

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

Seventh session

Geneva, 18–20 October 2021

Excerpt from the addendum to the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1)*

Decision VII/10 on accession by Guinea-Bissau to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its seventh session

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 (3) of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, which provides for the possibility of States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region becoming Parties to the Convention upon approval by the Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling also that, over the years, the Parties to the Convention have expressed their support for accession to the Convention by States from outside the ECE region,

Recalling further decision IV/5 on accession to the Convention by non-ECE member States,¹ adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session,

Acknowledging a note by the secretariat on the expression of intention by Guinea-Bissau to accede to the Convention,²

1. *Welcomes and approves* the accession of Guinea-Bissau to the Convention;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to inform the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of this approval so that the appropriate arrangements can be made;
3. *Calls upon* Parties, international financial institutions, international organizations and other interested actors to support the implementation of the Convention in Guinea-Bissau;

* Decisions were adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at the Joint High-level segment, held on 21 October 2021. For practical reasons, the adopted decisions are being issued in an addendum to the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1). The full text of addendum to the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties is available in English, French and Russian from https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/Aarhus_Convention_MoP7

¹ See ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1.

² See ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2020/12.

4. *Expresses* its firm belief that being a Party to the Convention brings tangible positive changes with regard to legislation and practice, with multiple benefits not only for environmental protection but also for the social and economic aspects of people's lives;

5. *Encourages* other interested States to explore accession to the Convention;

6. *Calls on* Parties, international financial institutions, international organizations and other interested actors to strengthen cooperation with and support non-ECE countries interested in acceding to the Convention, with a view to promoting the mutual exchange of experience, as well as the application of the Convention beyond the ECE region.
