



Economic and Social Council

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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 Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

First meeting

Geneva, 24–26 April 2012

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the first meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 24 April 2012*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Chair.

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the website of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (<http://www.unece.org/env/eia/mtgs/wg.2-1.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 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 2364.

2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Participation.
4. Status of ratification.
5. Compliance and implementation.
6. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.
7. Exchange of good practices:
 - (a) Practices in States outside the region;
 - (b) Application of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to nuclear energy-related activities;
 - (c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan.
8. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
9. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance:
 - (a) Budget and financial arrangements;
 - (b) Financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the region.
10. Staffing of the secretariat.
11. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
12. Inputs to related international processes.
13. Other business.
14. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Election of the Chair

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 24 April, 10–10.15 a.m.

1. The Meeting will be opened by the Chair of the Bureau, Mr. D. Mormul, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ukraine.
2. The fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol elected four Vice-Chairs of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Ms. M. Masaityte (Lithuania); Mr. P. Otawski (Poland); a representative of Ukraine (to be named later);¹ and Mr. G. Kremlis (European Commission). The two Meetings decided that the Working Group would elect its

¹ Identified by Ukraine, in a letter dated 15 July 2011 addressed to the secretariat, as being Mr. Volodymyr Buchko.

own Chair from among the Vice-Chairs when it first met, in the expectation that Mr. Otawski would be chosen (ECE/MP.EIA/15, para. 58, and ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2, para. 37).

3. The Working Group will therefore be invited to elect its Chair from among the Vice-Chairs for the period until the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 24 April, 10.15–10.30 a.m.

4. This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Bureau. The Chair of the Working Group will invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document

3. Participation

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 24 April, 10.30–11 a.m.

5. The secretariat will list any researcher, commercial firm, developer, consultant or other commercial entity that has been invited, with the agreement of the Bureau, to participate as an observer at the meeting or in discussions on one or more specific agenda items.

6. A member of the Bureau will be invited to report on the Bureau's decision on whether a representative of European ECO Forum be permitted to participate in meetings of the Bureau as an observer, in accordance with the rules of procedure, further to a decision by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

4. Status of ratification

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 24 April, 11 a.m.–noon

7. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention and 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.

8. The secretariat will also report on the status of the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each Signatory State that has not ratified its signature to report on its preparations for ratification.

9. The secretariat will also report on interest expressed by countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region in acceding to either the Convention or the Protocol.

10. The Bureau will be invited to propose actions that might be taken to encourage accession to or ratification of the Convention and Protocol and, in particular, to facilitate the entry into force of the two amendments to the Convention.

5. Compliance and implementation

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 24 April, noon–1 p.m. and 3–4.30 p.m.

11. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on compliance and implementation. She will present the report of the Committee's twenty-second and twenty-third sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2011/6 and ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2011/8, respectively) and the outcomes of the Committee's twenty-fourth session. She will also report on the Committee's follow-up activities to decision V/4 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention regarding Ukraine (ECE/MP.EIA/15, decision V/4, paras. 17–26), on submissions that the Committee is considering and on Committee initiatives. In addition, the Chair is expected to inform the Working Group that the Implementation Committee has recommended that the Bureau and the Working Group consider establishing a task force with a view to bringing into line the three authentic language versions of the Convention (English, French and Russian).

12. In addition, the Chair of the Committee will present a draft of the questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2010–2012, for consideration by the Working Group, as required by the current workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2, decision V/9–I/9). The Working Group is expected to recommend any necessary amendments to the draft and to agree the subsequent circulation of the questionnaire. The Working Group is also expected to agree a detailed timetable, based on a Committee proposal, for the submission of completed questionnaires, and for the generation of the subsequent draft fourth review of implementation.

13. The secretariat will report on the electronic publication of the opinions of the Implementation Committee, and their periodic revision, as well as the amended operating rules (decision V/4, paras. 13–14). The secretariat will also report on the publication in electronic format of the third review of implementation, covering the period 2006–2009 (decision V/3, para. 2).

14. The secretariat will also report on its promotion of the use by international financial institutions of a checklist prepared by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (decision V/4, para. 16).

6. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 24 April, 4.30–5.30 p.m.

15. Lead countries will be invited to report on subregional cooperation and capacity-building activities carried out since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties. These are expected to include subregional workshops for the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean Sea areas and the preparation of a pilot project involving Belarus and Ukraine. Delegations and the secretariat will also be invited to report on related activities that have been carried out, which were not foreseen in the workplan.

16. Lead countries and the secretariat will report on progress in organizing other activities for subregional cooperation and capacity-building foreseen in the workplan.

