

**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-seventh meeting**

Geneva, 26–28 June 2023

Item 6 of the provisional agenda:

**Thematic session on the promotion of the principles  
of the Convention in international forums**

**Results of the Survey for the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, other interested Member States,  
international forums, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, Aarhus  
Centres, Regional Environmental Centres, academia, judiciary and other stakeholders<sup>1</sup>**

**BACKGROUND**

A survey was carried out prior to the twenty- seventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties. The survey intended to assist Parties, other interested Member States, international forums, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, Aarhus Centers, Regional Environmental Centers, academia, judiciary and other stakeholders in reporting to the Working Group on the promotion of the Convention's principles in international forums.

The survey was organised pursuant to para. 11 (d) of decision VII/4 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums ([ENG FRE RUS](#)) adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021). It consisted of 6 questions intended to explore good practices and modalities contributing to ensuring balanced and equitable participation of members of the public as defined in the Almaty Guidelines as well as relevant challenges ([ENG FRE RUS](#)). Respondents were invited to complete the questionnaire using the word document of a Questionnaire. The responses were received in the course of May-June 2023.

The following background material was provided: Promoting the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums (Almaty Guidelines), ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5, (decision II/4), annex, available from: <https://unece.org/info/Environment-Policy/Public-participation/pub/2268>

**SURVEY OVERVIEW**

The Questionnaire was completed by eleven out of forty-seven Parties to the Aarhus Convention (23% of the total number of Parties), six non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and one Aarhus Center. All respondents provided their names. One Questionnaire was completed by a Party in collaboration with the Aarhus Center, i.e. Armenia. One Party, i.e. the Netherlands, conveyed to the secretariat a general remark, which is reflected in the Question 1 table.

The survey consisted of six questions with the majority containing multiple answers and an opportunity to provide descriptive input.

Question 1 asked a general question in line with the Almaty Guidelines general provisions, such as articles 14 (openness), 15 (engage diverse stakeholders), and 16 (non-discrimination). **According to the responses the most**

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<sup>1</sup> This document was not formally edited

**common measures include implementing the principles of wide and transparent access to information and non-discrimination in national law, granting the public, including vulnerable groups, a right to select their representative in order to have their voice heard, building trust between the public and their representatives, raising participation awareness, and disclosing international process-related information at official websites and social media platforms.**

Question 2 asked the Parties to elaborate on the modalities they apply or plan to apply to engage various stakeholder groups to ensure balanced and equitable public participation in international forums, such as (i) inviting members of the public, including youth organizations and groups in vulnerable situations, to participate in meetings or groups representing your Government in various international forums, (ii) web-based or (iv) Mobile-phone application also promoting inclusive participation, and (v) Seeking feedback from members of the public, including NGOs, youth and groups in vulnerable situations about challenges and good practices examples of engaging stakeholders in international forums, or (vi) other. **As was indicated by many respondents during different phases of preparation for international forums they used media communication channels, such as the official websites of relevant institutions, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, news, the press, and broadcast. Seven Parties, one NGO and one Aarhus Center provided additional information.**

Question 3 asked about types of selection criteria in place aimed at restricting participation for practical reasons, such as field of expertise, geographical, sectoral or professional representation, either representation in other relevant contexts, knowledge of the working language or other. A follow up clarification to this question inquired if the procedures in place secure meaningful and equitable participation. **As was indicated by many, knowledge of the working language and sectoral representation are the main criteria for selection, followed by field of expertise and geographical representation. Additionally, one Party mentioned that gender balance is considered in the selection criteria. Four Parties and one NGO elaborated further on the matter explaining the procedures in place to secure meaningful and equitable participation, such as for example preparing non-professional summary about the topics to be considered at a forum for public perusal.**

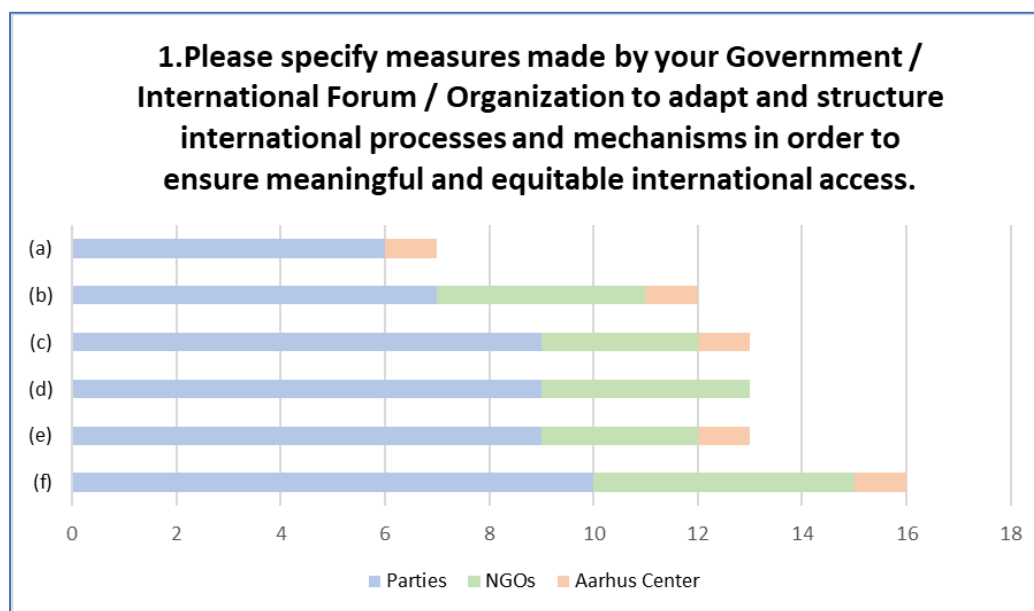
Question 4 inquired if the respondent was (or planning to be) a beneficiary for capacity-building, which is consistent with article 17 of the Almaty Guidelines' general provisions. **Six Parties, 4 NGOs and one Aarhus Center selected one or more answer options under this question with the majority choosing workshops/trainings/briefings and guidance material.**

Question 5 asked to indicate major challenges in ensuring meaningful and equitable participation, such as logistics (accessibility of venue, size of the venue etc, capacity of members of the public (knowledge of the working languages, ability to travel etc), financial, rules of procedure of international forums, challenges specific for groups in vulnerable situations and other. **All respondents selected one or more answer options under this question, with majority indicating financial and rules of procedure of international forums as the main obstacles.**

Question 6 was optional to provide examples of good practice to promote balanced and equitable public participation in international forums and was addressed by seven Parties, four NGOs and one Aarhus Center. **Please see details of their provided examples under the relevant section of the summary of the answers below.**

## SUMMARY OF THE ANSWERS

**1. Please describe briefly what efforts are made by your Government / International Forum / Organization to adapt and structure international processes and mechanisms in order to ensure meaningful and equitable international access?**



*Legend:*

- (a) measures to make or keep the processes open, in principle, to the public at large
- (b) measures in circumstances where members of the public have differentiated capacity, resources, socio-cultural circumstances or economic or political influence
- (c) measures to facilitate participation of groups in vulnerable situations
- (d) measures to promote transparency, minimize inequality, avoid the exercise of undue economic or political influence
- (e) measures to facilitate the participation of those constituencies that are most directly affected and might not have the means for participation without encouragement and support
- (f) measures to ensure access without discrimination on the basis of citizenship, nationality or domicile (in the case of a legal person, international access should be provided without discrimination as to where it has its registered seat or an effective centre of its activities)

General remarks:

**The most common measures included implementing the principles of wide and transparent access to information and non-discrimination in national law, granting the public, including vulnerable groups, a right to select their representative in order to have their voice heard, building trust between the public and their representatives, raising participation awareness, and disclosing international process-related information at official websites and social media platforms.**

NB: The Netherlands conveyed to the secretariat a general remark, which is reflected below.

