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

Working Group of the Parties to the Convention

Tenth meeting
Riga, 8–10 June 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE TENTH MEETING *

To be held at the Reval Hotel Latvija, Riga,
starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, 8 June 2008

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Programme of events, agenda and practical arrangements for the third ordinary meeting of the Parties.

3. Interpretation of article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention on the conditions for entry into force of amendments.

4. Electronic information tools and the clearinghouse mechanism.

* The present document was submitted on the above date due to internal consultations and resource constraints.
5. Access to justice.

6. Public participation in international forums.

7. Reporting on implementation:
   (a) National implementation reports;
   (b) Synthesis report on the status of implementation;
   (c) Draft decision on reporting requirements.

8. Compliance mechanism:
   (a) Report by the Compliance Committee;
   (b) Draft decisions on compliance;
   (c) Procedure for election of the Compliance Committee.


11. Long-term strategic plan.


13. Riga Declaration.


15. Any other business.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2: Programme of events, agenda and practical arrangements for the third ordinary meeting of the Parties

The Chairperson, Ms. Mona Aarhus (Norway), will present the annotated provisional agenda for the third ordinary meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2008/1), prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat taking into account the comments provided at the ninth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties and in the ensuing commenting period.
(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, para. 19). She will also present the programme for the high-level segment (ECE/MP.PP/2008/1/Add.2). The representative of Latvia and the secretariat will report on the organizational preparations for the meeting and the overall programme of events. The Working Group is expected to take note of the preparations for the meeting. Delegations may wish to use the opportunity to seek clarification on any aspects of the agenda, the programme or procedural matters, or to provide additional information on activities, e.g. side-events.

**Item 3: Interpretation of article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention on the conditions for entry into force of amendments**

The Working Group will be invited to resolve outstanding issues with respect to draft decision III/1 on interpretation of article 14 of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.3), prepared by the Working Group at its ninth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, paras. 32–37), and to transmit the outcome of its discussions for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

**Item 4: Electronic information tools and the clearinghouse mechanism**

The Working Group will be invited to resolve outstanding issues with respect to draft decision III/2 on electronic information tools and the clearinghouse mechanism (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.4), prepared by the Working Group at its ninth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, paras. 55 and 56), notably the issue of a future lead country for the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools. The Working Group is expected to transmit the outcome of its discussions for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

**Item 5: Access to justice**

The Working Group will be invited to resolve outstanding issues with respect to draft decision III/3 on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.5), prepared by the Working Group at its ninth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, paras. 46–50), including the issue of a future lead country for the Task Force on Access to Justice. The Working Group is expected to transmit the outcome of its discussions for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

**Item 6: Public participation in international forums**

The Working Group will be invited to resolve outstanding issues with respect to draft decision III/4 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.6), prepared by the Working Group at its ninth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, paras. 43–45), including the issue of a future lead country for the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums. The Working Group is expected to transmit the outcome of its discussions for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.
Item 7: Reporting on implementation

(a) National implementation reports

The secretariat will report on the status of submission of national implementation reports, including the timeliness and completeness of reports. Delegations will be invited to comment on their experiences with the preparation of the reports, including with application of the guidance endorsed by the Working Group at its seventh meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/L.4). The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided, comment as appropriate, and consider implications for the discussion of the reports by the Meeting of the Parties.

(b) Synthesis report on the status of implementation

The secretariat will briefly present the synthesis report on the status of implementation (ECE/MP.PP/2008/4). The Working Group is expected to take note of the report, comment as appropriate, and consider implications for the discussion of the report by the Meeting of the Parties.

(c) Draft decision on reporting requirements

The Chairperson will present draft decision III/5 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.7), prepared by the Bureau at the request of the Working Group at its ninth meeting, taking into account the comments received during the subsequent commenting period (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, para. 68). The Working Group is expected to review the draft decision, consider possible revisions to it as necessary, and forward these for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 8: Compliance mechanism

(a) Report of the Compliance Committee

The Working Group is expected to review the report of the Compliance Committee to the Meeting of the Parties, including the addenda containing findings and in some cases recommendations with respect to compliance by specific Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2008/5 and Adds.1–10). The Chairperson and other members of the Committee will be present to address any questions raised by the Working Group.

