Annotated provisional agenda for the twentieth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 June 2016*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

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* As part of the accreditation procedures for delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to register online before 5 June 2016 through the following link: https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=V95_ms. Participants requiring a personal invitation letter for visa purposes should click on the “visa required” option and register for the meeting as early as possible, taking into account the period required to obtain the visa. Participants applying for financial support should register before 25 April 2016 and submit the completed financial support form to the secretariat by e-mail (public.participation@unece.org) before the same date. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website, http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2650.
3. Substantive issues:
   (a) Access to information;
   (b) Public participation in decision-making;
   (c) Access to justice;
   (d) Genetically modified organisms.

4. Procedures and mechanisms:
   (a) Compliance mechanism;
   (b) National implementation reports;
   (c) Capacity-building and awareness-raising.

5. Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums.

6. Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages.


8. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties:
   (a) Future work programme;
   (b) Future financial arrangements;
   (c) Agenda of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties;
   (d) Dates and hosting of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

9. Other business.

10. Adoption of outcomes.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

   Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 3–3.10 p.m.

   The Working Group of the Parties under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will be invited to adopt the agenda for its twentieth meeting, as set out in the present document.¹

2. Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

   Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 3.10–3.15 p.m.

   The secretariat will provide the Working Group with an overview of the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Aarhus Convention, the amendment to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers. Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments

¹ All documentation for the session will be made available on the following website: http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp20#.
concerning ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect to these instruments in their respective countries. The Working Group is expected to take note of these developments.

3. Substantive issues

(a) Access to information

_Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 3.15–3.45 p.m._

The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information (Geneva, 8–10 December 2015). Delegations will be invited to contribute additional information on relevant developments. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided and to discuss possible future activities in this area, as well as the priority issues for the next intersessional period.

_Documentation_

Report of the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/3)

Note by the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information (AC/WGP-20/Inf.1)

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

(b) Public participation in decision-making

_Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 3.45–4.15 p.m._

The Working Group of the Parties will be informed about the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making (Geneva, 10–11 February 2016). Delegations will be invited to contribute additional information on relevant developments. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided and to discuss possible future activities in this area, as well as the priority issues for the next intersessional period.

_Documentation_

Report of the sixth meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/4)

Note by the Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making (AC/WGP-20/Inf.2)

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

(c) Access to justice

_Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 4.15 p.m.–4.45 p.m._

The Working Group of the Parties will be informed about the outcomes of the eighth and ninth meetings of the Task Force on Access to Justice (Geneva, 15–17 June 2015 and 13–15 June 2016, respectively). Delegations will be invited to provide additional information on relevant developments in this area. The Working Group is expected to take note of this information and to discuss possible future activities in this area, as well as the priority issues for the next intersessional period.
Documentation

Report of the eighth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/11)

Note by the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice (AC/WGP-20/Inf.3)

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

(d) Genetically modified organisms

Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 4.45–5 p.m.

The Working Group will consider relevant developments in the area of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June–2 July 2014). In particular, it will discuss the issue of ratification of the amendment to the Convention providing for public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of GMOs. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided and to discuss future activities in this area, including in the next intersessional period.

Documentation

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

4. Procedures and mechanisms

(a) Compliance mechanism

Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 5–5.30 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the recent meetings of the Compliance Committee and other relevant matters. The Working Group is expected to take note of this information and to discuss future plans in relation to strengthening implementation of the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties regarding non-compliance.

Documentation

Reports of the Compliance Committee on its forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second meetings (ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2015/5, ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2015/7, ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2015/9 (forthcoming) and ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2016/2 (forthcoming))

Note on the membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/9)

Note by the Chair of the Compliance Committee (AC/WGP-20/Inf.4)

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

(b) National implementation reports

Timing: Wednesday, 15 June, 5.30–6 p.m.

