



# 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

**Seventh session**

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

**Fourth session**

**Joint High-level Segment**

Geneva, 21 October 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Opening of the Joint High-level Segment and adoption of the agenda**

### **Annotated provisional agenda for the Joint High-level Segment**

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on  
Thursday, 21 October 2021**

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the Joint High-level Segment and adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties and adoption of draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol due to extraordinary circumstances.
3. Thematic session on the role of the Convention and its Protocol in promoting sustainable infrastructure and spatial planning.
4. Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development.
5. Review and adoption of decisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.
6. Closure of the Joint High-level Segment.



## II. Introduction

1. The seventh session of 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) will be held from 18 to 20 October 2021, back-to-back with the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which will take place on 22 October 2021. A Joint High-level Segment will take place on 21 October. The events will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.
2. The Joint High-level Segment will target high-level officials, including ministers, vice-ministers, State secretaries, other heads of delegations and special guests, and its thematic session will be dedicated to the themes to be addressed in the draft Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development (see ECE/MP.PP/2021/17–ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/3).
3. The Joint High-level Segment will be chaired by senior officials of Parties holding the chairmanship of the two Meetings of the Parties: Sweden (for items 1–3) and Georgia (for items 4 and 6). As with the previous High-level Segments, item 5 will be chaired by the Chair of the Convention’s Meeting of the Parties. If no quorum based on the physical presence of Parties’ representatives is established, a roll call will be organized at lunchtime for the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to establish their presence for decision-making.

## III. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### 1. Opening of the Joint High-level Segment and adoption of the agenda

*Timing: Thursday, 21 October, 10–10.20 a.m.*

4. The Joint High-level Segment will begin with a welcome address by a high-level official from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
5. The Parties meeting at the Joint High-level Segment are expected to adopt the provisional agenda for the meeting, as set out in the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the Joint High-level Segment (ECE/MP.PP/2021/15–ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/1)

### 2. Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol’s Parties and adoption of draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol due to extraordinary circumstances

*Timing: Thursday, 21 October, 10.20–10.35 a.m.*

6. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be invited to approve the report on the credentials, to be presented by the officers in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/1, annex).
7. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will then be invited to adopt the draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol due to extraordinary circumstances (ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/7).

#### **Documentation**

Draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol due to extraordinary circumstances (ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/7)

### **3. Thematic session on the role of the Convention and its Protocol in promoting sustainable infrastructure and spatial planning**

*Timing: Thursday, 21 October, 10.35 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.40 p.m.*

8. The thematic session will take the form of two panel discussions involving ministers, senior representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders with strong expertise related to the theme of the session, followed by a general debate. The substantive focus of the thematic session will be based on the themes of the draft Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development. The session is expected to present concrete examples of new or ongoing actions or initiatives that illustrate how the Aarhus Convention and/or the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers are being, or can be used, to support promotion of sustainable infrastructure and spatial planning. A provisional programme for the thematic session will provide further details on the themes and speakers.

#### **Documentation**

Draft Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development (ECE/MP.PP/2021/17–ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/3)

Provisional programme for the thematic session of the Joint High-level Segment (AC/MOP-7/Inf.1–PRTR/MOPP-4/Inf.1)

### **4. Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development**

*Timing: Thursday, 21 October, 3.40–5.15 p.m.*

9. Ministers and heads of delegation of Parties, signatories, other States and international, regional and non-governmental organizations, together with other representatives of civil society, will be invited to consider and adopt a declaration.

#### **Documentation**

Draft Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development (ECE/MP.PP/2021/17–ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/3)

### **5. Review and adoption of decisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention**

*Timing: Thursday, 21 October, 5.15–5.50 p.m.*

10. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will be invited to review and officially adopt the draft decisions agreed at its seventh session.

### **6. Closure of the Joint High-level Segment**

*Timing: Thursday, 21 October, 5.50–6 p.m.*

11. The Chair of the Joint High-level Segment will close the meeting.

## IV. Organization of work

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<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>Thursday, 21 October</b>		
10–10.20 a.m.	1	Opening of the Joint High-level Segment
10.20–10.35 a.m.	2	Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties and adoption of draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol due to extraordinary circumstances
10.35 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	Thematic session on the role of the Convention and its Protocol in promoting sustainable infrastructure and spatial planning – <i>Panels 1 and 2</i>
1–3 p.m.		<i>Lunch break</i>
3–3.40 p.m.	3	Thematic session ( <i>continued</i> ) – <i>Open discussion and conclusions</i>
3.40–5.15 p.m.	4	Geneva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development
5.15–5.50 p.m.	5	Review and adoption of decisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
5.50–6 p.m.	6	Closure of the Joint High-level Segment

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