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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

Fourteenth meeting

Geneva, 24–26 November 2010

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday,
24 November 2010, starting at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its amendments.
3. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention.
4. Exchange of good practices:
 - (a) Seminar on climate change in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Convention's website (http://www.unece.org/env/eia/meetings/wg_eia_14.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.

- (b) Complex activities;
 - (c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan;
 - (d) Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;
 - (e) Practices in States outside the region.
5. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.
 6. Budget and financial arrangements.
 7. Financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the region.
 8. Preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.
 9. Other business.
 10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 24 November, 10–10.15 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 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its amendments

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 24 November, 10.15–11.15 a.m.

2. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention and of its two amendments. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each Party to the Convention that has not ratified the two amendments to report on its preparations for ratification.

3. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 24 November, 11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.

3. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on this activity. He will present the report of the Committee's nineteenth session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2010/4). 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. Finally, the Chair of the Implementation Committee will present a draft decision on the review of compliance for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties (draft decision V/2). The Working Group might wish to provide advice to the Committee on the text of the draft decision.

4. The secretariat will report on the receipt of completed questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention in the period 2006–2009. The Working Group is expected to consider the draft third review of implementation

(ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/L.3) and to take into account the draft findings of the review when preparing the draft workplan for consideration by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

4. Exchange of good practices

(a) Seminar on climate change in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 24 November, 3–6 p.m.

5. The Chair will invite a representative of Austria to chair a seminar on climate change in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, 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.

(b) Complex activities

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, 10–10.15 a.m.

6. A representative of the European Commission will be invited to report on the preparation of a working document that could become the basis for the follow up on complex activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/2, para. 36).

(c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, 10.15–10.30 a.m.

7. The Chair will invite interested delegations to provide information on a possible half-day seminar on large-scale projects crossing several countries. The Working Group may decide on follow-up actions.

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, 10.30 a.m.–noon

8. The secretariat will present an informal background paper on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities, based on the discussions in the previous meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group is expected to decide on follow-up actions, which might include a panel discussion on the subject in the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(e) Practices in States outside the region

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, noon–1 p.m.

9. 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 a meeting of the Working Group for the first time to present briefly the environmental impact assessment system and practices in their country.

5. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, 3–4 p.m.

10. As requested by the Meeting of the Parties (decisions IV/4 and IV/5), short summaries of the findings of recent workshops prepared by the lead countries with the support of the secretariat will be available (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/6).

11. The secretariat will report on progress in organizing other subregional workshops foreseen in the workplan. Representatives of the lead countries for these workshops are expected to report on the outcomes of, or preparations for, their activities.

12. 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.

6. Budget and financial arrangements

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, 4–4.45 p.m.

13. The secretariat will present the biannual financial report for the period to 30 June 2010 (decision IV/8, para. 9). The secretariat will also highlight the contributions made to the trust fund of the Convention, including any outstanding pledges.

14. As requested by the Working Group in its previous meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/2, para. 53), the secretariat will 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 fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, 4.45–5 p.m.

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

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

8. Preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 25 November, 5–6 p.m.; and Friday, 26 November, 10 a.m.–noon

17. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal on draft decisions to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/L.2). The Chair will also present a Bureau proposal on draft decisions to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties in joint session with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/AC.3/2010/L.1) (see table below). In particular the

Chair will describe the draft workplan to be considered for adoption by the two governing bodies.

18. The delegations, individually or in groups, will be invited to make further proposals on possible elements for the draft workplan and on reconciling the draft workplan with the corresponding draft budget. As requested in the previous meeting to aid in the development of the draft workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/2, para.58), the secretariat will present a collation of the general compliance issues from the second review of implementation, as considered by the Implementation Committee, as well as key findings from the draft third review of implementation. The Working Group is expected to ensure that for each activity in the draft workplan a lead country or organization and a source of funding is identified.

Draft decisions proposed by the Bureau (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2010/L.2, ECE/MP.EIA/AC.3/2010/L.1)

| <i>Draft decision</i> | <i>Number of decision</i> | |
|---|---|---|
| | <i>Meeting of Parties to Convention</i> | <i>Meeting of Parties to Convention serving as Meeting of Parties to Protocol</i> |
| Review of implementation | V/1 | |
| Application of the compliance procedure of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment | V/3 | I/5 |
| Adoption of the workplan | V/4 | I/8 |
| Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance | V/5 | I/9 |
| Interpretation of article 14 of the Convention (amendments) | V/6 | |
| Amendment of rule 7 of the rules of procedure | V/7 | |

19. The Working Group will also be asked to agree the text of the draft decisions.

20. 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, further to the discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group.

21. The Chair will invite delegations to come forward with nominations for the Chair of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

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

9. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 26 November, noon–12.30 p.m.

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

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

Tentative timing: Friday, 26 November, 12.30–1 p.m.

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