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

Sixth meeting
Geneva, 7–10 November 2016
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 7 November 2016*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

* In accordance with the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates attending the meeting are requested to register online by no later than 21 October 2016 through the following link: https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=Df8EP1. Registration details are available on the website. The use of the Internet Explorer browser is recommended for registration. In case of difficulty, please refer to the online user manual (https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR/Online+Meeting+Registration+Guidelines), or contact the secretariat by e-mail (anelia.rambosson@unece.org or 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, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 24 39.
2. Inputs to related international processes.
3. Compliance and implementation.
5. Status of ratification.
6. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.
7. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance.
9. Exchange of good practices:
   (a) Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects;
   (b) Workshop on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol;
   (c) Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities.
10. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.
11. Other business.
12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

   Tentative timing: Monday, 7 November, 10–10.15 a.m.

   1. The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment will invite the Working Group to adopt the agenda for its sixth meeting, as set out in the present document. The provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Meetings of the Parties to the two treaties.1

   Documentation

   Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/3)
   Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.1)

1 All meeting documentation will be made available on a dedicated web page for the meeting on the Economic Commission for Europe website (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42745#/). Please note that documents with symbols ending in “INF.” and a number are informal documents and can be located in the documents table by clicking on the “unofficial documents” tab.
2. **Inputs to related international processes**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 7 November, 10.15–11 a.m.*

2. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the main outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) of relevance to the Convention and its Protocol. The secretariat will also report on the meeting of the informal network of the chairs of the multilateral environmental agreement implementation and compliance committees held on 20 June 2016. It will then present the main outcomes of the external evaluation of ECE activities under the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, which builds on feedback from Parties and stakeholders, as well as the ECE management response to the recommendations in the evaluation report. The Working Group may wish to comment the information and, as relevant, consider it when finalizing the documentation for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, such as the draft workplan for the next intersessional period and the draft Minsk declaration.

3. **Compliance and implementation**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 7 November, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and Tuesday, 8 November, 10–11 a.m.*

3. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on compliance and implementation. He will present the outcomes of the Committee’s thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 5–7 September 2016) and report on the Committee’s activities in follow-up to decision VI/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention regarding Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine. He will also present elements for draft decisions on the review of compliance of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as elements for a draft report on the Committee’s activities to be considered 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 (Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol) at their seventh and third sessions, respectively (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017).

4. The secretariat will present the draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft second review of implementation of the Protocol in the period 2013–2015, which it prepared with the assistance of a consultant based on the reports submitted by Parties. The Working Group will be invited to consider and reach an agreement on the main findings of the draft reports, and to provide the secretariat with possible comments or corrections to the drafts with a view to their finalization. The Chair of the Working Group will introduce draft decisions on the review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5 and ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/7). The Working Group is expected to consider and agree on the draft decisions to be submitted to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

5. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova will be invited to report on progress regarding the adoption or amendment of the draft legislation to implement the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol that they have prepared further to the technical advice from the secretariat. As needed, the secretariat will provide additional information. The secretariat will also present updated draft practical guidance on reforming legal and institutional structures with regard to the application of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.8), which was revised based on comments received during and after the Working Group’s fifth meeting (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016). Delegations, in particular those from the countries concerned, will be invited to provide possible further comments to the documents.

7. The secretariat will report on progress in submitting to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as the treaty depositary, the list of proposed corrections to the three authentic language versions of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention that the Working Group agreed at its fifth meeting, with a view to aligning the texts (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.4, annex). The secretariat will also inform participants of the steps taken to publish the revised text of the Protocol.

8. Finally, the secretariat will report on the electronic publication of the opinions of the Implementation Committee and their periodic revision.

