training workshops and technical assistance, mostly separately funded under other substantive work areas; capacity-building activities at the national and	177 000 (17 000)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US dollars)^a</i>
	(All relevant SDGs, mainly SDG 16)		subregional levels, which are expected to be funded by partners. Secretariat to assist Parties as required.	
VII. Reporting mechanism	Production of national implementation reports and a synthesis report.	Secretariat, enlisting expert and administrative support as necessary Compliance Committee	Preparation of the synthesis report and processing of national implementation reports. Analysis of reports and preparation of a synthesis report. Use of national implementation reports to identify relevant topics for the work of the task forces and other activities.	7 500
Awareness-raising and promotion				
VIII. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention, including through: VIII.1. Communication Strategy VIII.3. Support to non-ECE States to accede to the Convention VIII.4. Support to regional and global initiatives on	The work will focus on: (a) Raising public awareness of the Convention throughout the ECE region and beyond; (b) Increasing the number of Parties to the Convention; (c) Supporting regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Activities should be carried out in synergy with the relevant activities of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers. Work area VIII will be implemented in synergy with work area IX.	Secretariat Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties Working Group of the Parties	Participation in key regional and international events and processes; use of bilateral, regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the Convention, for example, the European Neighbourhood Policy; feed into international processes that closely relate to the Convention, including the special procedures under the United Nations Human Rights Council (depending on the mandate), the United Nations Environment Programme, the international financial institutions and other relevant international forums. Expert assistance to regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration; support to relevant events organized by others; missions and assistance to countries organized at the request of host Governments, with a focus	119 000 (34 500)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US dollars)^a</i>
Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration	(mainly supports SDGs 4, 12, 16 and 17)		on States that have expressed formal interest in becoming Parties to the Convention. Implementation of the Communication Strategy; the Aarhus Clearinghouse and website management; preparation of leaflets, publications, news bulletins, articles and other information materials.	
IX. Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums, promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision VII/4 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (mainly supports SDG targets 16.7 and 17.14).	Secretariat, in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties Working Group of the Parties	Thematic sessions, as needed, at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to oversee progress in promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums and to address challenges encountered in the implementation of article 3 (7), of the Convention. Surveys regarding experiences gained in the implementation of article 3 (7), and the Almaty Guidelines; workshop(s), round table(s); online networks; capacity-building and expert assistance to relevant international forums and to Parties upon request and the use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, its good practice database and collection of case studies to facilitate exchange of information on good practices on establishing effective processes for the public to participate in international forums; cooperation with Signatories and future Parties to the Escazú Agreement, ^c as well as its secretariat and the engaged stakeholders; joint activities with other treaties and multilateral processes; concrete actions by Parties at the national	125 000 (3 000)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US dollars)^a</i>
			and international levels to promote the principles of the Convention in international forums and the Almaty Guidelines.	
Coordination, horizontal support and Meeting of the Parties				
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Convention. Preparation of substantive documents for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (for example, drafting decisions, including the future work programme, and reviewing the implementation of the current work programme and the Strategic Plan).	Working Group of the Parties Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Working Group meetings, meetings of the Bureau and consultations among Bureau members electronically.	100 700
XI. Eighth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	See article 10 of the Convention.	Meeting of the Parties	Session of the Meeting of the Parties.	15 000 ^d
XII. Horizontal support areas	Overall support that covers multiple substantive areas of the work programme.	Secretariat	Secretarial support, staff training, equipment.	108 000
Total (including costs for all work areas and 13% programme support costs)				1 730 256 (92 660)

Abbreviations: DSA, daily subsistence allowance; GMO, genetically modified organism; MOP, Meeting of the Parties; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal.

^a Estimation of the cost includes operational and other costs as presented in annex II. Figures between brackets refer to “other costs”.

^b Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, available at <https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/>

^c Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

^d Costs for travel and DSA for eligible participants are reported under work area X.

