

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 12–13 December 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting¹

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Thursday, 12 December 2024***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Participation of groups and people in vulnerable situations in decision-making.
3. Public participation in decision-making in a transboundary context.
4. Public participation in decision-making on agriculture and fishery.
5. Public participation in decision-making on oceans, seas, marine resources.
6. Public participation in decision-making on climate change.
7. Public participation in decision-making on emerging technologies.
8. Other relevant developments.
9. Any other business.
10. Closing.

II. Annotations

The Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making was established, and its mandate laid down, by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its resumed second extraordinary session (30 June 2010) (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1, decision EMP.II/1). The mandate was further extended in time by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention through

¹ This document was not formally edited.

* Information on registration for the meeting and other practical arrangements will be made available on the meeting web page at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/eleventh-meeting-task-force-public-participation-decision-making>.

decision VII/2 (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1)² adopted at its seventh session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021). Paragraph 13 of decision VII/2 sets out the issues to be addressed by the Task Force.

The present meeting aims to provide a platform for discussing in greater details means for ensuring effective participation of groups in vulnerable situations in environmental decision-making as well as effective public participation in decision-making in a transboundary context. The thematic focus of the meeting will be on decision-making on (a) agriculture and fishery; (b) oceans, seas, marine resources; (c) climate change; and (d) emerging technologies.

The Task Force continues its work based on the outputs delivered at its previous meetings. The background material for the meeting will include relevant information derived from the 2021 national implementation reports³, the Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention⁴, the Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide⁵, the Maastricht recommendations on promoting effective public participation in decision-making in environmental matters⁶, and relevant Compliance Committee findings of a systemic nature.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: Thursday, 12 December, 10–10.10 a.m.

The Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.⁷

2. Participation of groups and people in vulnerable situations in decision-making

Timing: Thursday, 12 December, 10.10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to effective participation of groups in vulnerable situations in decision-making. This will include the presentation of the outcomes of a survey among Parties and stakeholders on good practices and challenges in effectively engaging these groups and people in decision-making.

3. Public participation in decision-making in a transboundary context

Timing: Thursday, 12 December, 3–4 p.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to public participation in decision-making in a transboundary context.

4. Public participation in decision-making on agriculture and fishery

Timing: Thursday, 12 December, 4–5 p.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to public participation in decision-making on agriculture and fishery.

² The text of the decisions (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1 and ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1) are available from <https://unece.org/env/pp/aarhus-convention/tfppdm>.

³ Available from <http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/index.asp>.

⁴ ECE/MP.PP/2021/6, available from <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2021/09/synthesis-report-status-implementation-convention>.

⁵ 2nd edition, 2014, available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35869>.

⁶ ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2, available from <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/maastricht-recommendations-public-participation-decision-making>.

⁷ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on the meeting web page at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/eleventh-meeting-task-force-public-participation-decision-making>.

5. Public participation in decision-making on oceans, seas, marine resources

Timing: Thursday, 12 December, 5–6 p.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to public participation in decision-making on oceans, seas, marine resources.

6. Public participation in decision-making on climate change

Timing: Friday, 13 December, 10–11 a.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to public participation in decision-making on climate change.

7. Public participation in decision-making on emerging technologies

Timing: Friday, 13 December, 11–11.45 a.m.

Participants will be invited to consider good practices, challenges and trends with regard to public participation in decision-making on environmental matters related to emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, quantum technologies etc.

8. Other relevant developments

Timing: Friday, 13 December, 11.45 a.m.–12 noon

Participants will be invited to consider other relevant developments not addressed under previous agenda items.

9. Any other business

Timing: Friday, 13 December, 12–12.05 p.m.⁸

Delegates wishing to suggest points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

7. Closing

Timing: Friday, 13 December, 12.30–1 p.m.

The Chair will summarise outcomes of the meeting.

⁸ There will be a break to summarize outcomes of the meeting from 12.05 to 12.30. The list of outcomes, as summarised by the Chair, will be distributed to participants by email after the meeting.