



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2006/3/Add.2
27 January 2006

Original: ENGLISH

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 to the Convention
(Sixth meeting, Geneva, 5–7 April 2006)
(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE
ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS**

Addendum

DRAFT LIST OF INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

Prepared by the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums

Explanatory Note

1. The list is divided regionally into five sections. These sections are:
 - Global forums
 - Transregional forums
 - Pan-European forums
 - Subregional European and Central Asian forums
 - Forums in other regions (including Africa, West Asia, the Americas, and Asia and the Pacific)

2. Transregional forums are forums whose members include countries from several regions united under a particular theme. For example, the OECD and the Commonwealth are transregional forums.
3. The various regions are loosely based on the geographical areas of the five UN regional commissions (UNECE, UNECA, UNESCWA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP). However, the United States and Canada, which are both UNECE members, are included under the Americas region except when acting as members of certain pan-European forums.
4. Only forums with three or more members have been included. Agreements between the European Community and individual non-EC member States have been treated as multilateral agreements.
5. The list provisionally prioritizes each forum as category 1, category 2 or category 3. These categories are relevant to the three levels of priority for consultation described in the attached draft plan. Category 1 forums are key international forums to be invited to engage in the full range of modalities. Category 2 forums are important forums to which the written questionnaire will be sent, as well as a hard copy of the Guidelines and covering letter. Category 3 forums are other relevant forums that will be sent a hard copy of the Guidelines and covering letter only.
6. The listed forums represent only a subset of the full range of international forums dealing with matters relating to the environment in the sense of article 3, paragraph 7 of the Convention. The Task Force's selection of the listed forums and provisional prioritization of listed forums with Aarhus members is based on its consideration of the four criteria listed below, and also takes account of input from civil society representatives present at the Task Force's first meeting. The four criteria are:
 - The number of members in the forum
As this is to give an indication of the overall size of the forum, both Parties and Signatories to international agreements are included in the count.
 - The presence of Aarhus members in the forum
This is to facilitate an assessment of the proportion of the forum's membership belonging to Aarhus. Again, Aarhus members include both Parties and Signatories.
 - The proportion of the forum's decisions or actions affecting the environment
This is measured in two categories. In ascending order, these are "some" and "most". "Most" means "most or all".
 - Whether the forum's decisions or actions are considered to have the potential for particularly significant environmental impacts
By definition, all the forums included in the list may take decisions or actions that have an impact on the environment. However, forums whose environmental impacts are

widely considered to be particularly significant are marked with a bullet point. This is not intended to imply that forums without a bullet point do not have significant environmental impacts.

7. The Task Force has not attempted to evaluate the potential environmental significance of forums in other regions using the third and fourth criteria above; hence these columns have been left blank, though the forums listed are understood to have environmental significance. Forums that have no Aarhus members are provisionally classified in the list as category 3.
8. The number of forum members and the number of Aarhus members in each forum are indicated by a range. For example, “20<30” means that the forum has between 20 and 29 members. The largest membership range is “>100” for the number of members in a forum and “>30” for the number of Aarhus members in a forum. These mean “100 and over” and “30 and over” respectively.
9. Treaties not yet in force are shown in italics.

GLOBAL FORUMS

Forum	Number of members	Number of Aarhus members	Proportion of decisions and actions affecting environment	Decisions and actions considered to have potential for particularly significant environmental impacts	Level of priority for consultation
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum Stakeholder Unit of Division of Policy Development and Law	50<100	10<20	MOST	?	1
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
International Whaling Commission (IWC) International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling 1946-12-02	50>100 50<100	20<30 20<30	MOST MOST	?	1
International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee	>100	>30	SOME	?	1

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and Protocols 1978-02-17	30<50	10<20	MOST		
Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) 1972-12-29	50<100	20<30	MOST		
United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)	50<100	10<20	MOST	?	1
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	>100	>30	SOME	?	1
Committees on Agriculture; Forestry; Fisheries; Commodities					
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2001-11-03	50<100	20<30	SOME		
Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas 1958-04-29	30<50	5<10	MOST		

