

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

Twenty-second meeting

Geneva, 19-21 June 2018

Item 12 of the provisional agenda:

Thematic session on promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums

Results of the Survey for Parties in Preparation for the Thematic Session on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in international Forums¹

BACKGROUND

A survey was carried out prior to the twenty-second meeting of the Working Group of the Parties. The survey intended to assist Parties in reporting to the Working Group on the promotion of the Convention's principles in international decision-making on chemicals and waste under the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Chemical Conventions (Basel², Rotterdam³, and Stockholm⁴ (BRS) Conventions), the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Each Party was invited to complete an online questionnaire by 14 May 2018.

The survey was made available via an online survey platform to promote the use of electronic information tools. Nevertheless, a few Parties responded to the survey by filling in the word file as it seemed to be easier to coordinate responses with colleagues.

SURVEY OVERVIEW

The following 20 out of 47 Parties to the Convention (42.5% of total number of Parties) responded to the survey: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan. Four additional Parties logged on to the online survey but did not reply to the questions. In addition, not all Parties completed the entire survey. Some responded to certain sections only (e.g. questions on BRS Conventions or Minamata Convention only).

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

³ Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

⁴ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

I. BRS CONVENTIONS

1. Promotion of the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the latest meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-13, RC COP-8, SC COP-8) (Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017) as well as during the meetings themselves

a. General information regarding the promotion of the Convention's principles

Twelve of the twenty Parties that have responded to this survey reported that they have been promoting the Convention's principles in the process leading to and/or during the latest meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the BRS Conventions in 2017. Only two Parties (Netherlands and Sweden) promoted the principles in the preparatory processes as well as during the sessions. The majority of Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Serbia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan) promoted the principles during the preparatory phases only.

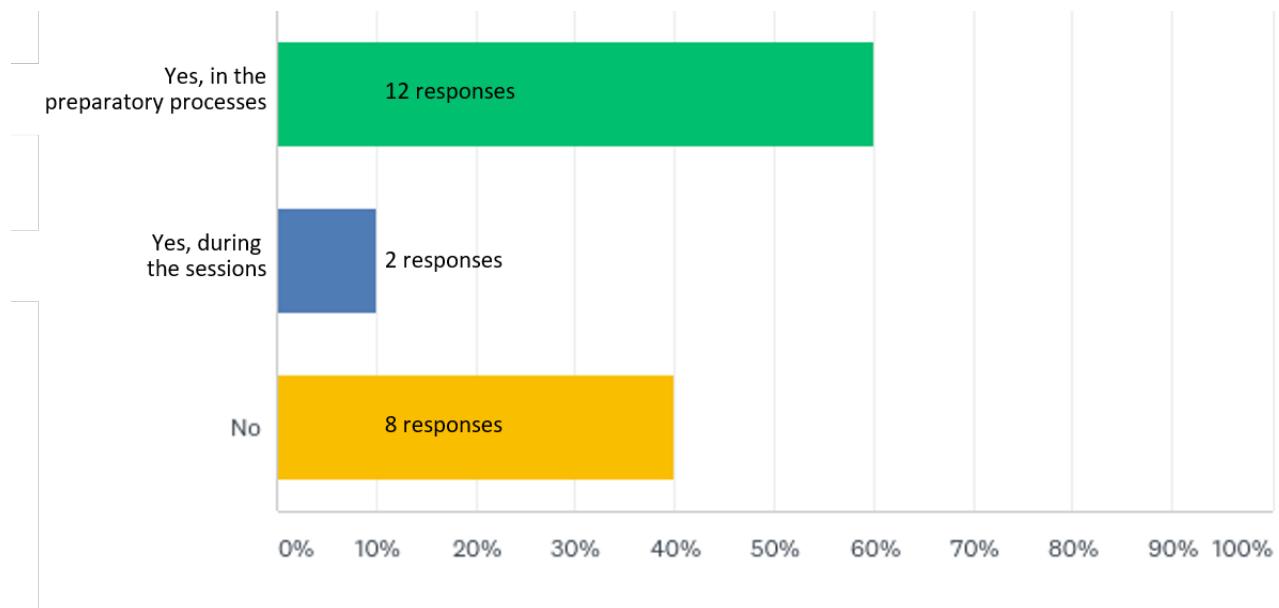


Figure 1 - Has your Government promoted the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the latest meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as during the meetings themselves?

Eight Parties reported that they did not promote the Convention's principles (France, Georgia, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Switzerland and Tajikistan) neither in the preparational processes nor during the triple COP of the BRS Conventions in 2017.

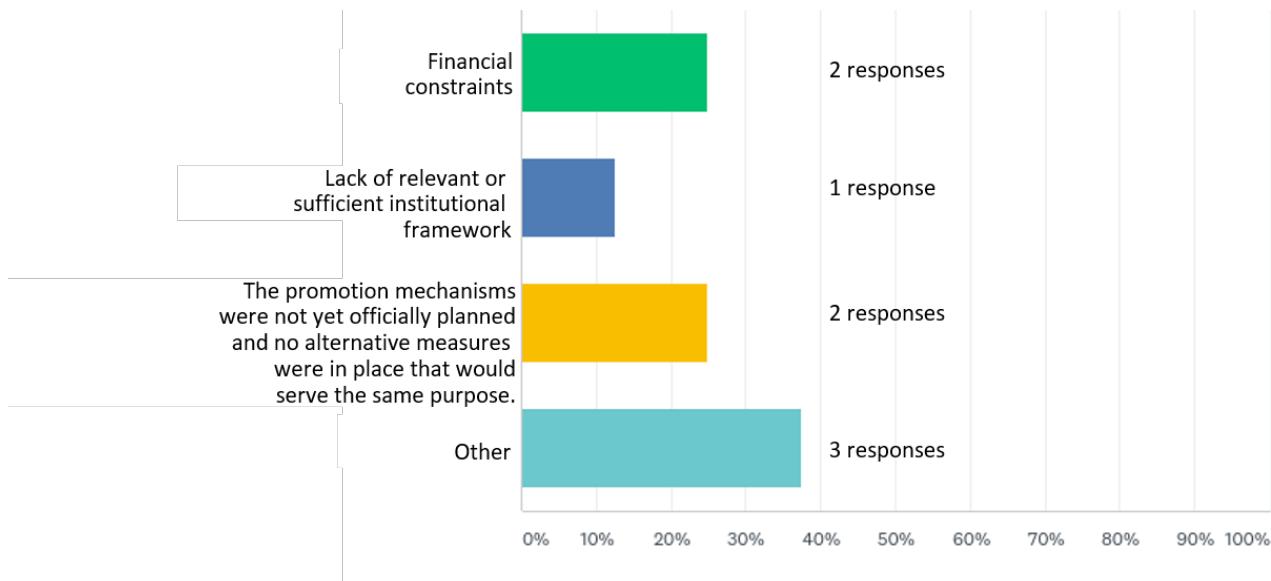


Figure 2 - What has prevented your government from using existing mechanisms or introducing alternatives?

Reasons reported for not promoting the Aarhus Convention's principles were financial constraints (Portugal, Switzerland), lack of relevant or sufficient institutional framework (Tajikistan) or that the promotion mechanisms were not yet officially planned and no alternative measures were in place that would serve the same purpose (Georgia and Romania). Under "other" reasons, three Parties (France, Ireland and Norway) provided more details:

FRANCE

France hasn't put in place any specific mechanism for the information and public participation regarding the preparations of the BRS conventions COPs. This is explained by several reasons. First, the preparation of these meetings is made at European level since the European Union and its 28 members States speak with a single voice in this forum. The European process allows for meetings with stakeholders, usually before the COPs and also during the COPs. The French authorities are participating in these stakeholder meetings along with other member States. Furthermore, the organisation of the COPs themselves already provides access to information for the public. All documents are available online and are already provided in French as it is one of the 6 UN languages. Stakeholders participation in the COP is also organised. They can act as observers, follow the negotiations and make their voices heard. Even if there is no specific mechanism proactively organised for these events NGOs, industries or civil society representatives can always reach to the French government, to request information about the preparation of these COPs. National focal points for the Conventions contacts are available online, stakeholders also address requests directly to the ministers that are then forwarded to the relevant ministerial departments for answers and follow up. Information and meetings for stakeholders are easily available upon request, and such requests are treated on a regular basis. French delegates during the COP meetings are also open to discuss with stakeholders representatives and give time for informal meetings if requested. It is also to be noted that stakeholder involvement is an important part

in the definition of national environmental policies at national level. In the context of chemicals and waste the recent example of the Roadmap for circular economy (“Feuille de route économie circulaire”) adopted on 23 of April 2018 after a long process of public consultation, is a great example of this inclusive approach. Since national policies and initiatives are the basis of positions taken at international level, civil society concerns and interests are also reflected at that level. In addition, the current process of the review of implementation of the SDGs also generates a lot of stakeholder consultations at national level, which also gives an additional opportunity for the public to discuss the French position regarding chemical and waste and influence indirectly the work within the framework of the conventions, since they are essential tools to be implement in order to reach specific targets of the SDGs.

IRELAND

Ireland is fully compliant with the requirements of the Aarhus Convention, however due to the highly technical nature of these conventions they are not considered a suitable vehicle for the promotion of the Aarhus principles among a wider public audience. Furthermore there is a common EU position among all MS on the conventions, which is subject to scrutiny at parliamentary committee level.

NORWAY

National coordination mechanisms exist and are used for the preparatory phase and during the conferences themselves in several thematic areas such as climate change and biodiversity. In the field of chemicals and waste, national positions are based on a chemicals and waste policy with broad political support. Civil society has been involved in the development of the policy. National positions for conferences generally aim at increasing the protection of health and the environment in order to bring it in line with national requirements. So far, obligations under the conventions have not gone further than what is already required by national regulation. Earlier attempts at involving civil society in the preparatory phase of conferences have received limited attention. Further involvement of civil society will be considered ahead of upcoming conferences.

Five Parties provided additional information in relation to which **documents** they were promoting the Convention's principles:

AUSTRIA

COP working documents and COP information documents.

