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Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Third session

Geneva, 22 and 23 November 2010

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda of the third session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 22 November
2010, starting at 11 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
3. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol.
4. "Environment for Europe" process.
5. Budget and financial arrangements.

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Convention website (http://www.unece.org/env/eia/meetings/mos_3.htm) and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax to +41 22 917 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 to the Palais des Nations (14, Avenue de la Paix; 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 1193.

6. Financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the region.
7. Preparations for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
8. Other business.
9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 22 November, 11–11.15 a.m.

1. The provisional agenda contained in the present document was prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Bureau.

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Tentative timing: Monday, 22 November, 11.15 a.m.–noon

2. The secretariat will report on the status of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, highlighting its entry into force on 11 July 2010. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol will be invited to agree on the date of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

3. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol

Tentative timing: Monday, 22 November, noon–1 p.m. and 3–3.30 p.m.

3. The delegation of Slovenia is expected to report on preparations for and the carrying out of two national awareness-raising workshops on the Protocol and training using the draft resource manual to support application of the Protocol.
4. The secretariat will report on maintenance of the draft resource manual and on coordination with the Belgrade Initiative on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/18). Delegations of the participating countries may provide further information on the Initiative. The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment will be invited to report on the Working Group's consideration of these matters.
5. The Chair will invite each representative or expert from a State outside the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) participating in the meeting to present briefly the strategic environmental assessment system and practices in their country.

4. “Environment for Europe” process

Tentative timing: Monday, 22 November, 3.30–4 p.m.

6. The secretary to the Committee on Environmental Policy will be invited to report on preparations for the seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Astana in September 2011. The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment will be invited to report on the Working Group’s consideration of this matter (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/2, chap. VII).

7. The Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol is expected to discuss possible inputs into the preparatory process for the Conference — whose two themes will be sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development — as well as possible contributions to the Conference itself.

5. Budget and financial arrangements

Tentative timing: Monday, 22 November, 4–5 p.m.

8. The secretariat will present the biannual financial report for the period to 30 June 2010. It will also highlight the contributions made to the trust fund of the Convention, including any outstanding pledges.

9. The Chair will inform the Meeting of the Signatories that the Bureau received a request from the Implementation Committee to take action to increase secretariat resources to support the Committee. The Chair will also inform the Meeting that the secretariat had explained to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment at its thirteenth meeting the need for additional staff resources in the secretariat because of the increased workload on the review of compliance and the impending entry into force of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/2, para. 53). The entry into force of the Protocol will increase the functions that the secretariat is expected to provide in accordance with article 13 of the Convention and article 17 of the Protocol, and will likely increase the secretariat support required for capacity-development activities under the workplan. The Working Group asked the secretariat to provide more information about the possibilities of financing its additional staff resources and the need for such resources. The Meeting will be invited to take this information into consideration when preparing for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

6. Financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the region

Tentative timing: Monday, 22 November, 5–5.15 p.m.

10. The Chair will inform the Meeting of the Signatories of the list of designated experts from non-governmental organizations who receive financial assistance for their participation in meetings under the Convention and under its Protocol (decision IV/9, para. 5).

11. In addition, the Chair will report on any support being provided to representatives and experts from States outside the UNECE region (decision IV/9, para. 6).

7. Preparations for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Tentative timing: Monday, 22 November, 5.15–6 p.m.; and Tuesday, 23 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

12. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal on draft decisions (ECE/MP.EIA/AC.3/2010/L.1) and a draft declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/AC.3/2010/L.2) for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (see table below). The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment will be invited to report on the Working Group's consideration of the draft decisions to be considered jointly by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In particular he will be invited to describe the draft workplan to be considered for adoption by the two governing bodies. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will be invited to describe decisions relating to the review of compliance.

Draft decisions proposed by the Bureau (ECE/MP.EIA/AC.3/2010/L.1)

<i>Draft decision</i>	<i>Number of decision</i>	
	<i>Meeting of Parties to Convention serving as Meeting of Parties to Protocol</i>	<i>Meeting of Parties to Convention</i>
Rules of procedure	I/1	
Establishment of a subsidiary body	I/2	
Points of contact, format for notification and focal points	I/3	
Reporting and the review of implementation	I/4	
Application of the compliance procedure of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	I/5	V/3
Capacity-development	I/6	
Public participation in strategic decision-making	I/7	
Adoption of the workplan	I/8	V/4
Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance	I/9	V/5
Accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the Economic Commission for Europe	I/10	

13. The delegations, individually or in groups, will be invited to make further proposals on possible elements for the draft workplan. The Meeting will also be asked to agree the text of the draft decisions and declaration.

14. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal on the programme for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The Chair will then invite delegations to make proposals on attracting high-level representation at those meetings and on enriching the agenda.

15. The Chair will invite delegations to come forward with nominations for the Chair of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

16. The Chair is also expected to ask delegations to come forward with nominations for officers, that is, Bureau members, and for members of the Implementation Committee, as necessary, as well as to provide proposals for the timing and location for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

8. Other business

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 23 November, 4–5 p.m.

17. Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 23 November, 5–6 p.m.

18. The Meeting of the Signatories is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the session.
