

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 4b of the provisional agenda

Round Table on Environmental Defenders

Provisional programme for the Round Table on Environmental Defenders¹

to be held on Friday, 24 June 2022, from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 to 3.30 p.m. Geneva time

Moderator: Ms. Teresa Weber

Introduction

Timing: 11.30–11.35 a.m.

The Moderator will introduce the main topics for discussion at the Round Table on Environmental Defenders and its format, which will include keynote statements and interventions from the floor by the representatives of Governments, NGOs, international organizations and other stakeholders.

1. Views and experiences of environmental defenders

Timing: 11.35–11.55 a.m.

Speakers will be invited to share their views and experiences with regard to good practices; challenges; available instruments or activities; and suggestions for the way forward.

Speakers:

- *Mr. Csaba Kiss*, European ECO Forum
- *Mr. Starhei Mahonau*, European ECO Forum
- *Ms. Magdolna Toth Nagy*, European ECO Forum

2. Views and experiences of Parties

Timing: 11.55 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

Speakers will be invited to share their views and experiences with regard to instruments and measures to promote the safe activities of environmental defenders, including legal frameworks; institutional and practical arrangements such as trainings, guidance material, and awareness raising for different target groups.

Governments and EU

Speakers:

- *Ms. Zsuzsanna Belenyessy*, Legal Officer, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission
- *Ms. Natalia Dauletyarova*, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan
- *Mr. Adam Lavis*, Aarhus Convention National Focal Point, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom

Judicial and Human Rights Institutions

Speakers:

- *Ms. Tinatin Tinikashvili*, Main Specialist, Department of Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Public Defender's Office, Georgia
- *Ms. Ksenija Dimec*, Judge, European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment

3. Support at international level

Timing: 12.20–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–2.40 p.m.

Speakers will be invited to share experiences with regard to the relevant work under other organizations which may complement the work of the Aarhus Convention Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders.

Speakers:

- *Mr. Ed O'Donovan*, Special Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
- *Mr. Andrzej Mancewicz*, Adviser, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
- *Mr. Chris Galvin*, Head of Communications and Outreach, International Code of Conduct Association
- *Ms. Marianna Bolshakova*, Regional Coordinator, Environmental Law and Governance, United Nations Environment Programme

Lunch break 12.30–2:30 p.m.

4. Experiences from other regions

Timing: 2.40–2.55 p.m.

Speakers will be invited to share experiences from other regions, with regard to instruments and measures to promote the safe activities of environmental defenders, including legal frameworks; institutional and practical arrangements, such as trainings, guidance material, and awareness raising for different target groups.

Speakers:

- *Mr. Ahmed Adam*, UN Advocacy Programme Manager, FORUM-ASIA
- *Mr. Hassan Shire*, Chairperson, Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network
- *Ms. Soledad García Muñoz*, Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States

5. Discussion

Timing: 2.55–3.20 p.m.

6. Closing

Timing: 3.20–3.30 p.m.

The Moderator of the Round Table will make concluding remarks.

¹ This document was not formally edited.