Aarhus Convention and the 2030 Agenda

- Access to information, public participation, access to justice – universal principles
- Transparent, accountable, participatory decision-making – key to SDGs
- SDG 16 applies across 2030 Agenda - fundamental for attainment of all seventeen Goals – Budva Declaration
- Human rights approach as tool for breaking silos and for integrative perspective on sustainable development
Supporting role of Aarhus Convention in implementing SDGs

- Right on access to information
- Electronic tools can help raise public awareness, including making complex problems understandable to the general public

- Effective public participation in urban planning and management

- “Outcome” related goal
- “Aarhus rights” and engagement of public are key to achieving end result

- “Selective stakeholder involvement” vs. “Inclusive public participation”
- Ensure public participation is implemented as provided for by Aarhus Convention

Estonia
National water price control mechanism

Ukraine
Online inventory of landfills as platform to build coalitions

The Netherlands
Eco Village Boekel – self-sufficient

The Netherlands
Citizens found own electricity company
Conclusions

- The Convention promotes effective and inclusive public participation in decision-making, planning and implementation of different policies, projects, legislation and programmes that have impact on the environment and human health.
- Thereby the Convention advances the attainment of all SDGs.
- Other MEAs and processes can use frameworks and approaches offered by the Convention to pursue their SDGs-related activities with the effective involvement of the public.
- Convention relevance for achieving SDGs goes beyond the ECE region.

Role for CEP focal points

- Promote the importance of transparent and participatory decision-making in relation to SDGs:
  - to other ministries and departments - at national level
  - to other MEAs, ECE activities, and international forums – at international level
- Promote greater political support of the Convention’s use for SDGs.
- Promote accession of non-ECE countries to the Aarhus Convention in the context of SDGs (e.g. EPRs).