



16th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 16) (Geneva, 19 – 21 June 2013)

Agenda Item 7: the Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums

Statement from EU and its Member States and Croatia

- (1) Further to the discussion on the draft text originally included in the Decisions and Major Outcomes proposed for adoption by the Working Group at its sixteenth meeting, the EU and its Member States and Croatia support the amended text as agreed at the meeting.
- (2) The EU and its Member States and Croatia are of the opinion that the current details of the original text, now to be included in the report do not reflect the discussion that took place during the PPIF segment of the WGP 16 but that it is a reflection of the content of the presentations.
- (3) We wish to make the following substantive comments:

The report should be termed a report of the Chair of the PPIF, not a report of the WGP, as it was not approved or otherwise endorsed by Parties, including the EU and its Member States.

Measures to systematically promote PPIF

The third bullet which encourages Parties to “develop and implement a national action plan” should be amended to read “to develop a national action plan”.

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

We request the amendment of the second bullet point to read “Encouraged Parties to consider the opportunities for participation in the text defining the HLPF”. We request the deletion of the second sentence.

UNFCCC

This segment of the report allocates inappropriate responsibilities to national focal points. We request the removal of all references to national focal points from the report of the Chair of the PPIF. These responsibilities were not agreed during the

thematic session of the Working Group and are more appropriate to Parties who have flexibility in terms of the internal systems they use to meet their obligations.

Amend introductory bullet by deletion of text "...ask them to:" and replacement with "... consider initiatives such as..".

First bullet, delete "Request chairs/facilitators to open sessions" and replace with "provide open sessions"

Second bullet delete "call for modalities..." replace with "provide modalities..."

Third bullet, replace existing text with the following: "Provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in informal processes parallel to negotiations as appropriate".

Further information is requested on both the content and purpose of the fourth bullet point. Is it possible to be provided with examples of projects referred to or details on the types of projects?

UNEP

The comments in relation to the national focal points made under the heading UNFCCC above are also relevant to the inappropriate responsibilities allocated to focal points in this section.

First bullet, replace text that states "...so that they are entitled to..." with "...if they wish to ...".

Delete third paragraph. It is not the role of the Working Group to influence internal workings of Parties' administrations.

In general bullet points 4 and 5 are too prescriptive and detailed. These items could be considered for inclusion in the Draft checklist of measures to be borne in mind when developing national action plans on PPIF. However, the current text of bullet point 4 could be replaced with "Encouraged Aarhus Parties to engage in CPR-negotiations".

Bullet point 6 refers to Parties evaluating the effectiveness of the major groups system. This is not an appropriate role for Parties. Evaluation of effectiveness is a matter for the UN and should be deleted.

IFIs

First bullet replace "...to take an active part in.." with "...to participate in .."

Third bullet replace "...to take the following actions.." with "...to consider the following actions..."

Section entitled: “With respect to future policy reviews”

- replace “requested with “invited” in first bullet
- the power of the PPIF Task Force to mandate the secretariat to write to certain IFIs as this has not been agreed by the WGP.

Other international forums

We suggest that the existing text be replaced with the following: “Encouraged that the provisions of Article 3(7) are promoted and taken into account in other international forums, as relevant.”

Future work

The third and fourth bullet points are currently in the wrong order.

We request the inclusion of the word “revision” in bullet point six, as included in the outcomes and decisions document in relation to other texts that will be submitted to the seventeenth Working Group.