World Bank Group World Bank Inspection Panel	>100	>30	SOME	?	1
International Monetary Fund	>100	>30	SOME	?	1
World Trade Organization (WTO ¹) Committee on Trade and Environment	>100	>30	SOME	?	1
International Energy Agency (IEA)	20<30	10<20	SOME	?	1
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992-05-09	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1997-12-11	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
Convention on Biological Diversity 1992-06-05 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity 2000-01-29	>100 >100	>30 20<30	MOST MOST	?	1

¹ The World Tourism Organization and the World Trade Organization share the same acronym.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 1973-03-03	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) 1971-02-02	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and Protocol 1989-03-22	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade 1998-09-10	>100	20<30	MOST	?	1
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001-05-22	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa 1994-06-17	>100	>30	MOST	?	1

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979-06-23	50<100	>30	MOST	?	1
Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer 1985-03-22	>100	>30	MOST	?	1
Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer 1987-09-16	>100	>30	MOST		
International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC)	50<100	10<20	MOST	?	1
International Tropical Timber Agreement 1994-01-26	50<100	10<20	MOST		
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)	>100	>30	MOST		1
World Tourism Organization (WTO ²)	>100	>30	SOME		1
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	>100	>30	SOME		1

² The World Tourism Organization and the World Trade Organization share the same acronym.

United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	>100	>30	SOME		1
International Seabed Authority	>100	>30	SOME		
UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea					
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982-12-10	>100	>30	SOME		
Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks 1995-08-04	50<100	10<20	MOST		
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	>100	>30	MOST		1
Convention on Nuclear Safety 1994-06-17	50<100	20<30	MOST		
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material 1979-10-26	>100	>30	MOST		

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) UNDP Energy and Environment	30<50	10<20	SOME		2
United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development	30<50	5<10	SOME		2
United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Programme on Man and Biosphere Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972-11-16	>100 >100	>30 >30	SOME SOME		 2
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Governing Council	>100	>30	SOME		2
Preparatory Committee for Development of a Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management (SAICM)	50<100	10<20	SOME		2
World Health Organization (WHO)	>100	>30	SOME		2
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	>100	>30	SOME		2

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	>100	>30	SOME		2
United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) (UNHSP)	50<100	10<20	SOME		2
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	>100	>30	SOME		2
Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses 1997-05-21	20<30	5<10	SOME		2
United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Executive Committee	50<100	20<30	SOME		3
World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)	>100	>30	SOME		3
International Labour Organization (ILO) World Congress on Safety and Health at Work	>100	>30	SOME		3

TRANSREGIONAL FORUMS

Forum	Number of members	Number of Aarhus members	Proportion of decisions and actions affecting environment	Decisions and actions considered to have potential for particularly significant environmental impacts	Level of priority for consultation
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Environment Directorate	30<50	20<30	SOME	?	1
UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) and Protocols 1976-02-16	20<30	10<20	MOST		1
Euro-Mediterranean Partnership / Barcelona Process	30<50	20<30	SOME		1
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) 1992-09-22	10<20	10<20	MOST		1
<i>Framework Convention for the Protection of the Environment of the Caspian Sea</i> 2003-11-04	5<10	1<5	MOST		1

Europe and North Asia Ministerial Conference on Forest Law and Governance (ENA FLEG)	10<20	10<20	MOST		2
Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (NAFO) 1978-10-24	20<30	10<20	MOST		2
Antarctic Treaty 1959-12-01	30<50	20<30	SOME		2
Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection 1991-10-04	30<50	20<30	MOST		
Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources 1980-05-20	20<30	10<20	MOST		
Islamic Development Bank	50<100	5<10	SOME		2
Fisheries Agreements between the European Community and various non-Aarhus members (20+)	20<30	20<30	MOST		2
Trade Agreements between the European Communities and various non-Aarhus members (13)	20<30	20<30	SOME		2

Cotonou Agreement between the European Communities and the African Caribbean and Pacific States on trade, development and governance	50<100	20<30	SOME		2
Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)	20<30	10<20	SOME		3
Commonwealth of Nations Commonwealth Consultative Group on the Environment	50<100	1<5	SOME		3
Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophone (IEPF)	30<50	5<10	SOME		3
FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	20<30	10<20	MOST		3
FAO Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	20<30	1<5	MOST		3

