

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

Statement by the Republic of Moldova

For item 4 (b) - Access to Information

Salle XXIII, Building E, Palais des Nations

Timing: Monday 26 June, 3.40–4 p.m.

- Activities in this work area have focused on promoting effective access to information, as required by articles 4 and 5 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, in line with decision VII/1.
- Sharing the experience with other international forums, capacity-building and expert meetings dealing with access to environmental information and electronic information tools were among major activities. This, in particular included inputs provided to the Ninth "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference held in Nicosia in October 2022 and the ECE Committee session on digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe in April 2023.
- Let me also recall that the WGP thematic session on access to information in June 2022 focused on advancing public access to environment-related product information. In particular, the Working Group addressed: (a) public access to product information and digitalization; (b) public access to product information and measures against greenwashing; and (c) means to encourage operators to inform the public (eco-labelling, eco-auditing, environmental, social and governance solutions).
- The Working Group requested the Task Force on Access to Information, in cooperation with the Parties and stakeholders, to continue the expert exchange of information and good practices and possible means of improving access to product information, and promote cooperation with relevant international initiatives and processes dealing with product information.
- Following up on the outcomes of this session, we have also started preparations for the eight meeting of the Task Force, which is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 9-10 November 2023.
- I also would like to take this opportunity to remind the Parties that a call for new or update of existing case studies on electronic information tools and

other resource material is ongoing, with a view to the continued population of the Aarhus Clearinghouse Good Practice online database and sharing of experience, good practices and lessons learned to advance the implementation.

- The work area on access to information remains highly actual in particular in view of recent technological developments and the crucial demand to modernize digital environmental information system, promote environmental transparency, improve environmental data collection, including from business operators and the public and ensure protection of personal data. Let me underline that our work provides solid support to Parties in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 16.10 of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements), Sustainable Development Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production) and other relevant international commitments.
- Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all Parties and delegates for their continued support to the Task Force. I look forward to continuing our engagement.