DENMARK

Any Danish preparatory documents for the 2017 triple-COP would be in Danish. Documents would include the mandate for the Danish position as well as information relevant to explain the background for the mandate. The mandate is agreed by the Danish Parliament. In the preparatory work, some issues relevant for the draft Danish position can be of a technical character with broader public interest. In these cases, which are evaluated on an ad-hoc basis, the technical elements are in public consultation with the possibility for all stakeholders to express their views before the Government position is settled and mandate is

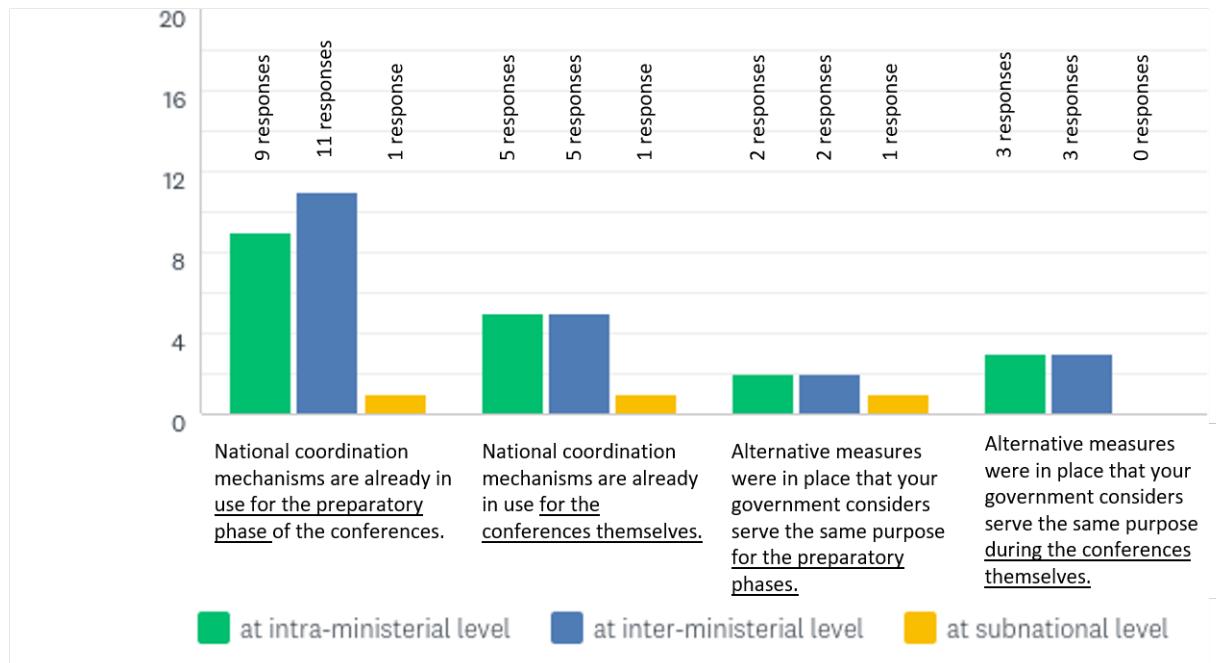
agreed by Parliament.

NETHERLANDS	Discussion on technical guidelines (e.g., ESM, POPs and waste, e-waste, establishment of the household waste partnership), Work Programme and budget.
SERBIA	<p>Position paper (platform) for the BRS COPs meeting adopted by the Government of Serbia and approved by all relevant ministries through submission of their opinions on the draft position paper document prepared by the Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection.</p> <p>Publishing information from the BRS COPs meeting on the official website of the Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection.</p>
SLOVAKIA	All public documents which are available on the website of the BRS Conventions.

b. Mechanisms for promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the latest meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-13, RC COP-8, SC COP-8) (Geneva, 24 April to 5 May 2017) as well as during the meetings themselves.

National coordination mechanisms

Eleven Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden and Turkmenistan) responded to this question. All eleven Parties reported that (a) national coordination mechanisms were in use for the preparatory phase of the 2017 triple COPs of the BRS Conventions, six Parties (Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan) responded that (b) national coordination mechanisms were in use for the three conferences themselves, (c) alternative measures were used by three Parties during the preparatory phases and the conferences themselves (Luxembourg, Netherlands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), however on different national levels.



Answered: 11 Skipped: 9

Figure 3 - Through which mechanisms has your Government promoted the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the 2017 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the BRS Conventions as well as during the meetings themselves?

Four Parties elaborated on the level of stakeholder engagement in the COPs preparation with the following additional information:

LITHUANIA

In accordance with the established procedure on the representation at the International Fora, the national position on the issues/items included into Agenda of the COPs and that are subject to the COPs decisions are to be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. This national position shall be agreed with the institutions/other stakeholder groups in concern. [...] on the most important issues of BRS COPs (e. g. listing of new POPs in the Annexes of the Stockholm Convention, inclusion of new dangerous substances into the scope of PIC procedure under the Rotterdam Convention) the Decision of the European Union (EU) Council is to be adopted. Those EU Council Decisions establish the joint EU position. In such cases the national Rules on Coordination of the European Union Matters (adopted by Resolution No 478 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 29 April 2005) are applicable. In accordance with these Rules the Lithuanian positions shall be agreed with institutions in concern and other stakeholder groups (NGOs). Additionally, the general principles of the national legislative process could be applied while implementing the Law on the Legislative Framework of the Republic of Lithuania (No XI-2220 adopted by the Parliament on 18 September

2012, as last amended on 12 March 2015). Therefore, various stakeholders, including the public, have opportunities to provide their views on legislative initiatives and other related chemicals management safety issues. This common approach is being applied in all sectors. However, the practice shows that national NGOs are not very active in the chemicals sector and their contribution to the draft legal acts or position documents are not remarkable. In this context it is worth to mention that several Lithuanian NGOs themselves and in cooperation with relevant public institutions also conduct awareness raising activities. Following the established procedures, the notice in media and the website of the Ministry of Environment is being prepared before each BRS COP with the aim to publicly provide information on the issues to be discussed and decisions to be taken. Usually preparatory work for COP is based on the liaison and consultations with relevant institutions and stakeholders taking into account particular, specific issues indicated in COP draft documents and is based on usual, ordinary working and communication process. Information related to the BRS is publicly available. The Stockholm Convention (SC) and Rotterdam Convention (RC) contain provisions on information exchange and mechanisms (Article 8 of SC, Article 14 of RC). E. g. the SC sets obligations to Parties to facilitate or undertake the exchange of information relevant to the reduction or elimination of the production, use and release of persistent organic pollutants, alternatives to persistent organic pollutants. The SC sets the task for the Secretariat to serve as a clearing-house mechanism for information on persistent organic pollutants, including information provided by Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Basel Convention itself has established prior written notification and consent procedure to control transboundary movements of hazardous waste and ensure environmentally sound management of waste as well as clearing-house mechanism (which is a part of joint clearing-house mechanism of 3 conventions) to facilitate the exchange of information (COP documents, country profiles and reports, contacts, events, projects etc.). This reflects the concept of the Aarhus Convention. The joint (BRS) clearing-house mechanism is established and functioning. The joint (BRS) clearing-house mechanism is a multi-stakeholder global system that facilitate the exchange of information and expertise relevant for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

SLOVAKIA

Through the external consultation process in which all ministries, stakeholders and public are involved.

SWEDEN

Brief information about the meeting on the Government's website.

i. Intra-ministerial level

Nine of these eleven Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported that coordination mechanisms exist at intra-ministerial level during the preparatory phases of the triple COP in 2017. Four out of these nine Parties (Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Serbia

reported that coordination mechanisms were in place at intra-ministerial level during the conferences themselves. The following Parties provided additional information and details regarding intra-ministerial coordination:

DENMARK	During the preparatory phase: Coordination is performed between relevant departments, as appropriate. During the conferences: Developments at the conferences are coordinated sur place.
SLOVAKIA	Through the internal ministerial consultation process. Through the external consultation process in which all ministries, stakeholders and public are involved.
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	The coordination exists within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning which is competent authority for implementation the legal basis related to waste management and parts of chemicals.

ii. Inter-ministerial level

Eleven Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan) reported that the principles of the Aarhus Convention were promoted at inter-ministerial level in the preparatory processes for the triple COP. Out of these eleven Parties five (Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan) reported that they also used existing mechanisms to promote the principles of the Convention at inter-ministerial level. In addition, the following information was provided by Parties:

DENMARK	Preparatory phase: The BRS-M conventions and SAICM is within the purview of the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark and preparatory coordination therefore - as a starting point – is done at intra-ministerial level. However, if the preparatory process covers areas which are within the purview of other ministries, inter-ministerial coordination is performed on an ad-hoc basis. Relevant ministries could e.g. be Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Health. During the Conferences: If developments at the conferences require further inter-ministerial coordination, this is done, as appropriate.
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BULGARIA	The Permanent Interministerial Group on Synergy was established with an Order RD-242/12.03.2013 of the Minister of Environment and Water, in which representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, Executive Environmental Agency and representatives of various Directorates in the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) participate. The group was established in pursuance of the decisions, adopted at the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions on chemicals and waste management with the aim coordinated and effective implementation of the legislation on chemicals and waste. The Main objective is to coordinate the activities of mutual implementation of: Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); Protocol of 1998 on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to the Convention on Long-range
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Transboundary Air Pollution from 1979; Convention on the Prior Informed Consent in International Trade in certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides (Rotterdam Convention); Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAIMC); Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Specific tasks of this Interministerial Group are:

1. Ensuring cooperation between national coordinators in terms of effective national implementation of the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions;
2. Determination of common priority areas of action for the Conventions, including the coordinated implementation of activities in regard with the management of hazardous chemicals listed in the Annexes of the Conventions throughout their life cycle;
3. Analysis of information and drafting of proposals to improve the management and control of the marketing, use and export of hazardous chemicals and export and their control as waste;
4. Coordination of the process of conducting general and targeted POPs inventories and other hazardous chemicals, including in articles, products and waste. Cooperation in the development of methodological guidelines and manuals for treatment of waste, containing POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals;
5. Coordinated implementation of the chemicals national legislation, including the introduction of measures for enforcement of European Union regulations to ensure the implementation of the conventions as per changes within their scope;
6. Providing methodological guidelines and training workshops for the industry and the control authorities on enforcement of European Union and international legislation on the management of hazardous chemicals, emissions and related waste;
7. Raising public awareness on potential risks to human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes within the scope of the Conventions;
8. Development of draft national plans and programmes for the management of hazardous chemicals and waste within the scope of the Conventions and their updates;
9. Exchange of information and coordination in the preparation of national reports on the implementation of the three Conventions and related international agreements;
10. Cooperation and regular exchange of information in the preparation of national positions on draft European Union acts, introducing measures to implement the Conventions. The members of Synergy Group had good, useful and effective cooperation between them in operational plan and had performed the following activities:
 - Jointly developed national positions on the agenda items of every joint Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions;

- National reporting on the three Conventions and annual and triennial reports on the European Union legislation in the field of hazardous chemicals and waste management done;
 - Updating of the National Profile for the Management of Chemical Substances and Mixtures;
- Prepared ratification package of documents and ratification of the Minamata Convention on mercury (ratified by a law, adopted by the National Assembly on 09.02.2016, promulgated in State Gazette No. 71/13.09.2016);
- Exchanged of information for the preparation of national positions on draft European Union acts, introducing measures to implement the Conventions;
 - Good coordination of stakeholders at national and regional level reached in the implementation of national chemicals legislation, including the introduction of measures to implement European Union regulations to ensure the implementation of the Conventions as per changes within their scope;
 - Constantly updating of the European Union and national legislation on the management of chemicals and waste on the MoEW website;
 - Increased public awareness through publishing updated information for the risks to human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes within the scope of the Conventions on the MoEW website.