PAN-EUROPEAN FORUMS

Forum	Number of members	Number of Aarhus members	Proportion of decisions and actions affecting environment	Decisions and actions considered to have potential for particularly significant environmental impacts	Level of priority for consultation
<i>Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers</i> 2003-05-21	30<50	>30	MOST	?	1
Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and Protocols 1979-11-13	30<50	>30	MOST	?	1
Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and Protocol 1992-03-17	30<50	>30	MOST	?	1
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and Protocols 1992-03-17	30<50	>30	MOST	?	1
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and Protocol 1991-02-25	30<50	>30	MOST	?	1

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	50<100	>30	SOME		2
Committee on Human Settlements					
Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development					
Committee on Sustainable Energy					
Timber Committee / FAO European Forestry Commission				?	1
Committee on Environment Policy					
Environment for Europe Ministerial Process	50<100	>30	MOST	?	1
Environment, Transport and Health Pan-European Programme	50<100	>30	SOME		2
Environment and Health Ministerial Process	50<100	>30	SOME		2
European Environment and Health Committee					
Euro-Asian Transport Ministerial Meeting	10<20	10<20	SOME		3

<p>Council of Europe</p> <p>Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe</p> <p>North-South Centre Executive Council</p> <p>Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy</p> <p>Council of Europe Development Bank</p>	30<50	>30	SOME		2
<p>European Landscape Convention 2000-12-20</p>	30<50	>30	MOST		
<p>Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats 1979-09-19</p>	30<50	>30	MOST		1
<p>European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</p> <p>Environment Department</p>	50<100	>30	SOME		1
<p>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</p> <p>Officer of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Affairs</p>	50<100	>30	SOME		1
<p>Energy Charter Treaty and Protocol 1994-12-17</p>	50<100	>30	MOST		2

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission					2
Convention on multilateral cooperation in North-East Atlantic fisheries 1980-11-18	10<20	10<20	SOME		
Trade Agreements between the European Community and various Aarhus member countries (7)	20<30	20<30	SOME		2
Agreement on the European Economic Area 1992-05-02	20<30	20<30	SOME		2
Fisheries Agreement between the European Community and various Aarhus member countries (6)	20<30	20<30	MOST		2
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) ³	20<30	20<30	SOME		3

³ A major focus of NATO's Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society is environment and security.

SUBREGIONAL EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN FORUMS

Forum	Number of members	Number of Aarhus members	Proportion of decisions and actions affecting environment	Decisions and actions considered to have potential for particularly significant environmental impacts	Level of priority for consultation
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)	10<20	5<10	MANY		1
Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area 1992-04-09	10<20	5<10	MANY		
International Aral Sea Fund					1
Agreement on the status of International Aral Sea Fund (IASF) 1999-04-09	5<10	1<5	SOME		
Inter-State Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (ICWC)	5<10	1<5	SOME		
Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution					1
Convention concerning Fishing in the Black Sea 1959-07-07	1<5	1<5	SOME		

Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and Protocols 1992-04-21	5<10	1<5	MOST		
Convention concerning the Protection of the Alps and Protocols 1991-11-07	5<10	5<10	MOST		1
<i>Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians</i> 2003-05-22	5<10	5<10	MOST		1
International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine					1
Convention on the Protection of the Rhine and Protocols 1999-04-12	5<10	5<10	MOST		
Convention on the Collection, Deposit and Reception of Waste occurring in the Course of Navigation Inland and on the Rhine 1996-09-09	5<10	5<10	MOST		
Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution 1976-12-03	5<10	5<10	MOST		
<i>Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin</i> 2002-12-03	1<5	1<5	MOST		1

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube					2
Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River 1994-06-29	10<20	10<20	MOST		1
Council of the Baltic Sea States	10<20	10<20	SOME		2
Baltic 21					
Arctic Council	5<10	5<10	SOME		2
Nordic Council of Ministers	5<10	5<10	SOME		2
Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation (NEFCO)	5<10	5<10	MOST		2
Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)	5<10	5<10	SOME		2
Baltic Islands Network (B7)	5<10	5<10	SOME		2
Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) Steering Group	Inter- agency		MOST		2
Nordic Environmental Protection Convention 1974-02-19	1<5	1<5	MOST		2

