**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 5 of the provisional agenda

**Thematic session on the promotion of the principles
of the Convention in international forums**

**Survey for Parties to the Aarhus Convention[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Background

Pursuant to decision VI/4 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–14 September 2017) the thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums to be held at the twenty-third meeting of the Working Group of the Parties will focus primarily on:

* Part I: promotion of the principles of the Convention in the policies of international financial institutions (IFIs)

*A short questionnaire on Part I is intended to assist Parties report on their progress in promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in the policies of IFIs.*

* Part II: cross-cutting issues to enhance access to information and public participation in international forums

*When discussing access to information and public participation in different international forums (including UNFCCC, UNEA, chemicals and waste conventions, trade negotiations, 2030 Agenda, HLPF, IFIs etc.) during previous thematic sessions, a number of cross-cutting issues were identified, such as different modalities for engaging stakeholders, self-organization of stakeholders, hosting an international event and identification of the public. The survey intends to identify: (a) additional cross-cutting issues and (b) effective tools and practices that Parties use or are planning to use, which help to address these cross-cutting issues in order to improve the public’s access to information and participation in international forums. Please note that a questionnaire on cross-cutting issues is also carried out among stakeholders. Examples provided to address cross-cutting issues might be added to the Aarhus Clearinghouse Good Practice online database.*

The results of the survey will be presented by the Chair at the thematic session and made available on the meeting’s website in due course.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Each Party is invited to complete the online questionnaire by Friday, 17 May 2019.**

**Link to the online questionnaire:** https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WGP-23\_PPIF\_Parties

Please find the survey questions below in this word document for information and internal use only.

Please use as background material the following document:

Promoting the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums (Almaty Guidelines), ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5, (decision II/4), annex
available in English, French and Russian from:
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2005/pp/ece/ece.mp.pp.2005.2.add.5.e.pdf> (English)

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2005/pp/ece/ece.mp.pp.2005.2.add.5.f.pdf> (French)

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2005/pp/ece/ece.mp.pp.2005.2.add.5.r.pdf> (Russian)

**NAME OF PARTY**

*Please enter name here.*

**Part I. International financial institutions**

1. **Which international financial institutions (IFIs) is your government a member of?**

*Please check all boxes that apply. You can check any box(es) by double clicking on the square and selecting ‘checked’. Please add additional comments into the comment boxes provided (by clicking on the italic text in each box).*

[ ]  African Development Bank (AfDB)

[ ]  Asian Development Bank (ADB)

[ ]  Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

[ ]  Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

[ ]  European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

[ ]  European Investment Bank (EIB)

[ ]  Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB, IADB)

[ ]  International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

[ ]  Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

[ ]  Nordic Investment Bank (NIB)

[ ]  World Bank

[ ]  Other *Please specify:*

1. **What specific steps has your government taken in the last two years, either individually or collectively with other governments, to promote the principles of the Convention in these IFIs with respect to the following:**

**(i) The IFIs’ meetings and bodies;***Please specify:*

**(ii) The IFIs’ official policies;**

*Please specify:*

**(iii) The IFIs’ projects, including where relevant, any projects to be carried out in your country;**

*Please specify:*

**(iv) The IFIs’ compliance review mechanism.**

*Please specify:*

1. **What concrete possibilities could you foresee for your government to promote the principles of the Convention, either individually or collectively with other governments, in the above respects in IFIs in the coming two years?**

*Please specify:*

**Part II. Addressing cross-cutting issues to enhance access to information and public participation in international forums**

1. **With reference to the cross-cutting issues listed below, has your government identified any additional cross-cutting issue(s) to enhance access to information and public participation in international forums?**
* Different modalities for engaging stakeholders
* Self-organization of stakeholders
* Hosting an international event
* Identification of the public

*Please specify:*

1. **Has your government used or is planning to use effective tools/practices to address these cross-cutting issues as to enhance access to information and/or public participation in international forums (e.g. in IFIs, UNFCCC processes or others)?**

**[ ]** Yes, our government **has used** effective tools/practices.

[ ]  Yes, our government **is planning to use** effective tools/practices.

[ ]  No

**If Yes, please provide more information on the tool or practice your government has used/is planning to use.***Please start by selecting the type of tool or practice. You are then asked to provide more details. Please note that you can provide up to five examples. After completing the form for one example of a tool or practice you will be asked if you would like to add another one. If you would like to share more than five examples, please contact the secretariat by sending an email to* *public.participation@un.org**. Thank you.*

**Please select:**

[ ]  Our government **has used** this effective tool or practices.

[ ]  Our government **is planning to use** this effective tool or practices.

Type of cross-cutting issue to enhance access to information and public participation in international forums

*Please tick the box that describes your tool / practice best. You have the possibility to enter another example (also for a different type of cross-cutting issue later).*

**[ ]** Different modalities for engaging stakeholders

**[ ]** Self-organization of stakeholder

**[ ]** Hosting an international event

**[ ]** Identification of the public

**[ ]** Other *(Please specify)*

*Please provide more information on the innovative tool or practice regarding:*

1. **Name of the example (tool, practice, programme, project, initiative, mechanism, etc.) that you would like to share:**
2. **Responsible Party or organization:**
3. **Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:**

1. **Starting year and duration:**

1. **Partner organizations involved (if any):**

1. **Stakeholders involved.**

*Describe their involvement in this tool / practice / mechanism and the kind of relationship you have with them.*

1. **Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism.**

*Please provide brief description:*

1. **Methodology/ approach used.**

*Please provide brief description:*

1. **Please clarify if this tool / practice/ mechanism is:**

*Please check the answer boxes you find the most appropriate*

[ ]  Electronic tool.

*Please provide additional information or an online link, if available.*

[ ]  Web-based application (online forum, social network)

*Please provide additional information or an online link, if available.*

[ ]  Mobile-phone app (including twitter or other app)

*Please provide additional information or an online link, if available.*

[ ]  Other

*Please provide additional information or an online link, if available.*

1. **Results and evaluation.**

*Please provide brief assessment:*

1. **Strengths, good practices and lessons learned.**

*Please provide brief assessment:*

1. **Problems / challenges encountered.**

*Please provide brief assessment:*

1. **Overall, do you consider the tool / practice/ mechanism to be a case study of good practice? Why/ why not?**

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1. This document was not formally edited. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50755>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)