

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

Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making

Tenth meeting

Geneva, hybrid, 10–11 October 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the tenth meeting¹

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 10 October 2022***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Ensuring effective public participation.
3. COVID-19 pandemic and public participation: challenges and opportunities.
4. Public participation in decision-making on health-related issues linked to air pollution.
5. Public participation in decision-making on urban development/cities.
6. Other relevant developments
7. Any other business.
8. Closing.

II. Annotations

The Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making was established, and its mandate laid down, by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its resumed second extraordinary session (30 June 2010) (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1, decision EMP.II/1). The mandate was further extended in time by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention through decision VII/2 (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1)² adopted at its seventh session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021). Paragraph 13 of decision VII/2 sets out the issues to be addressed by the Task Force.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

* Information on registration for the meeting and other practical arrangements will be made available on the meeting webpage at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/tenth-meeting-task-force-public-participation-decision-making-under>

² The text of the decisions (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1 and ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1) are available from <https://unece.org/env/pp/aarhus-convention/tfppdm>

The present meeting aims to provide a platform for discussing in greater details means for ensuring effective public participation through addressing issues of a systemic nature, as well as challenges and opportunities related to public participation in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The thematic focus of the meeting will be on decision-making on health-related issues linked to air pollution; and regarding urban development/cities.

The Task Force continues its work based on the outputs delivered at its previous meetings. The background material for the meeting will include relevant information derived from the 2021 national implementation reports³, the Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention⁴, the Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide⁵, the Maastricht recommendations on promoting effective public participation in decision-making in environmental matters⁶, and relevant Compliance Committee findings of a systemic nature.

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format with remote and on-site participation. Owing to limited availability of interpretation for remote participation, the meeting will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on 10 October and from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on 11 October.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Monday, 10 October, 10–10.10 a.m.

The Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.⁷

2. Ensuring effective public participation

Timing: Monday, 10 October, 10.10–11.30 a.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to public participation through addressing issues of a systemic nature, e.g.,: (i) meaningful and early public participation; (ii) the availability of all relevant documents to the public; (iii) effective notification and time frames for public participation; and (vi) ensuring that account is taken of comments from the public in the final decisions, and ensuring the appropriate provision of feedback on how the public's comments have been taken into account in the decisions.

3. COVID-19 pandemic and public participation: challenges and opportunities

Timing: Monday, 10 October, 11.30 a.m.–12.00 p.m. and 2.30–3 p.m.

Participants will be invited to consider experiences reflecting good practices, challenges and opportunities for public participation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

³ Available from <http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/index.asp>.

⁴ ECE/MP.PP/2021/6, available from <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2021/09/synthesis-report-status-implementation-convention>.

⁵ 2nd edition, 2014, available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35869>.

⁶ ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2, available from <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/maastricht-recommendations-public-participation-decision-making>.

⁷ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on the meeting webpage at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/tenth-meeting-task-force-public-participation-decision-making-under>

4. Public participation in decision-making on health-related issues linked to air pollution

Timing: Monday, 10 October, 3–4.30 p.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices and challenges with regard to public participation in decision-making on health-related issues linked to air pollution.

5. Public participation in decision-making on urban development/cities

Timing: Tuesday, 11 October, 10.00–11.20 a.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices and challenges with regard to public participation in decision-making on urban development/cities.

6. Other relevant developments

Timing: Tuesday, 11 October, 11.20–11.30 a.m.

Participants will be invited to consider other relevant developments not addressed under previous agenda items.

7. Any other business

Timing: Tuesday, 11 October, 11.30–11.35 a.m.

8. Closing

Timing: Tuesday, 11 March, 11.35 a.m.–12.00 p.m.