17. 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 to the Convention, 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 increase the membership of the agreement and on arrangements for the first meeting of the Parties to the agreement.

7. Exchange of good practices

(a) Practices in States outside the region

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 24 April, 5.30–6 p.m.

18. The Chair will invite all representatives or experts from States outside the ECE region that are participating in a meeting under the Convention or its Protocol for the first time to present briefly the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) systems and practices in their country.

(b) Application of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to nuclear energy-related activities

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 25 April, 10–11.30 a.m.

19. The Chair is expected to invite the Working Group to consider the proposal, made by the moderator of the panel discussion on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities during the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, on the need for the development of guidance to codify practical experience, which could be based on the secretariat's background paper, and which might address a series of key issues.

(c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 25 April, 11.30 a.m.–noon

20. The Chair will invite lead countries to describe their plans for workshops or half-day seminars specified in the workplan that relate to the exchange of good practices.

8. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 25 April, noon–1 p.m. and 3–4.30 p.m.

21. The secretariat will report on its maintenance of the resource manual to support the application of the Protocol, including its health annex, as well as on its publication in electronic format. The secretariat, together with representatives of countries and organizations in the corresponding editorial group, will also report on progress in the elaboration of a compact and simplified version of the resource manual that focuses on the practical application of the Protocol.

22. The representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment will be invited to report on the preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice.

23. The secretariat and involved countries will be invited to report on workshops, including training, that have been held on the application of the Protocol, in particular for countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. They will also be invited to report on progress in organizing pilot SEAs.

24. Lead countries and the secretariat will report on progress in organizing other activities for subregional cooperation and capacity-building foreseen in the workplan.

25. The secretariat, together with representatives of countries in the corresponding editorial group, will report on progress with the preparation of a format for SEA notification (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2012/L.1).

26. The secretariat and involved countries will be invited to report on the development of legislation on SEA, and on future plans for such development.

27. The secretariat will report on preparations for a joint workshop on public participation in SEA in accordance with the Protocol and article 7 of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), which is expected to be held on 29 and 30 October 2012. The secretariat will also report on related activities under the Aarhus Convention of possible interest to the Working Group.

28. Delegations will be invited to propose cases in which the Protocol has been applied and that could be described in case study fact sheets to be published by the secretariat.

9. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

(a) Budget and financial arrangements

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 25 April, 4.30–5.15 p.m.

29. The secretariat will present the biannual financial report for the period to 31 December 2012 (decision V/10–I/10, para. 10). The secretariat will also highlight the contributions made to the trust fund of the Convention.

30. A member of the Bureau will be invited to report on the Bureau's consideration of measures to encourage Parties that have so far not pledged anything to make contributions, and Parties that have so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions to raise their contributions, during the current and future budget cycles (decision V/10–I/10, paras. 8–9).

31. A member of the Bureau will be invited to report on the Bureau's efforts to develop, possibly with the support of a small group, a strategy for carrying out the work under the Convention and the Protocol given the financial constraints (decision V/10–I/10, para. 16).

32. The secretariat will report on the results of any travel outside the ECE region.

(b) Financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the region

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 25 April, 5.15–6 p.m.

33. The Chair will report on the Bureau's drawing up of a list of up to five experts from non-governmental organizations to receive assistance for their participation in meetings under the Convention and its Protocol (decision V/10–I/10, para. 21).

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

10. Staffing of the secretariat

Tentative timing: Thursday, 26 April, 10–10.30 a.m.

35. The secretariat will report on any staff changes that have occurred since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties or that are anticipated.

11. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Tentative timing: Thursday, 26 April, 10.30–11.30 a.m.

36. The Chair of the Bureau and the secretariat are expected to report on the initiation of practical arrangements for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which are expected to be held in Ukraine in May or June 2014. The Working Group might advise on further actions to be taken in this regard.

12. Inputs to related international processes

Tentative timing: Thursday, 26 April, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.

37. The secretariat will report on the holding of a side event at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, held in Astana from 21 to 23 September 2011 (further to ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2, declaration, para. 19), and on relevant outcomes of the Conference.

38. The secretariat will also describe how it reported within the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20) on the contribution of the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol, to the implementation of the principles proclaimed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 (further to the declaration, para. 20). The Working Group might advise on further actions to be taken in this regard.

39. The Chair of the Bureau will be invited to report on outcomes of a meeting of the chairs of the bureaux of the ECE environmental treaties and of the Committee on Environmental Policy, held in Geneva on 22 November 2011.

13. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 26 April, 3–4 p.m.

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

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 26 April, 4–5 p.m.

41. The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the session, to authorize the secretariat to complete the report after the session under the guidance of the Chair, and to confirm the date and venue of its next meeting.
