Contribution of the Espoo Convention & Protocol on SEA to implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

George Kremlis, Chair of the Bureau
Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA =

• Cross-cutting legal instruments that can facilitate achievement of targets under nearly all SDGs;

• Provide for early integration of environmental and health considerations into all economic and regional development planning - and foster international cooperation in this;

• Enshrine precautionary approach: allow anticipating, preventing and mitigating environmental damage;

• Contribute to rendering decision-making more inclusive, transparent and participatory by requiring consultation of authorities and the public
SDGs: Key messages and outcomes from Meetings of the Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol (Minsk, June 2017)
• Minsk Declaration emphasized the Treaties' role in translating global commitments into practical action at national level;

• Panel discussion on SDGs confirmed the contribution of the Convention and the Protocol to achievement of SDGs and targets;

• Workplan for 2017-2020: with planned activities to contribute to SDG implementation; e.g.
  – Development of guidance on application of SEA to urban planning (for target 11.3)

• Decision on possible long-term strategy and action plan to identify actions, partnerships and funding, including for SDG implementation
Main outputs from UNECE activities financed by EU (EaP GREEN)

- Establishing legislative framework for SEA and EIA
- Legislative review carried out
- Support to drafting the legislation provided including awareness raising events to support adoption of the legislation
- Draft legislation in intergovernmental discussion or submitted for adoption
- Legislation adopted
- Preparing national SEA guidelines
- National SEA guidelines prepared
- National SEA guidelines to be finalized in 2017
- Organizing trainings on SEA
- The training manual prepared English and Russian as a background for future trainings and workshops in the countries
- Training materials on SEA tailored to national and local conditions produced
- Relevant governmental staff, experts, representatives of NGOs trained on SEA
- Participation of the country representatives at the sub-regional events
Overview of the main outputs from UNECE activities in Central Asia

• New EIA legislation in Kyrgyzstan (with Swiss funding)

• Legislative assistance on SEA in Kazakhstan, to be followed by pilot application of SEA to Kazakh Fuel and Energy strategy (funded by EU)

• Draft revised Guidelines on application of transboundary EIA for Central Asian countries, including to address likely environmental challenges from Belt and Road Initiative (funded by Switzerland)
Thank you

More information from: www.unece.org/env/eia; eia.conv@unece.org