SERBIA

According to the Rules of Procedures of the Serbian Government, all official government documents shall be previously submitted to the relevant ministries for their opinion before final adoption on the meeting of the Serbian Government (including Position paper for the BRS COPs meetings).

SLOVAKIA

Through the internal ministerial consultation process. Through the external consultation process in which all ministries, stakeholders and public are involved.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The Environment is multidisciplinary incorporating different authorities (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy). The coordination exists at inter-ministerial level.

iii. Sub-national level

Promotion of the Convention's principles at subnational-level was observed in Lithuania only, both during the preparatory phases and the BRS Conventions COP themselves.

Alternative measures for promoting the Convention's principles before and during the triple COP of the BRS Conventions in 2017

During the preparatory phases of the last meetings of the BRS Conventions in 2017, three Parties (Luxembourg, Netherlands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported to have used alternative measures to promote access to information and public participation in decision-making both at intra- and inter-ministerial levels during the preparational phases as well as during the last meetings if the BRS Conventions in 2017. The Netherlands used alternative measures during the preparational phases at

sub-national level and during the conferences themselves at intra- and inter-ministerial levels. All three Parties used alternative measures in addition to national coordination mechanisms. None of the Parties provided details on these alternative measures.

2. Differences in approaches for promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the latest meetings of the three Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-13, RC COP-8, SC COP-8) as well as during the meetings themselves

Out of twelve Parties that responded to this question, eleven confirmed that they did not promote differently the Convention's principles in preparatory processes for the latest meetings of the three Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-13, RC COP-8, SC COP-8) as well as during the meetings themselves. For all three Conventions, the same approaches were applied. Austria reported deviations in approaches to the Basel Convention as this Convention is under the responsibility of another unit in Austria than the Chemicals Conventions Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata, and SAICM.

3. Promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-13, RC COP-8, SC COP-8) as well as during the meetings themselves

a. General information regarding the promotion of the Conventions principles

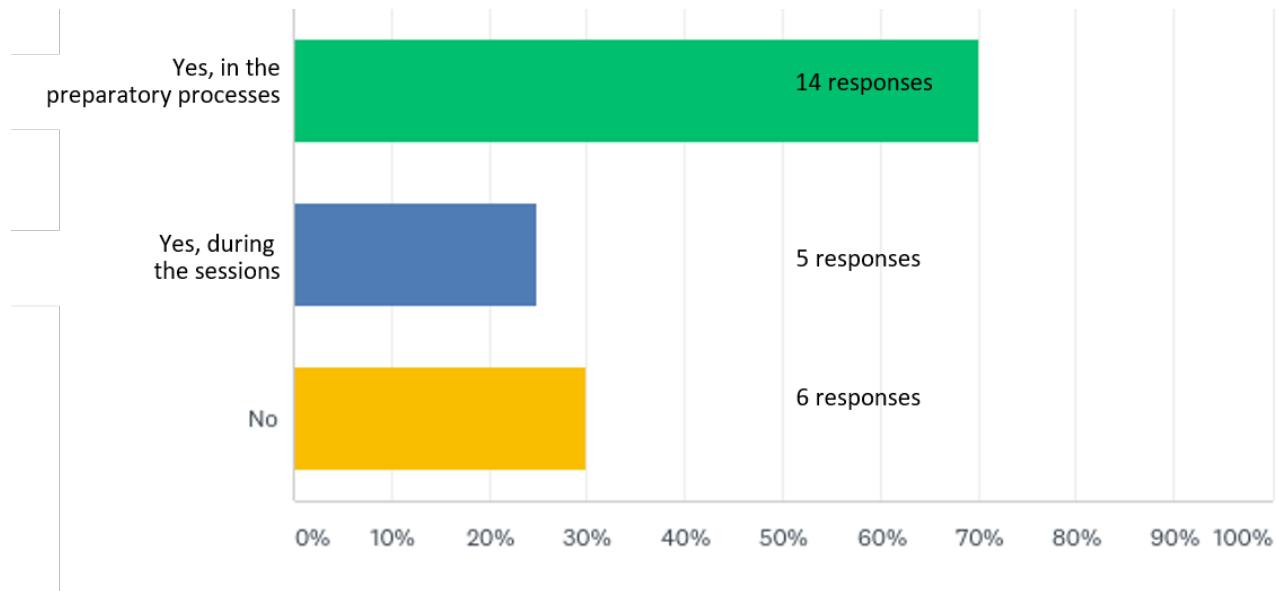


Figure 4 - Has your Government promoted the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the latest meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as during the meetings themselves?

Fourteen out of twenty Parties reported that they are promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes leading to the next Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Five of these Parties (Denmark, Georgia, Netherlands, Romania and Serbia) are also planning to also promote the principles during the next triple COP in 2019.

Six Parties (France, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal and Tajikistan) responded that they are currently not promoting or planning to promote the Convention's principles neither in the preparational processes nor during the next triple COP of the BRS Conventions in 2019. As reasons for this, Parties indicated financial constraints (Portugal) and lack of relevant or sufficient institutional framework (Tajikistan). Four Parties explained under "other" reasons:

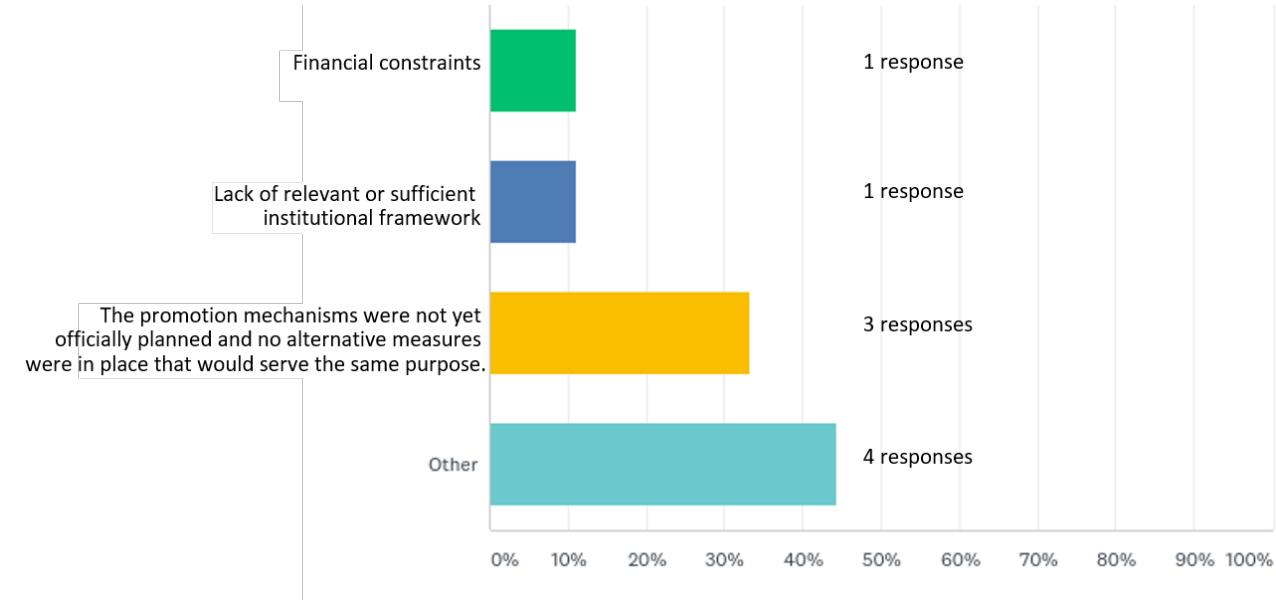


Figure 5 - What has prevented your government from using existing mechanisms or introducing alternatives?

FRANCE

First it has to be noted that the preparation of the next triple COP that is going to take place in the spring of 2019 has not been clearly initiated yet. For this upcoming meetings France fully supports the existing mechanisms mentioned already in the answer of question 1 to ensure appropriate public participation and information: stakeholders participations in the meetings, documents publicly available, organization of stakeholder meetings at the European level. The French authorities also remain open to answer any request for information or for meetings expressed as national level before the COPs, or during the meetings on the spot.

IRELAND

Please see comment above.

LITHUANIA

At the moment of completing of questionnaire there is neither a provisional agenda nor draft documents for BC COP-14, RC COP-9, SC COP-9 available. So preparatory work has not been started yet, but once the preparatory work starts the communication and coordination will be done the way described above. At the current moment preparatory work for the Basel Convention OEWG-11 is ongoing and the same way as described above under National coordination mechanisms were already in use for the preparatory phases described above.

