

Ref.: 2022/OES/040T/ENV/031

2 March 2022

Excellency,

I would be grateful if you would kindly transmit the enclosed letter from Mr. Aurimas Saladžius, Chair 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), to H. E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for urgent attention.

A copy of the letter is enclosed for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Olga Algayerova

H. E., the Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office  
and other international organizations in Geneva  
Parties to the Aarhus Convention



Convention on Access to Information,  
Public Participation in Decision-making and  
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters  
(Aarhus Convention)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Email: [public.participation@un.org](mailto:public.participation@un.org)

**Aurimas Saladžius**

**Chairperson 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**

1 March 2022

Your Excellencies,

**Re: Support for the letter of the Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning the present military offensive against Ukraine and protection of environmental defenders**

I write on the behalf of the Bureau 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).

As you are no doubt aware, Ukraine is presently subject to military offensive by the Russian Federation. This relentless invasion is already resulting in immeasurable damages to human lives and the environment. Regardless of further developments on the ground, there is no question of the requirement for all Parties to ensure the obligation under article 3(8) of the Convention is guaranteed, as pointed out by [the letter](#) of Ms. Áine Ryall, the Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee.

Considering the increased risk of harassment and violence against environmental defenders in military conflicts, the Bureau fully supports the letter of the Chair of the Compliance Committee and stands ready to act in accordance with our mandate, in support of all efforts to ensure that article 3(8) of the Convention is upheld.

Yours Sincerely,

Aurimas Saladžius

To: The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention  
Cc: Permanent missions to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention  
National focal points of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention