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## **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

### **Twenty-fourth meeting**

Geneva, 1–3 July 2020

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Preparations for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties:  
future work programme**

## **Accompanying document for Draft elements of the work programme for 2022–2025<sup>1</sup>**

prepared by the secretariat

### *Summary*

The present document is an accompanying document for the draft elements of the work programme for 2022-2025 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2020). New additions to the text contained in annex I of the draft elements, as compared to the annex I in the current work programme for 2018-2021 (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1, decision VI/5), are marked in track changes. The document was prepared by the secretariat to facilitate discussion of the Working Group at its twenty-fourth meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> This document was not formally edited.

## Annex I

### Draft work programme for 2022–2025

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Lead country, body or organization</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Average annual subtotal (US\$) <u>dollars</u><sup>a</sup></i>
<b>Substantive issues</b>				
I. Access to information, including electronic information tools	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision <del>VI/VII/...</del> on promoting effective access to information. <u>(mainly supports SDGs 3, 11, 12 and 17 and SDG target 16.10)</u>	Task Force on Access to Information  Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties  Secretariat, enlisting technical support as necessary	Task Force meetings and workshops; survey(s); participation in other relevant regional initiatives, as appropriate, through development of sector-based partnership approaches; pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national level, which are expected to be funded by partners.  Central management of the Aarhus Clearinghouse <sup>a</sup> and promotion through online social media; provision of advice to and coordination of national <del>and</del> information nodes of the <del>clearinghouse</del> <u>Clearinghouse</u> mechanism; information_ sharing and promotion of electronic tools through maintaining online databases for jurisprudence, <u>good practices</u> and national implementation reports, and maintaining online case studies on: (a) <u>electronic information tools</u> ; (b) public participation at the national level; and (bc) public participation in international forums.	<del>86 400</del> 79 900 <u>(6 500)</u>
II. Public participation	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision <del>VI/VII/...</del> on	Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making	Task Force meetings; workshops; <u>the use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, its good practice database and</u> collection of case studies <u>to facilitate exchange of information on good</u>	<del>91 400</del> 82 900 <u>(8 500)</u>

<sup>a</sup> Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, available at <https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/>.

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	<p>promoting effective public participation in decision-making.</p> <p><u>(mainly supports SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 and SDG target 16.7)</u></p>	<p>Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties</p> <p>Secretariat, enlisting expert support as necessary</p>	<p><u>practices</u>; exploring synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under other multilateral environmental agreements and partner organizations.</p> <p>Participation in other relevant regional initiatives as appropriate; pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.</p>	
III. Access to justice	<p>The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision <del>VI/3</del><u>VI/1</u>... on promoting effective access to justice.</p> <p><u>(mainly supports SDG target 16.3)</u></p>	<p>Task Force on Access to Justice</p> <p>Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties</p> <p>Secretariat, enlisting expert support as necessary</p>	<p>Task Force meetings, if feasible back-to-back with other relevant <del>capacity-building</del> events, to be organized in liaison with partner organizations active in access to justice, and through the development of sector-based partnership approaches, where appropriate.</p> <p>Strengthen <u>the network of the judiciary, judicial training institutions and other review bodies in the pan-European region and cooperation with other existing networks of judges and other legal professionals, and other international forums; use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, its jurisprudence and good practice databases to facilitate exchange of information on good practices</u>; exchange information and support capacity-building.</p> <p>Develop analytical and training materials.</p> <p>Pilot projects and capacity-building activities at the subregional and national levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.</p>	<p><del>17 600</del>107 100 (10 500)</p>
IV. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	<p>Support the implementation of decision II/1 on GMOs (GMO amendment) and relevant provisions of the Convention in this area, as well as the application of the Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and</p>	<p>Secretariat, in close cooperation with other stakeholders</p>	<p>Workshop(s), <u>round table(s)</u>; survey(s); advisory support to, and cooperation with, relevant bodies under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity; advisory support to countries upon request; and use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse</p>	<p><del>26</del>24 500 (2 000)</p>

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	<p>Access to Justice with Respect to Genetically Modified Organisms (MP.PP/2003/3), inter alia, by promoting exchange of information on common difficulties in and the main obstacles to their implementation, as well as good practices to address them.</p> <p><u>(mainly supports SDGs 15 and 16)</u></p>	Thematic session at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties	and <del>Aarhus Good Practice</del> <u>its good practice</u> database to facilitate exchange of information on good practices.	

