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

Thirteenth meeting
Geneva, 17–19 May 2010

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 17 May 2010

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.


3. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention.

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Convention’s website (http://www.unece.org/env/eia/meetings/wg_eia_13.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, members 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.

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4. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.

5. Exchange of good practices:
   (a) Task Force on Complex Activities;
   (b) Seminar on legislation and procedures for implementation of the Convention;
   (c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan;
   (d) Practices in States outside the region;
   (e) Strengthening the involvement of non-governmental organizations;
   (f) Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities.

6. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol to the Convention.

7. “Environment for Europe” process.

8. Budget and financial arrangements.

9. Preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

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

11. Other business.

12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS

Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 10–10.15 a.m., Monday, 17 May 2010

1. This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Bureau.

2. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal to amend or interpret, as appropriate, rule 7 of the rules of procedure (adopted in decision I/1, annex I, of document ECE/MP.EIA/2) regarding observers. The Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment is expected to decide on
how to take the proposal into account when preparing for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

**Item 2: Status of ratification of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, its amendments and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Tentative timing: 10.15–11 a.m., Monday, 17 May 2010

3. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications.

4. The Chair will invite member States that are not Parties to the Convention to report on their preparations for ratification and implementation of the Convention, and to identify measures aimed at supporting their ratification.

**Item 3: Compliance with and implementation of the Convention**

Tentative timing: 11 a.m.–noon, Monday, 17 May 2010

5. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on this activity. He will present the report of the Committee’s seventeenth session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2009/4) and the outcomes of the Committee’s eighteenth session. He will also report on the Committee’s follow-up activities to decision IV/2 of the Meeting of the Parties regarding Armenia and Ukraine (ECE/MP.EIA/10, decision IV/2, paras. 15–19 and 7–14, respectively), on submissions that the Committee is considering and on Committee initiatives.

6. The secretariat will report on the distribution of the questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention in the period 2006–2009, and on the receipt of any completed questionnaires. The Working Group is expected to decide whether to establish a small group to assist in the drafting of the subsequent third review of implementation. The Chair of the Working Group will remind the Working Group of the detailed timetable for the submission of completed questionnaires, and for the generation of the draft third review of implementation, presented in the report of its previous session (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2009/2, annex II), noting in particular that completed questionnaires must be submitted by 30 June 2010.

**Item 4: Subregional cooperation and capacity-building**

Tentative timing: noon–1 p.m., Monday, 17 May 2010

7. A representative of Belarus will be invited to report on a subregional workshop featuring a pilot project being carried out in his country, and a representative of Finland, Germany, Lithuania or Sweden, on a subregional workshop relating to the Baltic Sea area, organized by these countries. As requested by the Meeting of the Parties (decisions IV/4 and IV/5), short summaries of the findings of each workshop prepared by the lead countries with the support of the secretariat will be available (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/3).
8. The secretariat will report on progress in organizing other subregional workshops foreseen in the workplan (decision IV/7). Representatives of the lead countries for these workshops are expected to report on the outcomes of, or preparations for, their activities.

9. The delegation of Romania, which is the depository for the multilateral agreement signed by ministers from South-Eastern Europe during the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, is expected to report on the status of the agreement. The countries of South-Eastern Europe will be invited to report on actions taken to bring about the entry into force of the agreement so that a date can be set for the first meeting of the Parties to the agreement.

**Item 5: Exchange of good practices**

*Tentative timing: 3–6 p.m., Monday, 17 May 2010, and 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010*

(a) **Task Force on Complex Activities**

*Tentative timing: 3–3.30 p.m., Monday, 17 May 2010*

10. A representative of the European Commission is expected to report on the work of the Task Force on Complex Activities, established by the Working Group at its previous session. The Working Group is expected to consider any recommendations by the Task Force.

(b) **Seminar on legislation and procedures for implementation of the Convention**

*Tentative timing: 3.30–6 p.m., Monday, 17 May 2010*

11. The Chair will invite a representative of Armenia to open a seminar on legislation and procedures for implementation of the Convention, as foreseen in the workplan (decision IV/7). Detailed information on the seminar will be distributed in advance. On the basis of the seminar outcomes, the Working Group is expected to decide on follow-up actions.

(c) **Other activities foreseen in the workplan**

*Tentative timing: 10–10.30 a.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010*

12. The Chair will invite delegations to describe further the planned half-day seminars on climate change in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, and large-scale projects crossing several countries. The Working Group may decide on follow-up actions.
(d) **Practices in States outside the region**

**Tentative timing:** 10.30–11.30 a.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010

13. 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 environmental impact assessment system and practices in their country.

