

## 28th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention Geneva, 2-4 July 2024

### Agenda item 5 Public Participation in International Forums

By Ms. Alison Hough, European ECO Forum/Center for International Environmental Law

#### Future work

Issues to be given priority

17. During the next inter-sessional period, it is proposed to focus the work on several new substantive areas, such as minerals and metals and management of marine resources, **and emerging digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, distributed ledger technology, quantum technology and corporate sustainability and due diligence. Ongoing engagements with OECD and UN CEFAC should be continued in relation to their work on emerging digital technologies like blockchain. New international forums such the Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence, OHCHR Working Group on Business and Human Rights and international standard setting bodies should be prioritised.** In addition, Parties or stakeholders may identify other international forums to be of particular priority.

18. Moreover, the progress achieved in promoting the Convention's principles in IFIs, climate change-, energy-, plastics, **emerging digital technologies**, business and human rights, and sustainable development- related decision making, as well as in UNEP and UNEA processes, should be further monitored. AC/WGP-28/Inf.4 5 19. All Parties should be encouraged to engage in surveys on specific subjects as this tool allows to share diverse experiences and identify common challenges.'