Aarhus Convention WGP: Thematic Session Public Participation in Decision-making

European ECO Forum Keynote

Dr. Anke Stock

www.wecf.org

GENEVA
26 June 2019
Contents

• Status Quo
• Challenges: old and new
• Positive and negative trends
• Mission of Second Pillar
• Recommendations
Status Quo

• Political situation around the world
• HRC Council Res. of March 2019
Challenges identified under Dec. VI/2 – intensified

- Meaningful
- Relevant documents
- Timing
- Vulnerable and marginalised groups
- Protection of persons exercising their rights

Additional:
- Extensions (Art. 6 (10))
- Identification of public concerned (Art. 6 (5))

no effective pp in d-m (Art. 6, 7, 8)
Positive/negative trends

+ Youth (in particular urban) more interested
+ New technologies and tools
- Lack of public interest due to incomplete/complicated information
- Lack of transparency/awareness
Mission of Second Pillar:
Art. 1 Protection of Right to a Healthy Environment - SDG
Inevitable for implementation of 2030 Agenda

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
Enabling environment: backlash

• Many feel not taken seriously/left behind
• Complex and interconnected subject areas
• Inequality cleavage (e.g. income inequality within EU)
• Shrinking space for CSOs as part of an authoritarian pushback against democracy
• Growing impact of international corporations

PP as prerequisite for an enabling environment
Recommendations

• Maastricht Recommendations
• Awareness raising and capacity building
• Proactive access to information to overcome barriers in pp
• Sharing experiences
• Providing funding – also for identif. of public concerned
• Importance for accountability of intern. corporations (LBI)
Thank you