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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2016

Item 7 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol: substantive preparations: agenda for the third session

Draft outline of the agenda for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Prepared by the Bureau

Summary

According to its mandate, the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) is tasked with the preparation of the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/4, para. 2 (b)).

The outline of an agenda for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol contained herein was prepared by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in consultation with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. The Convention Bureau was consulted on the organization of work set out in section II in order to facilitate discussion by the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on preparations for the Convention's sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties and the Protocol's third session of the Meeting of the Parties, which will be held back to back. The Working Group of the Parties to the Convention at its twentieth meeting (Geneva, 15–17 June 2016) and the Protocol Bureau at its tenth meeting (Geneva, 7 July

2016) expressed their support for the suggested organization of work contained herein, as well as for a joint high-level segment of the two bodies to be focused on the link between the Convention and its Protocol and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda and to mandate the Bureau to finalize it for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its third session.

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I. Dates and venue

1. Pursuant to previous experience, it was suggested that the sixth 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 (Aarhus Convention) and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers should be held back to back. The Government of Montenegro has offered to host the events.

2. The Convention's Working Group of the Parties at its twentieth meeting (Geneva, 15–17 June 2016) and the Protocol Bureau at its tenth meeting (Geneva, 7 July 2016) agreed to hold both sessions back to back in the week of 11 September 2017¹. They also welcomed the offer of Montenegro to host the next sessions and expressed their appreciation to the Government of Montenegro for the offer.

II. Organization of work

3. The proposed allocation of time for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as well as the associated meetings, are set out in the table below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Convention/Protocol body</i>
Sunday, 10 September (full day)	Convention Compliance Committee (could continue in parallel with the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP-6), as required)
Monday, 11 September (9-11 a.m.)	Convention Bureau
Monday, 11 September (11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3–5.30 p.m.)	MOP-6 (preparatory segment)
Tuesday, 12 September (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	MOP-6 (general segment)
Wednesday, 13 September (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	MOP-6 (general segment), Protocol Bureau and Protocol Compliance Committee (could continue in parallel with MOP-6, as required)
Thursday, 14 September (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	Joint high-level segment under MOP-6 and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOPP-3)
Friday, 15 September (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	MOPP-3 (general segment)

¹ The 72nd Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72) will convene at UN Headquarters on Tuesday, 12 September 2017. The General Debate will open on Tuesday, 19 September 2017.

III. Elements of the agenda

4. For the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol it is suggested that: (a) the agenda should be, in general, similar to the agenda of the second session; (b) the agenda should cover all substantive areas of work under the Protocol; and (c) discussions should address good practices, achievements, lessons learned, challenges and obstacles in relation to implementing the Protocol.

5. Representatives of Governments and stakeholders could be invited to deliver keynote addresses under specific agenda items. The Working Group of the Parties to the Convention at its twentieth meeting (Geneva, 15–17 June 2016) and the Protocol Bureau at its tenth meeting (Geneva, 7 July 2016) expressed their support to a joint high-level segment to be focused on the link between the Convention and its Protocol and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is expected that a high-level segment would: (a) attract high-level participation; and (b) be relevant/linked to emerging issues in a global context (e.g. role of the Convention and its Protocol in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals). A concise (no longer than two-and-a-half pages), theme-specific joint declaration (i.e., with the Convention's Parties) would be developed for consideration by high-level officials at the segment.

6. In accordance with the foregoing considerations, a suggested agenda for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is set out below.

Joint High-level Segment

1. Opening.
2. Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties.
3. Thematic discussion on the link between the Convention and its Protocol and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Discussion and adoption of the Declaration.
5. Review and adoption of the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.
6. Closure of the Joint High-level Segment.

General segment

1. Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Promotion and capacity-building;²
 - (a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies;
 - (b) Technical resources, subregional and national activities.
4. Reporting and compliance mechanisms:
 - (a) Reporting mechanism;
 - (b) Compliance mechanism.

² It is suggested to consider global and regional developments on issues related to pollutant release and transfer registers at the high-level segment.

5. Programme of work and operation of the Protocol:
 - (a) Implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017;
 - (b) Progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for 2015-2020;
 - (c) Future work programme;
 - (d) Financial arrangements.
 6. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau.
 7. Date and venue of the fourth ordinary session.
 8. Any other business.
 9. Review and adoption of decisions.
 10. Closure of the meeting.
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