



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment
(Third meeting, 9- 12 October 2000)
(Item 2, b (i) of the provisional agenda)

Draft Decision II/ 9
ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT * /
Submitted by the Bureau

The Meeting.

Recalling Article 2, para 7 of the Convention, which stipulates that, to the extent appropriate, the Parties shall endeavour to apply the principles of environmental impact assessment to policies, plans and programmes,

Also Recalling operative para. 10 of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration which recognizes that a systematic analysis of the environmental impact of proposed policies, plans and programmes is enabled by the application of EIA principles and recommends that the principles of EIA in a transboundary context should also be applied to the strategic level; to this end invites, Parties and non Parties to introduce those principles into their national systems; and emphasizes that

*/ This document has not been formally edited.

the environmental impact of international sectoral policies, plans and programmes in areas such as transport, energy and agriculture should be assessed as a matter of priority;

Having taken note of the paper on strategic environmental assessment (MP.EIA/WG.1/2000/16),

Having considered that,

- Strategic Environmental Assessment is an instrument for the integration of environmental and health concerns into strategic decision-making as a part of the process towards sustainable development in line with Agenda 21, and that

- Strategic Environmental Assessment would supplement the existing provisions on EIA of the Convention while using similar methodologies.

Decides to

1. Establish a subsidiary body, called the open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on the Protocol, with the mandate to prepare a legally binding instrument, in the form of a Protocol on strategic environmental assessment to the Convention with the objective of finalizing and adopting the Protocol by an extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention to be convened at the occasion of the fifth ministerial conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev, Ukraine.
2. Calls on the Parties to the Convention to participate actively in the preparation of the Protocol.
3. Calls on officials within the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to contribute to the preparation of the Protocol.
4. Also calls on all interested intergovernmental organizations, in particular WHO/EURO and UNEP, to contribute to this process.