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 4 (a) Compliance mechanism

Statement by NGO Christian Aid

“UNECE Gender Action Plan for 2018-19, sub-programme 1, mentions that all member States must integrate gender issues and a gender perspective in all activities under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice. However, as noted earlier by two of my colleagues, the language being used is not amenable to that. The chairmen mentioned the importance of Agenda 2030 which means Leaving no One Behind. However, we might be running the risk of invisibilising those worse affected by environmental impacts. Our experience as Christian Aid, expressed in our new report ‘Engendering Business and Human Rights’, shows us that women are the worst affected by environmental impacts, by negative corporate practices and by the profiling of human rights defenders. Given pillar 3 on access to justice and in light of art. 5 of the Convention, I wonder what is being done in terms of producing gender disaggregated data available to all in terms of those affected, seeking remedies and able to adequately access appropriate remedies? For example, the UK mentioned transboundary screening, but I wonder if we could go beyond that by recognising the extraterritoriality of International Human Rights Law? That is, recognising that human rights are interrelated, interconnected and interdependent and an intricate part of Agenda 2030.”