



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 July 2025

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

Eighth session

Geneva, 17–19 November 2025

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on
Monday, 17 November 2025***

I. Provisional agenda

Preparatory segment

1. Opening of the preparatory segment.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Finalization of pending documents.

General segment

4. Opening of the general segment.
5. Status of ratification of the Convention and of the amendment thereto.
6. Substantive issues:
 - (a) Access to information, including electronic information tools;
 - (b) Public participation in decision-making;
 - (c) Access to justice;

* The eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will be held back-to-back with the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (21 November 2025). A Joint High-level Segment under the auspices of the two Meetings of the Parties will take place on 20 November 2025. A provisional agenda for the Joint High-level Segment will be provided as a separate document. More information is available on a web page dedicated to the two sessions: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/MoP8-MoPP5-JHLS>.



- (d) Genetically modified organisms.
- 7. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Reporting mechanism;
 - (b) Compliance mechanism:
 - (i) Compliance Committee;
 - (ii) Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders;
 - (c) Capacity-building.
- 8. Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages:
 - (a) Accession to the Convention by States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
 - (b) Promotion of the Convention's principles;
 - (c) Synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and processes;
 - (d) Global and regional developments on issues related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and Sustainable Development Goal 16.
- 9. Programme of work and operation of the Convention:
 - (a) Implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025;
 - (b) Future work programme for 2026–2029;
 - (c) Financial arrangements.
- 10. Report on credentials with regard to the Parties to the Convention.
- 11. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau.
- 12. Date and venue of the ninth ordinary session.
- 13. Any other business.

II. Annotations

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will hold its eighth session from 17 to 19 November 2025, in Geneva. The Joint High-level Segment under the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers will take place on 20 November 2025.

The session will be split into a preparatory and a general segment. The preparatory segment will be held on Monday, 17 November, starting at 10 a.m. The purpose of the preparatory segment is to finalize any pending documents that may be required. Late afternoon and evening are reserved for the finalization and translation of possible revised documents and for coordination meetings. The general segment will start on Tuesday, 18 November, at 10 a.m.

Discussions on all agenda items will be held in plenary. Representatives of Parties and stakeholders with extensive relevant expertise, who can offer positive experience in furthering implementation of the Convention and addressing common challenges in relation to the items for discussion, will be invited to deliver introductory keynote statements during the general segment, opening the discussion on those agenda items.

Each agenda item, where relevant, contains a list of documents to be considered for the discussion under that item. Documents for action (e.g., approval or adoption) are clearly denoted as such, while other documents intended to facilitate the discussions are labelled as background documents. In addition to documents addressing particular issues or themes, two documents produced by the secretariat will provide relevant background information for

many of the items to be considered in the general segment and will therefore not be repeated after each item as background documentation unless specifically under consideration. These are:

(a) Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2025/5);

(b) A report on the implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025 (ECE/MP.PP/2025/3).

In addition, individual national implementation reports, which are available from the Convention website,¹ may also provide useful background information for a number of the agenda items.

Preparatory segment

Timing: Monday, 17 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

1. Opening of the preparatory segment

Timing: Monday, 17 November, 10–10.10 a.m.

The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties will open the preparatory segment.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Timing: Monday, 17 November, 10.10–10.20 a.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda for the eighth session as set out in the present document.

Documentation

Text for action

Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2025/1)

3. Finalization of pending documents

Timing: Monday, 17 November, 10.20 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

Delegates will be invited to finalize any pending documents that may be required.

General segment²

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m., and Wednesday, 19 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

4. Opening of the general segment

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 10–10.05 a.m.

The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties will open the general segment.

¹ See <https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/reports>.

² In line with established practice, all decisions provisionally adopted during the general segment will be formally adopted at the Joint High-level Segment (20 November 2025). The formal closure of the eighth session will also take place at the Joint High-level Segment.

5. Status of ratification of the Convention and of the amendment thereto

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 10.05–10.15 a.m.

The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Convention and the amendment thereto.³

Delegates from States or regional economic integration organizations not yet party to the Convention or the amendment thereto will be invited to report on their plans to ratify, accept, approve or accede to those instruments.

6. Substantive issues

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 10.15 a.m.–12.40 p.m.

