

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

Twentieth meeting

Geneva, 15–17 June 2016

Item 5 of the provisional agenda:

Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums

**PROMOTION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO
INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO
JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION) IN
INTERNATIONAL FORUMS¹**

**Provisional programme for the thematic session
to be held on Thursday, 16 June 2016, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Introduction

The thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums will be organized in the format of a panel presentation and round-table discussion on the following topics: (i) the promotion of the Convention principles in the UNFCCC processes with the focus on lessons learnt from the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the preparations for the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-22) to UNFCCC; and (ii) recent developments related to international financial institutions. In addition, the Chair will report on the progress made with regard to items discussed at the previous thematic session which took place during the nineteenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (17-19 June 2015). This includes an update on stakeholder engagement in the United Nations Environment Assembly and the UNEP access to information policies as well as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development processes. A preliminary summary of the results of the survey will also be presented by the Chair and will be made available on the UNECE website prior to the meeting.²

Documentation

*Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2015-2017
(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/5)³*

*Promoting the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international
forums (Almaty Guidelines; ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5)⁴*

*Note by the Chair of the thematic session on public participation in international forums (AC/WGP-
20/Inf.5)⁵*

Results of the survey for Parties and stakeholders (AC/WGP-20/Inf.8)⁶

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² Available from: [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html/#/](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html#/) (see tab on PPIF session)

³ Available from: [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html/#/](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html#/) (see documents tab)

⁴ Available from: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ppif.html>

⁵ Available from: [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html/#/](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html#/) (see documents tab)

⁶ To be made available on: [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html/#/](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20.html#/) (see tab on PPIF session)

10 a.m. – 10.05 a.m. Item 1: Opening

Welcome by the Director of the UNECE Environment Division

10.05 a.m. – 10.25 a.m. Item 2: Introduction and update by the Chair

Mr Etienne Ballan, the Chair of the thematic session, will introduce the session's programme and will inform the Working Group about the progress made with regard to:

- (i) promoting the Convention's principles when implementing, following-up and reviewing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (ii) promoting effective access to information and stakeholder engagement at UNEP.

The Chair will also present a preliminary summary of the results of the survey for Parties and stakeholders in preparation for the session.

10.25 a.m. – 11.15 a.m. Item 3: Promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in the UNFCCC processes with the focus on lessons learnt from the COP-21 and preparations for the COP-22

Following-up on the COP-21 to the UNFCCC (Paris, 30 November–11 December 2015), the Working Group will discuss lessons learnt with regard to promoting access to information and public participation in the UNFCCC processes. In addition and in view of COP-22 scheduled to take place in Marrakesh, Morocco this year, the session will focus on the involvement of stakeholders in the preparatory process.

Speakers:

- *Mr Pierre-Henri Guignard, Secretary General on the preparation and organization of the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change (COP21)*
- *Ms Megumi Endo, Observer Organizations Liaison Officer, UNFCCC secretariat*
- *Mr Sébastien Duyck, Project Attorney, Climate Change Programme, Center for International Environmental Law*

Questions/discussion

Conclusions by the Chair

Break 5 min: to change panellists

11.20 a.m. – 12.20 p.m. Item 4: Recent developments in promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in the policies of international financial institutions

Recalling the outcomes of the thematic session held during the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 19-21 June 2013), this session will review recent developments and results achieved by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in the processes, policies and projects of these institutions.

Speakers:

- *Ms Elizabeth Smith, Senior Environmental and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Environment and Sustainability Department, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*
- *Mr Roberto Rando, Senior Complaints Officer, European Investment Bank (EIB)*
- *Mr Bin Wang, Senior Strategy & Policy Officer, Representative of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) (via video link)*
- *Mr Petr Hlobil, Bankwatch*

Questions/discussion

Conclusions by the Chair

12.20 – 12.30 p.m. Item 5: Concluding remarks by the Chair of the thematic session

The Chair of the thematic session will present concluding remarks.

12.30 – 1 p.m. Item 6: The way forward

This item will be chaired by the Chair of the Working Group of the Parties. The Working Group will discuss possibilities for the future work under the Convention in this area based on the note prepared by the Chair of the thematic session. Parties and stakeholders will be invited to reflect on priority forums for the next intersessional period.