Parties

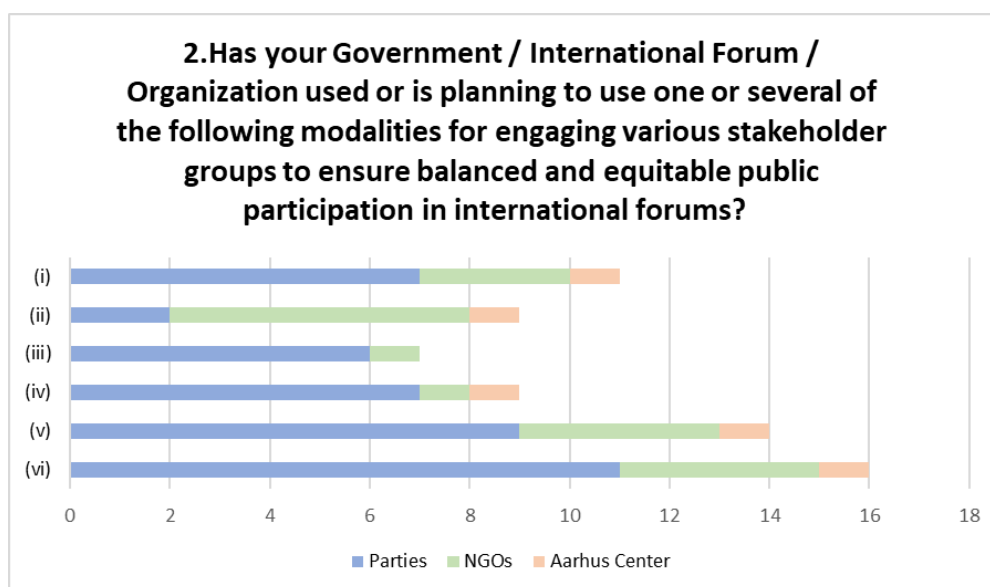
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Issue numerous laws enshrined Aarhus principles to oblige public authorities disclose information on official websites with translated versions. Circulate information by using digital channels such as minority language broadcast. Grant right to vulnerable groups to visit Ombudsman's office and choose their representatives. Within
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		a regional partnership program, carry out several transparency-related activities that enhance information disclosure, new technologies, civil society participation, anti-corruption, and non-discrimination principle. Regularly raise public awareness via ENGOs, the Aarhus Centre, and the National Focal Point, email, and providing information and interviews to NGOs and civil society forums as their media resources.
2.	Austria	The meetings of a national biodiversity commission consisted of diverse representatives accountable to the public and providing advice on the nation's position on international biodiversity issues forums. A similar commission exists for climate-related issues. Representatives are responsible for the constituents they represent. In general, these procedures are accessible, transparent, and non-discriminatory, embodying various socio-political opinions.
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Publish all processes on the websites of the relevant institutions. Facilitate cooperation, information sharing, and establish free local legal assistance systems. Build trust between local communities, NGOs, and the local governments that represent them in communications with higher authorities. Raise awareness among citizens of their right to a healthy environment, regardless of their economic or political standing. Citizens are organized into associations and their voices are heard through the selection of representatives. Promote the Aarhus Convention's non-discrimination principles at all levels of governance.
4.	Bulgaria	Coordinate with various members of the public, such as NGOs, syndicates, and trade unions, and collect comments on draft proposals for decisions and legal acts of the EU from registered members of the public via the web portal of a Consultation center established for the Council. Facilitate the participation of NGOs, academics, and others in advisory councils for the Ministry of Environment and Water's discussion of legislative change proposals for harmonizing national legislation with EU acquis and international environmental agreements.
5.	Czechia	Provide stakeholders with free and easily accessible online or hybrid access to meetings and encourage youth delegates and NGOs to participate in international forums and meetings whenever possible.
6.	Finland	Issue broad cross-cutting human rights policy promotes meaningful public participation, prioritizing gender equality and non-discrimination, vulnerable populations, children, and strengthens civil society capacity in ministry meetings, international organizations, and negotiation processes. Set up the short-term or medium-term National Democracy Programme with policies and goals promoting international democracy work. Emphasize the Aarhus Convention's principles in international environmental negotiation, forums or European Union positions and legislation, and with the assistance of National Focal Point of Aarhus. Strengthen transparency through further regulation and digital technologies in Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2019.
7.	Georgia	Facilitate the participation of the public, such as NGOs, experts and so on in international forums by including them in the country's official delegations.
8.	Guinea-Bissau	National dialogue conference on protected areas and biodiversity.

9.	Italy	Periodically conduct conferences at which members of civil society can express their views on pressing issues such as climate change. Youth participation in decision-making is facilitated through consultation and perspective expression. Distribute information about international forums via electronic channels, especially social media, and portals. Appointing at least one nongovernmental organization representative to the official UNFCCC climate negotiations delegation, as well as approved press and NGO representatives in participating COPs. During the COPs, organize free, intensive meetings, seminars, and presentations where diverse members of the public can present proposals. Participate in the Initiative to enhance process openness. Present Voluntary National Review in an international forum to strengthen its 2030 agenda implementation mechanisms, including multi-stakeholder participation mechanisms. Join a regional advisory body made up of diverse members of the public and coordinate national and regional objectives for sustainable development and for the protection of marine biodiversity.
10.	Latvia	Issue numerous obligations and good administration principles to promote wide access to international forums, such as notification duty, facilitate public participation with appropriate methods for enhancing wide accessibility, activity, equality, and fairness, legal tools to address situations where public members have different socio-political conditions, appropriate public participation selection methods, enhance transparency by promoting public trust in interest representatives, address directly affected individuals without discriminating their bases.
11.	Netherlands	Based on the experience of those who have taken part in the CBD, COP UNFCCC and the plastics negotiations, it is Netherlands' practice for these meetings that stakeholders, including NGOs and youth representatives, join the processes and procedures. This is reflected in the setting up of sounding board groups in preparation for processes or negotiations, as well as the inclusion of a youth representative in delegations. NGOs are also asked to joint parts of delegation meetings and there is e.g. an NGO representative at COP.
12.	Slovenia	Issue laws to facilitate the active participation of the public in significant international procedures and ensure that participation requests from NGOs are free of charge. Regional laws incorporate conditions for public participation in their respective administrative jurisdictions. In sensitive circumstances, the government must organize online public hearings and public announcements.
NGOs		
13.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	Promote transparency by tweeting from UNECE meetings and preparing internal reports regarding UNECE meetings by its attended staff.
14.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	Provide the public with early access to international events and forums' agendas, proceedings, and outcomes via the organization's and project partners' websites and social media platforms. Organize the event or forum near where the problem and solutions occurred.
15.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Join national, regional, and international civil society platforms and commissions to influence decision-making. Raise vulnerable group issues on social, public, internet, mass-media, website, Aarhus Convention Platforms, and UN Special Rapporteur platforms.

		Participate in online discussions, gatherings of specialists, experts, and activists, problem-raising, or presentations to governmental agencies and authorities.
16.	Ecoropa	Inform other members of civil society organizations in other forums about the Aarhus Convention and its guiding principles, as well as how they can utilize it. Fundraise to enable participants from civil society to attend meetings. Share preparatory materials and webinar recordings with other participants. Continuous communication and organize online meetings with absentee groups to incorporate their opinions into statements and interventions during the international communication process.
17.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	Hold citywide public hearings on ecological safety issues, assist the public in using legal tools to safeguard their health and environmental rights, and encourage the participation of municipal and civil society professionals. Send official requests to the government, Mayor's office, and ministries on an ongoing or planned basis with environmental risk inquiries or concerns. Send two representatives to the COP, organize a public event with partners for community members who were unable to attend COP27, and publish the results of online participation. Using simple cards or tik-Tok movies written in the local language to improve environmental protection and damage education. Facilitate communication between citizens unable to voice their concerns to the municipality. Consistently assist vulnerable individuals near the city landfill, circulate their stories and assist them in raising funds and attracting the attention of city officials and lawyers.
18.	Women Engage for a Common Future	Join a civil society platform to enhance capacity and wide accessibility of public participation. Consultation with members to understand their needs and map which groups are always lagging behind and do obstacle research. Create transparent selection elections, funding, and interventions. By acting as mediators, facilitators, claiming places for other speakers and emphasizing vulnerable group issues. Non-attendees can join in brainstorming and debate using open-source tools like Google Docs and Spreadsheet.
Aarhus Centers		
19.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Organization and conduct of seminars and round tables with the participation of civil society and government agency representatives, and national legislature to promote the Aarhus Convention's provisions. Participate in drafting regulations, programs, plans, and strategies and conduct research in environmental protection and sustainable development. Publish information in the media and scientific journals. Request international organizations and projects' support for capacity building. Aid other public associations and citizens in gaining access to environmental information. Disseminate printed materials to the public and government agencies. Request assistance from relevant UN agencies and other international organizations. Prepare and submit recommendations to the relevant state authorities on the introduction of amendments and additions to the legislation to ensure the environmental rights of citizens, foreign citizens, and stateless persons.