(a) Access to information, including electronic information tools

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 10.15–10.50 a.m.

The Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information will present highlights of the Task Force's activities since the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 18–20 October 2021).

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, address challenges, and provide direction for further work in this area. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting effective access to information (ECE/MP.PP/2025/7).

Documentation

Text for action

Draft decision VIII/1 on promoting effective access to information (ECE/MP.PP/2025/7)

Background documents

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-sixth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2022/2), including the thematic session on access to information

Report of the Task Force on Access to Information on its eighth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/3)

Report of the Task Force on Access to Information on its ninth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2025/3)

(b) Public participation in decision-making

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 10.50–11.30 a.m.

The Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making will present highlights of the Task Force's activities since the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, address challenges, and provide direction for further work in this area.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting effective public participation in decision-making.

³ Information on the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with regard to the Convention and its amendment is available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/public-participation/aarhus-convention/status-ratification>.

Documentation*Text for action*

Draft decision VIII/2 on promoting effective public participation in decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/2025/8)

Background documents

Report of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making on its tenth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2023/3)

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-seventh meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2023/2), including the thematic session on public participation in decision-making

Report of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making on its eleventh meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2025/4)

(c) Access to justice

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 11.30 a.m.–12.10 p.m.

The Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice will present highlights of the Task Force's activities since the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, to address challenges, and to provide direction for further work in this area.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting effective access to justice.

Documentation*Text for action*

Draft decision VIII/3 on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/2025/9)

Background documents

Report of the Task Force on Access to Justice on its fourteenth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2022/3)

Report of the Task Force on Access to Justice on its fifteenth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2023/4)

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-eighth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/2), including the thematic session on access to justice

Report of the Task Force on Access to Justice on its sixteenth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2025/5)

(d) Genetically modified organisms

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 12.10–12.40 p.m.

The Chair of the fourth Joint Round Table on Public Awareness, Education, Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice regarding Living Modified Organisms/Genetically Modified Organisms (Geneva, 11–12 December 2023) will report on activities related to genetically modified organisms since the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Parties, signatories and other stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to the implementation of the Convention with respect to genetically modified organisms and/or the application of the amendment to the Convention on public participation

in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, address challenges, and provide direction for further work in this area.

Documentation

Background documents

Report on the Fourth Joint Round Table on Public Awareness, Education, Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice regarding Living Modified Organisms/Genetically Modified Organisms (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/6)

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-ninth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2025/2, forthcoming), including the thematic session on genetically modified organisms

7. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 12.40–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m., and Wednesday 19 November, 10–11.30 a.m.

(a) Reporting mechanism

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 12.40–1 p.m. and 3–3.20 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the implementation of the Convention on the basis of national implementation reports submitted by the Parties and the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat. It is also expected to take note of any reports submitted by signatories and other States not Party to the Convention, and reports prepared by international, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Parties will be invited to discuss the main trends, challenges and solutions emerging from the reports. They will also be invited to discuss the experience gained in the procedure for preparing reports, including with regard to the involvement of NGOs and other stakeholders in the process, and to decide upon possible ways of improving the process in the future.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on reporting requirements.

Documentation

Text for action

Draft decision VIII/7 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/2025/13)

(b) Compliance mechanism

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 3.20–6 p.m.

(i) Compliance Committee

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 3.20–5 p.m.

The Chair of the Compliance Committee will report on the Committee's activities since the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties and present any findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to compliance by specific Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Committee's report, including any general recommendations contained therein and any findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to compliance by specific Parties, and to consider, revise as

necessary, and provisionally adopt draft decisions on compliance issues. In addition to a draft decision on general issues of compliance, Parties will consider a number of supplementary draft decisions concerning specific cases of non-compliance. The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to elect the Compliance Committee members.

Documentation

Text for action

Draft decision VIII/8 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.PP/2025/22)

Supplementary draft decisions concerning specific cases of non-compliance (to be determined)⁴

Background documents

Report by the Compliance Committee on procedural matters (ECE/MP.PP/2025/48)

Report by the Compliance Committee on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.PP/2025/49)

Membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/9)

Supplementary reports concerning specific cases involving compliance matters (to be determined)

(ii) Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders

Timing: Tuesday, 18 November, 5–6 p.m., and Wednesday, 19 November, 10–10.50 a.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to discuss the main trends, challenges and good practices with regard to the protection of environmental defenders. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on environmental defenders. The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to elect the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders.

