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

Working Group of the Parties

Twenty-sixth meeting
Geneva, 22-23 June 2022
Item 8 of the provisional agenda:
**Thematic session on the promotion of the principles
of the Convention in international forums**

Promotion of the principles of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) in international forums[1]

Provisional programme for the thematic session[2]
to be held on Thursday, 23 June 2022, from 10 a.m. to 12.50 p.m. Geneva time

Chair: Ms. Marie-Hélène Sa Vilas Boas

Introduction

Timing: 10–10.10 a.m.

The Chair of the session will introduce organization of work during the thematic session and the main topics for discussion. The thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums will include panel presentations and round table discussion on rules of procedure and practice with regard to access to information and public participation in the international decision-making on legally binding instruments on plastic pollution and on business and human rights. Additional topics will include updates on subjects considered by the Working Group of the Parties at its twenty-fifth meeting (Geneva, 3 May and 7–8 June 2021), namely, promotion of the principles of the Convention in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and in international forums in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

I. Plastics

Timing: 10.10–11 a.m.

This item will be organized in the format of a panel presentation and round-table discussion. The focus of this session is on promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international decision-making on a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (e.g., with regard to marine environment and air pollution).

Panellists:
- *Ms. Brenda Koekkoek,* Programme Manager, Circle of Excellence on Plastic Pollution, UNEP
- *Mr. Mário Martins*, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
- *Mr. Andrés del Castillo*, Center for International Environmental Law/European ECO Forum

Discussion

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[1] This document was not formally edited.
[2] Background information on work area on promoting the principles of the Convention in international forums is available from: https://www.unece.org/env/pp/ppif.html.

II. Business and Human Rights

Timing: 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

This item will be organized in the format of a panel presentation and round-table discussion. The focus of this session is on promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention vis-à-vis States' obligations with regard to the responsibility of business actors under their jurisdiction in the context of legally binding instrument on business and human rights.

Panellists:
- *Ms. Nathalie Stadelmann*, Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- *Mr. François Gave*, Special Representative for Corporate Social Responsibility and the Social Dimension of Globalization, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- *Ms. Attracta Uí Bhroin*, Environmental Law Officer, Irish Environmental Network/European ECO Forum

Discussion

III. Additional Topics

Timing: 12–12.15 p.m.

This item will include an update on promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and in a COVID-19 context. Delegations will be invited to share their experiences regarding these subjects.

IV. General discussion

Timing: 12:15–12.40 p.m.

The Working Group will be invited to exchange views on the two thematic areas presented during the previous items and on other relevant matters.

V. Concluding remarks by the Chair of the thematic session

Timing: 12.40–12.50 p.m.

The Chair of the thematic session will make concluding remarks.

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