
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

Third extraordinary session
Geneva, 23-24 June 2022
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of outcomes

**LIST OF DECISIONS AND MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE THIRD
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION**

as adopted by the Meeting of the Parties¹

Item 1. Opening of the session

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. Took note of the statement by Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE, and of the statements by delegations, including with regard to the devastating war in Ukraine.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. Took note of the information provided by the Chair;
- ii. Adopted the provisional agenda of the third extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2022/1).

Item 3. Report on credentials

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. Approved the report on credentials and noted that in total, 36 Parties present at the session had submitted their credentials and thus a quorum had been reached for the purpose of decision-making.

Item 4. Rapid response mechanism to deal with cases related to article 3 (8) of the Convention

(a) Election of the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. Elected by consensus Mr. Michel Forst as the independent Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders;

¹ This document was not formally edited.

- ii. Congratulated Mr. Michel Forst on his election as the independent Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders and wished him success as he takes up his mandate;
- iii. Thanked other candidates for their interest in submitting their candidatures for election;
- iv. Took note of the statement by Mr. Michel Forst and of the statements by delegations.

(b) Round table on environmental defenders

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. Expressed its appreciation to the representatives of the European ECO Forum, the European Union, Kazakhstan, the United Kingdom, the Public Defender's Office in Georgia, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Council of Europe, the International Code of Conduct Association, the United Nations Environment Programme, FORUM-ASIA, the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for their keynote statement and took note of the information provided;
- ii. Took note of the statements by delegations;
- iii. Welcomed good practices and noted the issues, challenges and opportunities to promote the safe activities of environmental defenders highlighted by speakers as well as the suggestions for the way forward;
- iv. Noted the situation in Belarus for civil society and environmental defenders, which continues to be gravely concerning;
- v. Called on Parties to view environmental defenders as partners and to continue fulfilling their obligations under article 3, paragraph 8, of the Convention;
- vi. Encourages Parties, civil society and other stakeholders to work to implement good practices and suggestions for the way forward in order to facilitate and support the work of the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders.

Item 5. Adoption of outcomes

The Meeting of the Parties adopted the major outcomes and decisions presented by the Chair at the meeting (as contained in this document) and requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, to finalize the report and incorporate these adopted outcomes and decisions. Delegations thanked the secretariat and interpreters.