NORWAY

National coordination mechanisms exist and are used for the preparatory phase and during the conferences themselves in several thematic areas such as climate change and biodiversity. In the field of chemicals and waste, national positions

are based on a chemicals and waste policy with broad political support. Civil society has been involved in the development of the policy. National positions for conferences generally aim at increasing the protection of health and the environment in order to bring it in line with national requirements. So far, obligations under the conventions have not gone further than what is already required by national regulation.

Earlier attempts at involving civil society in the preparatory phase of conferences have received limited attention. Further involvement of civil society will be considered ahead of upcoming conferences.

Five Parties provided additional information in relation to **which documents** they are promoting the Convention's principles at the next triple COP of the BRS Conventions:

AUSTRIA	Working documents and information documents of the COPs.
DENMARK	The Danish national preparation process for the 2019 triple-COPs are envisaged to follow the same line of work as previously (see answer above for details).
NETHERLANDS	Applicable for all technical and non-technical documents with the exception of nomination experts and officers.
ROMANIA	In relation to the draft decisions of COPs.
SERBIA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Position paper (platform) for the BRS COPs meeting adopted by the Government of the Serbia and approved by all relevant ministries through submission of their opinions on the draft position paper document prepared by the Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection.2. Publishing information from the BRS COPs meeting on the official website of the Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection - According to the Rules of Procedures of the Serbian Government, all official government documents shall be previously submitted to the relevant ministries for their opinion before final adoption on the meeting of the Serbian Government (including Position paper for the BRS COPs meetings).
SLOVAKIA	In relation to all public documents which are available on the website of the BRS Conventions.
b. Mechanisms for promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-14, RC COP-9, SC COP-9) as well as during the meetings themselves.	

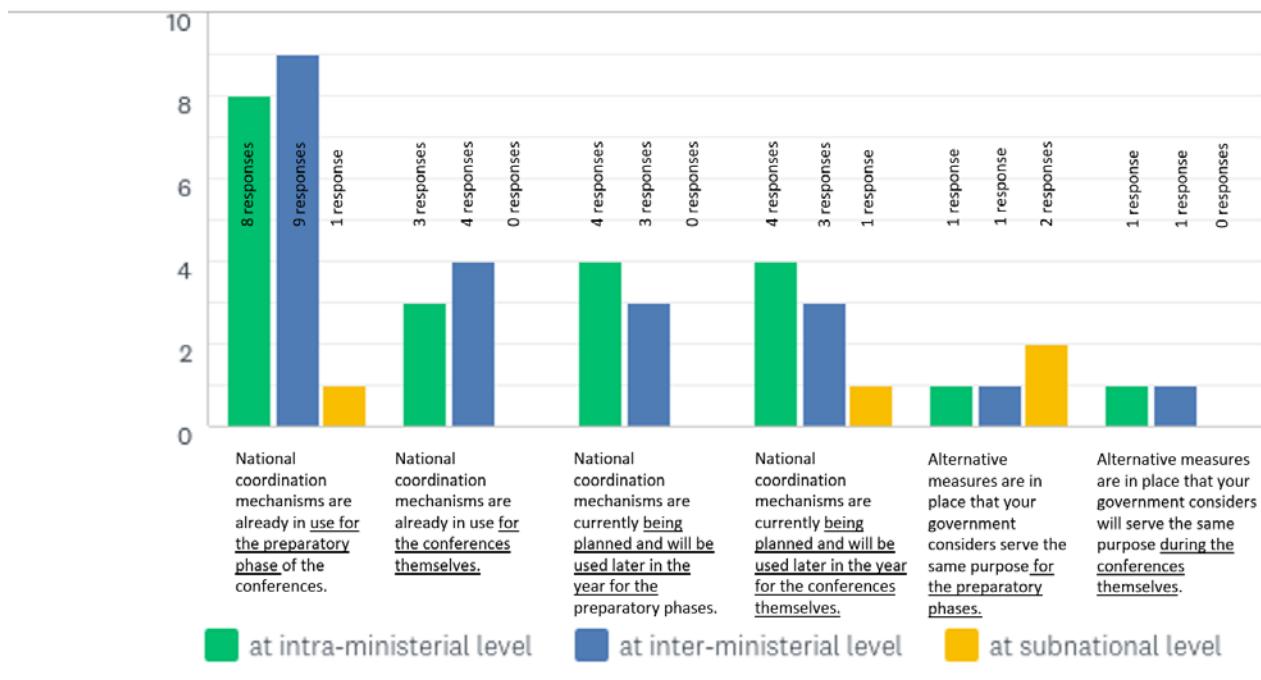


Figure 6 - Through which mechanisms has your Government promoted the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the 2017 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the BRS Conventions as well as during the meetings themselves?

National coordination mechanisms

Ten Parties responded that (a) national coordination mechanisms are already in use (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan), five Parties (Denmark, Georgia, Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) responded that (b) national coordination mechanisms are currently being planned and will be used later in the year. Alternative measures (c) for the preparational process for the next COPs of the BRS Conventions in 2019 were reported to be in place in three Parties (Georgia, Netherlands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and (d) for the conference itself by one Party (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

i. Intra-ministerial level

Eight Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported that coordination mechanisms exist at intra-ministerial level to promote the principles at the next COPs of the BRS Conventions during the preparatory phase. Among this group of Parties are three Parties (Denmark, Netherlands, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) that also have national coordination mechanisms in place to be used during the next COP of the BRS Conventions.

Four Parties (Denmark, Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) are currently planning a mechanism for the preparatory phases that will be used later in the year at intra-national level. Four Parties (Denmark, Georgia, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) are currently planning national coordination mechanisms that will be used later in the year during the conferences themselves.

ii. Inter-ministerial level

Nine Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan) reported that the principles of the Convention are being promoted at inter-ministerial level in the preparatory processes for the Conferences of the Parties to the BRS Conventions.

During the Conferences, four Parties (Denmark, Netherlands, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan) have existing mechanisms in place to promote the Convention's principles. Three Parties (Denmark, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) are currently planning national coordination mechanisms for the preparatory phases at inter-ministerial level that will be used later in the year and Denmark, Georgia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are planning such coordination mechanisms to be used during the next COP of the BRS Conventions.

iii. Sub-national level

Promotion of the Convention's principles at subnational-level was observed in one Party only (Luxembourg) in the preparatory phases for the next triple COP of the BRS Conventions. Georgia is currently planning a coordination mechanism at sub-national level that will be used later in the year for the conferences themselves.

Alternative measures for promoting the Convention's principles in the next BRS Conventions

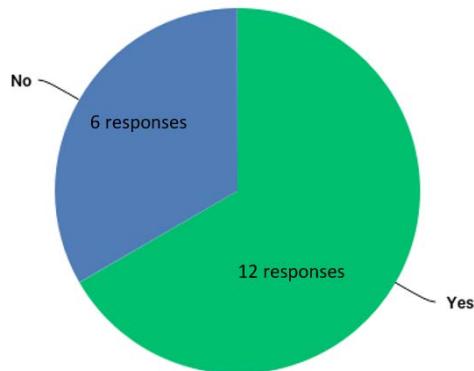
Three Parties (Georgia, Netherlands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported on alternative measures to promote access to information and public participation in decision-making – as additional measure to national coordination mechanisms that are already in place. Of which one (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) at intra-ministerial and inter-ministerial levels and two (Georgia and Netherlands) at subnational level. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also has alternative measures in place to promote the Convention's principles through national coordination mechanisms during the conferences.

c. Differences in approaches for promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes at the next meetings of the three Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-14, RC COP-9, SC COP-9) as well as during the meetings themselves

Out of the eighteen Parties that responded to this question, fifteen confirmed that they are not promoting differently the Convention's principles in preparatory processes for the next meetings of the three Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as during the upcoming meetings themselves. For all three Conventions, the same approaches are being applied or are planned to be applied. Out of the three Parties that are or will not promote the three Conventions similarly, Austria reported deviations in approaches to the Basel Convention as this Convention is under the responsibility of another unit than the Chemicals Conventions Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata, and SAICM. Tajikistan explained a lack of cooperation between centres for implementation of Conventions.

d. Intentions to take any future actions to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under the BRS Conventions in line with the Almaty Guidelines

Eighteen Parties responded to this question, of which twelve confirmed that they plan to take any future action to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under the BRS Conventions in line with the Almaty Guidelines. Of the six Parties (Denmark, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovakia) not intending to take future actions all, four Parties provided more details:



DENMARK

Our general experience with and perception of the BRS Conventions Secretariat is that they are living up to the expectations and principles of transparency and effective public participation. Also with regard to possibilities of participating as Observers to the Conventions, using the conventions website as a clearing house mechanism, living up to the deadline for uploading document prior to the COPs, or creating the opportunity for stakeholders to organize side events as a platform to raise attention about issues at the Convention venue, the Secretariat is living up to their responsibility and our expectations. We very much support the implementation of the Almaty Guidelines.

FRANCE

As explained in previous answers, the mechanisms in place already allow for public participation and information. French authorities are also open to organize more exchanges with the civil society on these issues upon request. This approach ensures more flexibility than a more formal process that would be difficult to properly organise due to the fact that most of the preparation for the meetings are done at European level.

IRELAND

As mentioned above, the highly technical nature of these conventions and the common EU position, makes them an unsuitable vehicle for the promotion of the Aarhus principles in our opinion. However, if during any of the regular meetings between officials of the environment Ministry and ENGO representatives there were to be an indication that they see the promotion of the Aarhus principles in relation to these conventions as a priority, then we will endeavour to work with colleagues in other relevant Ministries to raise the Aarhus principles in that context.

SLOVAKIA

We think that the used approach is working well.

II. MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

2. **Promotion of the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Geneva, 24–29 September 2017) as well as during the meeting itself.**

a. General information regarding the promotion of the Convention's principles

Eleven out of eighteen Parties who responded to the questions on the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Georgia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported that they have been promoting the Convention's principles **in the process leading** to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2017.

