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

Working Group of the Parties

Seventh meeting

Geneva, 28 and 29 November 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh meeting*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Thursday, 28 November 2019*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Designation of national focal points.
4. Promotion and coordination:
 - (a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies;
 - (b) Global promotion of the Protocol.
5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms.

* As part of the accreditation procedures for meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva, delegates are requested to register online before 30 October 2019 through the following link: <https://uncdb.unepce.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=M6MCX5>. Participants requiring a personal invitation letter for visa purposes should click on the “visa required” option and register for the meeting as early as possible, taking into account the period required to obtain the visa. Participants applying for financial support should consult the meeting web page for further information (www.unepce.org/index.php?id=50979) before 10 October 2019.



6. Development of the Protocol.
7. Subregional and national activities: needs and challenges for capacity building.
8. Implementation of the work programme for 2018–2021, including financial matters.
9. Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
 - (a) Hosting and preparatory timeline;
 - (b) Substantive preparations.
10. Calendar of meetings.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 10–10.10 a.m.

The Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters will be invited to adopt the agenda for its seventh meeting as set out in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/1)

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 10.10–10.15 a.m.

The secretariat will inform participants of the status of ratification, acceptance and approval of and accession to the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on recent or anticipated developments in that regard. The current status of ratification of the Protocol may be consulted online.²

3. Designation of national focal points

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 10.15–10.20 a.m.

The secretariat will inform the participants of the status of designation of national focal points. Delegations will be invited to report on any developments concerning the designation of national focal points.

¹ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page on the Protocol's website: www.unece.org/index.php?id=50979.

² See www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html.

4. Promotion and coordination

(a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 10.20–11 a.m.

The Working Group of the Parties will consider potential areas for cooperation with partner organizations. In that connection, it will be informed of the relevant activities of, among others, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/4)

(b) Global promotion of the Protocol

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 11–11.15 a.m.

The Working Group will consider the report on the third joint Global Round Table on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Geneva, 7 and 8 November 2018), organized under the auspices of OECD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and in cooperation with UNITAR and UNEP, and will discuss any relevant matters in relation to the promotion of the Protocol.

Documentation

Report on the third Global Round Table on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/3)

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/4)

5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 11.15–11.30 a.m.

The Working Group will consider any developments with regard to the compliance mechanism and the status of submission of national implementation reports.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/4)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its seventh meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2019/2)

6. Development of the Protocol

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.³

Parties and stakeholders will be invited to share relevant activities regarding developments concerning pollutant release and transfer register systems. The Working Group will consider the report on the development of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, prepared by the Bureau.

³ There will be a lunch break from 1 to 3 p.m.

Documentation

Report on the development of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/6 and ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/6/Add.1)

7. Subregional and national activities: needs and challenges for capacity building

Time: Thursday, 28 November, 4–6 p.m.

During the session, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences gained through implementing and developing pollutant release and transfer registers in different countries and to learn how to make use of synergies with other reporting obligations, in order to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of pollutant release and transfer registers. Participants will also be invited to consider needs and challenges for capacity building in relation to establishing and maintaining pollutant release and transfer registers.

6. Development of the Protocol (continued)

Time: Friday, 29 November, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

8. Implementation of the work programme for 2018–2021, including financial matters

Time: Friday, 29 November, 12–12.10 p.m.

The Working Group will consider the status of implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2018–2021, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020.

The Working Group will be informed of the contributions received to support implementation of the Protocol's current work programme and the expenditures incurred during 2018 and projected for the period 2019–2020. Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/4)

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/5)

9. Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

(a) Hosting and preparatory timeline

Time: Friday, 29 November, 12.10–12.25 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed of the preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

(b) Substantive preparations

Work programme for 2022–2025

Time: Friday, 29 November, 12.25–1 p.m. and 3–3.15 p.m.⁴

The Working Group will be invited to consider a note on the work programme for 2022–2025 for the Protocol, prepared by the Bureau.

Documentation

Note on the work programme for 2022–2025 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/7)

Financial arrangements under the Protocol

Time: Friday, 29 November, 3.15–3.45 p.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider a note on future financial arrangements under the Protocol, prepared by the Bureau.

Documentation

Note on future financial arrangements under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/8)

10. Calendar of meetings

Time: Friday, 29 November, 3.45–3.50 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed of the tentative calendar of meetings for 2020.

11. Other business

Time: Friday, 29 November, 3.50–3.55 p.m.⁵

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

12. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting

Time: Friday, 29 November, 4.20–5 p.m.⁶

The Working Group is expected to adopt the decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

⁴ There will be a lunch break from 1 to 3 p.m.

⁵ There will be a break to prepare decisions and outcomes from 3.55 to 4.20 p.m.

⁶ To ensure equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations while saving paper, the draft text of the meeting decisions and outcomes will be projected onto a screen about 30 minutes before the close of the meeting and presented orally by the Chair in English, with interpretation into the other languages. The list of decisions will be distributed to participants by email after the meeting.