

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Tenth meeting

Geneva, 27 and 28 November 2023

Item 6(b): Fifth session of the

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol - Hosting and preparatory timeline

Note on the preparatory timeline for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

prepared by the secretariat¹

This document outlines an indicative preparatory timeline for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs and their associated meetings, suggested to be held back-to-back in October/November 2025 respectively. The timeline is prepared on the basis of a similar note drafted for the previous sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

Activity	Tentative deadline
Submission of Aarhus Convention National Implementation Reports and Protocol on PRTRs National Implementation Reports	15 January 2025 (recommended), <i>a guiding note will be prepared by the secretariat in due course</i>
Launch of the UNECE web pages dedicated to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (AC MoP-8) and fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (PRTRs MoPP-5) respectively, containing information on online registration	March-April 2025
Launch of a host-country website on practical arrangements for AC MoP-8 and PRTRs MoPP-5, which will be linked to the relevant UNECE AC MoP-8 and PRTRs MoPP-5 web-pages	March-April 2025
Mailing of invitation letters by UNECE and opening of online registration	April-May 2025

¹ This document was not formally edited.

Registration	
(a) for delegates from non-governmental organizations (NGOs):	
Online registration and submission of the requests for financial support	1 June 2025
Submission of registrations to the European ECO-Forum by the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs secretariat	10 June 2025
Submission of a proposal from the European ECO-Forum to the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs secretariat on the composition of NGOs delegation and on provision of financial support to NGOs	25 June 2025
(b) for other delegates eligible to apply for financial support:	
Submission of official nomination letters for delegations together with online registration and requests for financial support to the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs secretariat	10 June 2025
(c) for all other delegates:	
Submission of official nomination letters for delegations and online registration	25 June 2025
Submission of credentials to the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs secretariat	To facilitate the procedure of verification of credentials, Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol are invited to submit the credentials of delegates or a copy of the credentials to the secretariat before 1 September 2025. Those Parties that submitted a copy of the credentials should present their originals to the secretariat before AC MOP-8 and PRTRs MoPP-5, on arrival at the meeting. It is strongly recommended that originals of the credentials should be submitted to the secretariat as soon as possible but no later than three hours before the opening of AC MoP-8 and PRTRs MoPP-5 respectively. More information will be provided in due course.

Official Documents²	
For AC MoP-8³	
Initial discussion on draft decisions (except for decisions on compliance matter) and on draft provisional AC MoP-8 agenda, and on a concept of possible draft Declaration	28th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, 2-4 July 2024
Discussion on and approval of draft decisions (except for decisions on compliance matter) and of provisional AC MoP-8 agenda, discussion on possible draft Declaration	29th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties in 2025, dates tbc
Finalization of the provisional AC MoP-8 agenda and other official documents by the secretariat for submission to the editing and processing by the Documents Management Service of United Nations Office at Geneva <i>Documents will be uploaded on the AC MoP-8 webpage as soon as they become available</i>	March-August 2025 (<i>subject to the availability of documents</i>)
Discussion on and approval of the remaining draft decisions and of the draft Declaration, as required, and the adoption of documents	Preparatory segment of AC MoP-7 and joint High-level Segment
For Protocol on PRTRs MoPP-5	
Initial discussion on future draft decisions, on elements for draft MoPP-5 agenda and for a possible draft Declaration, paving the way to the preparation of the respective documents	10 th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, 27-28 November 2023
Pursuant to the outcomes of the discussions by the Working Group of the Parties, the Bureau prepares draft decisions, draft elements for a possible Declaration and draft provisional PRTRs MoPP-5 agenda, to be distributed to national focal points and stakeholders for comments	March-April 2024
The revised, as appropriate, taking into account the comments received, draft decisions, draft elements for a possible Declaration and draft PRTRs MoPP-5 agenda are considered by the Bureau and submitted to the Working Group of the Parties	June-September 2024
Discussion on and approval of draft decisions and of provisional PRTRs MoPP-5 agenda, discussion on possible draft Declaration	11 th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, November 2024

² Please note that documents prepared in advance for AC MoP-8 and PRTRs MoPP-5 are divided into the following categories:

Category I (official documents for possible action, for instance agenda and decisions).

Category II (official background documents, for instance synthesis report).

Category III (other documents relevant to the agenda, for instance national implementation reports).

³ A separate Note on the preparatory timeline for Aarhus Convention MoP-8 will be prepared by the secretariat in due course.

Finalization of the provisional PRTRs MoPP-5 agenda and other official documents by the secretariat for submission to the editing and processing by the Documents Management Service of United Nations Office at Geneva <i>Documents will be uploaded on the PRTRs MoPP-5 webpage as soon as they become available.</i>	February-April 2025 (<i>subject to the availability of documents</i>)
Discussion on and approval of any possible remaining draft decisions and of the draft Declaration, as required, and the adoption of documents	PRTRs MoPP-5 and joint High-level Segment
Nominations for the Compliance Committee under the - Aarhus Convention - Protocol on PRTRs	
Submission of nominations for the Compliance Committee (<i>to the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs secretariat</i>) ⁴	<i>A guiding note on nominations will be prepared by the secretariat in due course</i>
Dissemination of nominations for the Compliance Committee (<i>by the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs secretariat</i>) ⁵	<i>A guiding note on nominations will be prepared by the secretariat in due course</i>

⁴ Nominations for the Committees should be sent to the secretariat in at least one of the official languages of the Convention/Protocol no later than 12 weeks before the opening of the MOPs. See paragraph 5 (a) of the annex to Decision I/7 (Review of Compliance) of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.8) and paragraph 5 (a) of the annex to Decision I/2 (Review of Compliance) of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add/1). Deadlines for submission and distribution of nominations will be determined once dates for the MoP-8 and MoPP-5 are set.

⁵ The secretariat should distribute the nominations (including the curricula vitae) for the Committees at least six weeks before the opening of MOPs. See paragraph 5 (c) of the annex to Decision I/7 (Review of Compliance) in conjunction with rule 10 of the annex to Decision I/1 (Rules of Procedure) (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.2) of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention; as well as paragraph 5 (c) of the annex to Decision I/2 in conjunction with rule 10 of the annex to Decision I/1 (Rules of Procedure) of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.