

**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 4 (a) of the provisional agenda:

**Substantive issues: Thematic session on public participation  
in decision-making**

**Public Participation in Decision-making<sup>1</sup>**

**Provisional programme for the thematic session<sup>2</sup>**

to be held on Monday, 26 June 2023, 10.45 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.40 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Loredana Dall’Ora

**Introduction**

*Timing: 10.45 a.m.–11.00 a.m.*

The Chair of the session will introduce organization of work during the thematic session and the main topics for discussion. The session will be organized in a format of panel presentations followed by a general discussion. The topics for discussion are based on decision VII/2 on promoting effective public participation in decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/2021/12/Add.1), adopted by the Convention’s Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021), and the key outcomes of the work of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making. The session aims to cover issues related to:

- (a) safe public participation and protection of environmental defenders in the context of decision-making on environmental matters; and
- (b) public participation in decision-making on large-scale infrastructure/transport.

**I. Safe public participation and protection of environmental defenders**

*Timing: 11.00 a.m.–noon*

This item will focus on the issue of safe public participation and protection of environmental defenders in the context of decision-making on environmental matters.

*Panellists: 40 min (11.00-11.40)*

- *Mr. Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention*
- *Ms. Charlotta Von Troil, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legislative Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Finland*
- *Ms. Summer Kern, Justice & Environment/European ECO Forum*
- *Ms. Maja Markovska, Aarhus Center Skopje, North Macedonia*

*Discussion 20 min (11.40-noon)*

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

<sup>2</sup> Background information on work area on public participation in decision-making is available from: <https://unece.org/env/pp/aarhus-convention/tfppdm>

## II. Public participation with regard to large-scale infrastructure/transport

*Timing: noon–12.50 p.m.*

This item will focus on the issue of public participation in decision-making on large-scale infrastructure/transport.

*Panellists: 30 min (noon-12.30)*

- Ms. Nino Gokhelashvili, Head, Sustainable Development Division, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia
- Ms. Nava Sheer, Urban Planner, GIS Coordinator, Bimkom, Planners for Planning Rights
- Mr. Csaba Kiss, Justice & Environment/European ECO Forum

*Discussion 20 min (12.30-12.50)*

## III. General discussion

*Timing: 12.50–1.00 p.m. and 3.00–3.20 p.m.*

Participants will be invited to exchange views on other relevant matters.

## IV. Conclusions

*Timing: 3.20–3.40 p.m.*

The Chair of the thematic session will make concluding remarks.

### Documents and background material

- Relevant decisions, background documents, presentations and outcomes of the meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making: <https://unece.org/env/pp/aarhus-convention/tfppdm>
- Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2023/5)
- 2021 Synthesis Report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/6) available from [https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/Aarhus\\_Convention\\_MoP7](https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/Aarhus_Convention_MoP7) (tab Category II pre-session documents) and 2021 national implementation reports available from <https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/reports>
- Maastricht Recommendations on Public Participation in Decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2) available from <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/maastricht-recommendations-public-participation-decision-making>
- Relevant resources in [the Aarhus Clearinghouse](#)

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