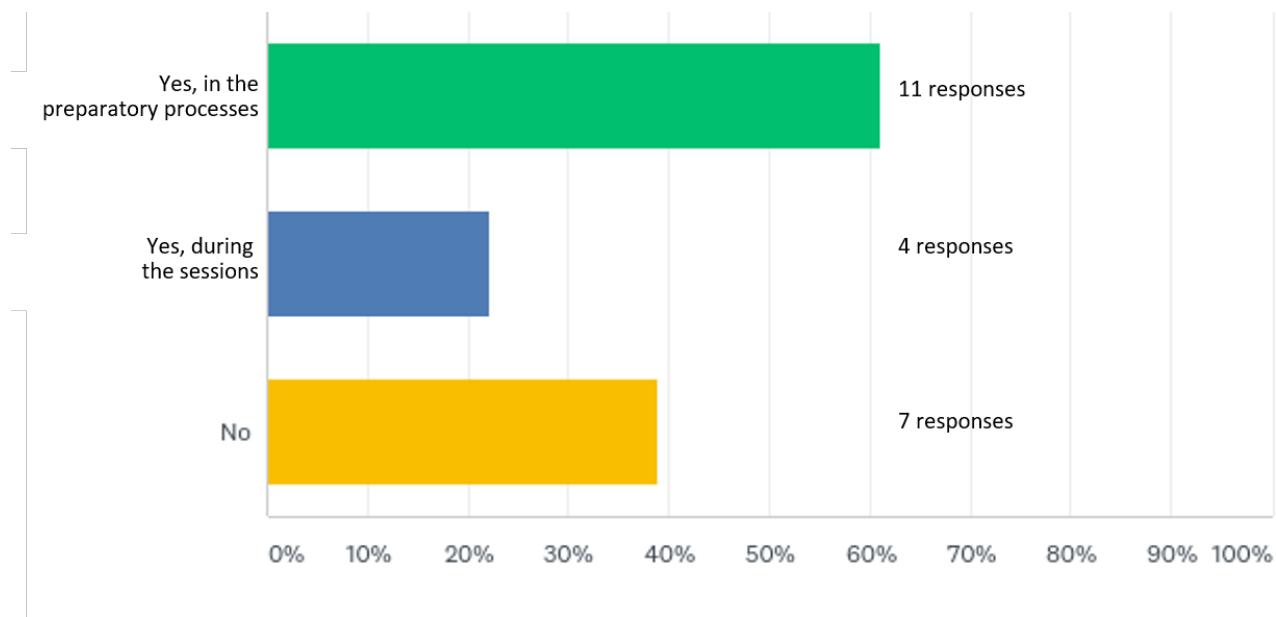


Figure 7 - Has your Government promoted the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory process for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Geneva, 24–29 September 2017) as well as during the meeting itself?

Four Parties of this group reported that they promoted the Convention's principles **also during the first COP** (Denmark, Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden). Of the seven Parties neither supporting the preparation processes nor promoting the Convention's principles during the first COP, one Party (Romania) reported that this was due to the fact that the promotion mechanisms were not yet officially planned and no alternative measures were in place that would serve the same purpose. Four (Ireland, Serbia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) reported that they are not yet Parties to the Minamata Convention. Two other Parties provided the following reasons:

FRANCE Answers provided for the BRS Conventions above remain relevant for the Minamata Convention.

NORWAY National coordination mechanisms exist and are used for the preparatory phase and

during the conferences themselves in several thematic areas such as climate change and biodiversity. In the field of chemicals and waste, national positions are based on a chemicals and waste policy with broad political support. Civil society has been involved in the development of the policy. National positions for conferences generally aim at increasing the protection of health and the environment in order to bring it in line with national requirements. So far, obligations under the conventions have not gone further than what is already required by national regulation.

Earlier attempts at involving civil society in the preparatory phase of conferences have received limited attention. Further involvement of civil society will be considered ahead of upcoming conferences.

Five Parties provided additional information in relation to **which documents** they were promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes and during the first COP of the Minamata Convention:

AUSTRIA Working and information documents of the COPs.

DENMARK The preparations for the Minamata Convention follows the same national preparations as described for the BRS-COPs above. Any Danish preparatory documents for the Minamata Convention would be in Danish. Documents would include the mandate for the Danish position as well as information relevant to explain the background for the mandate. The mandate is agreed by the Danish Parliament. In the preparatory work, some issues relevant for the draft Danish position could be of a technical character with broader public interest. In these cases, which are evaluated on an ad-hoc basis, the technical elements are in public consultation with the possibility for all stakeholders to express their views before the Government position is settled and mandate is agreed by Parliament.

NETHERLANDS All agenda items and documents.

SLOVAKIA In relation to all public documents.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 1. MIA Report (Minamata Initial assessment report in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
2. Inventory report on mercury releases in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

b. Mechanisms for promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Geneva, 24–29 September 2017) as well as during the meeting itself.

National coordination mechanisms

Eleven Parties responded to this question, of which nine reported that (a) national coordination mechanisms were already in use for the preparatory phase of the first Conference of the Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), five Parties (Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) responded that (b) national coordination mechanisms were already in use for the conference itself, (c) alternative measures were used by two Parties during the preparatory

phase (Georgia and Netherlands) and by other two Parties (Sweden and Switzerland) during the conference itself.

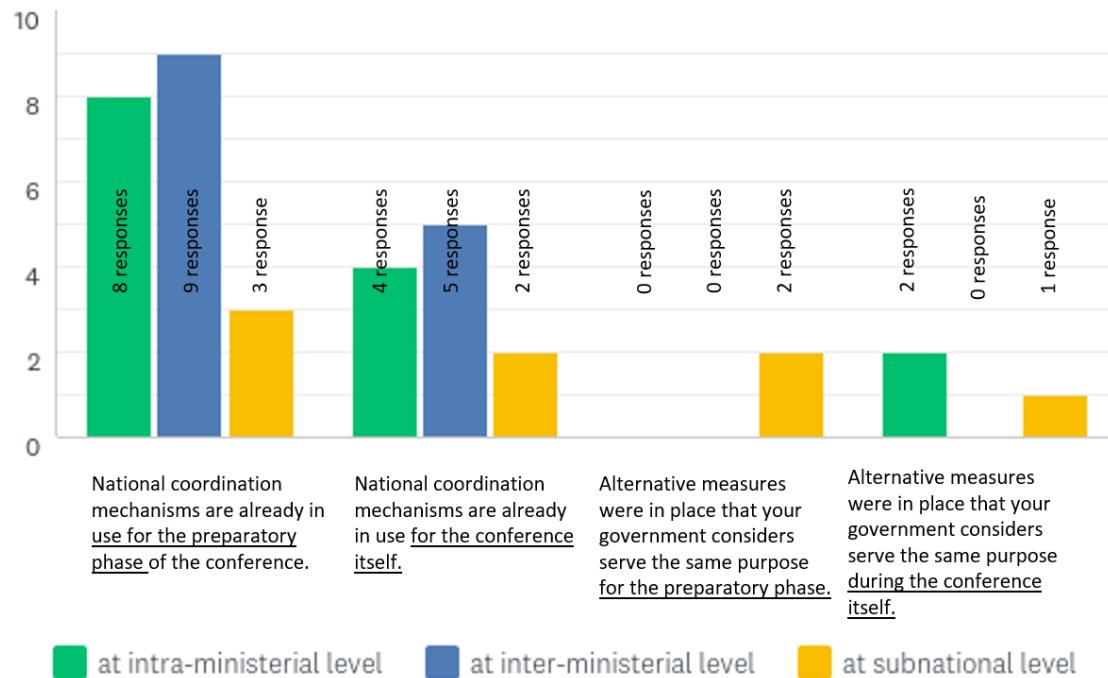


Figure 8 - Through which mechanisms has your Government promoted the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the 2017 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Minamata Convention as well as during the meeting itself?

Additional information was provided by the following Parties:

LITHUANIA

It needs to be emphasized that the National coordination mechanism for the Minamata Convention is the same as for BRS and very similar to the mechanisms for other MEAs, International Agreements, Conventions. The difference was that at the time of COP-1 of the Minamata Convention (MC), Lithuania was not a Party to the MC. Therefore, there was no need for the representative of the Republic of Lithuania to have Credentials issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. But all other interinstitutional coordination mechanisms/rules were applicable. It should be noted that Lithuania being the Member State of the European Union (EU) contributes to the joint coordinated EU position on all issues/items of the Agenda of the MC COP (analogy to BRS) by submitting the agreed national position. On the most important/sensitive issues of MC COP (e. g. on Guidance required under Article 8 (8, 9) of the Minamata Convention (MC) on mercury air emissions) the Decisions of the European Union (EU) Council are to be adopted. These EU Council Decisions establish the joint EU position. In such cases the national Rules on Coordination of the European Union Matters (adopted by Resolution No 478 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 29 April 2005) are applicable. In accordance with these Rules the Lithuanian positions shall be agreed with institutions in concern and other stakeholder groups (NGOs). More

details are provided above. Following the established procedures, the notice in media and the website of the Ministry of Environment is being prepared before the MC COP with the aim to publicly provide information on the issues to be discussed and decisions to be taken.

SLOVAKIA

Coordination mechanisms included regular submission of information for the general public from the Ministry of Environment (briefings, media communications). Meetings with relevant stakeholders, producers and associations (such as association of the chemical industry, dentists) and NGOs. Preparation of publicly available documentation for decision making process of Minamata convention signature and ratification at level of the Government and the Parliament with possibility of influencing the decision-making process by the general public, NGOs and other relevant organizations.

It was created the working group of relevant stakeholders from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Health. Slovakia was involved in five years process of the Minamata Convention text preparation through Intergovernmental negotiation committee with the possibility of influence the final text of the Convention directly by participation at the negotiation process and by the mechanism of expert groups of relevant stakeholders. Results of negotiation process was continuously negotiated at national level with relevant stakeholders including not only the experts from ministries but also relevant stakeholders from industry and non-governmental organizations.

