



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
29 November 2010

Original: English

---

### 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

##### Thirteenth meeting

Geneva, 9–11 February 2011

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties:  
agenda of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

### **Draft provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**

**Prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

The Working Group of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 30 June–2 July 2010) noted proposals from delegations on the possible format and themes for the provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP-4) and requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a concept note on the provisional agenda, which would be sent to delegations for comments with a deadline of 20 September 2010. The Working Group also requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare for its thirteenth meeting (Geneva, 9–11 February 2011) a draft provisional agenda for MOP-4, taking into consideration the comments received (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2010/2, para 54).

This note was prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat following the above-mentioned decision of the Working Group, on the basis of the comments provided by delegations at the meeting and after the meeting via e-mail.<sup>1</sup> The delegations mentioned that: (a) MOP-4 could be comprised of a general and a high-level segment; (b) access to justice and the role of the Convention in promoting sustainable development could be possible subjects for discussion at the high-level segment; (c) the agenda of MOP-4 should be, in general, similar to the agenda of MOP-3, with the exception of items that do not require further discussion; (d) the agenda of MOP-4 should cover all substantive areas of work under the Convention and new issues that are currently under discussion by the Working Group; and (e) discussions at MOP-4 should address good practices, achievements, lessons learned, challenges and obstacles in relation to implementing the Convention. The final provisional agenda will be prepared taking also into consideration the draft work programme for 2012–2014, which is expected to be agreed by the Working Group at its thirteenth meeting.

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	3
II. Proposed items for the agenda .....	4
III. Annotations to the draft provisional agenda.....	6

---

<sup>1</sup> The comments received by the secretariat are available on the web page for the Working Group's thirteenth session (<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/wgp.htm>).

## I. Introduction

1. The fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will be held from 15 to 17 June 2011 in Chisinau, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The session will be preceded on Monday, 13 June, by the meetings of the Compliance Committee (scheduled for a full day, with the possibility of continuing until 15 June, as needed), the Bureau (morning), and the Working Group of the Parties (afternoon); and on Tuesday, 14 June, by the meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention (morning). The Compliance Committee, the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties will consider, respectively, any possible open issues, as appropriate.

2. The fourth session could consist of a general segment and a high-level segment. The general segment could take place on Wednesday, 15 June, and on Thursday, 16 June. The high-level segment could be held on Friday, 17 June.

3. The high-level segment would target high-level officials, including ministers, vice-ministers, State secretaries, other heads of delegations and special guests, and its thematic session could be dedicated to the following theme:<sup>2</sup> “The role of the Aarhus Convention in promoting sustainable development”.

4. The session could be chaired jointly by the Minister of Environment of the host country and the minister responsible for development or economy issues of the host country, or such a minister from one of the other Parties, or an invited guest with a strong international background on the subject. It could have the format of a panel discussion involving ministers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), financial institutions, humanitarian affairs agencies and youth organizations, followed by a general debate addressing the role of the Aarhus Convention in promoting sustainable development through assuring environmental rights. The session could provide an input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012 (Rio+20).

5. The proposed allocation of time for these meetings is as follows:

Monday, 13 June	Compliance Committee (full day; could continue till 15 June); Bureau (morning); Working Group of the Parties (afternoon)
Tuesday, 14 June	Working Group of the Parties (morning) <sup>3</sup>
Wednesday, 15 June	MOP-4: General segment
Thursday, 16 June	MOP-4: General segment
Friday, 17 June	MOP-4: High-level segment

6. A number of side-events, including on the Aarhus Centres, could be organized during lunch breaks, and before or after the fourth session.

<sup>2</sup> It is proposed to dedicate the segment to one theme only, as this will allow sufficient time for interactive discussion. Previous experience has shown that after statements by panellists there is very little time left for interventions from the floor and reactions by panellists.

<sup>3</sup> Tuesday afternoon is reserved for the finalization, translation and photocopying of possible revised documents, as well as for possible coordination meetings.

