

Working Group 5: Public Participation in national implementation of international agreements

First question: Added value

Public participation brings to earth big issues and makes them accessible to the general public

Increases accountability

Promotes transparency

Makes possible the identification of leaderships

The more one lets the public participate, the more stable the government

By involving civil society you give form to political will

Provides opportunities to identify synergies

Creates commitment

Allows for diversity of ideas

Fosters cooperative solutions

Promotes public ownership which ensures sustainability

Second question: Challenges

Legislation is necessary, especially to regulate the implementation of the “right to know”

Its time consuming for different actors to get to know each other and trust one another

Money is needed for the process

Attitude against involving the public (not giving guidance but listening to the public and coming to a consensus solution)

Diverse perceptions among the public

Identification of stakeholders

Ensuring the incorporation of public recommendations

Lack of feedback to public from the discussions

Difficulties in ensuring public participation at all government levels

Third question: Measures

Designing Public Participation protocols (it involves a long planning process that leads to a written document that includes feedback loops granting a feedback to the public involved).

Building capacity for process as well as the content

Granting the participation of local/municipal levels

Information must flow

Designing a formal structure to facilitate the informal consultation e.g. formation of a desk for public groups

Enacting legislation that ensures public participation

Forming networks of civil societies interested in chemical issues