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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 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Wednesday, 23 November 2016*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Designation of national focal points.
4. Promotion and capacity-building:

* As part of the accreditation procedures for meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva, delegates are requested to register online before 7 November 2016 through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=BVfkQs>. Participants requiring a personal invitation letter for visa purposes should click on the “visa required” option and register for the meeting as early as possible, taking into account the period required to obtain the visa. Participants applying for financial support should register before 5 October 2016 and submit the completed financial support form to the secretariat by e-mail (public.participation@unece.org) before the same date.



- (a) Synergies with partner organizations;
 - (b) Subregional and national activities;
 - (c) Electronic tools and technical resources;
 - (d) Global promotion of the Protocol;
 - (e) Other relevant activities.
5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms.
 6. Implementation of the current work programme of the Protocol, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020 and financial matters.
 7. Preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
 - (a) Hosting and preparatory timeline;
 - (b) Substantive preparations:
 - (i) Agenda for the third session;
 - (ii) Programme of work for 2018–2021;
 - (iii) Financial arrangements under the Protocol;
 - (iv) Declaration.
 8. Calendar of meetings.
 9. Other business.
 10. Adoption of the decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 10–10.10 a.m.

Following an introductory statement, the Chair of 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 will invite the Working Group to adopt the agenda for its fifth meeting, as set out in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/1)

¹ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page on the Protocol's website: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr/wgp5#/>.

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 10.10–10.15 a.m.

The Working Group will consider an overview of the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments concerning the ratification, acceptance or approval of or accession to the Protocol in their respective countries.

3. Designation of national focal points

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 10.15–10.20 a.m.

The Working Group will consider an overview of the status of designation of national focal points. Delegations will be invited to report on any developments concerning the designation of national focal points.

Documentation

Overview of the designation of national focal points (PRTR/WG.1/2016/Inf.1)

4. Promotion and capacity-building

(a) Synergies with partner organizations

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 10.20–10.40 a.m.

The Working Group will be briefed on the activities carried out by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Pollutant Release And Transfer Register (PRTR) Coordinating Group and other partner organizations of relevance to the Protocol's work programme.

(b) Subregional and national activities

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 10.40–11.15 a.m.

The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the subregional workshop on the Protocol for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Minsk, 19–21 September 2016) and about other relevant activities.

(c) Electronic tools and technical resources

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 11.15–11.40 a.m.

The Working Group will be briefed on recent developments regarding electronic tools, including the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and the PRTR.net global portal, and the cooperation between ECE, OECD and UNITAR in that regard.

The Working Group will also consider the updated note on technical assistance and resources.

(d) Global promotion of the Protocol

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 11.40 a.m.–12.40 p.m.

The Working Group will consider the report on the second joint Global Round Table on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, organized under the auspices of OECD and ECE, in cooperation with UNITAR and UNEP (Madrid, 25–26 November 2015). The Working Group will also consider other relevant developments, including the promotion of the Protocol at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016).

(e) Other relevant activities

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 12.40–1 p.m.

Delegations will be invited to consider other relevant capacity-building and promotion activities.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/3)

Technical assistance and resources (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/12)

Report on the second Global Round Table on Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/7)

Report on the subregional workshop on the Protocol for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2016 (PRTR/WG.1/2016/Inf.2)

5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 3–4 p.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider any developments with regard to the compliance mechanism and the status of preparation of national implementation reports.

The Working Group will also be invited to consider the following draft documents prepared by the Compliance Committee:

(a) Guidance for reporting on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers;

(b) Systemic issues concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and recommendations on how to address them.

Documentation

Draft systemic issues concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and recommendations on how to address them (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/5)

Draft guidance for reporting on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/6)

Note on the membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/10)

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/3)

6. Implementation of the current work programme of the Protocol, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020 and financial matters

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 4–4:30 p.m.

The Working Group will consider the status of implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1, decision V/6, annex I), taking into consideration the outcomes of the discussion held under previous items.

The Working Group will be informed about the contributions received to support the implementation of the Protocol's current work programme and the expenditures incurred during 2015 and projected for the period 2016–2017. Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/3)

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/4)

7. Preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

(a) Hosting and preparatory timeline

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 4.30–4.50 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed about the preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to be held in Montenegro in the week of 11 September 2017.

Documentation

Note on the preparatory timeline 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 (PRTR/WG.1/2016/Inf.3)

(b) Substantive preparations

The Working Group will be invited to consider substantive preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(i) Agenda of the third session

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 4.50–5.20 p.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft outline of the provisional agenda for the third session, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the third session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft outline of the agenda of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/11)

(ii) *Programme of work for 2018–2021*

Timing: Wednesday, 23 November, 5.20–6 p.m. and Thursday, 24 November, 10–10.45 a.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on the programme of work for 2018–2021, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the third session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft decision on the work programme for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/8)

(iii) *Financial arrangements under the Protocol*

Timing: Thursday, 24 November, 10.45–11.45 a.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on financial arrangements prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft decision on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/9)

(iv) *Declaration*

Timing: Thursday, 24 November, 11.45 a.m.–12.50 p.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider a draft outline of a declaration prepared by the Bureaux of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, and to mandate the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to finalize it in cooperation with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the joint high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties to both treaties.

Documentation

Draft outline of the Declaration (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/13)

8. Calendar of meetings

Timing: Thursday, 24 November, 12.50–12.55 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed about the tentative calendar of meetings for 2017.

9. Other business

Timing: Thursday, 24 November, 12.55–1 p.m.

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

10. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting

Timing: Thursday, 24 November, 3–4 p.m.²

The Working Group is expected to adopt the decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

² To ensure equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations while saving paper, the draft text of the meeting decisions and outcomes will be projected on a screen around 45 minutes before the close of the meeting, and will be presented by the Chair verbally, thereby allowing for interpretation. The list of decisions will be distributed to participants by e-mail after the meeting.