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<b>Procedures and mechanisms</b>				
V. Compliance mechanism				342554 600
<u>V.1 Compliance Committee</u>	<p>Monitor and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the Convention.</p> <p>Increase support to individual Parties in following up on decisions on compliance.</p> <p><u>(mainly supports SDG targets 16.6 and 16.10 and SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15)</u></p>	<p>Compliance Committee Secretariat</p>	<p>Compliance Committee to review submissions, referrals, requests and communications on cases of possible non-compliance, prepare <del>decisions</del> findings and reports and undertake fact-finding missions.</p> <p>Compliance Committee to explore possible synergies with other relevant forums.</p> <p>Secretariat to <u>assist the Committee as required, including with legal support</u>, publicize the <u>compliance mechanism</u>, and manage the Committee's web page <del>and develop a database of the Compliance Committee's findings</del>.</p> <p>Secretariat to prepare background material on relevant issues of a systemic nature identified through the work of the Compliance Committee <del>for to support</del> discussion at the meetings of the task forces and respective thematic sessions of the Working Group of the Parties.</p>	
<u>V.2 Rapporteur on matters related to article 3 (8)</u>	<p><u>The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision VII/... on ensuring the safety of environmental defenders</u></p> <p><u>(mainly supports SDG target 16.10)</u></p>	<p><u>Rapporteur on matters related to article 3 (8)</u></p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p><u>Rapporteur to examine, monitor, advise, undertake fact-finding missions and prepare decisions and reports on matters related to article 3 (8)</u></p> <p><u>The use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse library on the protection of environmental defenders. Preparation of training material for different</u></p>	

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VI. Capacity-building	<p>Coordination of capacity-building activities to assist countries in the effective implementation of the Convention; implementation of capacity-building measures at the regional and subregional levels.</p> <p><u>Advisory support to Parties, in particular, with regard to implementation of MOP decisions on compliance.</u></p> <p><u>(All relevant SDGs, mainly SDG 16)</u></p>	<p>Secretariat, in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders</p> <p><u>Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Compliance Committee and relevant stakeholders</u></p>	<p><u>target groups such as officials of public authorities, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, members of the judiciary, private security service providers and developers.</u></p> <p>Inter-agency coordination meetings; maintaining the <del>Convention's</del> <u>Convention</u> web pages with information on capacity-building activities; <del>the</del> use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, <u>its databases</u> and <del>the Aarhus Good Practice database</del> <u>other capacity-building material</u> to facilitate exchange of information on good practices; training workshops and technical assistance, mostly separately funded under other substantive work areas; capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels, which are expected to be funded by partners.</p> <p><u>Secretariat to assist Parties as required.</u></p>	<p><del>52</del>177 000 <u>(17 000)</u></p>
VII. Reporting mechanism	<p>Production of national implementation reports and a synthesis report.</p>	<p>Secretariat, enlisting expert and administrative support as necessary</p> <p>Compliance Committee</p>	<p>Preparation <u>of the synthesis report</u> and processing of national implementation reports.</p> <p>Analysis of reports and preparation of a synthesis report.</p> <p>Use of national implementation reports to identify relevant topics for the work of the task forces and other activities.</p>	<p>7 500</p>

