

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

Twenty-third meeting

Geneva, 26–28 June 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties

Indicative timeline for preparation of agenda, declaration and decisions for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties*

Note prepared by the secretariat

The below indicative timeline is based on preparatory schedules for the previous sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (MOP). Table 1 contains information about decisions on compliance matter. Note that all dates related to the deliverables by the Committee are subject to the actual work of the Committee and its confirmation. Due to the following constraints it will be rather unrealistic for the Bureau to prepare and for the secretariat to finalise for editing and translation draft decisions on compliance matter if MOP-7 takes place in June 2021: recent requests of the European Union and its Member States to comment final draft progress reports and adopt all new findings six months before the MOP, combined with the deadline of 1 October 2020 by which Parties should submit the final progress reports on implementing the MOP-6 decisions. Table 2 contains information about MOP agenda, other decisions and a declaration. The Bureau considered and agreed on the below preparatory timeline at its forty-third meeting (Geneva, 26 February 2019) and, considering the above-mentioned reasons, recommended to the Working Group to hold the seventh session in late September/early October 2021.

Table 1
Decisions on compliance matter

Timing	Follow up to MOP-6 decisions and decision on general issues of compliance	Decisions based on new findings
01.10.2020	Final progress reports are submitted by Parties on MOP-6 decisions on compliance	
01.11.2020	Deadline for comments from communicants and observers on final progress reports submitted by Parties	
01.02.2021	Committee completes its draft reports to MOP-7 on MOP-6 decisions on compliance and sends them for Parties' comments on findings and recommendations	

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

	only. No new measures to be reported upon in Parties' comments on draft reports	
01.03.2021	Deadline for comments by Parties, communicants and observers on Committee's draft reports to MOP-7 on MOP-6 decisions (<i>at the request of EU and its MS</i>)	
30.03.2021		Deadlines for adoption by the Compliance Committee of new findings to be considered at MOP-7 (<i>6 months before MOP-7 at the request by EU and its MS</i>)
30.03.2021		Resulting draft decisions on compliance (for Parties not subject to MOP-6 follow-up) start to be prepared by the Bureau
01.04.2021 – 01.06.2021	Committee adopts its reports to MOP-7 on MOP-6 decisions (timing depends on nature of comments received on draft reports)	
01.04.2021 – 01.06.2021	Resulting draft decisions on compliance (for Parties already subject to MOP-6 decisions) start to be prepared by the Bureau	
01.06.2021- 15.06.2021	Committee adopts its general report to MOP-7	
15.06.2021- 30.06.2021	Resulting draft decision on general issues of compliance is prepared by the Bureau	
30.06.2021	Deadline for the Bureau to finalise decisions	Deadline for the Bureau to finalise decisions
	Finalisation of draft decisions by the secretariat for submission to the editing, translation and processing by the Documents Management Service of United Nations Office at Geneva (to be released in 3 languages in approx. 1 month)	
Preparatory Segment at MOP-7, (after 30.09.2021) dates tbc	Discussion on and approval of draft decisions	

General/HLS of MOP-7	Adoption of draft decisions and endorsement of findings of the Compliance Committee	
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Table 2
Other decisions, agenda and declaration

Timing	Decision on Strategic Plan	Decisions on WP, FA, AI, PP, AJ, PPIF; Declaration; MOP-7 Agenda
February-early March 2019, meeting of the Bureau and, if needed, email consultations of the Bureau	Initial draft proposal on the new Strategic Plan is considered by the Bureau and submitted to Working Group	
26-28 June 2019, 23 rd meeting of the Working Group of the Parties	Draft proposal on the Strategic Plan to be considered by the Working Group of the Parties	
July-September 2019, email consultations of the Bureau, as needed	The revised draft Strategic Plan to be considered by the Bureau	
October-December 2019	Upon the revision by the Bureau, the next draft Strategic Plan to be distributed to National Focal Points and stakeholders for comments	
February-March 2020, meeting of the Bureau and, if needed, email consultations of the Bureau	The revised draft Strategic Plan to be considered by the Bureau and submitted to Working Group	Notes by the PPIF and TFs Chairs; draft outline for MOP-7 agenda; draft elements for future decisions and possible Declaration are considered by the Bureau and submitted to Working Group
June 2020, 24 th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties	The revised draft Strategic Plan to be considered and, possibly, approved by the Working Group of the Parties. If need be, the draft Strategic Plan might be revised by the Bureau after the meeting of the Working Group and distributed again for comments to Parties and stakeholders. Prior to the 25 th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties with the view of its approval by the Working Group at that meeting	Notes by the PPIF and TFs Chairs; draft outline for MOP-7 agenda and draft elements for the future decisions and possible declaration (revised as appropriate by the Bureau) are considered by the Working Group

Timing	Decision on Strategic Plan	Decisions on WP, FA, AI, PP, AJ, PPIF; Declaration; MOP-7 Agenda
July-September 2020, email consultations of the Bureau, as needed		Revised draft outline for MOP-7 agenda and draft elements for the future decisions and possible declaration to be considered by the Bureau
October-November 2020		Upon the revision by the Bureau, the next drafts of the documents to be distributed to NFPs and stakeholders for comments
December 2020/early 2021, meeting of the Bureau and, if needed, email consultations of the Bureau		The revised draft outline for MOP-7 agenda and draft elements for future decisions and possible Declaration are considered by the Bureau and submitted to the Working Group
25 th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, dates tbc		Discussion on and approval of draft decisions and of provisional MOP-7 agenda; discussion on and provisional approval of possible draft Declaration
March-April 2021	Finalization of documents by the secretariat for submission for the editing, translation and processing by the Documents Management Service of United Nations Office at Geneva	
Preparatory Segment at MOP-7, dates tbc	Discussion on and approval of draft Declaration (<i>draft decisions are to be approved by the Working Group at its 25th meeting</i>)	
General/HLS of MOP-7	Adoption of draft decisions and of draft Declaration	