Slovakia is a member state of the European Union and we coordinated with EU and its member states the Minamata Convention preparation and signature process, by using the existing EU Council and Commission bodies and working groups. Coordination mechanisms included regular submission of information for the general public providing information to the public on the outcome of the negotiations by the Ministry of Environment (briefings, media communications). Permanent exchange of the negotiated results between the national delegation staffs and relevant experts from the Ministry of Environment. Permanent exchange of negotiated results information among the national delegation staff and relevant expert from working group of relevant ministries. Coordination of further steps among the European Union member states participated on the Conference of Minamata Convention parties.

iv. Intra-ministerial level

Eight Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden) reported that coordination mechanisms exist at intra-ministerial level during the preparatory processes. Of which four Parties (Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands and Slovakia) also had coordination mechanisms in place during the first COP of the Minamata Convention. The following Parties provided additional information and details regarding intra-ministerial coordination:

DENMARK

The BRS-M conventions and SAICM is within the purview of the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark and preparatory coordination therefore - as a starting point – is done at intra-ministerial level. However, if the preparatory

process covers areas which are within the purview of other ministries, inter-ministerial coordination is performed on an ad-hoc basis. Relevant ministries could e.g. be Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Health.

National coordination mechanisms are already in use during the conference itself at intra-ministerial level as developments at the conferences are coordinated sur place.

v. Inter-ministerial level

Nine Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported that the principles of the Convention were promoted at inter-ministerial level in the preparatory processes for COP1 of which five Parties (Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported had also inter-ministerial coordination processes in place during the first COP of the Minamata Convention. In addition, the following information was provided by Parties:

DENMARK

The BRS-M Conventions and SAICM is within the purview of the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark and preparatory coordination therefore - as a starting point – is done at intra-ministerial level. However, if the preparatory process covers areas which are within the purview of other ministries, inter-ministerial coordination is performed on an ad-hoc basis. Relevant ministries could e.g. be Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Health.

National coordination mechanisms were already in use during the conference itself at inter-ministerial level - If developments at the conferences require further inter-ministerial coordination, this is done, as appropriate.

LITHUANIA

The mechanism is the same like for BRS COPs. The representatives of Lithuanian authorities (representing the Government of the Republic of Lithuania) at the COPs meetings act within mandate given and follow the agreed national position. This national position usually contains slight flexibility/margins (red lines). In case of risk to cross the red line of the agreed position during the negotiations at the conference/COP the Lithuanian representatives are obliged to consult the capital. This means that the National coordination mechanisms will be followed and revised instructions/revised agreed with institutions in concern position will be given. It should be noted that during the MC COP-1 there were no extra cases for additional national interinstitutional coordination on revising the initial agreed position.

vi. Sub-national level

Promotion of the Convention's principles at subnational-level was observed in three Parties (Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovakia) during the preparatory processes and two Parties (Lithuania and Slovakia) during the conference itself.

Alternative measures for promoting the Convention's principles in the Minamata processes

Two Parties (Georgia and Netherlands) reported on alternative measures to promote access to information and public participation in decision-making during the preparatory processes of COP-1 of the Minamata Convention at sub-national level. Three Parties (Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland) had alternative

measures in place for promoting the Convention's principles during the COP1 itself. Of which 2 (Sweden and Switzerland) at intra-ministerial level and one (Netherlands) at subnational level.

3. Mechanisms for promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (Geneva, 19-23 November 2018) as well as during the meeting itself.

a. General information regarding the promotion of the Convention's principles

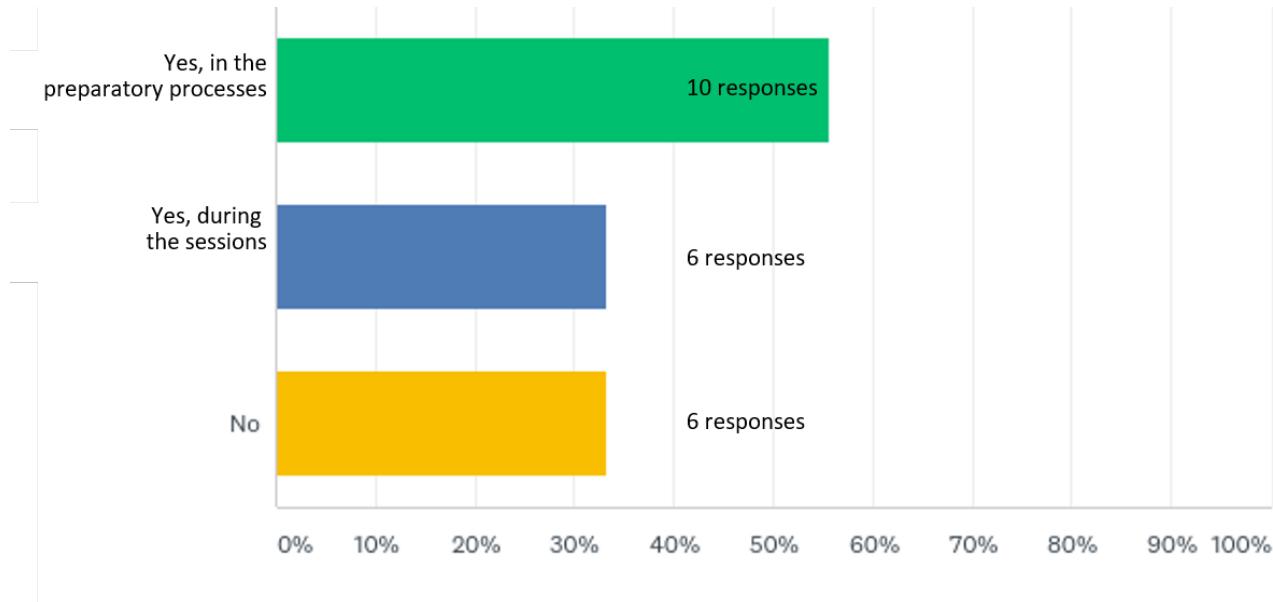


Figure 9 - Is your Government promoting the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory process for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (Geneva, 19-23 November 2018) as well as during the meeting itself?

Ten Parties reported that they are promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the second COP (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Sweden). Georgia and Switzerland plan to promote the principles during the conference itself, while four Parties reported to promote the Convention's principles both, in the preparatory process and during the Conference itself (Denmark, Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia). Six Parties reported that they will neither promote the principles in the preparatory process or during the conference itself (France, Ireland, Norway, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan)

Of the six Parties neither supporting the preparation processes nor planning to promote the Convention's principles during the second COP, one Party (Romania) reported that this was due to the fact that the promotion mechanisms were not yet officially planned and no alternative measures were in place that would serve the same purpose. Two (Ireland and Turkmenistan) reported that they are not yet Parties to the Minamata Convention. Two other Parties provided the following reasons:

FRANCE Provided the same comment as for BRS Conventions above.

Norway provided the additional information on the engagement of stakeholders:

NORWAY National coordination mechanisms exist and are used for the preparatory phase and during the conferences themselves in several thematic areas such as climate change and biodiversity. In the field of chemicals and waste, national positions are based on a chemicals and waste policy with broad political support. Civil society has been involved in the development of the policy. National positions for conferences generally aim at increasing the protection of health and the environment in order to bring it in line with national requirements. So far, obligations under the conventions have not gone further than what is already required by national regulation. Earlier attempts at involving civil society in the preparatory phase of conferences have received limited attention. Further involvement of civil society will be considered ahead of upcoming conferences.

Five Parties provided additional information in relation to **which documents** they are promoting or planning to promote the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes and during the second COP of the Minamata Convention:

AUSTRIA Information and working documents of COP-2.

NETHERLANDS All agenda items and documents (with the exception of nomination of experts and officers).

ROMANIA In relation to the draft decisions of COPs.

SERBIA

1. Position paper (platform) for the Minamata COP meeting adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and approved by all relevant ministries through submission of their opinions on the draft position paper document prepared by the Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection.
2. Publishing information from the Minamata COP meeting on the official website of the Ministry in charge of Environmental Protection.

SLOVAKIA In relation to all public documents.

National coordination mechanisms

Nine Parties responded that (a) national coordination mechanisms are already in use (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Georgia, Netherlands, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Sweden), three Parties (Denmark, Romania and Slovakia) responded that (b) national coordination mechanisms are currently being planned and will be used later in the year. No (c) alternative measures neither for the preparational process for the second conference nor during the conference itself have been set up by Parties for the second COP of the Minamata Convention yet.

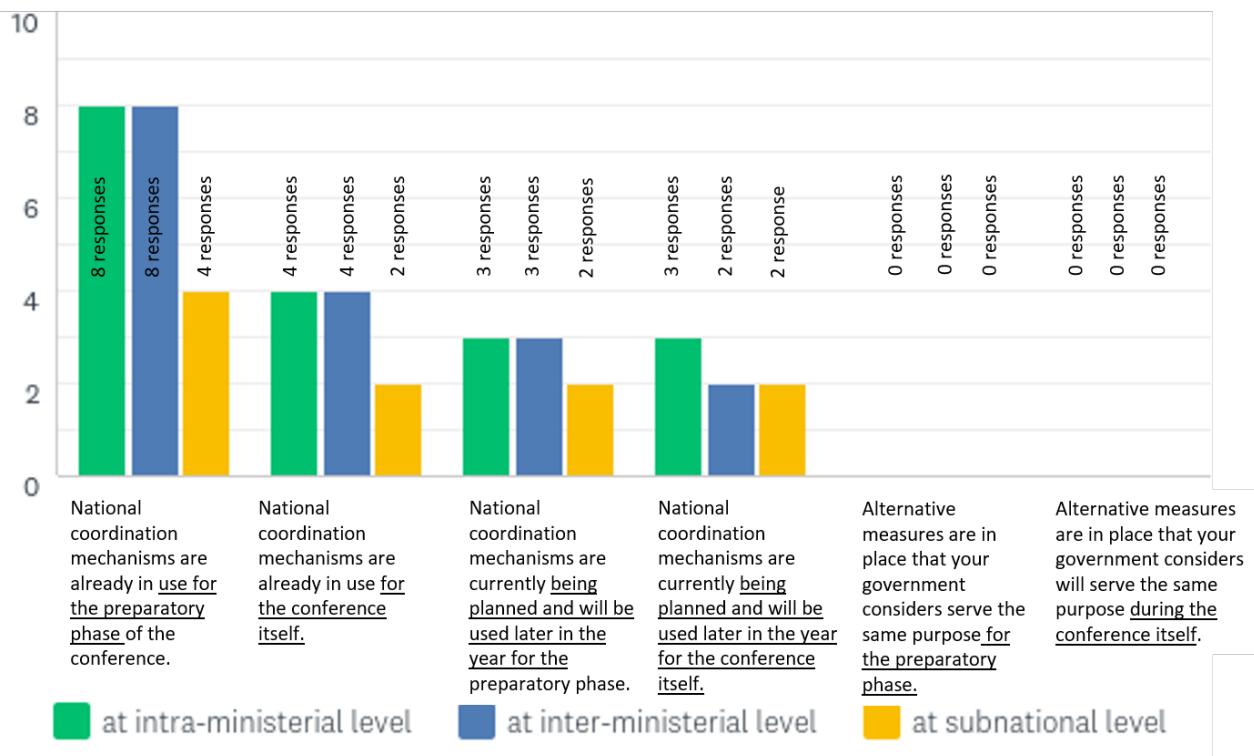


Figure 10 - Through which mechanisms is your Government promoting the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory process for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (Geneva, 19-23 November 2018)?

