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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

Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 21–23 November 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 November 2007*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention
3. Exchange of good practices

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Convention's website at <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/practical.html> and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax to +41 22 917 0613 / 0107 or by e-mail to eia.conv@unece.org. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate entrance (14, Avenue de la Paix) to the Palais des Nations (a map is available at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/map.pdf>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2447.

4. Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties
5. Capacity-building in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
6. Belgrade Ministerial “Environment for Europe” Conference
7. Workplan for the next intersessional period
8. Budget and financial arrangements
9. Fourth meeting of the Parties
10. Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
11. Matters relating to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
12. Public participation in international forums
13. Other business
14. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Item 2: Compliance with and implementation of the Convention

1. The Bureau will present a first draft decision on strengthening the inquiry procedure, further to the discussions at the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment.

2. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on this activity. She will present the formal report of the Committee’s twelfth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/9) and an informal report of the Committee’s thirteenth meeting. She will also report on any submissions that the Committee is considering, including that by Romania. Finally, she will present a revised draft decision on the review of compliance, together with a draft of the Committee’s report to the fourth meeting of the Parties and revised draft operating rules for the conduct of Committee meetings, both of which are to be appended to the draft decision.

3. The secretariat will present the revised draft second review of implementation based on the responses to the questionnaire and taking into comments received on the earlier draft. The Bureau will present a revised draft decision on the review of implementation, to which the second review of implementation will be appended, amended in response to the comments made at the tenth meeting of the Working Group.

Item 3: Exchange of good practices

4. The Bureau will present a revised draft decision on the exchange of good practices, amended in response to the comments made at the tenth meeting of the Working Group.

Item 4: Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties

5. The delegation of Italy is expected to report on a meeting for the Mediterranean Sea subregion, held in Morocco.

6. The Bureau will present a revised draft decision on subregional cooperation, amended in response to the comments made at the tenth meeting of the Working Group.

Item 5: Capacity-building in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

7. The delegations of Armenia and Ukraine are expected to report on capacity-building workshops held in their countries for the Caucasus and Eastern Europe subregions, respectively.

8. The delegations of the lead countries for this activity will be invited to indicate whether they have prepared a common draft report on capacity-building in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The Bureau will present a revised draft decision on this activity, amended in response to the comments made at the tenth meeting of the Working Group. The draft decision is expected to endorse the guidelines on the application of the Convention in Central Asia (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/6).

Item 6: Belgrade Ministerial “Environment for Europe” Conference

9. The Bureau will present the outcome of activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention during the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, held in Belgrade from 10 to 12 October 2007. The delegations of Armenia, Belarus and Moldova are expected to inform the meeting on their proposal at the Conference for an Initiative on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/18). The delegation of Serbia will then be invited to report on the other outcomes of the Conference; the Working Group may wish to discuss whether the draft decision on the adoption of the workplan should reflect Conference outcomes relevant to the Convention.

Item 7: Workplan for the next intersessional period

10. The secretariat will report on the responses received to the invitation to propose workplan elements supporting implementation of the Protocol. The Bureau will then present a revised draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period to the fifth meeting of the Parties, amended in response to the comments made at the tenth meeting of the Working Group.

Item 8: Budget and financial arrangements

11. The Bureau will present a revised draft decision on the budget and financial arrangements, amended in response to the comments made at the tenth meeting of the Working Group.

12. The secretariat will present the fifth biannual financial report, including a report on the receipt of contributions to the Convention's trust fund. A revised version of the financial report will be appended to the draft decision on the budget and financial arrangements.

13. The Bureau will present a revised draft decision on financial assistance, amended in response to the comments made at the tenth meeting of the Working Group. In response to a query by Armenia, the Bureau will also outline the criteria it applied when selecting non-governmental organizations to receive financial assistance for their representation.

Item 9: Fourth meeting of the Parties

14. The Chair of the Bureau will report on the further practical arrangements for the fourth meeting of the Parties, to be held in Romania, including a revised draft programme. The Bureau will report on the invitation of speakers and other preparations.

15. The Bureau will also present a draft provisional agenda for the fourth meeting of the Parties, further to discussions at the tenth meeting of the Working Group.

16. The delegation of Romania will again remind the Working Group that a subregional agreement on the implementation of the Convention among the countries of South-Eastern Europe (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/10) will be signed in Bucharest on the occasion of the meeting of the Parties.

Item 10: Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

17. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol. Delegations will be invited to provide informal indications of future planned ratifications.

Item 11: Matters relating to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

18. Further to the request of the Working Group that the Bureau contact the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding preparation by WHO of draft guidance on the consideration of health under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Bureau is expected to inform the meeting on this issue.

19. The delegations of Austria and Bulgaria will be invited to provide information to the meeting on a workshop on public participation in strategic decision-making, held in Sofia in autumn 2007.

Item 12: Public participation in international forums

20. Further to a decision of the Working Group taken at its tenth meeting, a representative of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will be invited to inform the meeting how the Working Group's detailed comments (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, annex) on the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5, annex) had been taken into account by the relevant subsidiary body of the Aarhus Convention.

Item 13: Other business

21. Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 14: Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

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