## II. Proposed items for the agenda<sup>4</sup>

<i>Indicative time</i>	<i>Item</i>
<b>Wednesday, 15 June</b>	
10.00–10.15	<i>Item 1:</i> Opening of the session.
10.15–10.20	<i>Item 2:</i> Adoption of the agenda.
10.20–10.40	<i>Item 3:</i> Status of ratification of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
	<i>Item 4:</i> Substantive issues:
10.40–11.20	(a) Genetically modified organisms;
11.20–11.40	**Coffee break** (exact allocation of time for coffee breaks to be decided at a later stage)
11.40–12.10	(b) Access to information, including electronic information tools;
12.10–12.30	(c) Public participation in decision-making;
12.30–13.00	(d) Access to justice;
13.00–15.00	**Lunch**
15.00–15.15	(d) Access to justice (continued);
15.15–16.00	(e) Public participation in international forums.
	<i>Item 5:</i> Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention:
16.00–17.00	(a) Reports on implementation;
17.00–18.00	(b) Compliance mechanism.
<b>Thursday, 16 June</b>	
	<i>Item 5:</i> Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention (continued)
10.00–10.30	(c) Reporting requirements;
10.30–10.45	(d) Implementation Guide;
10.45–11.20	(e) Capacity-building.
11.20–11.40	**Coffee break**
	<i>Item 6:</i> Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages:

<sup>4</sup> The allocation of time and order of items will be amended according to the final decision on the provisional agenda. Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers will be addressed throughout all agenda items, as relevant, in particular under the item on the draft work programme for 2012–2014.

<i>Indicative time</i>	<i>Item</i>
11.40–12.30	(a) Accession to the Convention by States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
12.30–13.00	(b) Awareness-raising and communication;
13.00–15.00	**Lunch**
15.00–15.10	(c) Synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;
15.10–15.20	(d) Global and regional developments on issues related to principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;
15.20–15.30	(e) Update on United Nations Environment Programme initiatives on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.
	<i>Item 7: Programme of work and operation of the Convention:</i>
15.30–16.00	(a) Implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014;
16.00–17.00	(b) Work programme for 2012–2014;
17.00–17.30	(c) Financial arrangements;
17.30–17.50	(d) Future Strategic Plan.
17.50–18.00	<i>Item 8: Report on credentials.</i>
<b>Friday, 17 June</b>	
<b>High-level Segment</b>	
10.00–10.30	<i>Item 9: Opening ceremony for the High-level Segment.</i>
10.30–11.20	<i>Item 10: Thematic session: “The role of the Aarhus Convention in promoting sustainable development”.</i>
11.20–11.40	**Coffee break**
11.40–13.00	<i>Item 10: Thematic session (continued).</i>
13.00–15.00	**Lunch**
15.00–15.30	<i>Item 11: Discussion and adoption of the Declaration [subject to the decision by the Working Group].</i>
15.30–15.40	<i>Item 12: Election of officers and other members of the Bureau.</i>
15.40–15.45	<i>Item 13: Date and venue of the fifth ordinary meeting.</i>
15.45–15.50	<i>Item 14: Any other business.</i>
15.50–16.25	<i>Item 15: Review and adoption of decisions.</i>
16.25–16.30	<i>Item 16: Closure of the meeting.</i>

### III. Annotations to the draft provisional agenda

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
<b>Wednesday, 15 June</b>					
10.00–10.15	<i>Item 1:</i> Opening of the session	Plenary	Information	Welcome address by a high-level official of the Republic of Moldova.  The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties will formally open the meeting.	
10.15–10.20	<i>Item 2:</i> Adoption of the agenda	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting as set out in the present document.	<i>Text for action:</i>  Provisional agenda
10.20–10.40	<i>Item 3:</i> Status of ratification of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers	Plenary	Information	The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs). It will also provide information about any declarations made by the Parties upon the deposit of their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Delegates from States or regional economic integration organizations not yet party to the Convention, the amendment to the Convention or the Protocol will be offered an opportunity to briefly inform the Meeting of their plans to ratify, accept, approve or accede to those instruments.	<i>Background documents:</i>  Note on ratifications

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
	<i>Item 4: Substantive issues:</i>				
10.40–11.20	(a) Genetically modified organisms	Keynote statements <sup>a</sup> (up to three), followed by interactive discussion in plenary	Decision	<p>Representatives of Governments and stakeholders could be invited to deliver the keynote address.</p> <p>Parties, Signatories and other stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to the implementation of the Convention with respect to genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and/or to the application of the amendment to the Convention and of the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums (Almaty Guidelines) with respect to GMOs.</p> <p>The secretariat will report on the activities it carried out in this area, including the joint Aarhus Convention and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety workshop on public awareness, access to information and public participation regarding living modified organisms/ genetically modified organisms (Nagoya, Japan, 8–9 October 2010).</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the progress achieved, to address challenges and to consider possible further work in this area, notably through promoting ratification and implementation of the amendment.</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Decision on possible further work in this area through adoption of the relevant section of the work programme for 2012–2014 (to be included in the report of the session)</p> <p><i>Background documents:</i></p> <p>Relevant sections of the synthesis report and national implementation reports (NIRs)</p> <p>Report of the joint Aarhus Convention and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety workshop on public awareness, access to information and public participation regarding living modified organisms/ genetically modified organisms</p> <p>Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014</p>

