

Intervention by Gita Parihar of Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland in relation to Agenda Item 2 of the PPIF session: Public participation in the UNFCCC processes on the road to Paris

- Please check against delivery -

We wish to make some supplementary points in addition to the matters already raised by Sébastien Duyck in his presentation. We call on France to ensure maximum civil society access to the negotiation space when high level country representatives are present at COP 21; the presumption should be in favour of participation. We understand that there will be security concerns, but we ask France to ensure that its police force is deployed in a manner such that the international population attending COP 21 is able to play its legitimate role in participating in the negotiations.

We welcome the work done by the UNFCCC Secretariat in relation to access to texts and technological improvements. However, we wish to point out that when it comes to engagement directly with NGOs, rather than observers more broadly, it often seems that the focus is on regulating NGOs rather than facilitating our participation. We remind parties that duties under the Aarhus Convention specifically relate to facilitating participation by the public and their associations.

At the negotiations prominent publicity is given to business initiatives to tackle climate change. We would like to see equivalent attention given to highlighting the roles played by local communities and civil society. Peru was able to host a climate COP without business sponsors and we are sorry that France is not able to do the same. In the past climate negotiations have been sponsored by entities such as airlines and phone companies, which we think sends the wrong message.

We call for parity of access of civil society and the public to the climate negotiations, recognising that we have a distinct role as recognised in the Aarhus Convention.

Intervention by Gita Parihar of Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland in relation to Agenda Item 5 of the PPIF Session: Promotion of the Convention's principles through developing, implementing and monitoring implementation of SDGs

We are pleased to highlight a development at the national level in Wales related to the SDGs. This is the passage of the Well-being of Future Generations Act in Wales http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/pdfs/anaw_20150002_en.pdf

This is a groundbreaking piece of legislation, setting a substantive duty for public bodies to carry out sustainable development in their activities. It is based on 7 long term goals to fit into the SDG process. These include recognising environmental limits, acting on climate change and making a positive contribution to global well-being. Key provisions will come into force in April 2016. Bodies have to set well-being objectives and comply with the sustainable development principles set out in section 5(2). One of these principles highlights *"the importance of involving other persons with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and of ensuring those persons reflect the diversity of the population..."* Further information can be obtained from Haf Elgar haf.elgar@foe.co.uk