

Promotion of the Aarhus Convention principles in International Forums – *focus on geoengineering*

Aarhus Convention WGP-28

2-4 June 2024

Geneva



Georgia's example

Checklist of measures

☐ List of environmental international forums in which GoG participates

- Title
- Signing / adoption / entry into force / established year
- Georgia's accession year
- Texts – English, Georgian
- Websites
- NFPs / NCPs
- *NIRs of some MEAs*

placed on the EIEC website - eiec.gov.ge



Georgia's example

- ❑ Officially appointed **NFPs / NCPs** for each international forum
- ❑ English and Georgian versions of **Almaty guidelines** (*not short information note on Aarhus Convention art. 3, para. 7 and the Almaty Guidelines*) were disseminated within government institutions in 2006. *Placed on eiec.gov.ge*
- ❑ NFPs / NCPs **annual meetings** are conducted almost every year
Aarhus Convention principles are promoted among other NFPs/NCPs
- ❑ Carry out initial **survey** on article 3, paragraph 7 - *No*
- ❑ Separate **trainings** on this topic - *No*
- ❑ **WGP is reported** on general rules and good practices of PPIF, *e.g.:*
 - inclusion of the public representatives in official delegations of the country and support in other logistical arrangements, as appropriate
 - UNFCCC COP 26 – information/participation before, during and after the COP



Georgia's example

International Forums dealing with geoengineering & geology in which Georgia participates

NEA / Geology Department / Disaster Processes and Engineering-Geology Division

- **International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment /IAEG / 1964 / *GEO - 2013***
 - Promote / encourage advancement of engineering geology through technological activities & research
 - Improve teaching & training in engineering geology
 - Collect / evaluate / disseminate results of engineering geological activities worldwide

- **European Geosciences Union /EGU / 2002 / *GEO - 2013***
 - Realise sustainable and just future for humanity & planet
 - Foster fundamental geoscience research

- **International Consortium on Landslides /ICL / 2002 / *GEO - 2014***
 - ICL established International Programme on Landslides (IPL), which includes:
 - ✓ IPL projects
 - ✓ Triannual World Landslide Forum / WLF /
 - ✓ World Centres of Excellence on Landslide Risk Reduction / WCoE /

- **International Association for Natural Hazard Risk Management / EcorisQ / 2013 / *GEO - 2022***
 - Promote sustainable, nature-based solutions for natural hazard risk reduction by bringing together science & practice for the development & dissemination of transparent tools for natural hazard & risk analyses



Georgia's example

Public participation in International forums dealing with geoengineering & geology

NEA **participates** in meetings /conferences, congresses, workshops, etc./ organized by International Forums:

- Presents activities on geoengineering & geology in Georgia
- Reports on the challenges in the country
- Shares & discusses information & materials of upcoming meetings, which will be presented from the country with:
 - ✓ Profiled students of universities
 - ✓ Other interested organizations, mainly - scientific
- **Shares** information in different formats:
 - ✓ Presentations
 - ✓ Articles
 - ✓ Workshops
 - ✓ *Etc.*



Georgia's example

Main challenge - *lack of public participation level*

Possible reasons:

General

- Lack of **awareness** / understanding of importance of introducing the Aarhus Convention principles in international forums
- Lack of **interest**
- Lack of **capacity** / **resources**

Specific - geoengineering

- Lack of awareness / **knowledge** among the general public on geoengineering *as a new / specific field*
- **Complexity** – quite technical / complex field geoengineering makes it difficult for the general public to understand / be engaged
- Lack of knowledge - **how geoengineering directly relates** to citizen's wellbeing *e.g., such as a pressing issue compared to the more tangible and immediate impacts of climate change, etc.*
- Lack of perception - how public **involvement directly benefits** their lives
- Lack of international forums **specifically dedicated to geoengineering** compared to others *e.g., climate and environment, sustainable development, etc.*



Promote the Aarhus Convention principles in international forums

General

- **Awareness raising** on international forums & Convention's principles
- **Increased transparency** in decision-making & outcomes of international forums
- **Easy accessibility** to international forums
- **Flexible participatory mechanisms** in international forums
- **Effective engagement mechanisms:**
 - Interactive **platforms** - develop online platforms for public dialogue / consultation
 - Active **discussions** - organize meetings on the agenda & outcomes of the forums
 - Citizen **panels** - establish citizen panels to represent public interests in the forums
- Demonstration of consideration of the **public input**
- **Capacity building** – resources for participation

Specific – geoengineering

in addition:

- **Awareness raising** on international forums on geoengineering & geology
- Provision of information in “**public language**”
- Clear **linkages** between geoengineering processes and citizen's wellbeing
- Evidence of public involvement **benefit** to their lives
- **Capacity building** to conduct these activities





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