**2. Has your Government / International Forum / Organization used or is planning to use one or several of the following modalities for engaging various stakeholder groups to ensure balanced and equitable public participation in international forums?**



(i) Inviting members of the public, including youth organizations and groups in vulnerable situations, to participate in meetings or groups representing your government in various international forums, including in preparatory working groups aimed at forming the official position of the Government.

(ii) Use of the media communication channels at all stages of the preparation for the international forum(s), also promoting inclusive participation

(iii) Web-based application (online forum, social network), also promoting inclusive participation

(iv) Mobile-phone app, also promoting inclusive participation

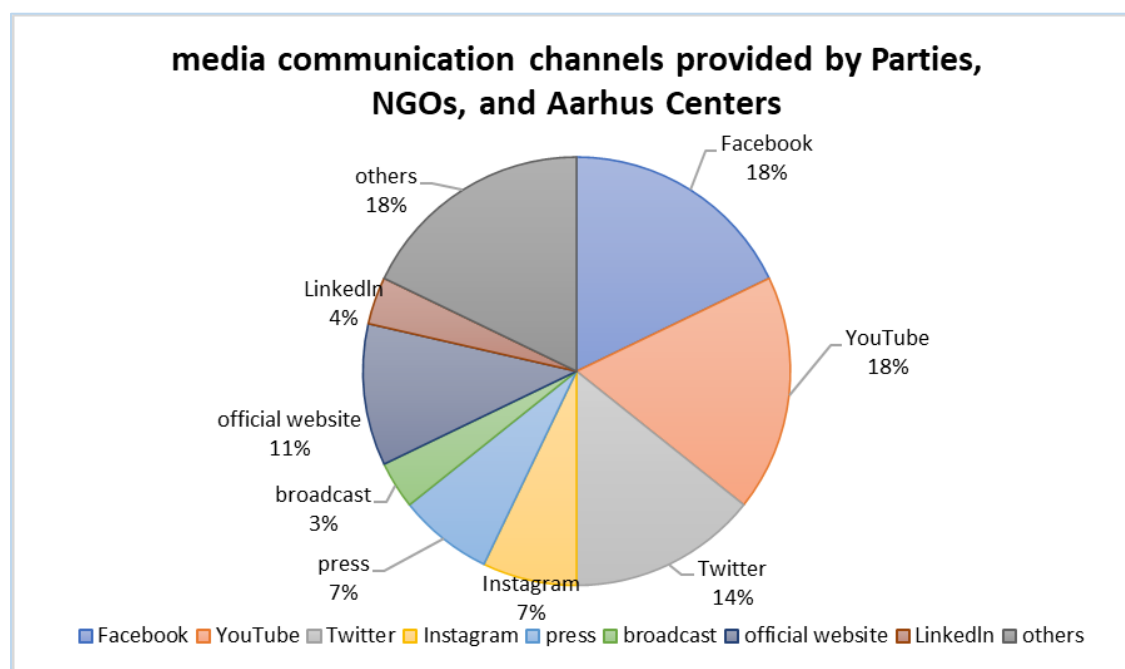
(v) Seeking feedback from members of the public, including NGOs, youth and groups in vulnerable situations about challenges and good practices examples of engaging stakeholders in international forums

**(i) Inviting members of the public, including youth organizations and groups in vulnerable situations, to participate in meetings or groups in various international forums and in preparatory working groups aimed at forming the official position of the Government.**

General Remarks:		
In response to this answer option, nine Parties and one Aarhus Center provided the information listed below, but no NGOs responded.		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	The relevant preparatory process is open to anyone interested. The government sponsored at least one representative from those vulnerable groups.
2.	Austria	NGO representatives were invited to join international biodiversity meetings and climate change conferences.
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	The Ministry's work is open, transparent, and aims to give effective information and inclusion in decision-making for the members of the public.

4.	Czechia	During the Czech Presidency in the Council of the EU, representatives of various youth groups, NGO stakeholder groups, and other groups like IPLC (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities) were often consulted in the meeting's preparation.
5.	Finland	The Finnish government appoints non-governmental organization representatives as expert members in its delegations and preparation for international negotiations and meetings and refunds the entire or partial cost of travel for those Sámi, youth, and non-state actor representatives.
6.	Guinea-Bissau	OP27 in Sharm el-Sheick (Egypt), 4 civil society organizations participated with a total of 8 participants. The number of participants varies and depends on the organization's operation fields.
7.	Italy	Launched and sponsored the Youth4Climate Initiative to empower youth and facilitate dialogue that would allow them to express their opinions and participate in international events.
8.	Latvia	In Latvian law, competent institutions formulate and coordinate the national position with co-responsible authorities, municipalities, self-government, social partner groups, organizations, and foundations.
9.	Slovenia	Youth organizations participate in the preparation of national legislation, but no accurate information about international forums.
Aarhus Centers		
10.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Seven representatives from the Aarhus Center and its branches were called to the annual meeting in Vienna. Turkmenistan's Aarhus Center sends between one and two members to meetings of other Aarhus Centres and other meetings held by the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention each year.

**(ii) Use of the media communication channels at all stages of the preparation for the international forum(s), also promoting inclusive participation**





General Remarks		
<b>As indicated by many respondents during different phases of preparation for international forums they used media communication channels, such as the official websites of relevant institutions, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, news, the press, and broadcast. Seven Parties, one NGO and one Aarhus Center provided additional information as per below:</b>		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Armenpress, the news agency that provides live broadcasting of information meetings or press conferences.
2.	Austria	Sometimes media communication channels such as Facebook are used.
3.	Czechia	Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook
4.	Finland	The ministry of environment links international and national issues in accordance with the themes throughout the year to help stakeholders, media, and the public understand international processes and EU-level decision-making and organizes public meetings to discuss coming discussions and international climate and biodiversity negotiations and posted Finnish delegation reports on the Ministry's website. It also has used Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube in communication concerning international processes and meetings.
5.	Italy	Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, website ( <a href="https://www.youth4climate.info/Twitter">https://www.youth4climate.info/Twitter</a> ), LinkedIn: Rome Center UNDP
6.	Latvia	relevant institutions' official websites
7.	Slovenia	Inform all interested member states in strategic environmental impact assessments.
NGOs		
8.	Dalma-Sona Fund	Facebook, YouTube, and others
Aarhus Center		
9.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	newspaper "Neutral Turkmenistan" and other local media

**(iii) Web-based application (online forum, social network), also promoting inclusive participation**

General Remarks		
<b>Nine Parties and one NGO selected this answer option and provided following information:</b>		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	<p>The iGov.am application for mobile devices can be downloaded from the AppStore and Google Play (<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=am.helix.iGov&amp;pli=1">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=am.helix.iGov&amp;pli=1</a> ) (<a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/igov-am/id446132533?ls=1">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/igov-am/id446132533?ls=1</a> )</p> <p>On the websites of local self-governing bodies (LSGB) that have webpages and profiles on social networks, there is an e-citizen participation section and an interactive budget section. Applications, such as RedBookAM, that help the world recognize and preserve the nature of Armenia.</p>
2.	Austria	There is an online forum on the Convention on Biological Diversity, but it is restricted to members of the national commission.

3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina: ( <a href="https://www.mvp.gov.ba/medjunarodna_saradnja/Naucnotehnicka_saradnja_i_ostalo/?id=33160">https://www.mvp.gov.ba/medjunarodna_saradnja/Naucnotehnicka_saradnja_i_ostalo/?id=33160</a> )  Official Website of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism: ( <a href="https://www.fmoit.gov.ba/bs/okolisne-dozvole/sudjelovanje-javnosti">https://www.fmoit.gov.ba/bs/okolisne-dozvole/sudjelovanje-javnosti</a> )  Aarhus center Sarajevo: ( <a href="https://aarhus.ba/">https://aarhus.ba/</a> ) NVO Eko forum Zenica: ( <a href="https://www.ekoforumzenica.ba/category/novosti">https://www.ekoforumzenica.ba/category/novosti</a> )
4.	Bulgaria	( <a href="http://www.euaffairs.government.bg/en/index.php">http://www.euaffairs.government.bg/en/index.php</a> )
5.	Finland	Use Teams to organize online public events and distribute announcements on the Ministry's website and via email.
6.	Italy	Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition - Proposals and recommendations from the young participants to be discussed with government representatives: ( <a href="https://youth4climate.info">https://youth4climate.info</a> )
NGOs		
7.	BlueLink Foundation	Civil monitoring over the spending of public funds at the local level platform: ( <a href="https://obshtipari.bluelink.net/">https://obshtipari.bluelink.net/</a> )

