

The Aarhus Convention Reporting Mechanism

2025 Reporting Cycle - Practical Considerations

Aarhus Convention secretariat



UNECE

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**

What

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>
- Consult the Compliance Committee guidance document (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/L.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

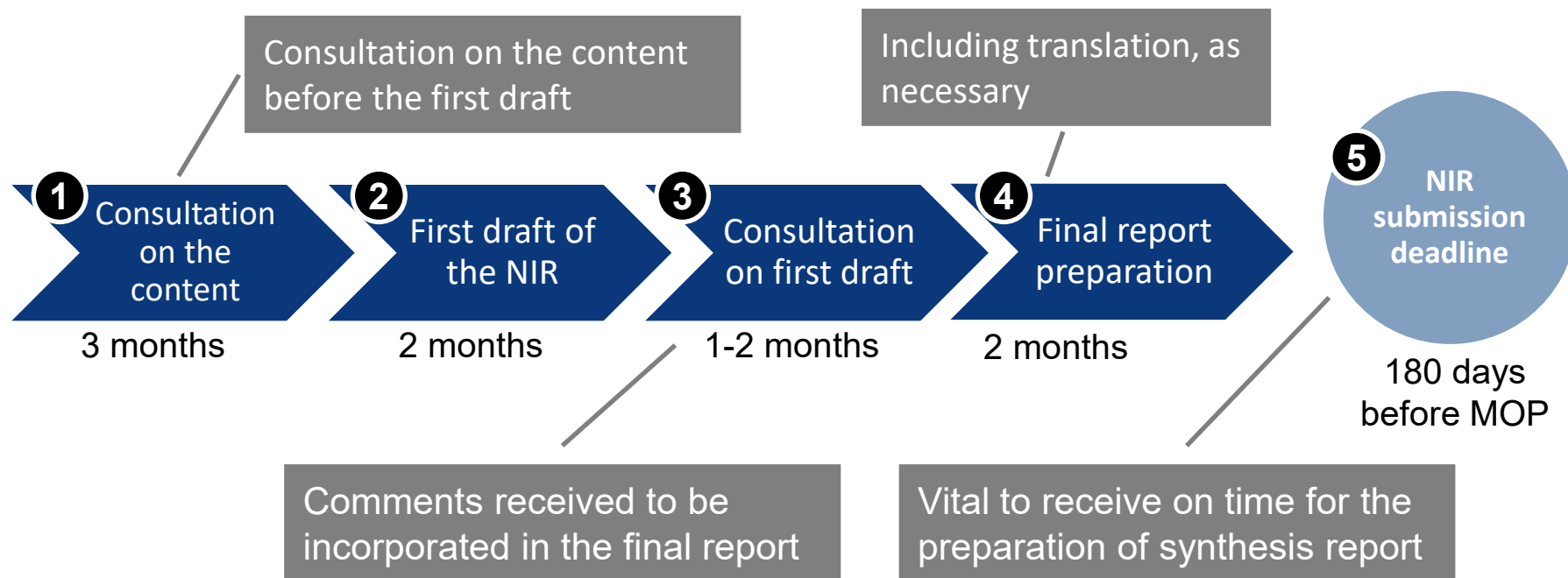
- summarizing the progress made
- identifying significant trends, challenges and solutions



When

NIRs preparation process

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

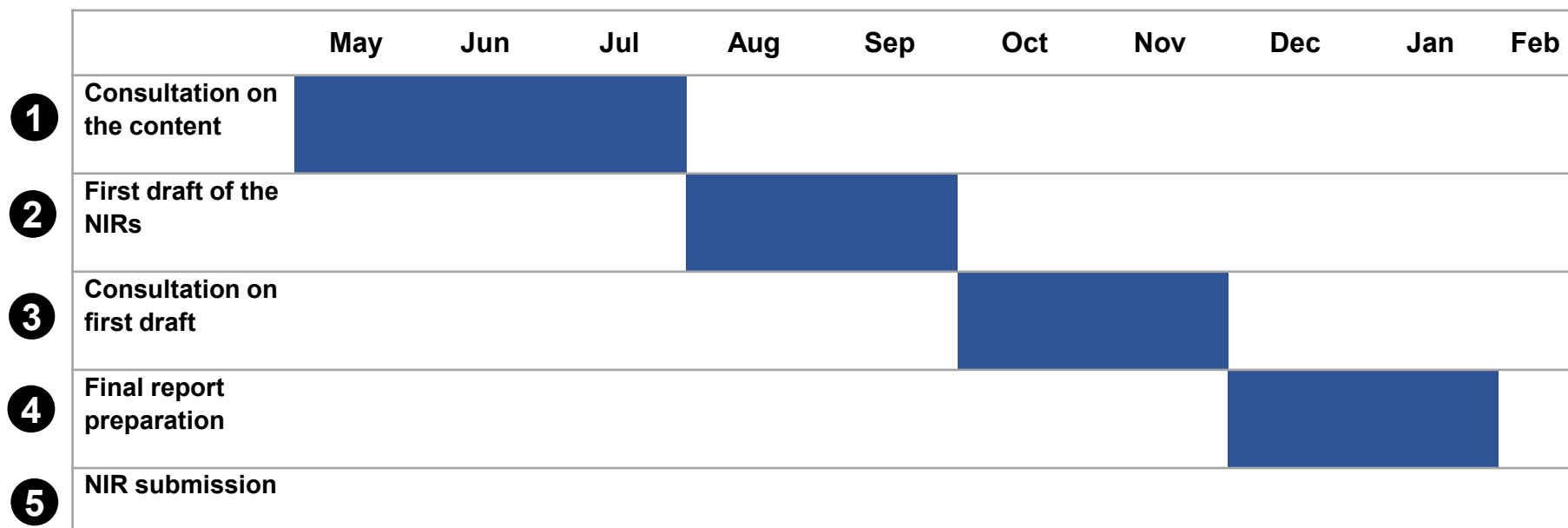


Recommended submission deadline: 1 February 2025

When

NIRs preparation timeline

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



▲
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>



SUBMIT

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

Document	ENG	FRE	RUS
2021	ENG	FRE	RUS
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](#).



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USER REGISTRATION

PARTY

- Select a value -

FIRST NAME *

LAST NAME *

EMAIL ADDRESS *

USERNAME *

ORGANIZATION *

FUNCTIONAL TITLE

CAPTCHA *

P5 m r d

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".

Other relevant reports by international, regional and non-governmental organizations submitted to the secretariat are available from the UNECE web page by reporting cycle: [2021](#), [2017](#), [2014](#), [2011](#), [2008](#), [2005](#).

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](#).



USER INTERFACE LANGUAGE

English

LANGUAGE OF REPORT

English

REPORTING YEAR

All years

PARTIES

All Parties

WORD SEARCH

Type search text here

REPORT FILES

USER INTERFACE LANGUAGE

English ▼

ENGLISH
 FRENCH
 RUSSIAN

PARTIES

All Parties ▼

🔍

- ALL PARTIES *
- ALBANIA
- ARMENIA
- AUSTRIA
- AZERBAIJAN
- BELARUS (2000 - 2022)
- BELGIUM
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- BULGARIA
- CROATIA

LANGUAGE OF REPORT

English ▼

ENGLISH
 FRENCH
 RUSSIAN

WORD SEARCH

Type search text here

WORD SEARCH

Type search text here

REPORTING YEAR

All years ▼

🔍

- ALL YEARS *
- 2005
- 2008
- 2011
- 2014
- 2017
- 2021
- 2025

REPORT FILES

QUESTIONS

All questions ▼

SUBMIT

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