i. Intra-ministerial level

Eight Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Netherlands, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Sweden) reported that coordination mechanisms exist at intra-ministerial level to promote the principles at the next COP of the Minamata Convention taking place in 2018 during the preparatory phase. Four Parties (Denmark, Georgia, Netherlands and Slovakia) reported that they will use existing mechanisms during the COP itself. Three Parties (Denmark, Romania and Slovakia) are currently planning coordination mechanisms that will be used later in the year for the preparatory phase as well as during the conference itself at intra-national level. The following additional information was provided by Denmark:

DENMARK

The meeting documents for the Minamata COP-2 are not yet available and there are therefore currently no direct preparation activities. However, Denmark (also as a part of the EU) is continuously working to implement the decisions and requirements of the Minamata COP-1, and therefore indirectly are preparing and coordinating the work and discussions anticipated to take place at the next COPs.

ii. Inter-ministerial level

The same eight Parties as for coordination of intra-ministerial level mentioned above (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Netherlands, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Sweden) reported that the principles of the Convention are being promoted at inter-ministerial level in the preparatory processes for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention in 2018. Also, the same four Parties as mentioned at intra-ministerial level (Denmark, Georgia, Netherlands and Slovakia) reported that they will use existing

mechanisms during the COP itself. Three Parties (Denmark, Serbia and Slovakia) are currently planning coordination mechanisms at inter-ministerial level that will be used for the preparatory process later in the year. Two of these Parties (Denmark and Slovakia) are currently planning national coordination mechanisms at inter-ministerial level that will be used during the conference itself. In addition, the following information was provided by Serbia:

SERBIA

For National coordination mechanisms currently being planned and will be later used: According to the Rules of Procedures of the Serbian Government, all official government documents shall be previously submitted to the relevant ministries for their opinion before final adoption on the meeting of the Serbian Government (including Position paper for the Minamata COP meetings).

iii. Sub-national level

Promotion of the Convention's principles at subnational-level for the upcoming COP-2 of the Minamata Convention was reported by four Parties (Georgia, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovakia) during the preparatory phase and by two of these Parties (Georgia and Slovakia) also for the conference itself. Sub-national level coordination mechanisms are currently being planned by two Parties (Netherlands and Slovakia) for the preparatory phase and for the Conference itself to be used later in the year.

b. Intentions to take any future actions to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under the Minamata Convention in line with the Almaty Guidelines

Seventeen Parties responded to this question, of which nine confirmed that they plan to take any future action to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under the Minamata Convention in line with the Almaty Guidelines. Of the eight Parties (Denmark, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) not intending to take future actions, one Party explained that the promotion mechanisms were not yet officially planned and no alternative measures were in place that would serve the same purpose.

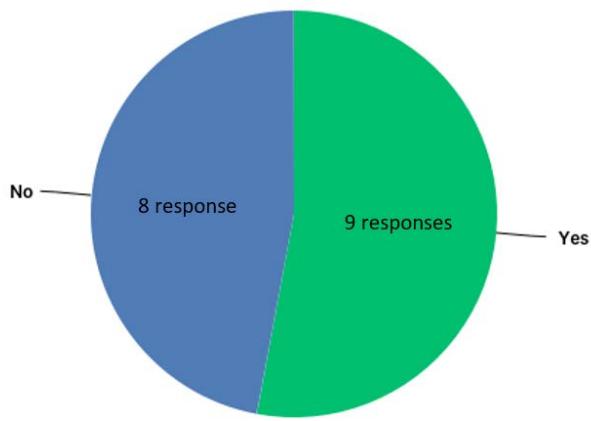


Figure 11 - Does your Government intend to take any future actions to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under the Minamata Convention in line with the Almaty Guidelines?

Seven Parties indicated that there were other reasons, of which four Parties provided more details:

DENMARK	Our general experience with and perception of the Minamata Convention Secretariat is that they are living up to the expectations and principles of transparency and effective public participation. Also, with regard to possibilities of participating as Observers to the Conventions, using the conventions website as a clearing house mechanism, living up to the deadline for uploading document prior to the COPs, or creating the opportunity for stakeholders to organize side events as a platform to raise attention about issues at the Convention venue, the Secretariat is living up to their responsibility and our expectations. The Minamata Secretariat is younger than the BRS secretariat and we would support further synergies with the BRS secretariat in the future. We very much support the implementation of the Almaty Guidelines.
FRANCE	Answers provided for the BRS Conventions remain relevant for the Minamata Convention.
IRELAND	Please see our comment above in relation to our regular meetings with ENGOs. If there is an indication that our colleagues in the ENGOs see this as a priority, then we will be happy to explore ways to facilitate this among relevant Ministries.
SLOVAKIA	At the international level: We think that the used approach is working very well. NGOs was involved directly in the preparation of Minamata Convention text, by participation at five meetings of the International Negotiation Committee and could influence the preparation of Convention text. At the First meeting of Minamata Convention parties, approximately 30% of all participants represented international NGOs and other international organizations (such as OECD, WHO and others). At the national level: Information exchange: The general public was regularly informed by the Ministry of Environment (briefings, media communications) about the Minamata Convention activities and negotiation results. More meetings were organized with relevant stakeholders, producers and associations (such as association of the chemical industry, dentists) and NGOs. Public and relevant stakeholder participation on decision making process: Preparation of publicly available documentation for decision making process of Minamata Convention parties for first and prepared second meeting of conference of parties at level of the Government, ensure possibility of influencing the decision-making process by general public, NGOs and other relevant organizations.

III. STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (SAICM)

- 2. Promotion of the Convention's principles in the preparatory processes for the second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 March 2018) as well as during the meeting itself.**

a. General information regarding the promotion of the Aarhus Convention's principles

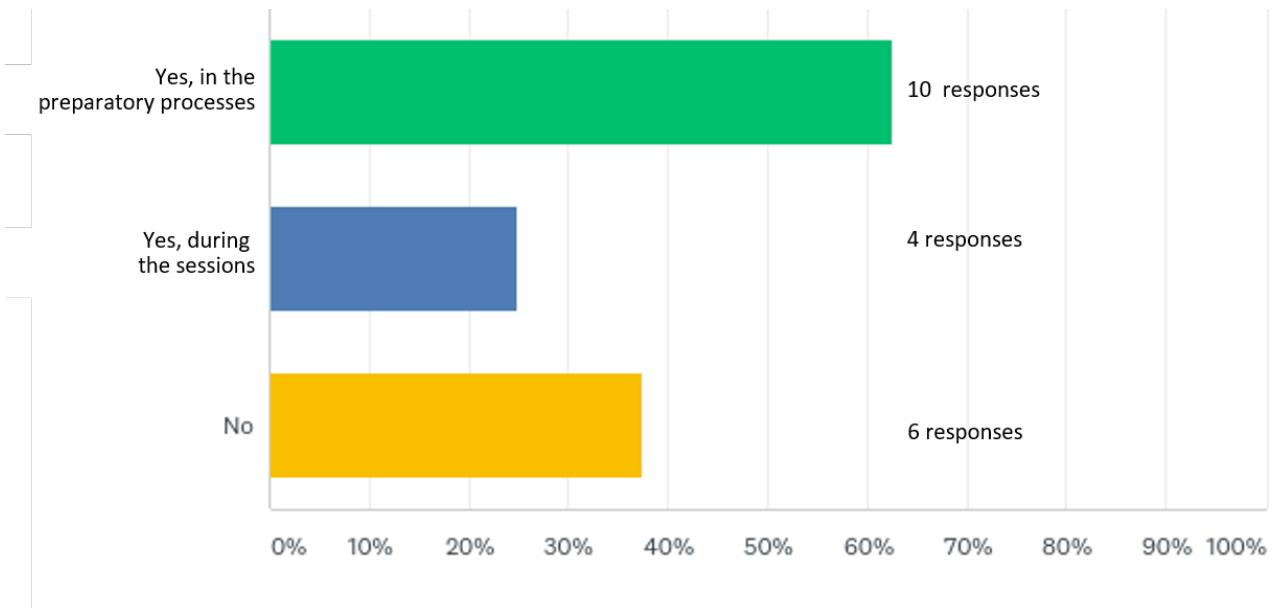


Figure 12 - Has your Government promoted the Aarhus Convention's principles in the preparatory process for the second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 as well as during the meeting itself?

