

**Workplan for the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making 2011–2014
adopted through decision IV/6¹ of the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session
(Chisinau, 29 June – 1 July 2011)**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Objective and expected outcome</i>	<i>Method of work</i>	<i>Relevant objectives Strategic Plan 2009-2014</i>
I. Exchange of information	Document and share expertise, experience and good practices and comparative analyses concerning public participation in environmental decision-making and the impact of other sets of instruments of participatory democracy related to sustainable development, including with regard to innovative forms and tools of public participation beyond traditional consultation procedures.	Organization of Task Force meetings and workshops; making use of the clearinghouse mechanism and other types of electronic exchange of information; compiling a compendium of good practices; commissioning and publication of research work and expert studies, including on the evaluation of good practices and innovative modes of participation; development of a database of experts and resources; and establishment of an inventory of public participation procedures, both compulsory and voluntary; taking into consideration the work being undertaken by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other stakeholders, in order to benefit from this work and avoid duplication.	General: I.1–7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: I.15, III.5
II. Identification of problems with implementation	Identify common difficulties in implementation and the main obstacles to effective public participation at regional, subregional and national levels with respect to improving implementation of the Convention's provisions on public participation in decision-making.	Considering and analysing information provided through the national implementation reports, the findings of the Compliance Committee, other relevant assessments and the experiences of the public; sharing experiences with difficulties encountered through meetings of the Task Force and workshops included in activity I.	General: I.1–7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: I.9

¹ ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1

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III. Recommendations	Prepare draft recommendations on improving implementation of the provisions of the Convention on public participation in decision-making and provide examples from the experience of Parties.	Using the work undertaken under activities I, II and IV–IX as a basis; taking into account good practices in public participation in environmental decision-making and the implementation guide to the Convention; drawing on other sources of information such as field expertise and scientific research; collecting examples from the experience of Parties.	General: I.1–7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: I.9; III.1, 3, 4, 5, 7
IV. Implementation at different levels of decision-making	Explore ways of achieving implementation of the public participation provisions of the Convention in a manner appropriate to the level of decision-making (national, provincial and local) and in all areas of activity that fall under the scope of the Convention.	Examine implementation at different levels of decision-making and under the full scope of the Convention, through activities I, II and III.	General: I.1–7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: I.9
V. Public participation in particular sectors	Investigate possibilities for focusing in more depth on public participation in decision-making in particular fields of activity that may be governed by a specific regulatory or institutional framework.	Include a focus on specific sectors in activities I–IV; explore synergies and possibilities for cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water Convention’s Protocol on Water and Health, the Aarhus and Nuclear initiative, the UNECE Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA and/or other bodies and processes as appropriate.	General: I.1–7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: I.5, 7, 9
VI. Capacity-building	Examine approaches for developing the capacity of non-governmental organizations and strengthening civil society. Identify and contribute to the implementation of capacity-building measures for public authorities and other stakeholders, including the Aarhus Centres, to enhance public participation.	Exchange of good practices in providing appropriate recognition of and support to associations, organizations or groups promoting environmental protection; developing information materials and training activities through activities I, II and III.	General: I.1–7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: I.12, 13, 15; III.5

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VII. Development Article 6	Assess the Convention's provisions on public participation in decisions having a significant impact on the environment, encompassing, inter alia, product-related decision-making; develop recommendations on how these provisions might be further elaborated.	Assessment of the provisions of article 6 through activities I, II, IV and V; develop recommendations on how these provisions might be elaborated on to encompass product-related decision-making through activity III, as appropriate.	General: I.1-7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: III.3
VIII. Development Articles 7 and 8	Assess, keep under review and, as appropriate, make recommendations for further developing the provisions of the Convention relating to public participation in the preparation of plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment, as well as executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding normative instruments that may have a significant effect on the environment, in order to enhance public participation from an early stage in strategic decision-making processes.	Assessment of the provisions of articles 7 and 8 through activities I, II, IV and V; develop recommendations on how these provisions might be elaborated on through activity III, as appropriate.	General: I.1-7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: III.4
IX. Public participation for sustainable development	Explore possibilities for the development of measures under the Convention to ensure greater opportunities for public participation in policy formulation and implementation contributing to sustainable development, including the use of participatory procedures in the revision and/or development of national strategies for sustainable development.	Develop recommendations on public participation in the formulation and implementation of policies for sustainable development through activity III.	General: I.1-7, 9, 16; III.1 Specific: I.15; III.7

Tentative timeline for implementation of workplan for 2011–2014

<i>Activity</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
I	Starting collection of good practices	Continued Creation of online database	Continued	Continued beyond 2014
II	Meeting of the Task Force back to back with a joint workshop with the Aarhus and Nuclear initiative	Meeting of the Task Force back to back with a joint workshop with the Protocol on Water and Health	Meeting of the Task Force back to back with a joint workshop with the Espoo Convention and/or the Protocol on SEA	
III	Collection of comments and drafting of recommendations on issues related to activities I to VI	Finalizing recommendations on issues related to activities I to VI ^a Starting work on the development of recommendations on issues related to activities VII–IX	Continuation of development of recommendations on issues related to activities VII–IX	Finalizing recommendations on issues related to activities VII–IX ^b
IV	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See III
V	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See III
VI	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See III
VII	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See III
VIII	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See I, II and III	See III
IX	See II and III	See II and III	See II and III	See III

^a In the event that the Task Force will not be able to finalize the recommendations on issues related to activities I–VI by 2012, the work on these recommendations will continue.

^b In the event that the Task Force will not be able to finalize the recommendations on issues related to activities VII–IX by 2014, the work on these recommendations will continue, subject to approval by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.