

**Review of the UNECE activities under the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
**Progress report as at 29 August 2016**

#	Recommendation	Action agreed	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	<b>To the extent possible, increase financing of and in-kind contributions to the UNECE activities under the treaties. e.g. via encouraging stronger financial commitment of the Parties and further contributions to the Trust Fund; attracting new partnerships and funding opportunities via extending the treaties beyond the UNECE region, establishing joint activities with international financial institutions.</b>	To present the evaluation's recommendations for the Bureau and the Working Group on EIA and SEA to address within the draft decision on budget and financial issues 2017-2020 (to be adopted by the Meetings of the Parties in June 2017)	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August-November 2016	Recommendations disseminated by e-mail on 26 August and posted on the web ; They will be presented for discussion at the Working Group's meeting (Geneva, 7-10 November 2016).
		To send out letters to encourage further pledges and timely financial contributions from Parties and signatory States, and encourage Parties to tap into development funding opportunities for financing capacity building activities	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	Bi-annual basis (yearly reports possible in the future if decided by Parties)	The draft financial report until June 2016 under preparation
		To present financial reports to Parties on income and expenditure based on the data from the Executive Office.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	End of each calendar year	Will be done in November-December 2016
		To explore Parties' possibilities for sponsoring a junior professional officer to reinforce the secretariat staffing	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	By the Meetings of the Parties 2017	Informal consultations with Governments undertaken and will be continued
		To co-organize a workshop with the European Investment Bank to discuss how the international financial institutions could increasingly contribute to promoting the implementation of the two Treaties outside the UNECE region, and invite the IFIs to consider contributing to the implementation of the workplan activities.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	November 2016	The workshop will take place on 9 November 2016
		To negotiate with the European Commission for further funding opportunities for capacity building activities (further to the 2 million Euro project funding obtained for 2013-2016)	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2016-2018	Ongoing
2	<b>Continuing and enhancing awareness raising activities regarding the Convention and the Protocol and improving implementation within and beyond the UNECE region, specifically through promotional videos, brief overviews (fact sheets, pamphlets), and thematic round tables and study tours for relevant stakeholders to acquire and share best practices in EIA and SEA implementation. Implementation of pilot projects is also recommended as a cost effective tool for capacity building, awareness raising, information sharing, training and practical experience.</b>	To disseminate a promotional video prepared by the secretariat to enhance awareness of the Protocol and its benefits in English, Russian and Georgian; and subject to funding, facilitate the preparation of videos in the other national languages of the Parties	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2016 for English, Russian and Georgian versions; Continuous for the other languages	Placed on the Convention website in English and Russian at ( <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/eia/bienvenue.html">http://www.unece.org/env/eia/bienvenue.html</a> ); and in Georgian at: ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkcW5ghQAgs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkcW5ghQAgs</a> ).
		To co-organize a workshop with EIB on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol with participation of IFIs and countries from outside the UNECE region	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	November 2016	The workshop will be held on 9 November 2016
		To organize thematic seminars/round tables focusing on climate change; and on the contribution of the treaties to the achievement of sustainable development goals	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	June 2017 (next session of the Meetings of the Parties)	The draft programme for the meeting of the Parties will be agreed by the Working Group in November 2016. The seminars will be organized for 13-16 June 2017
		To ensure the preparation of fact sheets and pamphlets, and finalization of pilot projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova; as well as national guidance documents for the implementation of the treaties in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; a sub-regional experience sharing event in Ukraine; and legislative assistance to Belarus and Kazakhstan	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	mid/late 2017	Work is ongoing
		To prepare a guidance for Central Asian countries for the implementation of the Espoo Convention	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2017/2018	Project preparations are ongoing
		To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendations, and facilitate the finalization of a draft workplan for 2017-2020 (based on Parties' priorities and the corresponding budget) to be adopted by Parties in June 2017	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August 2016- June 2017	The Bureau and the Working Group were informed on 26 August 2016 about the recommendations; A draft workplan 2017-2020 was prepared for the Working Group to discuss 7-10 November;