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
11.20–11.40	**Coffee break**				
11.40–12.10	(b) Access to information, including electronic information tools	Plenary	Decision	<p>The Chair of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools will report on the activities of the Task Force since the third meeting of the Parties. The secretariat will report on new developments in relation to the clearinghouse mechanism.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of these activities and address challenges.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally<sup>b</sup> adopt a draft decision on access to information.</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Draft decision on access to information</p> <p><i>Background documents:</i></p> <p>Report of the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools</p> <p>Report of the subregional workshop on electronic information tools (Skopje, 25–26 November 2010)</p> <p>Relevant sections of the synthesis report and NIRs</p> <p>Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014</p>
12.10–12.30	(c) Public participation in decision-making	Plenary	Decision	<p>The Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making will report on the activities of the Task Force since the extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 30 June 2010).</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of these activities,</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Decision on the possible extension of the mandate of the Task Force and on further work in this area through adoption of the relevant section of the</p>

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
				address challenges and provide direction for further work in this area.	work programme for 2012–2014 (to be included in the report of the session)  <i>Background documents:</i>  Report of the first meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making  Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014
12.30–13.00	(d) Access to justice	Keynote statements (up to two), followed by interactive discussion in plenary	Decision	A representative from Government and from the judiciary could be invited to deliver the keynote address.  The Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice will report on the activities of the Task Force.  The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, to address challenges and to provide direction for further work in this area.  The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting effective access to justice.	<i>Text for action:</i>  Draft decision on promoting effective access to justice  <i>Background documents:</i>  Reports of the third and fourth meetings of the Task Force on Access to Justice  Relevant sections of the synthesis report and NIRs  Report on the implementation of the work programme for

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
					2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014
13.00–15.00	**Lunch**				
15.00–15.15	(d) Access to justice (continued)				
15.15–16.00	(e) Public participation in international forums	Keynote statements (up to three), followed by interactive discussion in plenary	Decision	<p>Representatives of Governments, NGOs or international forums could be invited to deliver the keynote addresses.</p> <p>The Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums will report on the activities of the Task Force.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, address challenges and provide direction for further work in this area.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums.</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums</p> <p><i>Background documents:</i></p> <p>Reports of the fourth, fifth and sixth meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums</p> <p>A publication presenting outcomes of the consultation process undertaken during the last intersessional period</p> <p>Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014</p>

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
	<i>Item 5: Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention:</i>				
16.00–17.00	(a) Reports on implementation	Plenary	Decision	<p>The Chair will present a synthesis report.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the implementation of the Convention on the basis of NIRs submitted by the Parties and the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat. It is also expected to take note of any reports submitted by Signatories and other States not Party to the Convention, as well as reports prepared by international, regional and non-governmental organizations. The Meeting will be invited to discuss the main trends, challenges and solutions emerging from the reports, which will be further discussed during the high-level segment. It will also be invited to discuss the experience gained with the procedure for compiling reports, including the experience with NGOs and other stakeholders, and to decide upon possible ways of improving the process in the future, if needed, taking into account any views of the Compliance Committee on the functioning of the reporting mechanism.</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Draft decision on reporting requirements, including the revised reporting format (covers items 5 (a) and (c))</p> <p><i>Background documents:</i></p> <p>Synthesis report, NIRs</p>
17.00–18.00	(b) Compliance mechanism	Plenary	Decision, election	<p>The Chair of the Compliance Committee will report on the Committee's activities since the third session of the Meeting of the Parties and</p>	<p><i>Texts for action:</i></p> <p>Draft decisions on general issues of</p>