		<i>Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year^a</i>									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost description</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>
	of the required materials)										
	Travel, DSA of eligible participants (2 meetings)	40 800	—	—	—	40 800	—	—	—	20 400	—
	Travel, DSA (staff missions) ^d	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500
	Subtotal	103 300	8 500	62 500	8 500	103 300	8 500	62 500	8 500	82 900	8 500
III.	Professional staff support, ^c one P–3 staff at 35 per cent of FTE	63 000	—	63 000	—	63 000	—	63 000	—	63 000	—
Access to justice	Consultancy (for example, preparation of the required materials)	10 000	7 000	10 000	7 000	10 000	7 000	10 000	7 000	10 000	7 000
	Travel, DSA of eligible participants (3 meetings)	40 800	—	40 800	—	—	—	40 800	—	30 600	—
	Travel, DSA (staff missions) ^d	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500
	Subtotal	117 300	10 500	117 300	10 500	76 500	10 500	117 300	10 500	107 100	10 500
IV.	Professional staff support, ^c one P–3 staff at 5 per cent of FTE	9 000	—	9 000	—	9 000	—	9 000	—	9 000	—
GMOs											

		<i>Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year^a</i>									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost description</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>
	Consultancy (for example, preparation of the required material)	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000
	Travel, DSA of eligible participants to event (for example, workshop, round table)	—	—	40 000	—	—	—	—	—	10 000	—
	Travel, DSA (staff missions) ^d	3 500	—	3 500	—	3 500	—	3 500	—	3 500	—
	Subtotal	14 500	2 000	54 500	2 000	14 500	2 000	14 500	2 000	24 500	2 000
V. Compliance mechanism	Professional staff support, ^c three P–3 staff (one at 80 per cent of FTE, one at 70 per cent of FTE, one at 55 per cent of FTE), and one P–2 staff at 50 per cent of FTE.	429 000	—	429 000	—	429 000	—	429 000	—	429 000	—
	Consultancy (for example, translation outside United Nations, preparation of the required material)	30 000	—	30 000	—	30 000	—	30 000	—	30 000	—
	Travel, DSA of Committee members,	103 800	—	103 800	—	103 800	—	103 800	—	103 800	—

		<i>Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year^a</i>									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost description</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>
	other participants (4 Compliance Committee meetings per year) and travel, DSA of Rapporteur										
	Travel, DSA (staff missions) ^e	21 800	—	21 800	—	21 800	—	21 800	—	21 800	—
	Subtotal	584 600	—	584 600	—	584 600	—	584 600	—	584 600	—
VI.	Professional staff support, ^c one P–3 staff at 20 per cent of FTE, one P–3 at 40 per cent of FTE and one P–2 staff at 50 per cent of FTE	168 000	—	168 000	—	168 000	—	168 000	—	168 000	—
Capacity-	Consultancy (for example, capacity-	3 000	5 000	3 000	5 000	3 000	5 000	3 000	5 000	3 000	5 000
building ^f	building activities, materials, studies)										
	Travel, DSA of eligible experts (for example, annual meeting of capacity-building partners, capacity-building activities)	3 000	3 800	3 000	3 800	3 000	3 800	3 000	3 800	3 000	3 800

		Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year ^a									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
Work area	Cost description	Operational	Other	Operational	Other	Operational	Other	Operational	Other	Operational	Other
	Travel, DSA (staff missions) ^d	3 000	8 200	3 000	8 200	3 000	8 200	3 000	8 200	3 000	8 200
	Subtotal	177 000	17 000	177 000	17 000	177 000	17 000	177 000	17 000	177 000	17 000
VII. Reporting mechanism	Consultancy (processing of national implementation reports, preparation of the synthesis report, translation)	—	—	—	—	10 000	—	20 000	—	7 500	—
	Subtotal	—	—	—	—	10 000	—	20 000	—	7 500	—
VIII. Awareness- raising and promotion of the Convention ^g	Professional staff support, ^e one P–3 staff at 50 per cent of FTE and one P–3 staff at 5 per cent of FTE	99 000	—	99 000	—	99 000	—	99 000	—	99 000	—
	Consultancy (for example, publications, promotion materials)	5 000	9 000	5 000	9 000	5 000	9 000	5 000	9 000	5 000	9 000
	Travel, DSA for participation in events and country missions to promote the Convention and its principles; support to non-ECE States to accede to the	5 000	18 000	5 000	18 000	5 000	18 000	5 000	18 000	5 000	18 000