Documentation

Text for action

Draft decision VIII/9 on effective protection of environmental defenders under the rapid response mechanism of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ECE/MP.PP/2025/17)

Background documents

Report on complaints received and activities undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders (ECE/MP.PP/2025/18)

Report on regional consultations with environmental defenders by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders (ECE/MP.PP/2025/19)

Report on key trends and threats regarding environmental defenders identified by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders (ECE/MP.PP/2025/20)

Guidelines on the Right to Peaceful Environmental Protest and Civil Disobedience by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders (ECE/MP.PP/2025/21)

⁴ Supplementary draft decisions and supplementary reports concerning specific cases involving compliance matters will continue to be finalized in the period leading up to the session. It is therefore not possible to cite a complete list of such decisions or reports at the current time.

(c) **Capacity-building**

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 10.50–11.30 a.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the report by the secretariat on some of the main capacity-building activities undertaken during the intersessional period to promote more effective implementation of the Convention and the measures taken to coordinate the various activities through the capacity-building coordination framework. International and regional organizations engaged in capacity-building activities will be invited to elaborate on those activities. Representatives of Governments and organizations will be invited to share their views on outstanding needs for capacity-building.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the activities undertaken, and provide feedback on the activities and guidance on the direction of future activities.

Documentation

Background document

Report on capacity-building (ECE/MP.PP/2025/6)

8. Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.30 p.m.

(a) **Accession to the Convention by States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 11.30–11.40 a.m.

The secretariat will report on requests for accession by non-United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) States submitted to the Meeting of the Parties.

Parties, signatories and stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities related to the promotion of accession to the Convention by States from outside the ECE region.

(b) **Promotion of the Convention's principles**

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 11.40 a.m.–12.20 p.m.

The Chair of the thematic session on promotion of the Convention's principles in international forums, held in the framework of the meetings of the Working Group of the Parties, will report on the highlights of the relevant activities in this area since the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Parties, signatories and other stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to this work area.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, address challenges, and provide direction for further work on promoting the Convention's principles.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums.

Documentation

Text for action

Draft decision VIII/4 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (ECE/MP.PP/2025/10)

Background documents

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-sixth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2022/2)

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-seventh meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2023/2)

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-eighth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2024/2)

Report of the Working Group of the Parties on its twenty-ninth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2025/2, forthcoming)

(c) Synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and processes

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 12.20–1 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review information provided by the secretariat and representatives of other multilateral environmental agreements and other partners on ongoing or planned activities, and to explore ways of further promoting synergies between the Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements.

(d) Global and regional developments on issues related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and Sustainable Development Goal 16

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 3–3.30 p.m.

Parties, signatories, other States and other stakeholders will be invited to provide information on ongoing or planned activities related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and to Sustainable Development Goal 16.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the information provided.

9. Programme of work and operation of the Convention

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 3.30–5.20 p.m.

(a) Implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 3.30–4 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review, on the basis of reports prepared by the secretariat, the implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025, and the use of funds contributed for the period 2022–2025. The Meeting of the Parties will be also invited to consider the midterm review of the Strategic Plan for 2022–2030.

Documentation

Background documents

Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025 (ECE/MP.PP/2025/3)

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Convention's work programme for 2022–2025 (ECE/MP.PP/2025/4)

(b) Future work programme for 2026–2029

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 4–4.40 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on the work programme for 2026–2029.

It is expected that Parties, signatories and other interested States will have informed the secretariat in advance of the meeting of their intention to contribute to the financial resources of the Convention.

The secretariat will report on the information received to the Meeting of the Parties and delegations will be invited to provide any supplementary information.

Documentation

Text for action

Draft decision VIII/5 on the work programme for 2026–2029 (ECE/MP.PP/2025/11)

(c) Financial arrangements

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 4.40–5.20 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on financial arrangements.

