Promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in the UNFCCC Process

Ongoing Challenges and Upcoming Opportunities

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### Participation in lead up & during COP-21

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<th>Time</th>
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Participation in lead up & during COP-21

- **October 2015 & COP21:**
  - Systematic exclusion of observers from the negotiating sessions

- **Responsibility falls heavily on Aarhus Parties:**
  - **France**
    as COP presidency, especially in relation to the sessions held under the COP (COP, week 2)
  - **All Aarhus Parties**
    none intervened in favor of transparent negotiations
Participation in lead up & during COP-22

- Crucial role of the presidency

3 key roles for the presidency:

1. Allow CSO engagement outside of the process
2. Ensure that logistical arrangements empower CSOs rather than offer basis for limitations
3. Enable participation by CSO representatives at all stages of the political process
Ongoing review on observers’ participation

• Negotiations during the May 2016 session:

1. On principle decision: “need to further enhance the effective engagement of observer organizations as the UNFCCC process moves forward into the implementation and operationalization of the Paris Agreement”

2. Agreement on a process forward with the view to enhancing participation
Ongoing review on observers’ participation

Submissions by Parties and Observers
28 February 2017

Summary Report by the UNFCCC secretariat
Spring 2017

In-session workshop in Bonn
May 2017

Conclusions by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation
May / November 2017
Ongoing review on observers’ participation

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— Paris Agreement: Article 12

Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.

— COP decision 1/CP.21 (para. 83):

Invites the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session to explore ways of enhancing the implementation of training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Agreement;
Participation in the processes established under Paris Agreement

• Importance of ensuring that Aarhus principles are guaranteed and promoted in the new architecture

1. Procedural rights in the new “Sustainable Development Mechanism”
   – Dramatic experience of the Clean Development Mechanism
   – SDM mandate more inclusive – must build on proper guidelines and safeguards

2. Recognition of the role of access to information and public participation in the commitment cycles established under Paris Agreement
Participation in the processes established under Paris Agreement

1. Preparation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)
2. Monitoring and Review of Action & Support (MRV)
3. Global Stocktake / Collective Assessment
Participation at domestic level

• Article 6 UNFCCC and the 2013-2020 Doha Work Programme

Mid-term review in May 2016:
  – Call on UN Regional Commissions to support work on public participation and access to information in the context of climate change
  – Central role to be played by national focal points on Article 6
    • Importance to nominate a focal point
    • Necessity of interactions between Article 6 focal point and Aarhus focal point

• National Communications to be prepared throughout 2017
  – Public participation in the drafting of these comprehensive national reports
  – Include reporting on Public Participation and Access to Information
After WGP-20: 5 key opportunities to promote the Aarhus Principles

Observers Participation:
1. Nomination of a PPIF contact point in UNFCCC delegation
2. Preparation of a submission by February 2017 on enhancing observers’ participation

Participation after Paris:
3. Explicit support for participatory approach to Paris mechanisms/processes

Aarhus principles in domestic climate policies
4. Nomination with national focal point for article 6 and coordination on access to information and public participation
5. Participatory preparation of the national communication + reporting on access to information and public participation
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Links to relevant policy documents


• List of the National Focal Points for Article 6: http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/national_focal_points/items/8942.php

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION