

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING
to be held in Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 11 December 2008

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (Thursday, 10 a.m.–10:15 a.m.).
2. Relevant outcomes of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Riga, 11-13 June 2008) (secretariat)
 - (a) Adoption of decision III/2 on electronic information tools and the Clearinghouse Mechanism (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.4) – <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop3/mop3.docV.htm>;
 - (b) Adoption of decision III/9 on the work programme 2009–2011 – <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop3/mop3.docV.htm>;
 - (c) Side event on electronic information tools and e-Environment services for the Convention.
3. Global, regional and national developments and processes relevant to decisions II/3 and III/2 of the Meeting of the Parties¹ (10:15 a.m.–4:30 p.m.)
 - (a) United Nations World Summit on the Information Society system-wide follow up – <http://www.itu.int/wsis> (UNECE informal ICT Group for Development)
 - (i) Third Internet Governance Forum – <http://www.intgovforum.org>;
 - (ii) Second International Conference on the Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance – <http://www.icegov.org>;
 - (iii) Commission on Science and Technology for Development;
 - (b) Shared Environmental Information System and European Community INSPIRE Directive (European Commission/Bureau)
 - (i) Update on implementation of Directive 2007/2/EC establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information and the INSPIRE Community Geoportal – <http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu/>;
 - (ii) Shared Environmental Information System Task Force;
 - (iii) SEISnet Community – <http://www.epractice.eu/community/seisnet>;
 - (c) Other regional and national e-projects and activities
 - (i) Proposal to establish the e-Publicum consortium (Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe/BlueLink Information Network);

¹ Presentations under this agenda item should highlight links between the activities described and the relevant provisions of decisions II/3 and III/2.

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- (ii) Pervasive environmental monitoring (United Kingdom);
 - (iii) Malta Environment Protection Authority e-Applications system (Malta);
 - (iv) e-Flood Map Distribution (United Kingdom);
 - (v) Other projects and activities;
- (d) Forum on Information Clearinghouses
- (i) Session one: Furthering partnerships and networking within the Aarhus Clearinghouse mechanism;
 - (ii) Session two: Exchange of good practice between international and regional clearinghouses.
4. Monitoring implementation of decisions II/3 and III/2 of the Meeting of the Parties (4:45 p.m.– 6 p.m.)
- (a) Updating and circulation of the questionnaire to assess implementation of decision II/3 in light of decision III/2;
 - (b) Supporting public participation through use of electronic tools
 - (i) Geo-consultation tool (United Kingdom);
 - (ii) Other public participation tools.
5. Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism (Friday, 10 a.m.–10:45 a.m.)
- (a) Progress report on Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy – <http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>;
 - (b) 2008 National Implementation Reports online;
 - (c) 2008 Clearinghouse Awards.
6. Capacity-building activities (10:45 a.m.–1 p.m.)
- (a) Compendium of good practice in e-access, e-participation and e-justice (Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe);
 - (b) Capacity-building activities under the 2009-2011 Work Programme (secretariat);
 - (c) Other planned regional and national capacity-building activities
 - (i) Twinning project “Further Institution Building in the Environment Sector” in support of implementation of the European Union *acquis communautaire* with respect to the Convention;
 - (ii) Other planned capacity-building activities.
7. Innovative applications of electronic information tools in support of the Convention (3 p.m.– 4 p.m.)
- Scoping study on information management pertaining to Convention jurisprudence (secretariat).

8. Any other business (4 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.).
9. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting (4:30 p.m.– 6 p.m.).

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chairman of the Task Force will open the meeting. The Task Force is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2 Relevant outcomes of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention

The secretariat will report on the relevant outcomes of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Riga, 11–13 June 2008). The Task Force will be invited to review decision III/2 on electronic information tools and the clearinghouse mechanism (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.4) – <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop3/mop3.docV.htm> – and decision III/9 on the Programme of Work 2009-2011 – <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop3/mop3.docV.htm>.

Item 3 Global, regional and national developments and processes relevant to decisions II/3 and III/2 of the Meeting of the Parties

Experts designated by States and organizations are invited to share their experience in promoting the Information Society and measuring progress in areas covered by the Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information. The Forum on Information Clearinghouses sessions will focus on the development of information clearinghouse mechanisms through partnerships between UNECE and other international, regional and non-governmental organizations.

To facilitate this exchange of information and experience, experts are invited to submit to the secretariat any electronic resource which they wish to present in advance of the meeting. Experts are further invited to review these resources prior to the meeting with the aim of evaluating their practical application.

Item 4 Monitoring implementation of decisions II/3 and III/3 of the Meeting of the Parties

The secretariat will report on the further development of the questionnaire on implementation of the recommendations annexed to decision II/3 on electronic information tools and the Clearinghouse Mechanism and the schedule of its circulation during the 2009–2011

triennium. The Task Force is invited to review its renewed mandate adopted by the Parties at their third meeting (decision III/3) and discuss further measures to follow up and report on implementation of decision II/3. In particular, attention will be given to electronic tools supporting public consultation and participation in decision-making.

Item 5 Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism

Experts designated by States are invited to report on development of national nodes of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and other organizations are invited to report on their contributions to the clearinghouse mechanism. The secretariat will report on the further development of the National Implementation Reports online database.

The Bureau will present the 2008 certificates of award to the Best National Node and non-governmental contribution to the Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism.

Item 6 Capacity-building activities

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe is expected to report on the project “Compendium of good practice in e-access, e-participation and e-justice.” The Task Force is invited to discuss preparations for the continued programme of capacity-building in the field of electronic information tools under the 2009–2011 work programme. Experts designated by States and organizations are invited to present information on other regional and national capacity-building activities they are engaged in.

Item 7 Innovative applications of electronic information tools in support of the Convention’s 2009–2011 work programme

The secretariat will present a scoping study on development of an electronic facility to assist with management of information pertaining to the growing body of Convention-related jurisprudence. The Task Force is invited to discuss development of applications supporting access to and management of these and other Convention-related documents and materials.

Item 8 Any other business

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

Item 9 Adoption of the report and close of the meeting