FORUMS OF OTHER REGIONS**Africa**

Forum	Number of members	Number of Aarhus members			Level of priority for consultation
African Development Bank	50<100	10<20			2
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	50<100	0			3
African Union (AU) Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	50<100	0			3
<i>African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources</i> 2003-07-11	30<50	0			
African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources 1968-09-15	30<50	0			
Convention on the Ban of the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa 1991-01-30	30<50	0			

<p>UNEP Regional Office for Africa</p> <p>African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)</p> <p>Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Protocol 1981-03-23</p>	50<100	0			3
<p>Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and Protocols 1985-06-21</p>	5<10	1<5			
<p>Southern African Development Community (SADC)</p> <p>Protocols on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, Forestry, Fisheries, Energy, Trade, Mining, Shared Watercourse Systems</p>	10<20	0			3
<p>East African Community (EAC)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda for Cooperation on Environment Management 1998-10-22</p>	1<5 1<5	0 0			3

FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission	30<50	1<5			3
FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)	30<50	5<10			3

West Asia

Forum	Number of members	Number of Aarhus members			Level of priority for consultation
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	10<20	0			3
Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)	5<10	0			3
Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and Protocols 1978-04-24	5<10	0			
UNEP Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERGSA)	5<10	0			3
Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and of the Gulf of Aden Environment and Protocol 1982-02-14	5<10	0			

The Americas

Forum	Number of members	Number of Aarhus members			Level of priority for consultation
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	30<50	5<10			2
Inter-American Development Bank	30<50	10<20			2
Caribbean Development Bank	20<30	1<5			2
Organization of American States (OAS)	30<50	0			2
Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)					
Organization for Sustainable Development and Environment (OSDE)	30<50	0			
Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere 1940-10-12	20<30	0			

<p>UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean (UNEP-ROLAC)</p> <p>Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Caribbean Environment Programme</p> <p>Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and Protocols 1983-03-24</p>	30<50	0			3
Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)	10<20	0			3
<p>Andean Community (CAN)</p> <p>Meeting of Environment Ministers</p> <p>Andean Committee of Environment Authorities</p> <p>Andean Development Corporation (CAF)</p>	5<10	0			3
<p>Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)</p> <p>MERCOSUR Environment Group</p> <p>Framework Agreement on the Environment (Acuerdo Marco sobre Medio Ambiente del Mercosur)</p>	1<5	0			3

Central American Commission on Environment and Development (Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo) (CCAD)	5<10	0			3
Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (Alianza Centroamericana para el Desarrollo Sostenible) (ALIDES)					
Convention for the Conservation of the Biodiversity and the Protection of Wilderness Areas in Central America 1992-06-05	5<10	0			
Regional Agreement on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes 1992-12-11	5<10	0			
Permanent Commission of the South Pacific					3
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific and Protocols 1981-11-20	5<10	0			
Agreement on the Exploitation and Conservation of the Maritime Resources of the South Pacific 1952-08-18	1<5	0			
FAO Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission	30<50	1<5			3

FAO West Central Atlantic Fishery Commission	30<50	5<10			3
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Asia & Pacific

Forum	Number of mem- bers	Number of Aarhus members			Level of priority for consulta- tion
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	50<100	5<10			2
Asian Development Bank	50<100	20<30			2
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme					3
Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention) 1986-11-24	10<20	1<5			2
Convention to ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous Wastes and Radioactive Wastes and to control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific 1995-09-16	10<20	0			
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	20<30	0			3

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	10<20	0			3
Kuala Lumpur Accord On Environment And Development 1990-06-19	10<20	0			
ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution 2002-06-10	10<20	0			
ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources 1985-07-09	5<10	0			
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and ASEAN-China Preferential Arrangement 28-01-92, 01-07-03	10<20	0			
North-East Asia Sub-Regional Programme on Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)	5<10	0			3
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	20<30	0			3
Asian-Pacific Parliamentarian's Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED)	30<50	0			3
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)	5<10	0			3
FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	30<50	1<5			3
FAO Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)	20<30	1<5			3