**(iv) Mobile-phone app, also promoting inclusive participation**

General Remarks		
<b>Two Parties and one NGO selected this answer option and provided following information:</b>		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	In Goris city, Armenia has collaborated with the Municipality and local NGOs tried a Short Message Service's message to inform and engage locals' participation, which was successful but has not expanded
2.	Finland	Finnish delegations to MEA (Multilateral Environmental Agreements) COPs and other international conferences usually create a WhatsApp or Signal group including civil social organizations' representatives.
NGOs		
3.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	Independent air quality monitoring sensors hosted by citizens who advocate for clean air: ( <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=kg.movegreen.aq&amp;hl=ru&amp;gl=US&amp;pli=1">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=kg.movegreen.aq&amp;hl=ru&amp;gl=US&amp;pli=1</a> )

**(v) Seeking feedback from members of the public, including NGOs, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations about challenges and good practices examples of engaging stakeholders in international forums**

General remarks	
<b>Four Parties, two NGOs and one Aarhus Center selected this answer option and provided the following information:</b>	
Parties	

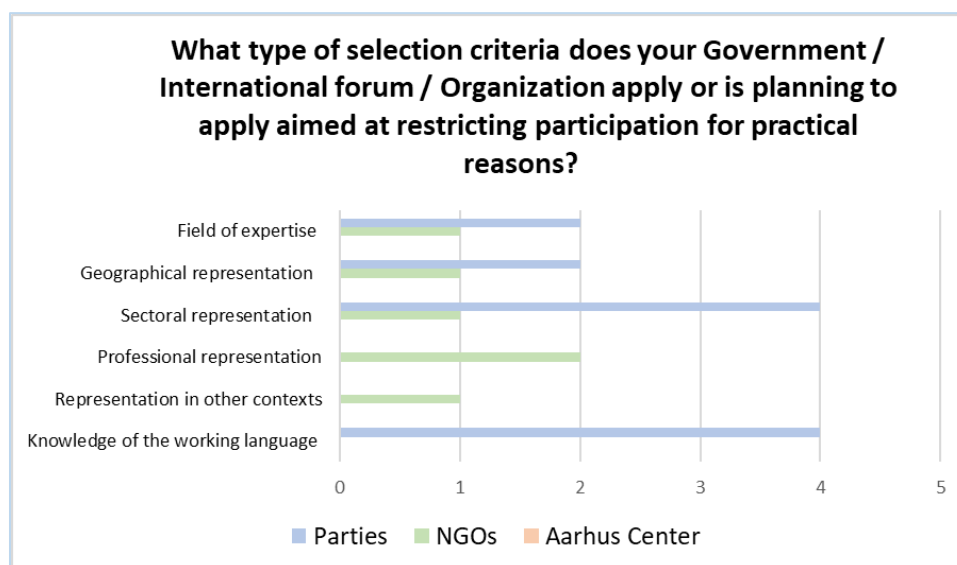
1.	Austria	Hold parallel meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations during an international conference.
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Members of the public must provide feedback on required information in writing (e-mail, official letter, etc.), but they may also do so by phone or in another convenient way.
3.	Czechia	Representatives of various youth groups or NGO stakeholder groups and others were routinely consulted before international meetings.
4.	Finland	The Ministry of Environment organizes meetings with members of civil society organizations, Sámi, and youth representatives to discuss upcoming international meetings and possibilities for participation, which also offers good possibilities for providing feedback on good practices and challenges. In addition, civil society organizations' representatives in delegations to meetings are asked to contribute to the delegation's report, based on their experience.
NGOs		
5.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	When UNECE meetings require the mapping of situations regarding legislation or practice in a particular matter, J&E conducts online surveys among its members and among its partners to collect information and present it at the UNECE meetings.
6.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Hold online discussion regarding the harassment of environmental activists in Armenia.
Aarhus Centers		
7.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	In the context of its cooperation with NGOs, the Aarhus Center regularly provides feedback.

**(vi) Regarding has or is planning to use one or several of the described modalities, additional information provided:**

General remarks		
<b>All respondents used one or several of the described modalities. Six Parties out of eleven and two NGOs out of six are planning to use the described modalities and provided additional information:</b>		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Has developed a concept of "Data collection, analysing and management system" for the city of Yerevan in 2020, and is developing an information "Green Platform" for the city of Yerevan within the OGP framework and activities under "Shaping of legislation defining the data policy" according to the Government's 2021-2026 programme now.
2.	Austria	Has used 4
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Has used modalities that would <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve coordination at the multilateral level to strengthen action on the problem of climate change, including the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, in the field of environmental protection and clean energy, with the support of enhanced cooperation in the framework of international forums for research and innovation,</li> <li>strengthen partnership for development cooperation to promote sustainable investments, strengthen cooperation with third countries, explore and strengthen synergies in international forums and promote sustainable connectivity</li> <li>strengthen priority on sustainable development,</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deepen systematic cooperation with agreements on economic and scientific cooperation. Strengthen cooperation to solve a series of challenges, starting with environmental protection and climate change, while also creating business opportunities for designing products for the needs of the local population.</li> </ul> <p>Is planning to use the modalities that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, exchange knowledge on modelling and creating scenarios of low levels of emissions so that development strategies towards low levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the middle of the century are based on factual data, and on adaptation to climate change,</li> <li>• work together to solve the biggest environmental challenges by accelerating the implementation of existing biodiversity-related goals and developing a new ambitious global framework for biodiversity diversity.</li> </ul>
4.	Bulgaria	has used
5.	Czechia	has used
6.	Finland	has used and is planning to use all
7.	Georgia	Has used
8.	Guinea-Bissau	Has used and is planning to use Facebook with links for information and online registration
9.	Italy	Has used 3
10.	Latvia	Has used and is planning to use
11.	Slovenia	Has used and is planning to use
NGOs		
12.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	Has used 1 and is planning to use 1
13.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	Has used
14.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Has used and is planning to
15.	Ecoropa	Has used
16.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	Has used
17.	Women Engage for a Common Future	Has used
Aarhus Centers		
18.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Has used 1 to 2

**3. Please describe what type of selection criteria does your Government / International forum / Organization apply / is planning to apply aimed at restricting participation for practical reasons?**



**Representation in other relevant contexts, please specify in which context exactly.**

General remarks		
<b>Only one NGO chose this option and provided additional information.</b>		
NGOs		
1.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	If the even or forum is discussing the position of a certain societal group like NGO coalition, it will be closed for the representatives of the state institutions or of the public (e.g., the meetings of Climate Coalition)

**Other selection criteria for restricting participation for practical reasons:**

General remarks		
<b>Four Parties selected this option and provided additional information. All six NGOs and one Aarhus Center did not select this option.</b>		
Parties		
1.	Austria	The national commission or committee is composed of several representatives of administration, science, civil society and so on.
2.	Czechia	The sensitive nature of the meeting, typically internal financial and budgetary matters, or politically sensitive informal meetings.
3.	Georgia	Consider public representatives' experience in the field.
4.	Italy	Gender balance.

**When they are applied, are there procedures in place to secure meaningful and equitable participation? If yes, please describe briefly:**

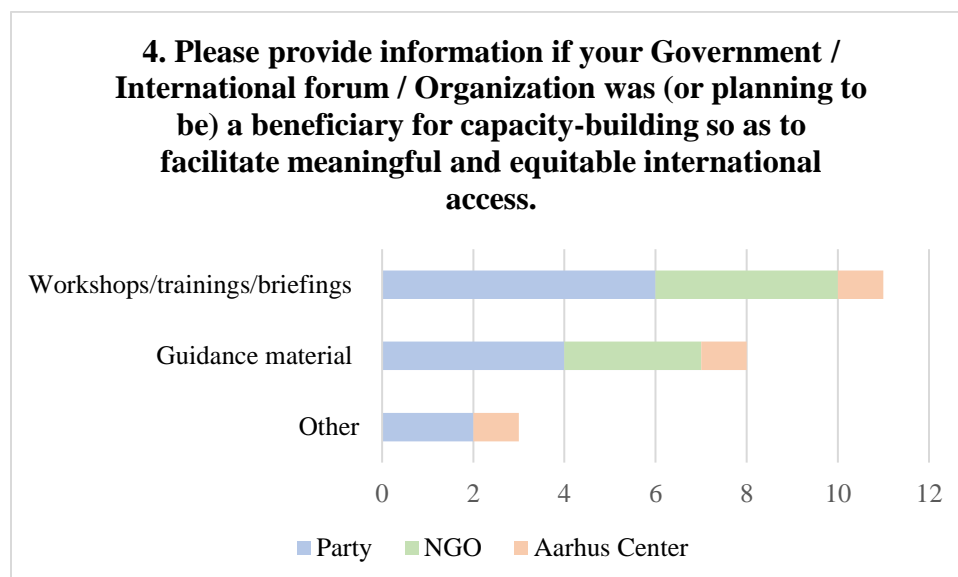
General remarks
Four Parties and one NGO answered this follow up question providing the following information:

