The Aarhus Convention Reporting Mechanism

2025 Reporting Cycle - Practical Considerations

Aarhus Convention secretariat
2025 Reporting Cycle

Objective of the presentation

• To inform Parties and other stakeholders on practical considerations related to preparation and submission on National implementation reports (NIRs) for 2025 reporting cycle

• Key to remember:
  – **Recommended submission deadline**: 1 February 2025
  – The **formal deadline** for submitting the report: 180 days in advance of the ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties *(to be confirmed once dates for next session are set)*
Presentation outline

• **What**
  - Content

• **Who**
  - Parties
    - Signatories and other stakeholders
    - Role of the secretariat

• **When**
  - NIRs preparation process and timeline

• **How**
  - Reporting format
  - NIRs submission process
What

Parties are requested to submit report on:

➢ The legislative, regulatory or other measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention

➢ Their practical implementation
Key tips on the content

- Provide adequate and clear answers to the questions
- Clearly identify new information (new laws, official interpretation, guidance to the public)
- Address all questions but focus on areas of difficulty
- Avoid just listing instruments, but more information on official interpretation
- More information on the practice (practical measures, administrative circulars and institutional arrangements, capacity building, budgetary allocations)
- Be user friendly for the reader
- Avoid cross-referencing
What

Key tips on the content

- Follow the format in ENG FRE RUS, see annex to Decision IV/4, available from: http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports.html

## What

### Parties & stakeholders

- Only Parties are required to submit the report.
- Signatories, other States and stakeholders are welcomed to submit it.

| Parties to the Convention | • required  
|                          | • no special status for recent Parties |
| Signatories and other States | • may report on measures taken, pending ratification and/or accession |
| International, regional, non-governmental organizations | • may report on their lessons learnt, programmes or activities providing support to Parties/States in the implementation |
Who

Role of the secretariat

- Role of secretariat is two-fold:
  - to collect reports
  - to prepare a synthesis report

Collects the NIRs, ensures publication online, as received, for availability to MOP

Prepares a synthesis report for MOP
- summarizing the progress made
- identifying significant trends, challenges and solutions
When

NIRs preparation process

- We recommend to prepare NIRs in five steps and envisage enough time for each step

1. Consultation on the content
   - 3 months

2. First draft of the NIR
   - 2 months

3. Consultation on first draft
   - 1-2 months

4. Final report preparation
   - 2 months

5. NIR submission deadline
   - 180 days before MOP

Comments received to be incorporated in the final report

Vital to receive on time for the preparation of synthesis report

Recommended submission deadline: 1 February 2025
When

NIRs preparation timeline

• By August most Parties should have their first draft of the NIR prepared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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<td>4. Final report preparation</td>
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<td>5. NIR submission</td>
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2-4 July WGP-28

1 Feb 2025 Recommended deadline
How

The reporting format

• In accordance with the format set out in the annex to decision IV/4
• In form of a questionnaire
  – Each article dealt with through a separate set of questions
• Limit of 13,000 words
  – including the section headings drawn from the reporting format
  – enables to allocate a proportionate level of detail to each item
How

The reporting format

• There are some differences on how recent Parties should go about preparing a report compared to older Parties:

• First time?
  – Follow the 2011 revised format (decision IV/4)

• Second, third or fourth time?
  – Use the submitted previous report and work with track changes to enable recording of changes + upload online the clean version
How

Key Steps prior to Submission

• Prepare the **final clean report in one or more official UNECE languages** (English, French or Russian), as well as in the language(s) of the Party

• Provide **voluntary translations** in the other two UNECE languages

• Ensure **signing of the final clean version of the report** in one of the official UNECE languages, as appropriate, by the responsible officer

• Prepare the **report in track changes** (compared to the 2021 reports) in one of the official UNECE languages, as appropriate

• Subscribe to the **NIR online reporting tool** using “sign in” button as to get the necessary credentials from the secretariat: https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/user/register
Select any filter and click on Submit to see results

**Synthesis reports** on the status of implementation of the Convention for each reporting cycle prepared by the secretariat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>ENG</th>
<th>FRE</th>
<th>RUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>FRE</td>
<td>RUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>FRE</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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Key reference documents for preparing national implementation reports by the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

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<td>RUS</td>
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<td>Decision of the Meeting of the Parties IV/4</td>
<td>ENG</td>
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<td>Decision of the Meeting of the Parties VI/7</td>
<td>ENG</td>
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<td>Guidance on reporting requirements</td>
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For further information and practical guidance for the current reporting cycle, please visit [2025 NIR web page](#).
Synthesis reports on the status of implementation of the Convention for each reporting cycle prepared by the secretariat

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---|---|---|---
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2017 | ENG | FRE | RUS
2014 | ENG | FRE | RUS
2011 | ENG | FRE | RUS
2008 | ENG | FRE | RUS
2005 | ENG | FRE | RUS

Key reference documents for preparing national implementation reports by the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

Document | ENG | FRE | RUS
---|---|---|---
Decision of the Meeting of the Parties I/8 | ENG | FRE | RUS
Decision of the Meeting of the Parties IV/4 | ENG | FRE | RUS
Decision of the Meeting of the Parties VI/7 | ENG | FRE | RUS
Guidance on reporting requirements | ENG | FRE | RUS

For further information and practical guidance for the current reporting cycle, please visit [2025 NIR web page](#).
USER REGISTRATION

PARTY
- Select a value -

FIRST NAME *

LAST NAME *

EMAIL ADDRESS *

USERNAME *

ORGANIZATION *

FUNCTIONAL TITLE

CAPTCHA *

WHAT CODE IS IN THE IMAGE? *

This question is for testing whether or not you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

CREATE NEW ACCOUNT
How

Submission process

Submit reports **electronically** through the **NIR online reporting tool**: https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/reports

- **Log in to the NIR online reporting tool** using your credentials as to access template for uploading national implementation report: https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/user/login

- **Copy the final report in the official language(s) of the UNECE** (ENG, FRE, RUS) to the online template.

- Upload as attachments electronic copies of:
  - **the signed final clean report** in the official UNECE languages(s) (ENG, FRE, RUS)
  - **report in track changes** (compare to their 2021 reports) in the official UNECE language(s)
  - **final clean report in the language(s) of the Party**
The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, or Aarhus Convention, and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) empower people with the rights to access information, participate in decision-making and seek justice in environmental matters. Thus, they effectively contribute to the protection of the right of every person to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. They also provide a solid and comprehensive framework for governments to engage the public effectively in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16.

There are currently 47 Parties to the Aarhus Convention and 38 Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs).

**AARHUS CONVENTION REPORTING MECHANISM**

Pursuant to article 10 of the Aarhus Convention, the Parties keep under continuous review the implementation of the Convention on the basis of regular reporting by the Parties. To promote further the exchange of knowledge and experience, the national implementation reports prepared by the Parties for each reporting cycle are made accessible through the search engine below. It allows:

1. To search national reports by Party, reporting cycle, report question and key word. It is also possible to select multiple Parties, reporting cycles and/or report questions and download the search results.
2. To search for national reports submitted in national languages and/or track changes in pdf and/or word file format. To enable this search, please tick the box next to “Report files”.


For further information and practical guidance for the current reporting cycle, please visit the 2025 NIR web page.

Information about previous reporting cycles is available here.
Select any filter and click on Submit to see results.
Additional information & Contact

For reporting matters, please consult:
https://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports.html
or contact the secretariat at:
aarhus.survey@un.org