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
				present any findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to compliance by specific Parties.	compliance Supplementary draft decisions concerning specific cases of non-compliance
				The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Committee's report, including any general recommendations contained therein, as well as any findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to compliance by specific Parties, and to consider, revise as necessary, and provisionally adopt draft decisions on compliance issues.	Decision on election (to be included in the report of the session) <i>Background documents:</i> Report of the Compliance Committee
				The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to elect the Compliance Committee members.	Recommendations of the Committee with respect to specific Parties NIRs and synthesis report Note on the election of the Compliance Committee Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014

**Thursday, 16 June**

*Item 5:* Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
	Convention (continued)				
10.00–10.30	(c) Reporting requirements	Plenary	Decision	<p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to decide on amending the format for reporting as proposed by the Working Group of the Parties and the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums, enhancing means of reporting on the amendment to the Convention and article 3, paragraph 7, of the Convention.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on reporting requirements.</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Draft decision on reporting requirements, including the revised reporting format (covers items 5 (a) and (c))</p>
10.30–10.45	(d) Implementation Guide	Plenary	Decision	<p>The Chair will present the updated Implementation Guide.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the information.</p>	<p><i>Background document:</i></p> <p>Implementation Guide</p>
10.45–11.20	(e) Capacity-building	Plenary	Decision	<p>The secretariat will report on some of the main capacity-building activities undertaken during the intersessional period to promote more effective implementation of the Convention, as well as on the measures taken to coordinate the various activities through the capacity-building coordination framework. International and regional organizations engaged in capacity-building activities will be invited to elaborate on those activities. Representatives of Governments and organizations will be invited to share their views on outstanding needs for</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Decision on possible further work in this area through adoption of the relevant section of the work programme for 2012–2014 (to be included in the report of the session)</p> <p><i>Background documents:</i></p> <p>Report of the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including</p>

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
				capacity-building. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the activities undertaken, provide feedback on the activities and to provide guidance on the direction of future activities so as to ensure that capacity-building needs are met.	in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014
11.20–11.40	**Coffee break**  <i>Item 6: Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages:</i>				
11.40–12.30	(a) Accession to the Convention by States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region	Plenary	Decision	The secretariat will report on requests for accession by States outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region submitted to the Meeting of the Parties, as relevant.  Parties, Signatories and stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to the promotion of accession to the Convention by States from outside the UNECE region. (Alternatively, this can be included under item 6 (b) of the agenda.)  States outside the UNECE region that have demonstrated serious interest in acceding to the Convention will be invited to make statements.  The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on accession to	<i>Text for action:</i>  Draft decision on accession to the Convention by States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
12.30–13.00	(b) Awareness-raising and communication	Plenary	Decision	<p>the Convention by States outside the UNECE region.</p> <p>The Chair/a Party<sup>c</sup> will present a draft communication strategy. Parties, Signatories and stakeholders will be invited to discuss ways and means for implementing the strategy.</p> <p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider the strategy.</p>	<p><i>Text for action:</i></p> <p>Decision on possible endorsement of the communication strategy and on possible further work in this area through adoption of the relevant section of the work programme for 2012–2014 (to be included in the report of the session)</p> <p><i>Background documents:</i></p> <p>Communication Strategy</p>
13.00–15.00	**Lunch**				
15.00–15.10	(c) Synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements	Plenary	Information	<p>The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review information provided by the secretariat and representatives of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) on ongoing or planned activities and to explore ways of further promoting synergies between the Convention and other MEAs, taking into consideration the outcomes of the work related to the promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums and the Almaty Guidelines.</p>	

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
15.10–15.20	(d) Global and regional developments on issues related to principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development <sup>d</sup>	Plenary	Information	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to review information provided by the secretariat and representatives of relevant bodies and may wish to consider ways of providing appropriate support.	
15.20–15.30	(e) Update on United Nations Environment Programme initiatives on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters  <i>Item 7: Programme of work and operation of the Convention:</i>	Plenary	Information	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to review information provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and may wish to consider ways of promoting synergies with the relevant activities under the Aarhus Convention.	
15.30–16.00	(a) Implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014	Plenary	Information	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review, on the basis of a report prepared by the secretariat, the implementation of: (a) the Strategic Plan 2009–2014 and (b) the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014, and the use of the funds contributed for the period 2009–2010.	<i>Background documents:</i> Strategic Plan 2009–2014; Work programme for 2009–2011; Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014
16.00–17.00	(b) Work programme for 2012–2014	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to consider a draft work programme for 2012–2014, revise it as necessary, and provisionally adopt it.	<i>Text for action:</i> Draft decision on the work programme for