Parties		
1.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	For each forum topic, a non-professional summary is prepared for the public to simplify the topic and make it as clear as possible to as many citizens as possible, regardless of their vocational training. With an expert background, all documents are available to the public in their entirety, but non-technical summaries of the documents that are the subject of discussion are prepared and published separately and must be available to the public.
2.	Finland	The Ministry of Environment does not restrict selection. ENGOs and Sami and youth representatives choose conferences with Ministry of Environment financial support.
3.	Guinea-Bissau	The government does not choose participants. It invites the conference's theme-related organizations. Each organization chooses the aspect that best represents it.
4.	Latvia	Even when not specifically invited to participate, in cases where public participation applies, all opinions of any member of the public must be evaluated and given proper considerations.
NGOs		
5.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	competence

**4. Please provide information if your Government / International forum / Organization was (or planning to be) a beneficiary for capacity-building so as to facilitate meaningful and equitable international access.**

General remarks		
<b>Five Parties out of eleven and two NGOs out of six did not select any answer option under this question. Six Parties, 4 NGOs and one Aarhus Center selected one or more answer options under this question.</b>		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	One or more answer options selected
2.	Austria	Replied No
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	One or more answer options selected
4.	Bulgaria	n/a
5.	Czechia	n/a
6.	Finland	Replied No
7.	Georgia	One or more answer options selected
8.	Guinea-Bissau	One or more answer options selected
9.	Italy	One or more answer options selected
10.	Latvia	n/a
11.	Slovenia	One or more answer options selected
NGOs		
12.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	n/a
13.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	n/a
14.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Unfortunately, our Organization has not been the beneficiary of capacity building to facilitate meaningful and equitable international access. But it is desirable to be.
15.	Ecoropa	One or more answer options selected
16.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	One or more answer options selected
17.	Women Engage for a Common Future	One or more answer options selected

Aarhus Centers		
18.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	One or more questions selected



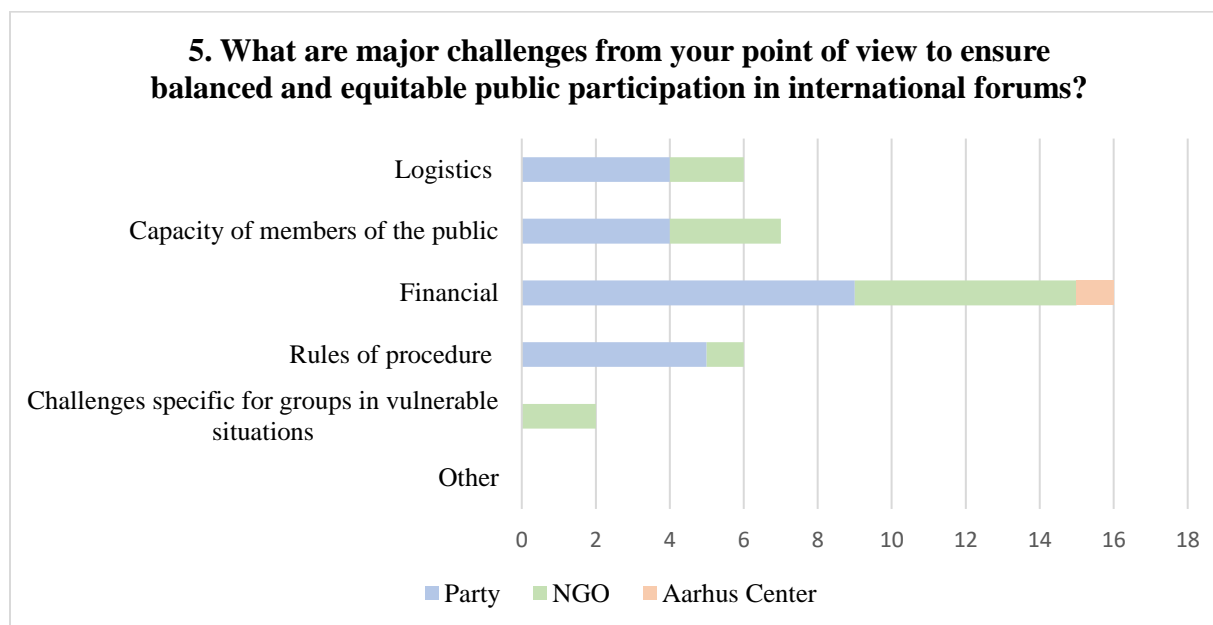
Workshops/trainings/briefings (was or planning to be; who supported it)		
Six Parties, four NGOs and one Aarhus Center selected this answer option providing the following information:		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Selected without further explanation
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	The problem is often insufficient knowledge of the English language (it is necessary to provide a translation into the local language). Also, the ability to travel can be a problem (current inability due to illness, sudden work obligations, etc.).
3.	Georgia	Selected without further explanation
4.	Guinea-Bissau	This workshop was supported by ECOWAS
5.	Italy	Selected without further explanation
6.	Slovenia	Selected without further explanation
NGOs		
7.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Selected without further explanation
8.	Ecoropa	Selected without further explanation
9.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	COP27 supported by CAN EECCA
10.	Women Engage for a Common Future	See above
Aarhus Centers		
11.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSCE Center in Ashgabat from 2012 to 2018. Seminars were held annually in all five regions of the country on the Aarhus Convention and other topical environmental issues;</li> <li>The USAID GSP project supported the holding of seminars on topical environmental protection issues among civil servants.</li> </ul>

Guidance material (was or planning to be; who supported it)		
Four Parties, three NGOs and one Aarhus Center selected this answer option providing the following information:		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	<a href="https://www.gov.am/en/open-government/">https://www.gov.am/en/open-government/</a>
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Selected without further explanation
3.	Italy	Selected without further explanation
4.	Slovenia	Selected without further explanation
NGOs		
5.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Selected without further explanation
6.	Ecoropa	Selected without further explanation
7.	Women Engage for a Common Future	Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth ( <a href="https://www.wecf.org/climate-justice-toolkit-for-youth-edition-2022/">https://www.wecf.org/climate-justice-toolkit-for-youth-edition-2022/</a> ); Activity Kit for the CSW ( <a href="https://www.wecf.org/activity-kit-for-the-csw-climate-justice-needs-young-feminists/">https://www.wecf.org/activity-kit-for-the-csw-climate-justice-needs-young-feminists/</a> ) , The Future of Advocacy ( <a href="https://www.wecf.org/future-of-advocacy/">https://www.wecf.org/future-of-advocacy/</a> ); Young Feminist Want System Change ( <a href="https://www.wecf.org/young-feminists-want-system-change/">https://www.wecf.org/young-feminists-want-system-change/</a> )
Aarhus Centers		
8.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Guidance materials (books) on the Aarhus Convention were published in 2013 and 2014 with the support of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat.

