



Principle 10 application: Prospects from the Rio+20 Outcome Document

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1. Introduction

Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

*“Environmental issues are best handled with **participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level.** At the national level, each individual shall have **appropriate access to information** concerning the environment that is **held by public authorities**, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to **participate in decision-making processes.** States shall **facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available.** Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”*

2. Conventions/Agreements supporting Principle 10 Application

- ***Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters - 1998***

Environmental and human rights

Obligation to future generations

Transparency

Government accountability and environmental protection

Responsiveness

Involvement of all stakeholders

- ***Almaty Guidelines - 2005***

Access to information

Access to justice

Public participation in decision-making

- ***Guidelines for the Development Of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines) – 2010***

Voluntary

Legislation

3. Principle 10 at Rio+20

Call for international convention on P10:

- Brazil
- Chile
- Jamaica

- MGS

4. Principle 10 in the outcome document

Para. 88h: (...) (h) *„Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.“*

- Strong mandate for UNEP to take steps to improve the implementation of P10

Para. 99: *“We encourage action at regional, national, sub-national, and local levels to promote access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate.“*

- Opens the door for the negotiation of regional conventions on Principle 10

5. Principle 10 in the Africa region

Art. 10: *“That African governments should accelerate the implementation of Principle 10 of Rio Declaration first by implementing the UNEP Guidelines and also by adopting an African Convention on Principle 10 to ensure meaningful improvements in citizens’ participation, access to information, transparency and accountability.”* **Dakar Declaration, 14 May 2012**

- National Profile and Action Plan to strengthen capacities to implement Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration: **Botswana**, **Mali** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (2009-2011)
- Additional potential champions: **Cameroon**, Uganda, **Kenya**, **South Africa**, **Botswana**, AU

Thank you for your attention!