(e) **Strengthening the involvement of non-governmental organizations**

**Tentative timing:** 11.30 a.m.–noon, Tuesday, 18 May 2010

14. The Chair will inform the Working Group about the replies to his letter to focal points with regard to strengthening the involvement of non-governmental organizations in work under the Convention, noting both the limited response and diversity of content in the replies. He will invite further replies.

(f) **Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities**

**Tentative timing:** noon–1 p.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010

15. The Chair will invite a representative of Hungary to present briefly her country’s recent experience in the application of the Convention to a nuclear energy-related project. Noting that the Convention is frequently applied to nuclear energy-related activities, and that there have sometimes been difficulties in notifying the affected Parties in such cases, the Chair will invite delegations to report on their recent or expected application of the Convention to such projects. The Working Group may decide on follow-up actions.

**Item 6: Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol to the Convention**

**Tentative timing:** 3–3.30 p.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010

16. The delegation of Slovenia is expected to report on preparations for the following activities to facilitate the ratification of the Protocol: two national awareness-raising workshops, and training using the draft resource manual to support application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

17. 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.
Item 7: “Environment for Europe” process

Tentative timing: 3.30–4 p.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010

18. The Chair will report on preparations for the seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Astana in September or October 2011. The two themes of the Conference will be as follows:

(a) Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems;

(b) Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development.

19. The Working Group is expected to propose and discuss possible inputs into the preparatory process for the Conference and possible contributions to the Conference itself, noting that strategic environmental assessment is a unique instrument for planning and policymaking related to greening the economy. The Working Group may wish to take any such proposals into account when preparing for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 8: Budget and financial arrangements

Tentative timing: 4–5 p.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010

20. The secretariat will present the biannual financial report for the period to 31 December 2009 (decision IV/8, para. 9). The secretariat will also highlight the contributions made to the trust fund of the Convention, including any outstanding pledges.

21. The Chair will inform the Working Group about the results of the Bureau’s actions to encourage further contributions to the trust fund (decision IV/8, paras. 2 (c), 7 and 8).

22. The Chair will inform the Working Group that the Bureau received a request from the Implementation Committee to take action to increase secretariat resources to support the Committee (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2009/4, para. 55). The secretariat will explain 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. 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 may wish to take this information into account when preparing for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
Item 9: Preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Tentative timing: 5–6 p.m., Tuesday, 18 May 2010, and 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m., Wednesday, 19 May 2010

23. The Chair will propose that the third session of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol and the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group be held back to back from 22 to 26 November 2010. The third session of the Meeting of the Signatories will make the final preparations for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP/MOP1). The Chair will propose on behalf of the Bureau that, subject to the entry into force of the Protocol, the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol be held back to back in May 2011.

24. The Chair will identify a list of draft decisions, including a possible draft decision on the interpretation of article 14 on amendments to the Convention, that might be considered by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session, in 2011.

25. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal on draft decisions for consideration, first by the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol and by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/L.1). The Chair will invite comment by the Working Group on those draft decisions that are joint decisions to be considered also by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

26. The delegations, individually or in groups, will be invited to evaluate implementation of the current workplan and, on this basis, make proposals on possible elements for the workplan to be adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of Parties and at the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The Chair will propose that delegations take into account the interface and possible synergies between activities for the Convention and its Protocol. The Working Group is expected to decide on the further development of the draft workplan and to request that the Bureau prepare, in advance of the Working Group’s next meeting, all draft decisions to be considered by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

27. The Chair will invite delegations to make proposals on attracting high-level representation in the Meeting of the Parties and on enriching the agenda, for example by holding side events, signing bilateral agreements or making common declarations.

28. The Chair will ask delegations to come forward in the next Working Group meeting in November 2010 with nominations for officers, that is, Bureau members, and four members of Implementation Committee. Additional new members of the Committee may need to be nominated depending on whether Committee members are Parties to the Protocol, but these additional members will be nominated by the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol.
**Item 10: Financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the region**

**Tentative timing:** 4–4.30 p.m., Wednesday, 19 May 2010

29. The Chair will inform the Working Group 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).

30. 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).

31. The secretariat will report on the results of any travel outside the UNECE region.

**Item 11: Other business**

**Tentative timing:** 4.30–5 p.m., Wednesday, 19 May 2010

32. Delegations wishing to propose topics for discussion under this agenda item should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible.

**Item 12: Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**

**Tentative timing:** 5–6 p.m., Wednesday, 19 May 2010

33. The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and venue of its next meeting.