

**FIFTY FIRST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
(AARHUS CONVENTION)**

28 June 2023, Geneva

REPORT OF THE MEETING¹

ATTENDANCE

Bureau members: Mr. Aurimas Saladžius (Lithuania, Chair), Ms. Nicolette Bouman (Netherlands, Vice-Chair), Ms. Nino Gokhelashvili (Georgia, Vice-Chair), Ms. Chiara Landini (Italy), Ms. Zsuzsanna Belenyessy (European Union), Ms. Kateryna Luchko (Ukraine), Ms. Malaj Enkelejda (Albania).

Observers: Ms. Summer Kern (NGO Observer, European ECO Forum).

I. Opening and adoption of agenda

1. Mr. Aurimas Saladžius, Chair, outlined the main objectives of the meeting, namely, to consider: (a) preparations for the next eighth session of the Convention's Meeting of the Parties; and (b) relevant matters derived from the discussions during the twenty-seventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 26-28 June 2023).

2. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Chair and adopted the provisional agenda of the meeting.

II. Preparations for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties

3. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the secretariat regarding preparations for the eighth ordinary session of the Convention's Meeting of the Parties tentatively scheduled for fall 2025, including hosting of the event, a timeline for preparing different documents for decision-making (e.g. decisions on the work programme, on financial arrangements, on substantive work areas and on compliance matter) and possibility to hold a High-level Segment. It was noted in this regard that the eighth session will be held back-to-back with the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs. The Bureau also discussed its future working methods, such as in-person and virtual meetings and consultations and decision-making through electronic means.

III. Relevant matters derived from the discussions during the meeting of the Working Group of the Parties

4. The Bureau discussed the finance-related issues raised at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties and requested the secretariat to prepare a guiding note with a reference to UN scale of assessments to supplement the future draft decision on financial arrangements to be submitted to the twenty-eighth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties.

5. The Bureau also considered opportunities for promoting adoption of the Resolution J (70): Implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice

¹ This document was not formally edited.

in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) submitted by ECE² to UN Economic and Social Council at its management segment to be held on 25-26 July 2023³.

IV. Closing

6. The Chair thanked the Bureau for constructive work and the secretariat for its support and closed the meeting.

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² See <https://unece.org/sessions-commission/events/seventieth-session-commission-18-19-april-2023>; Other issues calling for decision by the Commission, Item IX : <https://unece.org/oes/documents/2023/03/working-documents/other-issues-calling-decision-commission>
See: Oral Statement related to draft decision IX: <https://unece.org/oes/documents/2023/03/working-documents/oral-statement-related-draft-decision-ix>

³ See <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/2023-management-segment>