Other, please specify (was or planning to be; who supported it)		
Two Parties and one Aarhus Center selected this answer option providing the following information:		
Parties		
1.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Selected without further explanation
2.	Georgia	in order to provide the public with the information about the UNFCCC COP 26 in advance to the meeting, a specific conference was arranged in Tbilisi, Georgia.
Aarhus Centers		
3.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the support of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat, two books on environmental protection were prepared and published for distribution in 2018 and 2021, 1 Collection of legislative acts on environmental protection of Turkmenistan in 2015, as well as 4 draft by-laws in the field of ecology for the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.</li> <li>With the support of the USAID GSP project, the Collection "Actual issues of Turkmenistan's transition to green technologies in 2021" was prepared and published. 1 Collection of legislative acts on environmental protection of Turkmenistan in 2020 and more than 10 draft regulatory legal acts in the field of ecology.</li> <li>With the support of the EBRD, the book "Waste Management in Turkmenistan": an assessment of the current situation and main directions for improvement" was prepared and published in 2022.</li> </ul>



**5. What are major challenges from your point of view to ensure balanced and equitable public participation in international forums:**



**All respondents selected one or more answer options under this question, as per below breakdown:**

Logistics (accessibility of venue, size of the venue etc), please list them		
Four Parties and two NGOs selected this answer option providing the following information:		
Parties		
1.	Austria	States that host international conferences often have some kind of restrictions (e.g. bans on demonstrations).
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	The place is accessible, the size is adequate.
3.	Finland	The size of the venue (and measures related to the pandemic?) in some cases restrict the size of the delegation or access by observers to the venue.
4.	Slovenia	Selected without further explanation
NGOs		
5.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	In case the venue of the forum is in the countryside with not so convenient transport options for international guests.
6.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Selected without further explanation

Capacity of members of the public (knowledge of the working languages, ability to travel etc), please list them		
Four Parties and three NGOs selected this answer option providing the following information:		
Parties		
1.	Austria	NGOs often do not have enough financial and human resources.
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	The problem is often insufficient knowledge of the English language (improve knowledge of foreign languages), Also, the ability to travel can be a problem (current inability due to illness, financial, etc.). This is why online participation in the workshops should be ensured.
3.	Czechia	Members of the public usually do not have time and resources to get acquainted with the working documents and to attend the meetings.

4.	Slovenia	Selected without further explanation
NGOs		
5.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	Sometimes the knowledge of the working language of the forums or the ability to travel and spend two days in a different location might be limiting the participation of the members of the public.
6.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Selected without further explanation
7.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	English is still a limitation and absence of translation to local language

Financial, please explain		
<b>Nine Parties, six NGOs and one Aarhus Center selected this answer option providing the following information:</b>		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	There is very limited state allocation to NGOs, youth organizations, journalists to participate in international forums abroad.
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country in transition with a very low GDP, so additional costs are a problem for a large part of the public.
3.	Bulgaria	It is very difficult for the public authorities to provide any support for the members of the public for participation at international forums – due to budgetary constraints.
4.	Czechia	Attendance in international forums is usually very expensive and therefore inaccessible to most of the members of the public
5.	Finland	The MoE's possibilities to fund CSO representatives are limited.
6.	Georgia	financial issue is a barrier for majority of public representatives when the meeting holds outside the country
7.	Guinea-Bissau	The government has a lot of financial difficulties so that when there are conferences that do not ensure financial support it is almost certain that the country's delegation would not be able to participate in this conference.
8.	Italy	Selected without further explanation
9.	Slovenia	Selected without further explanation
NGOs		
10.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	Coverage of travel and accommodation costs without funding support is very difficult.
11.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	The travel and accommodation costs might be a problem in organizing a forum for many participants from different countries or regions of the country.
12.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Our NGO is a non-profit, non-commercial organization, which has not financial resources
13.	Ecoropa	Travel and accommodation costs
14.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	Absence of financial support to participate
15.	Women Engage for a Common Future	in particular important for groups in vulnerable situations, often money provided only last minute and selection process needs time
Aarhus Centers		
16.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Lack or difficulty in obtaining financial assistance for public participation in international forums

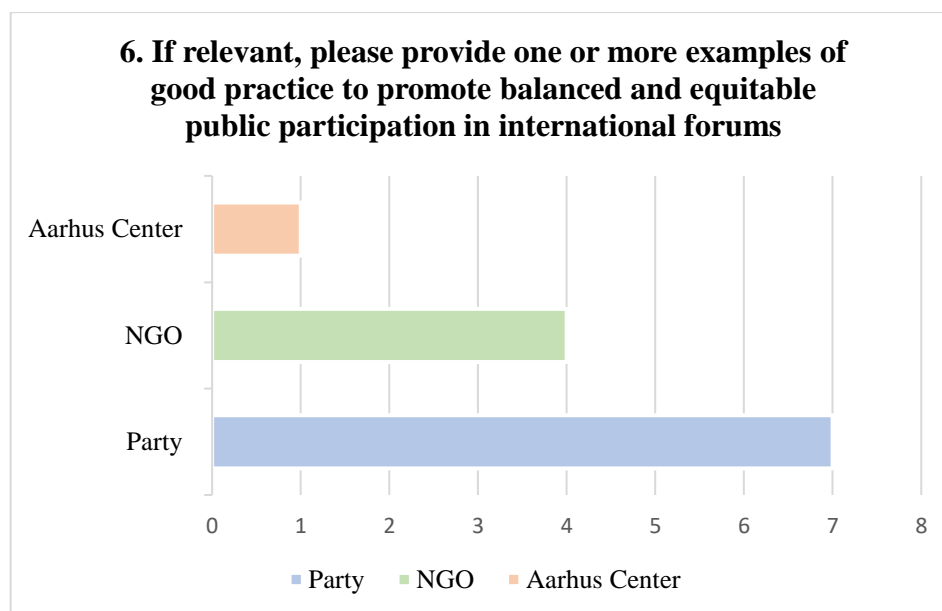
Rules of procedure of international forums		
<b>Five Parties and one NGO selected this answer option providing the following information:</b>		

Parties		
1.	Austria	The number of NGO representatives is restricted.
2.	Georgia	in some cases it might be considered as a challenge
3.	Italy	Selected without further explanation
4.	Latvia	A significant number of national positions for international forums are often treated as restricted access information, which ultimately limits the inclusiveness of public participation.
5.	Slovenia	Selected without further explanation
NGOs		
6.	Ecoropa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very restricted time to speak (for example 3 minutes to address the whole range of topics of a 1-2 week long meetings, as a coalition of NGOs). On short notice the time might even be reduced, or statements/interventions by observers might be cancelled at all. (This is even more frustrating if sessions start late, or if time is spend on banter etc. because it gives members of the public the impression that their input is not valued and just a formality.)</li> <li>• Rules of procedures that allow members of the public only to speak <u>after</u> all parties have spoken and have taken decisions.</li> <li>• (Parts of ) Meetings were observers are not even allowed to attend to observe.</li> </ul>

Challenges specific for groups in vulnerable situations, please list them		
Only two NGOs selected this answer option providing the following information:		
NGOs		
1.	Ecoropa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups in vulnerable situations are often even more restricted in travel.</li> <li>• Groups in vulnerable situations often don't speak the official languages of the process/meeting as their first language.</li> </ul>
2.	Movegreen, Kyrgyzstan	Security issues

Other, please specify:		
No respondent selected this answer option.		

**6. If relevant, please provide one or more examples of good practice to promote balanced and equitable public participation in international forums**



General remarks		
<b>Four Parties out of eleven and two NGOs out of six did respond to this question. Seven Parties, four NGOs and one Aarhus Center replied to one or more answer options under this question, also providing the following general remarks.</b>		
Parties		
1.	Austria	<p>The participation of NGO youth delegates in international decision-making is encouraged in Austria:</p> <p>With regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity, two NGO youth delegates were financed by the Ministry to join the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) that took place in Montreal.</p> <p>In addition, two NGO youth delegates are always joining the UN Climate Change Conference. While the Ministry finances their participation, the two delegates are selected – independently from the Ministry – by the Austrian association CliMates. After being selected as a youth delegate, they are prepared for the next Climate Change Conference and are trained by the delegates that served as youth delegates at the last Climate Change Conference.</p> <p>A good example of the implementation of international decisions on a national level is the Austrian Citizens' Climate Council. The Climate Council represented a kind of "mini-Austria". It was composed of 100 people who have had their main residence in Austria for at least five years and are at least 16 years old. The selection took place randomly by Statistics Austria. This ensured that different groups of society were represented in a balanced way for the total population. The Council made recommendations with regard to the achievement of the climate targets. A scientific advisory body supported the work of the Council. In addition, a consultative "stakeholder" body was established to connect with representatives from social partners and civil society.</p>
2.	Finland	See above, question 2.

