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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Fifth session

Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June and 1 July 2014

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

Procedure and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention: reports on the status of implementation of the Convention

Draft decision V/8 on reporting requirements

Summary

The present document, prepared by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, sets out a draft decision on reporting requirements. The document was prepared on the basis of decisions I/8, II/10, III/5 and IV/4 on the same subject, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its first to fourth sessions.

The document was submitted to the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention at its seventeenth meeting (Geneva, 26–28 February 2014) in view of its mandate to “make such proposals and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties as it considers necessary for the achievement of the purposes of the Convention” (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.15, para. 2 (d)).

At its seventeenth meeting, the Working Group approved the draft decision on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.10) and requested the secretariat to finalize it in consultation with the Bureau and submit it to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its fifth session.



The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions I/8, II/10, III/5 and IV/4 on reporting requirements,

Recalling also the mandate of the Compliance Committee set out in paragraph 13 (c) of the annex to decision I/7 on review of compliance,

Having considered the reports submitted by Parties and the synthesis report on the status of implementation by Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) prepared by the secretariat pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 5 of decision I/8,

Having also considered the report of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PP/2014/9) and its supplementary reports (ECE/MP.PP/2014/... to ECE/MP.PP/2014/...),

Considering that the reporting procedure as set out in decisions I/8, II/10, and IV/4, including the revised reporting format as set out in the annex to decision IV/4 and the procedure regarding translation of the reports as set out in paragraphs 14 to 16 of decision IV/4, should continue to apply for the next reporting cycle,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the implementation reports submitted by more than three quarters of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 4 of decision I/8;

2. *Welcomes* the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision I/8;

3. *Also welcomes* the reports submitted by non-governmental organizations pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision I/8;

4. *Considers* that these reports provide a valuable overview of the status of implementation of the Convention, as well as help to identify significant trends in and challenges to implementation, which will help to guide future activities;

Timely submission of reports

5. *Notes with concern* that 9 Parties that submitted reports did not do so within the deadline indicated in decision II/10;

6. *Reiterates its encouragement* of Parties to start the preparation of national implementation reports in future reporting cycles sufficiently in advance of, and at the latest five months before, the deadline for submission of the reports to the secretariat set out in decision II/10, with a view to ensuring meaningful public consultation on the reports at the national level;

Failure to submit reports

7. *Notes with regret* that Cyprus, the European Union, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan, all of which were Parties to the Convention at the time of the deadline for submission of the implementation reports, have failed to submit reports to date;

8. *Calls upon* each of those Parties to submit its national implementation report to the secretariat by 1 October 2014, for subsequent consideration, inter alia, by the Compliance Committee;

Public consultation

9. *Welcomes* the fact that most Parties prepared their reports through a process involving consultations with various governmental agencies as well as civil society;

10. *Encourages* Parties to ensure transparency and public consultation during the process of the preparation and submission of the reports;

Preparation of reports for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties

11. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate to all Parties and relevant stakeholders a formal reminder of the reporting requirements, including guidance on the preparation of the reports, as well as the proposed timing and confirmation of the date for the submission of the reports to the secretariat in accordance with decision II/10, paragraph 9, at least one year in advance of the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.
