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 to the Convention
(Fourth meeting, Geneva, 1-4 February 2005)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 1 February 2005 ¹

1. Adoption of the agenda.


¹ New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to duly complete the attached registration form, also available from the web site of the Aarhus Convention at http://www.unece.org/env/pp/wgp.htm, and then to transmit it to the Aarhus Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax +41 22 917 0107 or by e-mail to the following address public.participation@unece.org. Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) to pick up their identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the Aarhus Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 4226 or 917 1502.

GE.04-32394
3. Preparations for the second ordinary meeting of the Parties:
   (a) Organizational matters;
   (b) Provisional agenda and list of documentation;
   (c) High-level segment.

4. Almaty Declaration.

5. Pollutant release and transfer registers.


8. Electronic information tools.

9. Compliance mechanism.

10. Reporting requirements.

11. Public participation in international forums.

12. Public participation in strategic decision-making.


15. Accession by non-member States of UNECE to the Convention.

16. Any other business.
EXPLANATORY NOTES

Item 1  Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group of the Parties is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2  Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

The secretariat will give the Working Group an overview of the status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs. Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments with respect to the ratification of the Convention and the Protocol in their respective countries. In particular, Signatories and other States not yet Party to the Convention will be invited to indicate whether they expect to be Parties by the time of the second meeting of the Parties.

Item 3  Preparations for the second ordinary meeting of the Parties

(a) The representative of Kazakhstan and the secretariat will inform the Working Group of progress in the preparations, including the procedural issues, for the second ordinary meeting of the Parties (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25-27 May 2005, ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/3/Add.1). The Working Group is expected to discuss the information provided in the background document and to decide on the further steps to be taken in the preparatory process.

(b) The Working Group will further discuss the annotated draft agenda, incorporating a list of documentation, for the second ordinary meeting of the Parties on the basis of document ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/3.

(c) The Bureau will provide further information to the Working Group of the Parties on the format of the ministerial segment, including the themes for the panel discussions.

Item 4  Almaty Declaration

The Working Group will be invited to prepare a draft ministerial statement on the basis of a draft prepared by the Bureau (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/4).

Item 5  Pollutant release and transfer registers

The secretariat will report on the latest developments with respect to the Protocol on PRTR’s. The Working Group is expected to discuss progress in the implementation of the Protocol in particular the preparations for the second meeting of the Working Group on PRTRs and the way in which the topic could be discussed at the second ordinary meeting of the Parties.
Item 6  Genetically modified organisms

The Chairman of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), Mr. Helmut Gaugitsch (Austria), will present the report of the fourth and final meeting (18-20 October 2004), including the list of possible legally binding options to further the application of the Convention to certain activities with GMOs annexed to it and a draft decision prepared for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties (see MP.PP/AC.2/2004/4 and Add.1). The Working Group of the Parties will be invited to take note of the progress achieved and to undertake such further steps as are necessary in order for the Parties to be able to take a decision on the matter at their second meeting.

Item 7  Access to justice

The Chairman of the Task Force, Mr. Marc Pallemaerts (Belgium), will remind the Working Group of the Parties of the outcome of the work of the Task Force on Access to Justice and the subsequent discussions at the third meeting of the Working Group, in particular the report of the third meeting of the Task Force, the draft decision on access to justice, and the alternative text of section V of the draft decision proposed at the third meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/5 and Add.1 and ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/6). The Working Group will be invited to take further steps to prepare a draft decision for adoption at the second meeting of the Parties.

Item 8  Electronic information tools

The Working Group will be invited to take further steps to prepare a draft decision for adoption at the second meeting of the Parties on the basis of the alternative text proposed at its third meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/7).

Item 9  Compliance mechanism

The secretariat will report on the activities of the Compliance Committee, in particular the outcome of its sixth meeting (15-17 December 2004, MP.PP/C.1/2004/8). The Working Group will be invited to take note of the results of the work of the Committee and consider possible elements for inclusion in the draft decision on this matter to be prepared by the Bureau for consideration by the Working Group of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

Item 10  Reporting requirements

The secretariat will report on the status of national reports and on the progress in preparation of the synthesis report. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the experiences that countries had in the reporting process and to decide whether there are any issues concerning the implementation of decision I/8 that need to be highlighted at the second ordinary meeting of the Parties, such as the question of alternative reports. It may also discuss the procedure for addressing the conclusions of the synthesis report in the further preparatory process and at the second ordinary meeting of the Parties.
Item 11  Public participation in international forums

The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Public Participation in International Forums, Mr. Attila Tanzi (Italy), will report on the outcome of its second meeting (8-10 November 2004) and is expected to present draft guidelines on this topic prepared by the Expert Group (MP.PP/WG.1/2005/8 and Add.1). The Working Group will be invited to consider the draft decision and the draft guidelines, amend them as appropriate and forward them for consideration and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 12  Public participation in strategic decision-making

The Working Group will review the preparation of a workshop on public participation in strategic decision-making to be organized jointly with the relevant bodies of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Item 13  Overview of contributions and expenditures in 2003 and 2004

The secretariat will present a paper on the financial contributions received and the expenditures incurred in the implementation of the work programme in 2003 and 2004 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/9). The Working Group will be invited to take note of this paper and to consider its implications for the further implementation of the 2004-2005 work programme. Delegations will be invited to provide new information on the financial contributions towards the implementation of the work programme in 2005.

Item 14  Work programme for 2006-2008 and long-term strategic planning

The Working Group will review draft decisions on the work programme for 2006-2008 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/10) and the long-term strategic planning (MP.PP/WG.1/2005/11), taking into account amendments agreed or proposed at its third meeting. The Working Group will be invited to consider the draft decisions, amend them as appropriate and forward them for consideration and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 15  Accession by non-member States of UNECE to the Convention

The Working Group will review and amend, as necessary, a draft decision on accession by non-member states of UNECE to the Convention and the advancement of the principles of the Convention in other regions or even worldwide (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2005/12).

Item 16  Any other business

Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.
**Title of the Conference**

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**4th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (1-4 February 2005)**

**Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency**

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**Please return this form by 17 January 2005 to Ms. Andrea Hegedus by fax + 41 22 917 0107 or by e-mail to andrea.hegedus@unece.org and public.participation@unece.org**

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H3 & F3

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