3	Improving the relevance of the Convention and the Protocol via enhanced cooperation with other Conventions, such as CBD and UNCLOS, (and not only the UNECE ones), awareness raising events, legislative support, preparation of national guidelines taking into account national legal and institutional circumstances, national trainings (training of trainers), exchange of information and joint public events.	To continue to look for opportunities to enhance synergies with other international treaties and processes:	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August 2016- June 2017 and beyond	August for consideration by the Working Group at its meeting 7-10 November, propose activities for enhancing synergies with the Bern Convention, CBD and UNCLOS, and for promoting SDG implementation, as well as preparation of a long-term strategy which could redefine the future role and objectives of the treaties.
		To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendations, and facilitate the finalization of a draft workplan for 2017–2020 (based on Parties' priorities and the corresponding budget) to be adopted by Parties in June 2017;	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August 2016- June 2017 and beyond	The Bureau and the Working Group were informed on 26 August 2016 about the recommendations; A draft workplan 2017-2020 was made available for the Working Group to discuss 7-10 November (see above). After June 2017, will assist Parties to implement the activities
		To complete further legislative support to Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova; initiate legislative assistance to Kazakhstan; to ensure development of national guidance documents for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; and organize "training of trainers" workshops on SEA in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	By mid/end 2017	The work is ongoing in accordance with the workplan 2014-2017 with EU funding
4	Improving the communication and interactions between the Secretariat and the Parties via an online forum of focal points that could help reduce the workload of the meetings, and allow commenting and sharing opinions on documents in advance of a meeting. (The Secretariat could specify the modalities and working methods for such forums.)	recommendation and seek their views. As needed, continue to organize on-line meetings (in English) to facilitate discussions of elected officials (e.g. work on the Implementation Committee documentation in between the Committee's sessions). If delegations request other type of portals for on-line working, to investigate with ISU and/or UNOG about the technical possibilities and the financial implications for establishing and hosting them.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August-November 2016, and beyond	The Bureau and the Working Group received the recommendations on 26 August 2016, and are expected to provide feedback on 7-10 November; follow-up will be in accordance with the possible decisions to be taken.
5	Improving the communication and interactions between the Parties via the organization of further regional workshops, training, experience and information sharing events. The focal points should enhance, to the extent possible, their role in promoting the treaties at the national level. As focal points they serve as "the face of the treaties" in their countries, closer contact and coordination with them, and ensuring their active participation in each event of Espoo Convention is therefore very important.	To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendation and seek their views about how to best address it	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	November 2016	The Bureau and the Working Group received the recommendations on 26 August 2016, feedback expected on 7-10 November.
		To facilitate the participation of Parties in the meetings, continue financial assistance to national focal points of countries that are eligible for financial support (according to the criteria adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy), in accordance with the budget adopted by Parties and within the limits of the resources available in the Trust Fund.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	Continuous, for official meetings held in Geneva	Delegations informed on 26 August about the availability of financial support to the next meeting of the Working Group (7-10 November)
		To organize another regional conference for the exchange of experience amongst countries in Eastern-Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and to contribute to an event to be organized amongst the Baltic Sea region countries	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2017	A seminar for the Baltic Sea region expected to take place in Riga in Autumn 2016; a regional conference in Kyiv planned for spring 2017;
		UNECE will continue to ensure that the database of nominated focal points is up to date (including by circulating the list to the delegates at the upcoming meetings in 2016 and 2017 for their review)	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	continuous	Ongoing
6	The maintenance and the further improvement of gender equality in the work on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol could be done via regular monitoring and inclusion of gender issues in the surveys undertaken by the Secretariat. Currently the gender equality is well performed, but a more systematic approach to maintaining gender equality and prevention of any discrimination according to the UN rules would be desirable.	To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendation and seek their views about how to best promote gender equality in a more systematic way under the treaties, e.g. when electing officers for the next intersessional period, or when carrying out questionnaire surveys.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	continuous	The Bureau and the Working Group received the recommendations on 26 August 2016, feedback expected on 7-10 November.