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<b>Awareness-raising and promotion</b>				
VIII. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention, including through: VIII.1. Communication Strategy VIII.2. <del>Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums</del> VIII.3. Support to non-ECE States to accede to the Convention VIII.4. Support to regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration	The work will focus on: (a) Raising public awareness of the Convention throughout the ECE region and beyond; (b) Increasing the number of Parties to the Convention; (c) Supporting regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.  Activities should be carried out in synergy with the relevant activities of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.  Work area VIII.2 will be implemented in <del>accordance</del> <u>synergy</u> with <del>decision</del> <u>work area IX</u> .  <u>(mainly supports SDGs 4 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums, 12, 16 and 17)</u>	Secretariat  Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties  Working Group of the Parties	Participation in key regional and international events and processes; use of bilateral, regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the Convention, <del>e.g., for</del> <u>example</u> , the European Neighbourhood Policy; feed into international processes that closely relate to the Convention, including the special procedures under the United Nations Human Rights Council (depending on the mandate), the United Nations Environment Programme, the international financial institutions and other relevant international forums.  Expert assistance to regional and global initiatives on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration; support to relevant events organized by others; missions and assistance to countries organized at the request of host Governments, with a focus on States that have expressed formal interest in becoming Parties to the Convention.  Implementation of the Communication Strategy; <del>website</del> <u>the Aarhus Clearinghouse and web site</u> management; preparation of leaflets, publications, news bulletins, articles and other information materials.	<del>8119 000</del> <u>(34 500)</u>
IX. Promotion <u>of the principles of the Convention in international forums, promotion</u> of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with	The work area will be implemented in accordance with decision <del>VII/4</del> <u>VII/...</u> on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums.  <u>(mainly supports SDG targets 16.7 and 17.14)</u>	Secretariat, <u>in close cooperation with other relevant stakeholders</u>  Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties  Working Group of the Parties	Thematic sessions, as needed, at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to oversee progress in promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums and to address challenges encountered in the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7, of the Convention.	<del>65 900</del> <u>125 000</u> <u>(3 000)</u>

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relevant international bodies and processes			Surveys regarding experiences gained in the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7, and the Almaty Guidelines; online networks; <u>capacity-building and expert assistance to relevant international forums and to Parties upon request and <del>populating a repository</del> the use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, its good practice database and collection of case studies to facilitate exchange of information on</u> good practices on establishing effective processes for the public to participate in international forums; <u>cooperation with Signatories and future Parties to the Escazú Agreement,<sup>b</sup> as well as its secretariat and the engaged stakeholders</u> ; joint activities with other treaties and multilateral processes; concrete actions by Parties at the national and international levels to promote the principles of the Convention in international forums and the Almaty Guidelines.	
<b>Coordination, horizontal support and Meeting of the Parties</b>				
X. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Convention.  Preparation of substantive documents for the <del>seventh</del> <u>eighth</u> session of the Meeting of the Parties ( <u>e.g., for example,</u> drafting decisions, including the future work programme, and reviewing the implementation of the current work programme and the Strategic Plan).	Working Group of the Parties  Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Working Group meetings, meetings of the Bureau and consultations among Bureau members electronically.	100 700

<sup>b</sup> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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XI. <del>Seventh</del> <u>Eighth</u> ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	See article 10 of the Convention.	Meeting of the Parties	Session of the Meeting of the Parties.	15 000 <sup>b</sup>
XII. Horizontal support areas	Overall support that covers multiple substantive areas of the work programme.	Secretariat	Secretarial support, staff training, equipment.	<del>77 200</del> <u>108 000</u>
<b><u>Grand total/Total</u> (including costs for all work areas and 13% programme support costs)</b>				<b>1 201 303 696 356 (92 660)</b>

Abbreviations: DSA, daily subsistence allowance; GMO, genetically modified organism; MOP, Meeting of the Parties; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal.

<sup>a</sup> Estimation of the cost includes -operational and other costs as presented in annex II. Figures between brackets refer to “other costs”.

<sup>b</sup> Costs for travel and DSA for eligible participants are reported under work area X.