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
				It is expected that Parties, Signatories and other interested States will have informed the secretariat in advance of the meeting of their intention to contribute to the financial resources of the Convention (under the scheme of contributions envisaged in the draft decision).	2012–2014 <i>Background document:</i> Strategic Plan 2009–2014
				The secretariat will make the information received available to the Meeting of the Parties and delegations will be invited to provide any supplementary information.	
17.00–17.30	(c) Financial arrangements	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on financial arrangements.	<i>Text for action:</i> Draft decision on financial arrangements
17.30–17.50	(d) Future Strategic Plan	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on strategic planning.	<i>Text for action:</i> Draft decision on strategic planning
17.50–18.00	Item 8: Report on credentials	Plenary	Approval	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to approve the report on the credentials, presented by the officers in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.2).	<i>Text for action:</i> Decision on the approval of the credentials (to be included in the report of the session)

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
<b>Friday, 17 June</b>					
	<b>High-level Segment</b>			The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties will invite a high-level official from the host country to chair the high-level segment.	
10.00–10.30	<i>Item 9</i> : Opening ceremony for the High-level Segment	Plenary	Information	<p><i>Possible cultural element by the host country.</i></p> <p>Welcome address by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.</p> <p>Welcome address by a high-level official from the host country.</p>	
10.30–11.20	<i>Item 10</i> : Thematic session: “The role of the Aarhus Convention in promoting sustainable development”.	Statements/ presentations by panellists, followed by discussion in plenary	Information	Following a keynote speech or speeches, there will be a panel discussion/round table involving ministers and NGOs, followed by a general debate.	<i>Reference documents:</i> These may include a background document on the subject, NIRs and the respective sections of synthesis reports and the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014
11.20–11.40	**Coffee break**				
11.40–13.00	<i>Item 10</i> : Thematic session (continued)				
13.00–15.00	**Lunch**				

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
15.00–15.30	<i>Item 11</i> : Discussion and adoption of the Declaration [subject to the decision by the Working Group]	Plenary	Adoption	Ministers and Heads of delegation of Parties, Signatories and other States, as well as international, regional and non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society will be invited to consider and adopt a declaration based on a draft text prepared by the Working Group of the Parties.	<i>Text for action:</i> [Draft declaration]
15.30–15.40	<i>Item 12</i> : Election of officers and other members of the Bureau	Plenary	Election	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.2). It is also expected to elect the remaining members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1 (b), of the rules of procedure. NGOs established for the purpose of, and actively engaged in, promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, are expected to appoint a representative to attend the meetings of the Bureau, as observers, in accordance with rule 22, paragraphs 2 and 4, of the rules of procedure.	<i>Text for action:</i> Decision on election (to be included in the report of the session)
15.40–15.45	<i>Item 13</i> : Date and venue of the fifth ordinary meeting	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to make a preliminary decision with respect to the date and venue for its fifth ordinary session. Parties and prospective Parties are invited to consider hosting the meeting and to inform the secretariat in advance of any proposals they may intend to make in this regard.	<i>Text for action:</i> Decision on the date and venue of MoP-5 (to be included in the report of the session)

<i>Indicative Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Explanatory Notes</i>	<i>Documents</i>
15.45–15.50	<i>Item 14:</i> Any other business	Plenary	Information		
15.50–16.25	<i>Item 15:</i> Review and adoption of decisions	Plenary	Adoption	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the draft decisions and to adopt them.	<i>Texts for action:</i> Draft decisions, including self-standing documents and those to be incorporated in the final report, which will be produced after the session
16.25–16.30	<i>Item 16:</i> Closure of the meeting	Plenary	Information	The Chair of the high-level segment will close the meeting.	

<sup>a</sup> Party(ies) and stakeholder(s) with extensive expertise on the subject, who could offer positive experience in furthering implementation of the Convention and address common challenges in relation to that subject, could be invited to deliver the statements. The statements would constitute a substantive “opening” of the discussion in plenary.

<sup>b</sup> All provisionally adopted decisions will be adopted finally under item 15.

<sup>c</sup> A Party that nominated an expert for the Expert Group on a Communication Strategy could be invited to present a draft communication strategy.

<sup>d</sup> If the role of the Aarhus Convention in promoting sustainable development will be the selected as the theme for the high-level segment, then items 6 (e) and 6 (d) could be considered under the high-level segment only.