



EFFECTIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION — WHY IT MATTERS FOR CLIMATE-RELATED DECISION-MAKING

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THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS

- AARHUS CONVENTION AND PRTR PROTOCOL -

Get Access – Participate – Seek Justice

Grant rights to information, participation, justice

Recognize rights of present and future generations to live in healthy environment

Broad definitions of 'the public': any natural or legal person, plus informal groups

Public authorities: all sectors and levels of government (except in legislative/judicial capacity)

Environmental information: state of environment, climate-related, factors affecting environment, human health

Anti-harassment, non-discrimination: rights to be enjoyed irrespective of citizenship, nationality, domicile

Access to Information



Public Participation



Access to Justice



Aarhus Convention - 47 Parties
Adopted in 1998 in Aarhus
Entry into force - 30 Oct 2001

PRTR Protocol - 34 Parties
Adopted in 2003 in Kyiv
Entry into force - 8 Oct 2009

Open to any UN Member State



Learning from the Aarhus experience

- ❖ **Effective PP in decision-making - project outcome is more acceptable and less harmful to the environment**
- ❖ **Hidden/unexpected aspects of proposed activity can be uncovered early, helping to avoid costly mistakes**
- ❖ **Access to Information**

Upon request (passive/reactive)

Collection, management, dissemination; PRTRs (proactive)

- ❖ **Public Participation**

Projects, programmes, plans, policies, norms and regulations





Climate-related decisions covered by Aarhus - examples

- ❖ **Strong linkages between UNFCCC art. 6 and Aarhus Convention/PRTR Protocol**
- ❖ **Permits/licences for certain specific projects involving GHG emissions**
- ❖ **National, provincial or local plans, programmes and policies on climate change**
- ❖ **National, provincial or local plans, programmes and policies on energy, transport, agriculture, industry etc**





Learning from the Aarhus experience

Key messages

- ❖ Ensure **public participation in the decision-making itself**
- ❖ Adopt **effective frameworks for access to information and public participation** at national and international levels
- ❖ Ensure **right to participate for all** natural and legal persons
- ❖ Appoint **NFP** and adopt **clear reporting format for Art. 6**
- ❖ **Engage public in preparing national reports on Art. 6**





Learning from the Aarhus experience - useful resources

- [Maastricht Recommendations on Public Participation in Decision-Making](#)
- [Almaty Guidelines on Public Participation in International Forums](#)
- [Recommendations on the more effective use of EIT](#)
- [Quick Guide to the Aarhus Convention](#)
- [Implementation Guide](#)
- [General information](#)
- [Key Guidance material](#)