		<i>Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year^a</i>									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost description</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>
	Convention; support to regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development										
	Travel, DSA (staff missions), ^d participation at relevant events where no other funding is available	10 000	7 500	10 000	7 500	10 000	7 500	10 000	7 500	10 000	7 500
	Subtotal	119 000	34 500	119 000	34 500	119 000	34 500	119 000	34 500	119 000	34 500
IX.	Professional staff support, ^c two P–3 staff: one at 50 per cent of FTE and one at 10 per cent of FTE	108 000	—	108 000	—	108 000	—	108 000	—	108 000	—
Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums, promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	Consultancy (expert studies)	2 000	3 000	2 000	3 000	2 000	3 000	2 000	3 000	2 000	3 000
	Travel, DSA (expert missions)	5 000	—	5 000	—	5 000	—	5 000	—	5 000	—
	Travel, DSA (staff missions) ^d	10 000	—	10 000	—	10 000	—	10 000	—	10 000	—

		<i>Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year^a</i>									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost description</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>
	Subtotal	125 000	3 000	125 000	3 000	125 000	3 000	125 000	3 000	125 000	3 000
X.	Professional staff support, ^h three P–3 staff: one at 10 per cent of FTE and two at 5 per cent each of FTE	36 000	—	36 000	—	36 000	—	36 000	—	36 000	—
Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, including eighth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	Travel, DSA for eligible participants (meetings of the Working Group of the Parties, the Bureau and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties)	47 600	—	47 600	—	47 600	—	102 000	—	61 200	—
	Travel, DSA (staff missions) ^d	3 500	—	3 500	—	3 500	—	3 500	—	3 500	—
	Subtotal	87 100	—	87 100	—	87 100	—	141 500	—	100 700	—

		<i>Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year^a</i>									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost description</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Operational</i>	<i>Other</i>
XI.	Professional staff support, ^c one P–2 staff at 50 per cent of FTE	—	—	—	—	—	—	60 000	—	15 000 ⁱ	—
Subtotal		—	—	—	—	—	—	60 000	—	15 000	—
XII.	Secretarial staff support, one G–5 staff at 70 per cent of FTE ^j	90 000	—	90 000	—	90 000	—	90 000	—	90 000	—
	Technical support costs ^k (for example, computers, licences, equipment, external printing)	9 000	—	9 000	—	9 000	—	9 000	—	9 000	—
	Other operational support costs (for example, financial administration)	5 000	—	5 000	—	5 000	—	5 000	—	5 000	—

		Average estimated costs in United States dollars per year ^a									
		2022		2023		2024		2025		2022–2025 annual average	
Work area	Cost description	Operational	Other	Operational	Other	Operational	Other	Operational	Other	Operational	Other
	Training of staff ^f (training activities to enhance staff skills)	4 000	—	4 000	—	4 000	—	4 000	—	4 000	—
	Subtotal	108 000	—	108 000	—	108 000	—	108 000	—	108 000	—
	Total	1 495 300	82 000	1 535 300	82 000	1 505 300	82 200	1 588 900	82 000	1 531 200	82 000
	Programme support costs (13%)	194 389	10 660	199 589	10 660	195 689	10 660	206 557	10 660	199 056	10 660
	Grand total	1 689 689	92 660	1 734 889	92 660	1 700 989	92 660	1 795 457	92 660	1 730 256	92 660

Abbreviations: FTE, full-time equivalent.

^a The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's scheme of financial arrangements, either through its trust fund or in kind. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget or other sources. Figures are rounded up. They may change in accordance with the United Nations administrative regulations.