Documentation

Text for action

Draft decision VIII/6 on financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2025/12)

10. Report on credentials with regard to the Parties to the Convention

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 5.20–5.30 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to approve the report on credentials, presented by the officers in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.2, decision I/1, annex).

11. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 5.30–5.40 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect a chair and two vice-chairs from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, in accordance with rule 18 (1) of the rules of procedure. It is also expected to elect the remaining members of the Bureau from among the representatives of other Parties, in accordance with rule 22 (1) (b) of the rules of procedure.

NGOs established for the purpose of, and actively engaged in, promoting environmental protection and sustainable development are expected to appoint a representative to attend the meetings of the Bureau, as an observer, in accordance with rule 22 (2) and (4) of the rules of procedure.

12. Date and venue of the ninth ordinary session

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 5.40–5.50 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to make a preliminary decision with respect to the date and venue of its ninth ordinary session. Parties and prospective Parties are invited to consider hosting the meeting and to inform the secretariat in advance of any proposals they may intend to make in this regard.

13. Any other business

Timing: Wednesday, 19 November, 5.50–6 p.m.

Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

III. Organization of work

| <i>Date and time</i> | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|

Preparatory segment

*Monday, 17 November,
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and
3–6 p.m.*

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 10–10.10 a.m. | 1 | Opening of the preparatory segment |
| 10.10–10.20 a.m. | 2 | Adoption of the agenda |
| 10.20 a.m.–1 p.m. | 3 | Finalization of pending documents |
| 1–3 p.m. | | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 3–6 p.m. | 3 | Finalization of pending documents (continued) |

General segment

*Tuesday, 18 November,
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and
3–6 p.m., and Wednesday,
19 November,
10 a.m.–1 p.m. and
3–6 p.m.*

Tuesday, 18 November

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| 10–10.05 a.m. | 4 | Opening of the general segment |
| 10.05–10.15 a.m. | 5 | Status of ratification of the Convention and of the amendment thereto |
| 10.15 a.m.–12.40 p.m. | 6 | Substantive issues |
| 10.15–10.50 a.m. | 6 (a) | Access to information, including electronic information tools |
| 10.50–11.30 a.m. | 6 (b) | Public participation in decision-making |
| 11.30 a.m.–12.10 p.m. | 6 (c) | Access to justice |
| 12.10–12.40 p.m. | 6 (d) | Genetically modified organisms |
| 12.40–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. | 7 | Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention |
| 12.40–1 p.m. | 7 (a) | Reporting mechanism |
| 1–3 p.m. | | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 3–3.20 p.m. | 7 (a) | Reporting mechanism (continued) |
| 3.20–6 p.m. | 7 (b) | Compliance mechanism: |

| <i>Date and time</i> | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 3.20–5 p.m. | 7 (b) (i) | Compliance Committee |
| 5–6 p.m. | 7 (b) (ii) | Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders |
| <i>Wednesday, 19 November</i> | | |
| 10–11.30 a.m. | 7 | Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention (continued) |
| 10–10.50 a.m. | 7 (b) (ii) | Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders (continued) |
| 10.50–11.30 a.m. | 7 (c) | Capacity-building |
| 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.30 p.m. | 8 | Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages |
| 11.30–11.40 a.m. | 8 (a) | Accession to the Convention by States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region |
| 11.40 a.m.–12.20 p.m. | 8 (b) | Promotion of the Convention's principles |
| 12.20–1 p.m. | 8 (c) | Synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and processes |
| 1–3 p.m. | | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 3–3.30 p.m. | 8 (d) | Global and regional developments on issues related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and Sustainable Development Goal 16 |
| 3.30–5.20 p.m. | 9 | Programme of work and operation of the Convention |
| 3.30–4 p.m. | 9 (a) | Implementation of the work programme for 2022–2025 |
| 4–4.40 p.m. | 9 (b) | Future work programme for 2026–2029 |
| 4.40–5.20 p.m. | 9 (c) | Financial arrangements |
| 5.20–5.30 p.m. | 10 | Report on credentials with regard to the Parties to the Convention |
| 5.30–5.40 p.m. | 11 | Election of officers and other members of the Bureau |
| 5.40–5.50 p.m. | 12 | Date and venue of the ninth ordinary session |
| 5.50–6 p.m. | 13 | Any other business |