Ten out of sixteen Parties reported that they have been promoting the Convention's principles in the process leading to and four Parties reported that they also promoted the Convention's principles during the second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

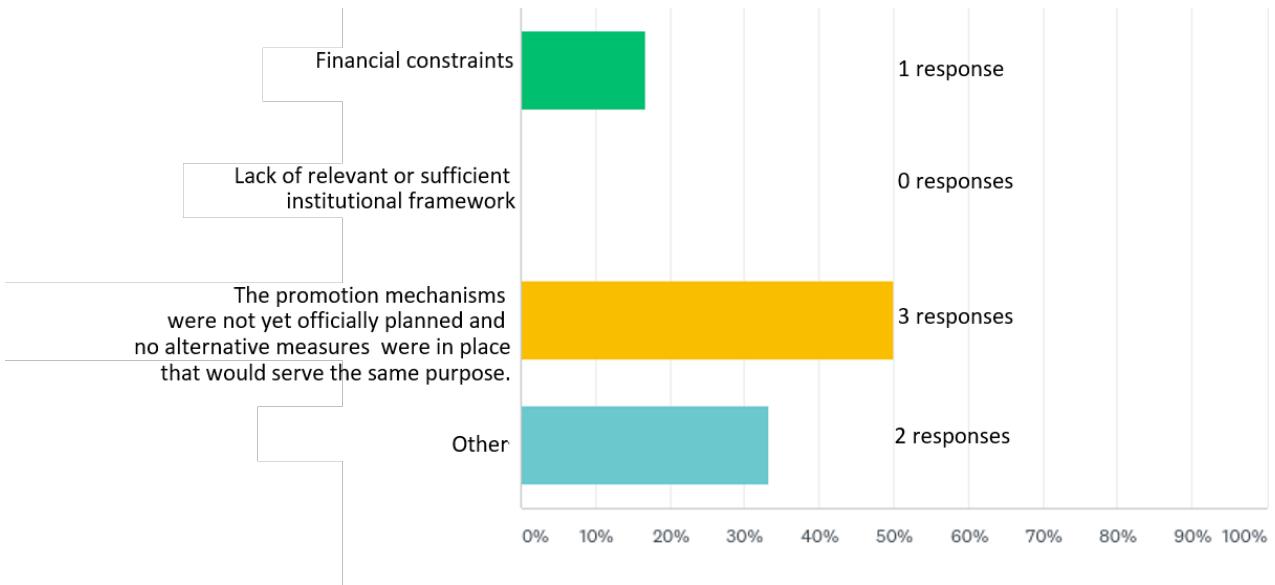


Figure 13 - What has prevented your government from using existing mechanisms or introducing alternatives?

Of the six Parties that have not promoted the Convention's principles in the preparational processes or during the session, one Party reported financial constraints as a reason (Serbia), three other Parties (Georgia, Romania and Turkmenistan) reported that this was due to the fact that promotion mechanisms were not yet officially planned and no alternative measures were in place that would serve the same purpose.

Of the six Parties that neither supported the preparation processes nor promoted the Convention's principles during the second meeting three Parties (France, Ireland and Slovakia), provided more details:

FRANCE Answers expressed for the previous questions also apply for SAICM. In addition, it is to be noted that numerous workshops including stakeholder participation have been organised by Germany, chair of the SAICM Bureau, and Sweden in preparation of this intersessional meeting. French authorities participated in these different events.

IRELAND The highly technical nature of these conventions and the common EU position, makes them an unsuitable vehicle for the promotion of the Aarhus principles in our opinion. However, if during any of the regular meetings between officials of the environment Ministry and ENGO representatives there were to be an indication that they see the promotion of the Aarhus principles in relation to these conventions as a priority, then we will endeavour to work with colleagues in other relevant Ministries to raise the Aarhus principles in that context.

SLOVAKIA The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic informs the public about the meeting (details, dates, venue) through a government resolution and briefings. Internal working groups dealing with SAICM, waste agenda and collaboration with other stakeholders: Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Center for Chemical Substances and Preparations, The Association of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry of the Slovak Republic, and others. Coordination of Government position papers within the EU at the working groups (Working Party on International Environment Issues - Chemicals) and at other SAICM meetings. There are relevant working groups within the Ministry of Environment where we coordinate the issues if necessary. Collaboration with other stakeholders (Center for Chemical Substances and Preparations, and others). Regular coordination meetings within the EU, coordination meetings within the CEE region where the common position papers, opinions, statements for EU and CEE region are coordinated. Ongoing Contact groups during the conference.

Seven Parties provided additional information in relation to **which documents** they promoted the Convention's principles during the preparatory processes and the second meeting itself:

AUSTRIA Information and working documents, in session documents.

DENMARK The Danish preparatory documents for the 2nd meeting of the intersessional process is in Danish. Documents would include the mandate for the Danish position as well

as information relevant to explain the background for the mandate. The mandate is agreed by the Danish Parliament.

NETHERLANDS All documents (with the exception of the nomination of experts and officers).

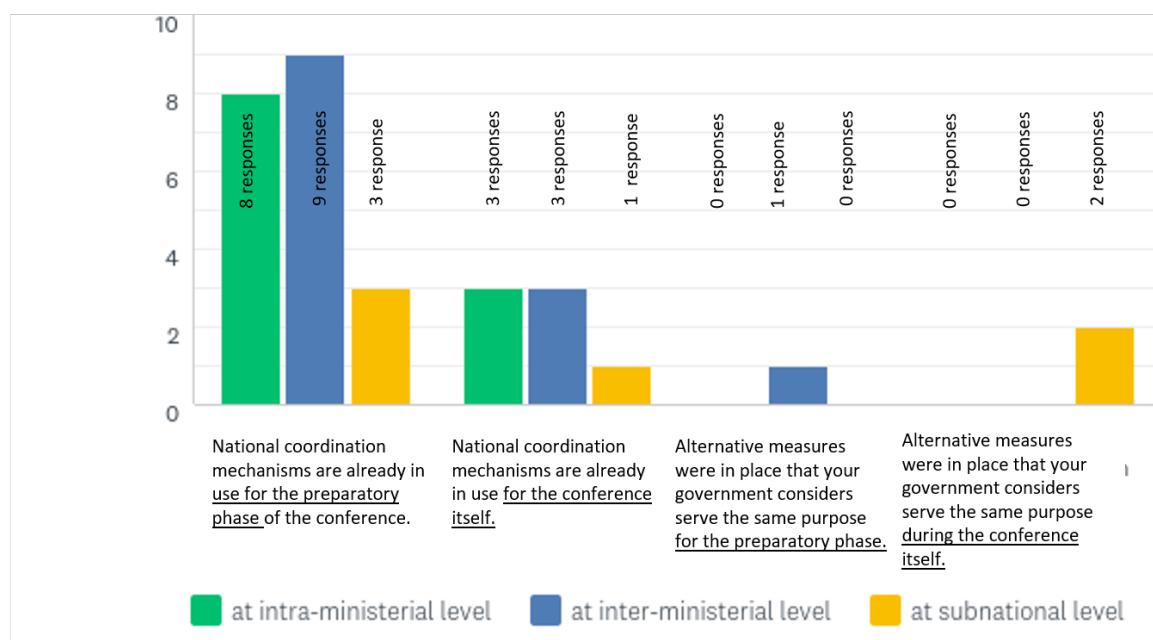
NORWAY Working documents.

SLOVAKIA United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management - Coordinating delivery for member states and sustainable development.

TAJIKISTAN Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA Road map for Mainstreaming of Actions for Sound Management of Chemicals in Macedonia

b. Mechanisms for promoting the Convention's principles in the preparatory process for the second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 March 2018) as well as during the meeting itself



Answered: 10 Skipped: 10

Figure 14 - Through which mechanisms has your government promoted the Convention's principles in the preparatory process for the second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 March 2018) as well as during the meeting itself?

National coordination mechanisms

Ten Parties responded to this question, of which nine reported that (a) national coordination mechanisms were already in use for the preparatory phase of the conference (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), four Parties (Denmark, Netherlands, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) responded that (b) national coordination mechanisms were already in use for the conference itself, (c) alternative measures were used by one Party during the preparatory phase (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and by two Parties (Netherlands and Sweden) during the conference itself but always in combination with national coordination mechanisms.

i. Intra-ministerial level

Eight Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia and Sweden) reported that coordination mechanisms exist at intra-ministerial level for the preparational process and three Parties (Denmark, Netherlands and Slovakia) during the conference itself.

ii. Inter-ministerial level

Nine Parties (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported that the principles of the Convention were promoted at inter-ministerial level in the preparatory processes for the second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Three of these Parties (Netherlands, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) also had coordination mechanisms in place during the conference itself. In addition, the following information was provided:

DENMARK For the preparatory phase at inter-ministerial level: Other ministries are coordinated with on an ad-hoc basis for SAICM work in general, as appropriate. For the 2nd intersessional meeting in Stockholm 13-15 March 2018, no inter-ministerial coordination was required.
For the mechanisms to be used during the conference itself: Intra-ministerial coordination was performed sur place.

iii. Sub-national level

Promotion of the Convention's principles at subnational-level in the preparatory process for the conference was observed in three Parties during the preparatory process (Luxembourg, Slovakia and Tajikistan) and one Party during the conference itself (Slovakia).

Alternative measures for promoting the Convention's principles in SAICM processes

Three Parties (Netherlands, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported on alternative measures to promote access to information and public participation in decision-making – as additional measure to national coordination mechanisms that are already in use. Of which one (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) at inter-ministerial level during the preparatory phase of the meeting and two at subnational level (Netherlands and Sweden) during the conference itself. No additional information was provided by Parties on this point.

c. Intentions to take any future actions to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under SAICM in line with the Almaty Guidelines

Sixteen Parties responded to this question, of which eleven confirmed that they plan to take any future action to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under SAICM in line with the Almaty Guidelines. Of the five Parties (Denmark, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) not intending to take future actions, one Party explained that this was due to financial constraints (Slovakia).

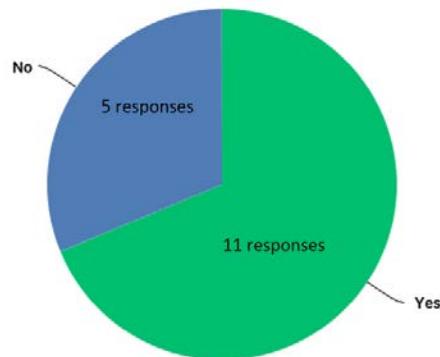


Figure 15 - Does your Government intend to take any future actions to increase transparency and strengthen effective public participation in meetings under SAICM in line with the Almaty Guidelines?

Four Parties indicated that there were other reasons, of which three Parties provided more details:

DENMARK

Our general experience with and perception of the SAICM Secretariat is that they are living up to the expectations and principles of transparency and effective public participation. Also with regard to possibilities of participating as Observers to the meetings, using the SAICM website as a clearing house mechanism, living up to the deadline for uploading document prior to the meetings, or creating the opportunity for stakeholders to organize side events as a platform to raise attention about issues at the meeting venue, the Secretariat is living up to their responsibility and our expectations. We very much support the implementation of the Almaty Guidelines.

FRANCE

Previous answers also apply here.

IRELAND

Please see comments above.