3.	Guinea-Bissau	The Problems/challenges encountered in participating in international conferences are the practical applications in the country of the decisions taken.
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i. Name of the example (tool, practice, programme, project, initiative, mechanism, etc.) that you would like to share:		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Before the United Nations climate change conferences a number of meetings organized with the ambassadors of the COP hosting country, with the NGO representatives, various stakeholders.
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	<a href="https://adriatic-ionian.eu/8th-EUSAIR-Sarajevo-23-25-May-Interreg-ADRION-Programme">8th EUSAIR Forum, 23-25 May – Sarajevo – Interreg ADRION Programme (adriatic-ionian.eu)</a> <a href="https://adriatic-ionian.eu/8th-FORUM-EUSAIR-Sarajevo-23-25-May-Agenda-100523V6.pdf">8th-FORUM-EUSAIR-Sarajevo-23-25-May-Agenda-100523V6.pdf (adriatic-ionian.eu)</a>
4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Georgia	One of the examples is the Climate COP 26, held in October-November 2021 in Glasgow.
6.	Italy	Youth4Climate Initiative
NGOs		
7.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	UNECE Aarhus Convention meetings (Task Force meetings, WGP meetings, Meetings of the Parties)
8.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Our participation in online-meetings of the Aarhus Convention NGOs' Forum and/or EU4Dialogue energy transition group.
9.	Ecoropa	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Protocols
10.	Women Engage for a Common Future	Feminist Moderation Tool under REAL DEAL Project
Aarhus Centers		
11.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	The main example of good practice in promoting balanced and equal public participation in international forums is the annual meeting of Aarhus Centers to learn from each other's experience.

ii. Responsible organization:		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Ministry of Environment
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Interreg Adrion European Regional Development Fund – Instrument for Pre-Accession II Fund
4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Georgia	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
6.	Italy	UNDP
NGOs		
7.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat
8.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Aarhus Convention NGOs' Forum; EU
9.	Women Engage for a Common Future	Women Engage for a Common Future
Aarhus Centers		
10.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	OSCE Secretariat in Vienna

iii. Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:
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Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	From 5 to 30 in each of the meeting.
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	<a href="#">8th EUSAIR Forum, 23-25 May – Sarajevo – Interreg ADRION Programme (adrioninterreg.eu)</a> <a href="#">8th-FORUM-EUSAIR-Sarajevo-23-25-May-Agenda-100523V6.pdf (adriatic-ionian.eu)</a>
4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Georgia	hundreds of participants in total in all activities mentioned below
6.	Italy	young people from all over the world, including young people from vulnerable countries, with a gender balance
NGOs		
7.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	In-person meetings / CSOs / numerous
8.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	up to 15 -20 persons
9.	Women Engage for a Common Future	For the facilitators in test case countries chosen by the consortium (about 30 to 50 people)
Aarhus Centers		
10.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	1-2 people.

iv. Starting year and duration		
Parties		
1.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	23 -25 May 2023
3.	Finland	See above, question 2.
4.	Georgia	October – December 2021
5.	Italy	2022 ongoing
NGOs		
6.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	from 1998 onwards until 2023
7.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	from 2019 to date
8.	Women Engage for a Common Future	2023
Aarhus Centers		
9.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Annually

v. Partner organizations involved (if any):		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	UNDP, UNICEF
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Finland	See above, question 2.
4.	Georgia	see the answer in the item (viii) below
5.	Italy	children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC (YOUNGO), the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change (YAG), the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Connect4Climate from the World Bank, the UNFCCC Secretariat
NGOs		

6.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	UNECE Espoo Convention Secretariat
7.	Women Engage for a Common Future	REAL DEAL consortium <a href="https://www.realdeal.eu/">https://www.realdeal.eu/</a>
Aarhus Centers		
8.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	UNECE, EU, etc.

vi. Parties involved (if any): Describe their involvement in this tool / practice / mechanism and the kind of relationship you have with them.		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	UNDP Climate Change Programme coordination Center, Special committee's members, NGOs, scientists, youth, activists, etc.
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	The <b>8<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR FORUM</b> hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina's Presidency of Strategy will be organized <b>from 23 to 25 May</b> by the Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in close cooperation with the European Commission and with the support by the EUSAIR Facility Point ( <a href="https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/">https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/</a> ). The main topic of this year's EUSAIR forum is how to fight ' <b>brain drain</b> ' in the context of EU <b>enlargement</b> . Several events organized by youth organisations, central event on sustainable rural development, central event on possible introduction of social pillar in the EUSAIR, as well as other gatherings around innovation and circular economy will explore the possibilities for improving the situation.
4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Women Engage for a Common Future	none
Aarhus Centers		
6.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Aarhus centers in post-Soviet countries and European countries. We communicate once a year during meetings.

vii. Stakeholders involved. Describe their involvement in this tool / practice / mechanism and the kind of relationship you have with them.		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Partnership meetings, discussions Generally, partners invited through an open announcement, invitation messages by email, or targeted invitations.
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	has not yet been held
4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Italy	young people, youth organizations, governmental and non-governmental entities, academia, and civil society, to ensure comprehensive representation and collaboration.
Aarhus Centers		
6.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Representatives of public associations

viii. Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism. Please provide brief description:		
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Parties		
1.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	<p>Project to address complex environmental and social challenges. The results of the innovation camp will be used to define the basis for the collaboration between the Euro-MED (<a href="https://interreg-euro-med.eu/en/">https://interreg-euro-med.eu/en/</a>) Mission communityEUSAIR and the EUSAIR stakeholder networks.Projekt za rješavanje složenih ekoloških i društvenih izazova. Rezultati inovacijskog kampa koristit će se za definiranje temelja za suradnju između zajednice misije Euro-MED EUSAIR i mreža dionika EUSAIR-a (<a href="https://www.adriatic-ianian.eu/">https://www.adriatic-ianian.eu/</a>).</p>
3.	Finland	See above, question 2.
4.	Georgia	<p><u>Inform the public at the early stage</u> In order to provide the public with the information about the COP 26 in advance to the meeting, with the initiative of the Government of Georgia, namely the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) and with support of the British and Italian Embassies in Georgia, the conference was held in Tbilisi, Georgia in October 2021. The aim of the conference was to inform the broad audience and all stakeholders, including representatives from the government, international organizations, NGO and private sector, and experts about the planned events and activities, the issues to be discussed, Georgia's approaches, priorities and concrete steps towards the topics under the Climate COP 26 and Georgia's input to it.</p> <p><u>Inform the public during the Climate COP 26</u> During the Climate COP 26, Georgian delegation presented in Glasgow was preparing information and press releases permanently along with weekly summaries about the events and placed and disseminated through the official web-site of MEPA and its Facebook page as well as through other NGO web pages, e.g. NNLE Climate Basics.</p> <p><u>Inform the public on the outcomes of the Climate COP 26</u> After the conference, complete information was prepared on Georgia's activities under the Climate COP 26, including the conducted meetings and negotiations, and the new initiatives that were undertaken by the country. In December 2021, MEPA organized a meeting in online format intended to report on the Climate COP 26 outcomes, where representatives of various public institutions, local governments, international organizations, NGOs, scientific and private sectors were participated. The meeting had an interactive format and discussions were held about the activities carried out by Georgia, country's initiatives and their final results, as well as other new initiatives presented at the COP 26 which Georgia joined to, and the final outcomes of the Climate COP 26. Furthermore, together with the local NGO (the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)), through the National Climate Platform, MEPA organized another meeting dedicated to the COP 26 results. Additionally, MEPA participated in 3 rounds of meetings organized by NGO networks (Greens Movements, Climate Basics) aiming at reporting on the COP 26 outcomes, including decisions taken, Georgia's negotiations and activities.</p>



5.	Italy	<p>The Call for Proposals and Innovation Challenge Facility harness UNDP's established resources to equip young people with the necessary tools, resources, and direct grants for implementing innovative ideas and projects.</p> <p>Additionally, an online platform has been established to facilitate knowledge sharing, opportunities for the exchange of experiences among youth.</p> <p>Moreover, we actively support young people's participation in our flagship global events, such as UNFCCC climate weeks and other relevant gatherings, by providing assistance for travel expenses and fostering valuable connections.</p>
NGOs		
6.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	To facilitate the participation of the representatives of the civil society at meetings of the Aarhus Convention.
7.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	exchange of information on best practices for overcoming challenges or similar problems, gathering of idea bank.
8.	Women Engage for a Common Future	WECF decided to create this course on feminist moderation, because we realised that there is a gap in (online) trainings for how to moderate in an inclusive and sensitive way, focusing on diverse engagement and gender. This course covers the basics of feminist moderation and how this facilitates equality within a group, as well as specific feminist moderation techniques one can use in a variety of situations.

ix.Methodology/ approach used.		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Discussion, statements and written recommendations
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	has not yet been held
4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Georgia	To give more flexibility to the participants during the COVID 19 pandemic period as well as share information more effectively and purposefully, the conference in October 2021 in Tbilisi was held in a hybrid format and was split into three different panels (with the panel discussions), such as: I - COP 26 priorities, II - Climate Change and migration, and international processes, and III - Role of private sector in green finance
6.	Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including young people, youth organizations, governmental and non-governmental entities, academia, and civil society, to ensure comprehensive representation and collaboration.</li> <li>Needs Assessment: Conduct a thorough needs assessment to identify the specific challenges and priorities of young people in relation to climate action. This includes understanding their aspirations, concerns, and innovative ideas.</li> <li>Capacity Building: Develop and implement capacity-building programs to empower young people with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to participate in climate action actively. This can include training</li> </ul>

