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 3 (b) Access to information

Statement by Ms. Olga Popovici, the Republic of Moldva

- It is my pleasure to address you today on behalf of Ms. Valentina Tapis, Chair Task Force on Access to Information. I would like to:
- Highlight that effective public access to environmental information is critical for the successful implementation of a number of Sustainable Development Goals and is specifically targeted by Sustainable Development Goal 16 (target 10).
- Recall that the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention recognised the need to ensure that modern information and communication electronic tools should be fully employed so as to safeguard effective implementation of the information pillar of the Aarhus Convention.
- Recall that the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session requested the Task Force on Access to Information to update the recommendations on electronic information tools set out in decision II/3. As you might be aware, pursuant to this decision, the consultation was launched to seek views and gather case studies on the developments in the Shared Environmental Information System, geospatial information management, Earth observation data, e-government, open government data, re-use of public sector information and other relevant initiatives and recent technical developments. The preliminary outcomes of the consultation will be discussed at the upcoming sixth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information on 2-4 October 2019 and will be taken into account for the update of the above-mentioned recommendations.
- In the Aarhus spirit, the update of the Recommendations will be carried out through a participatory process and it is important that views of all Parties and different stakeholders are shared. I therefore, would like to strongly encourage Parties, other interested UN Member States, NGOs, academia and others to participate in the consultation.
- I also would like to bring to your attention that the population of the Aarhus Clearinghouse with the cutting-edge resources related to the Convention, Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and relevant Sustainable Development Goals is important for the promotion of environmental democracy in the region and beyond. I therefore would like to invite you to provide proactively such relevant resources. For those Parties, who did not do so, also proceed with establishing Aarhus national nodes and link them to the Aarhus Clearinghouse. This would allow to demonstrate widely your country’s efforts in implementing the Convention.
- Let me also inform you that the Republic of Moldova similar to other Parties considers the ways of modernizing environmental information systems and is actively involved in the work related to promoting environmental information within e-government and open data frameworks as a part of the SEIS project carried out with the support of the European Environment Agency and the European Union. I would like to express appreciation to the partners for their important support;
- Finally, let me warmly thank everyone for the support of the work undertaken under auspices of the Task Force on Access to Information and reiterate the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to lead these activities in a continuously advancing area.