

Draft Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development

Revision by Belarus

To add new para 23:

22. We commit to promote digitalization and modernization of environmental information systems, making best use of Open Data and pollutant release and transfer registers, and to harness best available digital technologies to ensure effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

23. We note the need for constant work on environmental education, advanced training and retraining of staff, taking into account new trends and conditions.

~~23~~²⁴. We commit to safeguarding the public's rights under the Convention and its Protocol from the beginning of, and throughout, the infrastructure development and planning cycle (planning, design, financing, construction, operation, and decommissioning) and to ensure that it meets the needs of end-users (incorporating the needs of gender, disabled, youth, indigenous peoples, and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups). Identifying environmental and social risks and corresponding mitigation measures is most effective at the earliest stages when the consideration, and reconsideration, of options is most cost-effective and technically and politically feasible. Early-stage public participation helps to capture as many potential risks and impacts as possible and to avoid conflict during later phases of the development cycle.
