



**Economic and Social
Council**

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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

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Addendum

DECISION I/5

PROMOTING EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

adopted at the first meeting of the Parties
held in Lucca, Italy, on 21-23 October 2002

The Meeting,

Recalling the provisions of article 9 of the Convention,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the task force on access to justice established under the auspices of the Meeting of the Signatories and believing this to provide a useful basis for future work,

1. Welcomes the impending publication of the Handbook on Access to Justice and recommends that it should be widely disseminated and used and updated as necessary from time to time;
2. Establishes a task force on access to justice under the authority of the Working Group of the Parties to continue and further develop the work undertaken by the task force established under the auspices of the Meeting of the Signatories;

3. Requests the task force to:
 - (a) Continue the examination of good practices, accessible through the Convention's web site;
 - (b) Identify possible further activities to support the implementation of article 9, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, which could form the basis for recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties;
 - (c) Assess and address the impact of the cost of and the delay in access to justice on its effectiveness and the needs of the public, environmental lawyers, academia and the judiciary, inter alia by developing information and guidance material for these groups and holding training workshops;
 - (d) Provide, to the extent feasible, the possibility for sharing experience with access to justice in relation to relevant provisions of the Convention other than its articles 4 and 6; and
 - (e) Report on its activities to the Working Group of the Parties;
4. Urges all Parties to contribute to the work of the task force and welcomes the offer of Belgium to lead its work; and
5. Invites Signatories and other States, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to also take part in, and contribute to, the work of the task force.