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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

Third extraordinary session

Geneva, 23–24 June 2022

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the third extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 4 p.m. on
Thursday, 23 June 2022

Introduction

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties and the third extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties will be held back-to-back in Geneva, on 22–24 June 2022.

Working hours:

- Wednesday 22 June, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. (Twenty-sixth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties)
- Thursday 23 June, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.45 p.m. (Twenty-sixth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties)
- Thursday, 23 June, 4–6 p.m., and Friday, 24 June, 9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–5.30 p.m. (Third extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties)
- Lunch breaks: 1–3 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday; 12.30–2.30 p.m. on Friday
- Coffee break: 3.45–4 p.m. on Thursday

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report on credentials.



4. Rapid response mechanism to deal with cases related to article 3 (8) of the Convention:
 - (a) Election of the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders;
 - (b) Round table on environmental defenders.
5. Adoption of outcomes.
6. Closing of the session.

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 third extraordinary session from 23 to 24 June 2022, in Geneva.

The third extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties is convened in accordance with decision VII/9 on a rapid response mechanism to deal with cases related to article 3 (8) of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1), adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh ordinary session (Geneva, 18–21 October 2021), at which it was decided to hold an extraordinary session in 2022 in order to elect an independent Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders.¹

1. Opening of the session

Timing: Thursday, 23 June, 4–4.30 p.m.

A high-level official from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will deliver a welcome address. The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties will open the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Timing: Thursday, 23 June, 4.30–4.45 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda for the third extraordinary session as set out in the present document.²

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the third extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2022/1)

3. Report on credentials

Timing: Thursday, 23 June, 4.45–5 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).

¹ ECE/MP.PP/2021/2, para. 72. Available at https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/Aarhus_Convention_MoP7

² All documentation for the session will be made available on a dedicated web page on the Convention's website (<https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Public-Participation/events/365938>).

4. Rapid response mechanism to deal with cases related to article 3 (8) of the Convention

Timing: Thursday, 23 June, 5–6 p.m., and Friday, 24 June, 9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–3.30 p.m.

(a) Election of the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders

Timing: Thursday, 23 June, 5–6 p.m., and Friday, 24 June, 9.30–11.30 a.m.

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect a Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders pursuant to decision VII/9 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session.

(b) Round table on environmental defenders

Timing: Friday, 24 June, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–3.30 p.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 discussion will be organized in a format of keynote statements and interventions by the representatives of Governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, followed by a general discussion. The topics for discussion will be based on decision VII/9 and the key issues addressed through the work of the Task Forces and Working Group of the Parties.

Documentation

Decision VII/9 on a rapid response mechanism to deal with cases related to article 3 (8) of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1)

Provisional programme of the round table on environmental defenders (AC/ExMoP-3/Inf.1)

5. Adoption of outcomes

Timing: Friday, 24 June, 4–5 p.m.³

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the outcomes of its third extraordinary session.

6. Closing of the session

Timing: Friday, 24 June, 5–5.30 p.m.

The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties will close the session.

³ With a view to ensuring equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations and saving paper, the extraordinary session will result in a list of key decisions and outcomes that will be projected onto a screen before the close of the extraordinary session. The key decisions and outcomes will be presented by the Chair verbally, thereby allowing for interpretation. There will be a break from 3.30–4 p.m. to allow for finalization of the list, which will be distributed to participants by email after the extraordinary session.

III. Organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Thursday, 23 June, 4–6 p.m.</i>		
4–4.30 p.m.	1	Opening of the session
4.30–4.45 p.m.	2	Adoption of the agenda
4.45–5 p.m.	3	Report on credentials
	4	Rapid response mechanism to deal with cases related to article 3 (8) of the Convention
5–6 p.m.	4 (a)	Election of the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders
<i>Friday, 24 June, 9.30 a.m.–5.30 p.m.</i>		
9.30–11.30 a.m.	4 (a)	Election of the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders (continued)
11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	4 (b)	Round table on environmental defenders
12.30–2.30 p.m.		Lunch break
2.30–3.30 p.m.	4 (b)	Round table on environmental defenders (continued)
3.30–4 p.m.		Break to finalize the list of key decisions and outcomes
4–5 p.m.	5	Adoption of outcomes
5–5.30 p.m.	6	Closing of the session