(b) Draft decisions on compliance

The Chairperson of the Working Group will present draft decision III/6 on general issues of compliance as well as draft decisions III/6a, b, c, d, e and f on compliance by specific Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.8 and Adds.1–6). The Working Group is expected to review the draft decisions, consider possible revisions to them as necessary, and forward these for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.
(c) Election of the Compliance Committee

The Working Group is expected to review the status of nominations for election to the Compliance Committee and consider the election procedure, bearing in mind the desirability of electing the Committee by consensus if possible (see decision I/1, rule 35, para. 1, and decision I/7, annex, para. 7).

Item 9: Financial arrangements

The Working Group will be invited to attempt to resolve outstanding issues with respect to draft decision III/7 on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.9), which was based on the draft discussed at its eighth and ninth meetings (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/5, paras. 56–60 and ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, paras. 92–95). The Working Group is expected to review the draft decision, consider possible revisions to it as necessary, and forward these for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 10: Report on implementation of the work programme for 2006–2008

The secretariat will briefly present its report on the implementation of the work programme for 2006–2008, including financial aspects (ECE/MP.PP/2008/7). The Working Group will be invited to comment on the report and to consider any implications for discussion of the report by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 11: Long-term strategic plan

The Working Group will be invited to resolve outstanding issues with respect to draft decision III/8 on a long-term strategic plan (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.10), prepared by the Bureau at the request of the Working Group so as to reflect the discussion during the ninth meeting of the Working Group as well as comments received during a subsequent written commenting process (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, para. 87). The Chairperson will present a proposal from the Bureau on how to resolve the outstanding issues. The Working Group is expected to review the draft decision, consider possible revisions to it as necessary, and forward these for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 12: Work programme for 2009–2011

At its ninth meeting, the Working Group mandated the Bureau to prepare a draft decision on the work programme for 2009–2011. It agreed upon a commenting period within which delegations were invited to submit comments on the content of the work programme and how it should differ from the previous work programme (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, para. 99). The Chairperson will present draft decision III/9 on the work programme for 2009–2011, as prepared by the Bureau, which has taken into account the comments received (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.11). The future work on the topics of genetically modified organisms and public participation will be considered under this agenda item (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, paras. 40 and 61). The Working Group is expected to review the draft decision, consider possible revisions to it as necessary, and forward these for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 13: Riga Declaration
The Working Group will be invited to resolve outstanding issues with respect to the draft “Riga Declaration” (ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.1), prepared by the Bureau at the request of the Working Group so as to reflect the discussion during the ninth meeting of the Working Group as well as comments received during a subsequent written commenting process (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2008/2, para. 23). The Working Group is expected to review the draft declaration, consider possible revisions to it as necessary, and forward these for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

**Item 14: Global and regional developments on issues related to principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**

The Working Group will be invited to take note of a paper on global and regional developments on issues related to principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Bureau (ECE/MP.PP/2008/8), and to consider any implications for the discussions under agenda items 8 and 11 of the third meeting of the Parties.

**Item 15: Any other business**

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

### III. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

**Day 1: Sunday, 8 June 2008**

- 14.00 – 14.30 Items 1 and 2
- 14.30 – 14.50 Item 10
- 14.50 – 15.10 Item 9
- 15.10 – 16.00 Item 12
- 16.00 – 16.20 Coffee break
- 16.20 – 17.10 Item 13
- 17.10 – 18.00 Item 11

**Day 2: Monday, 9 June 2008**

- 10.00 – 11.20 Item 7
- 11.20 – 11.40 Coffee break
- 11.40 – 13.00 Item 8

Lunch

- 15.00 – 15.40 Items 3, 4, 5 and 14
- 15.40 – 16.20 Items 9 and 12 (continued)
16.20 – 16.40  Coffee break
16.40 – 18.00  Items 11 and 13

Day 3: Tuesday, 10 June 2008

10:00 – 10:20   Item 6
10.20 – 10.50   Item 8 (continued)
10:50 – 11:20   Item 7 (continued)
11:20 – 11:40   Coffee break
11.40 – 12:00   Item 15
12.00 – 13:00   Continuation of outstanding items

Lunch

15:00 – 16:00  Continuation of outstanding items
16:00 – 16:20  Adoption of report and closure of meeting

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