



# 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

### Compliance Committee

#### Seventy-ninth meeting

Geneva, 13–16 June 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-ninth meeting\*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9.30 a.m.  
on Tuesday, 13 June 2023\*\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee.
3. Matters arising from previous meetings.
4. Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties.
5. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance.
6. Referrals by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders and other relevant developments.
7. Referrals by the secretariat.
8. Requests from the Meeting of the Parties.
9. Requests from Parties for advice or assistance.
10. Communications from members of the public.
11. Matters arising from the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, including follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance.

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\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

\*\* Delegates are requested to register online before **6 June 2023** through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002156/>. In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by email at [aarhus.compliance@un.org](mailto:aarhus.compliance@un.org).



12. Programme of work and calendar of meetings.
13. Other business.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document, taking into account any points raised for consideration by observers.<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee**

The Committee will be invited to share any information on relevant developments since its previous meeting that are not covered under other agenda items.

### **3. Matters arising from previous meetings**

The Committee will be invited to discuss any other matters arising from its previous meetings that are not covered under other agenda items.

### **4. Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties**

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any submission made by a Party concerning another Party's compliance with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 15 (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.8).

### **5. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance**

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any submission made by a Party concerning its own compliance with the obligations under the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 16.

### **6. Referrals by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders and other relevant developments**

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to:

(a) Consider any referrals made by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders concerning possible non-compliance by individual Parties with their obligations under article 3 (8) of the Convention, as provided for under decision VII/9, annex, paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>

(b) Take note of any information regarding relevant developments in the work of the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders, as provided for under decision VII/9, annex, paragraph 15 (a).

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<sup>1</sup> Documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page (<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/seventy-ninth-meeting-aarhus-convention-compliance-committee>).

<sup>2</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1.

## **7. Referrals by the secretariat**

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any referrals made by the secretariat concerning possible non-compliance by individual Parties with their obligations under the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 17.

## **8. Requests from the Meeting of the Parties**

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any request made by the Meeting of the Parties concerning non-compliance by individual Parties with their obligations under the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 13 (b). In this context, the Committee is expected to consider any new information received with regard to requests ACCC/M/2021/4, concerning the European Union, and ACCC/M/2021/5, concerning the Republic of Moldova.

## **9. Requests from Parties for advice or assistance**

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any requests from individual Parties for advice and assistance regarding the implementation of the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraphs 13, 36 and 37 (a). In this context, the Committee is expected to consider request ACCC/A/2022/3, concerning Ukraine, and request ACCC/A/2023/4 (Armenia), with a view to completing the preparation of its draft advice or to finalizing and adopting its advice, as applicable.

## **10. Communications from members of the public**

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is mandated to consider communications from the public, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, chapter VI. In this context, the Committee is expected to:

(a) Discuss any progress with regard to implementation of its findings and recommendations on communication ACCC/C/2014/119 (Poland);

(b) Continue its deliberations on communications ACCC/C/2014/113 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2015/126 (Poland), ACCC/C/2015/132 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2015/133 (Netherlands), ACCC/C/2016/139 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2016/140 (Romania), ACCC/C/2017/146 (Poland), ACCC/C/2017/148 (Greece), ACCC/C/2017/150 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2016/151 (Poland), ACCC/C/2017/154 (Poland), ACCC/C/2017/156 (United Kingdom) and ACCC/C/2018/158 (Poland) in closed session, with a view to completing the preparation of its draft findings or to finalizing and adopting its findings, as applicable;

(c) Hold a hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2020/181 (Netherlands). In accordance with decision I/7, annex, paragraph 32, the Party concerned and the communicants are invited to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication;

(d) Consider any new information received with regard to communications ACCC/C/2017/149 (Greece), ACCC/C/2017/153 (Spain), ACCC/C/2017/159 (Spain), ACCC/C/2018/161 (Bulgaria), ACCC/C/2019/162 (Denmark), ACCC/C/2019/163 (Austria), ACCC/C/2019/164 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2019/168 (Iceland), ACCC/C/2019/173 (Sweden), ACCC/C/2019/174 (Sweden), ACCC/C/2020/177 (Bosnia and Herzegovina), ACCC/C/2020/178 (Germany), ACCC/C/2020/179 (Serbia), ACCC/C/2020/183 (Spain), ACCC/C/2021/186 (Portugal), ACCC/C/2021/187 (Netherlands), ACCC/C/2021/189 (Bosnia and Herzegovina), ACCC/C/2022/192 (Belgium), ACCC/C/2022/194 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2022/196 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2022/197 (France) and ACCC/C/2023/198 (Ireland);

(e) Discuss any new communications received before 2 May 2023, in particular with respect to their admissibility, and any issues that may need to be raised with the Party concerned or the communicant.

## **11. Matters arising from the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, including follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance**

The Committee is expected to discuss any progress with regard to implementation of decisions VII/8 and VII/8a–b and d–s of the Meeting of the Parties.<sup>3</sup> In this context, the Committee will continue its review of the plans of action that the Parties subject to decisions VII/8a–b and d–s were requested by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Geneva, 18–20 October 2021) to submit by 1 July 2022.<sup>4</sup> To that end, for those of decisions VII/8a–b and d–s for which the Committee considers it necessary, the Committee will hold an open session with the Party concerned, communicants and observers, to discuss the plan of action of the Party concerned.

## **12. Programme of work and calendar of meetings**

The Committee is expected to discuss and decide upon its programme of work and to identify dates for its future meetings.

## **13. Other business**

The Committee is expected to hold a session to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, which took place on 25 June 1998.

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<sup>3</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, decisions: VII/8a, para. 4 (a); VII/8b, para. 2 (e); VII/8d, para. 7 (a); VII/8e, para. 7 (a); VII/8f, para. 11 (a); VII/8g, para. 3 (a); VII/8h, para. 3 (a); VII/8i, para. 5 (a); VII/8j, para. 3 (a); VII/8k, para. 3 (a); VII/8l, para. 3 (a); VII/8m, para. 4 (a); VII/8n, para. 3 (a); VII/8o, para. 3 (a); VII/8p, para. 2 (c); VII/8q, para. 4 (a); VII/8r, para. 3 (a); and VII/8s, para. 9 (a).