

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 Access to Information

Ninth meeting

Geneva, 7-8 November 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening and adoption of the agenda

Provisional programme of the ninth meeting

To be held in Salle XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 7 November 2024

v. 7 November 2024

Chair: Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.

Timing: Thursday, 7 November, 10.00–10.10 a.m.

The Chair will introduce main topics for the discussion and invite to adopt the agenda.

2. Thematic focus: Active dissemination of environmental information:

- (a) The implementation of the updated Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools

Timing: Thursday, 7 November, 10.10 a.m.–1.00 p.m.

(i) Setting the scene

Presenters

Mr. David JENSEN, Regional Digital Transformation Programme Coordinator, Europe and North America, UNEP

Ms. Mane MADOYAN, Project Coordinator, Freedom of Information Center of Armenia / Aarhus ECO Forum

(ii) Experience by the Parties and stakeholders

Presenters

Ms. Nino GOKHELASHVILI, Head, Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

Ms. Azemine SHAKIRI, Head, Cadastre and Modelling, Macedonian Environmental Information Center, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia

Ms. Balzhan ZHARTYBAEVA, Head of Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan

Ms. Paola DE SALVO, Information Technology Officer, Group on Earth Observations secretariat

Discussion and conclusions

- (b) The use of modern technologies by the public

Timing: Thursday, 7 November, 3–4.30 p.m.

Presenters

Ms. Mari CHAKRYAN, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Armenia

Ms. Loredana SULAJ, Specialist, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania

Mr. Mário João DE OLIVEIRA, Convention's National Focal Point, Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Action, Guinea-Bissau

Ms. Maria KOLESNIKOVA, Chairperson, MoveGreen / Aarhus ECO Forum

Mr. Petru BOTNARU, Co-founder, NGO "Terra-1530" / Aarhus ECO Forum

Discussion and conclusions

3. Access to environment-related product information.

- (a) public access to sufficient product information, including on environmental footprint and use of chemicals, minerals and metals;

Timing: Thursday, 7 November, 4.30–6 p.m.

Presenters

Mr. Giuseppe Danilo AURICCHIO, Legal and Policy Officer, European Commission

Ms. Ana CIPRIANO, Legal Officer, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD

Mr. Tapiwa NXELE, Chemicals Analyst, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP

Ms. Alison HOUGH, Aarhus ECO Forum

Discussion and conclusions

- (b) development of respective digital product passports and other tools to support reporting on environment, social and governance (ESG) performance and prevent greenwashing

Timing: Friday, 8 November, 10-11.30 a.m.

Presenters

Ms. Kamola KHUSNUTDINOVA, UN/CEFACT Secretary

Mr. Steve CAPELL, UN/CEFACT Vice Chair (video statement)

Mr. Benjamin DE VILLE DE GOYET, Project Manager, Energy&Living, Standardization, European Committee for Standardization (CEN)/ European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)

Ms. Anne-Christine AYED, Senior Partner, +ImpaKT/ CIRPASS-2 Consortium

Ms. Francesca CARLSSON, Policy Manager, Environmental Law and Justice, European Environmental Bureau / Aarhus ECO Forum

Discussion and conclusions

4. Stocktaking of recent and upcoming developments:

(a) The transparency of public authorities on environmental matters and the application of restrictions on access to information

Timing: Friday, 8 November, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Presenters

Ms. Maja RAICEVIC, Senior Advisor, Directorate for Ecology, Montenegro

Ms. Silvia FULLER, Inquiries Officer, Office of the European Ombudsman

Ms. Emilia LIASKA, Senior Investigator, Office of the Greek Ombudsman (video statement)

Mr. Ilya TROMBITSKY, Executive Director, Eco-TIRAS / Aarhus ECO Forum

Discussion and conclusions

(b) The protection of whistle-blowers and other persons exercising their rights in conformity with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention

Timing: Friday, 8 November, 3–4.30 p.m.

Presenters

Mr. Michel FORST, United Nations Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention (video statement)

Mr. Roberts PRINDULIS, Lawyer, Legal Department, the Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development, Latvia

Ms. Suada NUMIC, Head, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Alexander KASHUMOV, Executive Director, Access to Information Programme Foundation / Aarhus ECO Forum

Mr. Ian TENNANT, Director, Multilateral Engagement, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime

Discussion and conclusions

5. Activities under other international forums.

Timing: Friday, 10 November, 4.30 – 5.10 p.m.

Presenters

Mr. Igor GRYSHKO, Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Discussion and conclusions

6. Other business.

Timing: Friday, 8 November, 5.30 – 5.45 p.m.

7. Closing.

Timing: Friday, 8 November, 5.45 – 6 p.m.

The Chair will summarize the agreed outcomes and close the meeting.
