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 / knowledge 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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