The secretariat and delegations will provide information on the status of submission of national implementation reports since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties. In addition, the secretariat will demonstrate how to use an online reporting tool and respond to any questions about Parties’ reporting obligations for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.
5. **Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums**

*Timing: Thursday, 16 June, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.*

A thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums will be organized in the format of panel presentations followed by discussions. The session will focus on recent developments related to international financial institutions, feedback from the promotion of the Convention’s principles in the lead-up to and at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris, 30 November–11 December 2015) and an update on stakeholder engagement in the United Nations Environment Assembly and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development processes. Participants will be also invited to share their experiences with “innovative” public participation initiatives in different international forums and discuss possible priority issues for the future activities. The detailed agenda for the thematic session will be made available in due course.²

**Documentation**

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

Report on the implementation of the Convention’s work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/5)

Report of the nineteenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2015/2)

6. **Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages**

*Timing: Thursday, 16 June, 3.30–4 p.m.*

The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided by the secretariat and delegations regarding promotion of the Convention in other regions.

² The programme for the session will be made available on the website in due course.
7. **Implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, including financial matters**

*Timing: Thursday, 16 June, 4–4.30 p.m.*

The Working Group is expected to take note of the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, prepared by the secretariat, taking into consideration the discussion under the previous agenda items. Delegations will be encouraged to notify the Working Group of their planned financial contributions.

**Documentation**

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

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/6)

8. **Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

(a) **Future work programme**

*Timing: Thursday, 16 June, 4.30–6 p.m.*

The Working Group is expected to consider draft elements of the work programme for 2018–2021 prepared by the Bureau.

**Documentation**

Draft elements of the work programme for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/7)

(b) **Future financial arrangements**

*Timing: Friday, 17 June, 10–10.45 a.m.*

The Working Group is expected to consider draft elements of possible financial arrangements under the Convention prepared by the Bureau.

**Documentation**

Draft elements of possible financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/8)

(c) **Agenda of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

*Timing: Friday, 17 June, 10.45–11.30 a.m.*

The Working Group of the Parties is expected to consider draft elements of the agenda for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties prepared by the Bureau.
Documentation
Draft outline of the agenda of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2016/10)
Note on the preparatory timeline for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (AC/WGP-20/Inf.6)
(d) Dates and hosting of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties
Timing: Friday, 17 June, 11.30–11.40 a.m.
The Working Group will consider possible dates for the sixth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties and potential proposals by Parties willing to host the sixth session. The Working Group will also consider a report by the Bureau on the matter.

9. Other business
Timing: Friday, 17 June, 11.40–11.45 a.m.
Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

10. Adoption of outcomes
Timing: Friday, 17 June, 12.15–1 p.m.
The Working Group will discuss and approve the outcomes of its twentieth meeting.

III. Organization of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 15 June 2016</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Adoption of the agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–3.10 p.m.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10–3.15 p.m.</td>
<td>3 (a)</td>
<td>Access to information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15–3.45 p.m.</td>
<td>3 (b)</td>
<td>Public participation in decision-making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.45–4.15 p.m.</td>
<td>3 (c)</td>
<td>Access to justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15–4.45 p.m.</td>
<td>3 (d)</td>
<td>Genetically modified organisms</td>
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<td>4.45–5 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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3 With a view to ensuring equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations and saving paper, the meeting will result in a list of decisions and outcomes that will be projected on a screen around 30 minutes before the close of the meeting. The decisions and outcomes will be presented by the Chair verbally, thereby allowing for interpretation. There will then be a coffee break between 11.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. to finalize the list of decisions, which will be distributed to participants by e-mail after the meeting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5–5.30 p.m.</td>
<td>4 (a)</td>
<td>Compliance mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30–6 p.m.</td>
<td>4 (b)</td>
<td>National implementation reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, 16 June 2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–3.30 p.m.</td>
<td>4 (c)</td>
<td>Capacity-building and awareness-raising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30–4 p.m.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–4.30 p.m.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, including financial matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30–6 p.m.</td>
<td>8 (a)</td>
<td>Future work programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, 17 June 2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Future financial arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.45–11.30 a.m.</td>
<td>8 (c)</td>
<td>Agenda of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30–11.40 a.m.</td>
<td>8 (d)</td>
<td>Dates and hosting of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.40–11.45 a.m.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Other business</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>