Aarhus Convention – Your Right to a Healthy Environment

International Conference “Europe-Asia Transboundary Water Cooperation”
Geneva, 16 December 2011
Environment and human rights twin protections

Response to climate change, loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution

Aarhus Convention: in force since 30 Oct 2001 -- 45 Parties

Protocol on PRTRs: in force since 8 Oct 2009 -- 28 Parties

Both open globally
THE AARHUS PHILOSOPHY

- Sustainability needs involvement of all actors
- People should be entitled to have a say in issues affecting their life
- Effective participation = Effective decision-making and implementation
THE AARHUS THREE “PILLARS”

Access to information     Public participation    Access to justice
MAKING IT WORK

- Meeting of the Parties and its Working Group
- Compliance Committee
- Task forces & capacity building activities
- Advisory support to countries
- Aarhus centers, RECs and NGOs
The Aarhus Convention protects the environment for many decades to come...

Email: public.participation@unece.org

Website: http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html

Aarhus Clearinghouse: http://aarhusclearinghouse.org

PRTR.net: http://www.prtr.net