^b Experts involved in the work of the task forces on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice will be invited to provide substantive support to the activities through commenting documents and participating in training sessions, workshops, pilot projects, etc. Meetings of the Task Force will provide a forum to discuss key outcomes of the activities and identify good practices and challenges in implementation.

^c Professional staff costs are estimated by multiplying expected staff time in each activity area by the projected annual salary costs of staff hired at the level indicated. Staff costs are considered to be operational as they are essential for ensuring effective and balanced implementation of all work areas. In addition, the necessary funds for staff contracts must be secured at least one year in advance. This P-2 staff member is required in order to provide the necessary support to preparations for the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol, in particular, the joint High-level Segment, communication activities and participation process. The staff costs would be split between the Convention and its Protocol (50% for the Aarhus Convention and 50% for the Protocol).

^d Operational costs for staff missions refer to the cost of travel for secretariat staff members to service, for example, task force meetings that are not held in Geneva and workshops/events related to this work area.

^e The secretariat may be required to conduct official missions in relation to the work of the compliance mechanism. Such costs are therefore considered to be operational.

^f This category of activities encompasses activities that build capacity in areas that relate to the Convention as a whole. Capacity-building activities relating to a specific topic under the Convention (for example, electronic information tools, access to justice) are covered under those activity areas. In order to increase the effectiveness of capacity-building and synergies, the secretariat is carrying out such activities in collaboration with all key capacity-building actors in the region. Furthermore, the secretariat services a region-wide capacity-building coordination mechanism aimed at ensuring that the projects implemented by partner organizations match the requirements of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties. Most travel and consultancy costs are normally covered by other sources: either by partner organizations or specific donor contributions. These synergies also lead to a considerable reduction of the financial burden as Parties to the Convention are required to contribute a small amount in relation to the final impact of activities.

^g Awareness-raising will include promotional work in the region and beyond. Such work serves as the Parties' "ambassador". The secretariat and Aarhus experts are regularly invited to international meetings and processes across the world to share their experiences and expertise. Where possible, the promotion of the Convention is carried out through

the use of electronic tools. The secretariat is making every possible effort to ensure that these activities have the minimum financial implications possible. In addition, in line with past practice, it is anticipated that some publications will be funded from the United Nations regular budget.

^h Including provision of legal advice and general tasks. Professional staff costs are estimated by multiplying expected staff time in each activity area by the projected annual salary costs of staff hired at the level indicated. Staff costs are considered to be operational as they are essential for ensuring effective and balanced implementation of all work areas. In addition, the necessary funds for staff contracts must be secured at least one year in advance.

ⁱ Costs for travel and DSA for eligible participants are reported under work area X.

^j As of 1 February 2016, the funding of one administrative staff member through the 13 per cent programme support costs, levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division, was discontinued. This staff member is required in order to provide the necessary administrative support to activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol, including administrative arrangements for the meetings of the governing and subsidiary bodies of the two treaties. The staff costs would be split between the Convention and its Protocol (70 per cent for the Aarhus Convention and 30 per cent for the Protocol).

^k Technical equipment and other operational support costs (for example, financial administration) were normally provided by the United Nations also to extrabudgetary staff. However, this practice has been discontinued; the related expenditures are included in the operational costs of the work programme.

^l All United Nations staff are expected to develop their skills and attend training. Continuous training and development of new skills is essential in order for the staff to maintain a high level of professionalism and to adapt to new competency requirements. As a result, training of staff is considered to be operational costs.

Annex III

Example of the possible distribution of different meetings under the Convention for the period 2022–2025

<i>Type of meeting</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025
Task Force Access to Information (AI)	—	x	x	—
Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making (PP)	x	—	x	—
Task Force on Access to Justice (AJ)	x	x	—	x
GMO Round Table (GMO)	—	x	—	—
Thematic sessions at the Working Group of the Parties	AI	PP	AJ	GMO
Meeting of the Parties	—	—	—	x

Note: The substantive preparation of the thematic sessions of the Working Group of the Parties is based on the outcomes of the work of a specific Task Force and other activities in the relevant work areas.