

**Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums
(Fifth meeting, Geneva, 29 June 2010)
Agenda item 4**

**Draft proposal for an appropriate means
of reporting on article 3, paragraph 7**

Prepared by the Chair

1. Decision I/8 on reporting requirements adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its first session, requests Parties, in their implementation reports, to inter alia:

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the general provisions in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 of article 3.

Explain how these paragraphs have been implemented. In particular, describe:

...

*(d) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention internationally;*

...

*Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 3 listed above,*

...

*Provide further information on the **practical application of the general provisions of the Convention.***

2. Through decision III/5 on reporting requirements adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its third session, the Meeting:
 - *Requested* Parties, having in mind the shared commitment to promoting and applying the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums, to give special attention in their implementation reports to reporting on measures taken to implement article 3, paragraph 7;
 - *Welcomed* the guidance on reporting requirements prepared by the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/L.4);
 - *Invited* Parties, in subsequent reporting cycles, to follow the methodology for the preparation and submission of the national implementation reports set out in the guidance;
 - *Requested* the Compliance Committee to keep the guidance under review, as appropriate, with a view to assisting Parties with the preparation of their reports, with the involvement of the public, in the next reporting cycle;

3. The guidance on reporting requirements, prepared by the Compliance Committee and welcomed by the Parties in decision III/5 proposes the following list of questions for possible consideration by Parties preparing implementation reports:
 - Is there a practice of including NGO members in delegations representing the State in international environmental negotiations or in any national-level discussion groups forming the official position for such negotiations?
 - What measures have been undertaken by the Party to implement the Guidelines on Public Participation in International Forums adopted at the second meeting of the Parties?
 - Has there been internal consultation between the officials dealing with the Aarhus Convention and officials involved in other international forums in matters relating to the environment with regard to the implementation of the Guidelines?
4. Through paragraph 2(d) of decision III/4, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Task Force to analyse the latest national implementation reports as well as other relevant national background information in order to review the Parties' efforts to implement article 3, paragraph 7, and on that basis to develop appropriate means of reporting to be integrated as appropriate in the general reporting requirements at the fourth ordinary meeting of the Parties.
5. At its fourth meeting (Geneva, 6 July 2009), the PPIF Task Force agreed to proceed with the development of an appropriate means of reporting in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 10 of the report of that meeting.
6. On the basis of the initial discussion at its fourth meeting on possible draft elements for an appropriate means of reporting on article 3, paragraph 7, the Task Force might wish to consider whether the following might be an appropriate means of reporting to be integrated into the general reporting requirements laid down in decision I/8 (the relevant excerpt of the general reporting requirements is repeated here in italics for ease of reference):

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the general provisions in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 of article 3.

Explain how these paragraphs have been implemented. In particular, describe:

...

- (d) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention internationally; including:*
- (i) Measures taken to coordinate within and between ministries to inform officials involved in other relevant international forums about article 3, paragraph 7, and the Almaty Guidelines, indicating whether the measures to coordinate are ongoing;
 - (ii) Measures taken to provide access to information at the national level regarding international forums;

- (iii) Measures taken to promote and enable public participation at the national level with respect to international forums (e.g. inviting NGO members to participate in the Party's delegations in international environmental negotiations or involving NGOs in forming the Party's official position for such negotiations);
 - (iv) Measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention in the procedures of other international forums;
 - (v) Measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention in the work programmes and projects of other international forums.
7. The Task Force may also wish to ask the Working Group of the Parties to clarify as a general reporting issue where Parties undertaking activities to promote the principles of the Convention in other countries but not in the context of an international forum should report on such activities.