		<p>workshops, mentorship programs, online courses, and access to relevant tools and information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Innovation and Solution Development:</b> Encourage and support young people in developing innovative solutions to address climate change challenges. This can involve hosting innovation challenges, providing seed funding or grants for youth-led projects, and facilitating partnerships between young innovators and relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• <b>Advocacy and Awareness:</b> Promote youth-led advocacy and raise awareness about the importance of climate action. This can be achieved through campaigns, social media engagement, public events, and partnerships with media outlets.</li> <li>• <b>Platform for Collaboration:</b> Establish an online platform or community where young people can connect, collaborate, and share their experiences, ideas, and best practices. This platform can serve as a hub for networking, knowledge sharing, and showcasing youth-led initiatives.</li> <li>• <b>Participation in Global Forums:</b> Facilitate the active participation of young people in global climate conferences, forums, and events. This can be done by providing support for travel expenses, organizing youth-specific sessions or side events, and advocating for meaningful youth representation in decision-making processes.</li> <li>• <b>Monitoring and Evaluation:</b> Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the Youth4Climate Initiative. This includes measuring the outcomes of youth-led projects, tracking the engagement and empowerment of young people, and incorporating feedback.</li> </ul>
NGOs		
7.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	Funding support provided to the representatives of the civil society.
8.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	exchange of ideas, discussions, correspondence, joint work, analysis, preparation of recommendations and/or outcome documents, statement presentations, etc.
9.	Women Engage for a Common Future	Training – online course

x. Results		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Gathering of comprehensive information, raising problems, information on best-practices, disclosure of activities by several stakeholders on the issues.
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	has not yet been held
4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Georgia	Despite there was no physical public participation from Georgian side in the Climate COP 26, the Government of Georgia ensured that the public, who was interested in the COP 26 was duly

		informed in advance of the conference, had regularly updated information during the conference, and was reported about Georgia's input to and the outcomes of the Climate COP 26.
6.	Italy	<p>To date, Youth4Climate has achieved significant results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully organized two global events: The first event occurred in PreCOP26 Milan in 2021, gathering nearly 400 young people, followed by another event in New York in 2022, with 150 young participants, alongside the 76th United Nations General Assembly, showcasing the active engagement of youth leaders worldwide and substantial high-level participation.</li> <li>• Introduced an innovative funding mechanism: it launched a funding tool specifically designed to support and implement youth-led projects. The launch of our first call for solutions was met with overwhelming enthusiasm, receiving an impressive response of over 1000 applications from young people across the globe.</li> <li>• Developed an extensive communication system: a comprehensive communication system plays a vital role in mobilizing young people and ensuring their active participation in international and multilateral forums addressing climate change. The Y4C online platform has successfully brought together a community of over 7000 individuals, providing a dynamic space for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and engagement on climate issues. The power of the #Youth4Climate hashtag has resonated globally, generating over 1 billion interactions across various social media platforms.</li> </ul> <p>Indeed, this year, Youth4Climate will host a three-day global event in Rome in October this year. This will serve as a dynamic platform for young people to showcase their innovative solutions in key thematic areas: Urban sustainability, Food and Agriculture, Energy, and Climate education. The 150 participants for this flagship event will be selected from over 1000 applications received through the call for solutions launched in September.</p>
NGOs		
7.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	Numerous representatives of the civil society could participate in person and could contribute to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention at meetings in the past 25 years.
8.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Hope, results we will see soon.
9.	Women Engage for a Common Future	none yet
Aarhus Centers		
10.	Aarhus Center Turkmenistan	Familiarisation with the practice of Aarhus centers in foreign countries

Strengths, lessons learned.		
Parties		
1.	Armenia (in collaboration with Yerevan Aarhus Center)	Such initiatives help to increase the effectiveness of participation and comprehensive decision-making.
2.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	has not yet been held

4.	Finland	See above, question 2.
5.	Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Youth Empowerment:</b> The Youth4Climate Initiative has successfully empowered young people by providing them with a platform to voice their concerns, ideas, and solutions related to climate change. This has led to increased youth engagement and active participation in climate action.</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration and Partnerships:</b> The initiative has fostered solid collaborations and partnerships with various stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, youth networks, and civil society. This multi-stakeholder approach has facilitated resource-sharing, knowledge exchange, and implementing of impactful projects.</li> <li>• <b>Awareness and Advocacy:</b> The initiative has successfully raised awareness about the urgency of climate action among young people and the broader society. It has effectively advocated for climate justice and influenced public opinion through campaigns, events, and social media engagement.</li> <li>• <b>Learning from Youth Perspectives:</b> The Youth4Climate Initiative has recognized the importance of learning from youth perspectives and experiences. By actively listening to young people, the initiative has gained valuable insights, which have informed policy-making and decision-making processes.</li> <li>• <b>Scalability and Replicability:</b> The successful implementation of the Youth4Climate Initiative has demonstrated its scalability and replicability. The lessons learned can be applied in different contexts and regions, allowing for establishing similar initiatives tailored to specific needs and circumstances.</li> <li>• <b>Long-Term Impact:</b> The Youth4Climate Initiative has focused on creating a long-term impact by integrating youth-led initiatives and ideas into national and international climate action strategies. This ensures that the voices and contributions of young people are sustained beyond the duration of the initiative.</li> <li>• <b>Inspiring Future Leaders:</b> The Youth4Climate Initiative has played a crucial role in inspiring and nurturing the next generation of climate leaders. Providing opportunities for skill development, networking, and mentorship, it has contributed to the development of a strong and capable youth climate movement.</li> </ul>
NGOs		
6.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	CSO participation could enhance the level of discussion, enrich the discourse about access rights implementation and could support the Secretariat in a number of ways with useful information and knowledge.

7.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Unity is strength. Where is a will, there is a way.
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Problems / challenges encountered.		
Parties		
1.	Austria	Example described under the General remarks above
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	has not yet been held
3.	Finland	See above, question 2.
4.	Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Youth4Climate initiative, like any other program, faces specific challenges and obstacles. Some of the fundamental problems or challenges that may arise in the Youth4Climate initiative include:</li> <li>• Limited Resources: Adequate funding and resources are crucial to support the successful implementation of youth-led projects and initiatives within the Youth4Climate movement. While the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security has been a key donor, it is important to diversify funding sources and create synergies with other funds. Expanding the pool of donors and establishing partnerships with international organizations, private sector entities, and philanthropic foundations can help secure additional financial support for the initiative. By broadening the funding base, the Youth4Climate initiative can enhance its sustainability and expand its impact in empowering youth to drive climate action.</li> <li>• Inclusion and Representation: Ensuring diverse representation and inclusivity within the Youth4Climate movement can be challenging. It is essential to create an inclusive platform representing the voices and perspectives of young people from various backgrounds, regions, and socio-economic contexts.</li> <li>• Policy and Decision-making Influence: Despite the enthusiasm and innovative ideas of youth participants, there may be challenges in translating their proposals and recommendations into tangible policy change and ensuring that youth voices are heard and given meaningful influence in policy and decision-making processes can be challenging.</li> <li>• Sustainability and Long-term engagement: Sustaining the momentum and engagement of young people in climate action beyond specific events or initiatives can be challenging. It is crucial to provide ongoing support, resources, and platforms for young people to continue their involvement and contribute to long-term climate solutions.</li> <li>• Overcoming Apathy and Resistance: Encouraging widespread participation and overcoming apathy or resistance to climate action can be challenging. Communicating the urgency and importance of climate action effectively and engaging diverse stakeholders to mobilize collective efforts is essential.</li> <li>• Addressing these challenges requires continuous collaboration, resource mobilization, inclusive decision-making, and sustained engagement with young people. By recognizing and proactively addressing these</li> </ul>

		obstacles, the Youth4Climate initiative can enhance its impact and create meaningful change in addressing the climate crisis.
NGOs		
5.	Association Justice and Environment, z.s.	The own resources of the civil society to participate in these meetings without funding from the Secretariat are still too weak.
6.	BlueLink Foundation, Bulgaria	n/a
7.	Dalma-Sona, Armenia	Recommendations has no mandatory character for Parties, The number of participants in discussions is small /not enough/.

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