**Documentation**

- Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.3)
- Elements for draft decisions on the review of compliance of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.4)
- Elements for a draft report on the Implementation Committee’s activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.5)

- Draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/8)
- Draft second review of implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/9)
- Suggested improvements to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.6)
- Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5)
- Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6)
- Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/7)
- Aligning the authentic texts of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.7)
- Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.8)
- Draft practical guidance on the reform of legal and institutional structures with regard to the application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.9)

4. **Brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol**

   *Tentative timing: Monday, 7 November, 3–6 p.m.*

9. As agreed by the Working Group at its fifth meeting, a three-hour brainstorming session to discuss the future of the Convention and the Protocol, organized by Austria,
Finland, France, the Netherlands and Norway, will be held. Among others, the session aims to take stock of the results achieved since the adoption of the Convention and the Protocol, and to discuss the strategic vision and the future role and aims of these treaties, taking into account the present and emerging priorities, needs and challenges. Participants are then expected to consider the possible implications of these strategic considerations for the future workplans, resources and working methods under the two treaties. More information on the session will be made available closer to the meeting date on the web page for the meeting. The Working Group is expected to discuss and decide on follow-up actions based on the session’s outcomes.

Documentation

Draft programme and background for the brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.10).

5. Status of ratification

_Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 November, 11–11.45 a.m._

10. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention and its two amendments. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. Further to the Working Group’s request at its fifth session for the Parties that have not yet done so to ratify the two amendments by June 2017, the Chair will invite each concerned Party to report on progress. In particular, she will invite representatives of the States that were Parties to the Convention at the time the first amendment was adopted (27 February 2001) — i.e., Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine — to provide detailed information on steps taken towards the ratification of that amendment. Moreover, the members of the Bureau, the European Union Presidency and the European Commission will be invited to report on their actions to prompt the countries concerned to ratify.

11. The secretariat will also report on the status of the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. In particular, the Chair will invite each signatory State that has not ratified the Protocol to report on its preparations for ratification. The Working Group is then expected to propose further actions that might be taken to encourage accession to or ratification of the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol.

12. The signatory States of the multilateral agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Bucharest Agreement), i.e., Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece and Serbia, will be invited to report on their plans to ratify the Bucharest Agreement.

13. 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.

Documentation

Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.2)
6. **Subregional cooperation and capacity-building**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 November, 11.45 a.m – 12.15 p.m.*

14. Lead countries for subregional cooperation and capacity-building activities foreseen in the workplan and the secretariat will be invited to report on the outcomes of, or preparations for, activities in this area carried out since the fifth meeting of the Working Group. Latvia is expected to brief the participants on its organization of a meeting in the Baltic Sea subregion in autumn 2016. The secretariat will report on progress in the preparation of a final subregional coordination and experience-sharing event scheduled to be held in Ukraine in spring 2017 to take stock of the outcomes of the workplan activities funded by the European Union under the Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN) programme.

15. The delegation of Romania, the depository for the Bucharest Agreement, is expected to report on the status of the Agreement and on arrangements for the workshop to prepare the first meeting of the Parties foreseen in the workplan.

**Documentation**

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.3)

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.8)

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

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 November, 12.15–1 p.m.*

16. The Chair will invite the delegations to report on their actions for disseminating the video prepared by the secretariat to promote awareness of the Protocol and its benefits. The secretariat will report on the finalization of the brochure to promote awareness about the Protocol and its benefits in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, taking into account the comments received after the fifth meeting of the Working Group.

17. The Chair will invite the countries concerned and the secretariat to report on: (a) the preparation of fact sheets on the application of strategic environmental assessment; and (b) the development of national guidance documents on strategic environmental assessment (i.e., by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

18. The secretariat and the countries concerned (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) will also be invited to report on progress in implementing recent or planned workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol, as well as pilot strategic environmental assessments, as foreseen in the workplan.

19. A representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment is expected to report on the Association’s preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in strategic environmental assessment practice, as outlined in the workplan.

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2 Available in English from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTHKqx-C_C8&feature=youtu.be and in Russian from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAOkskySYt0.

20. The Chair will invite delegations to propose cases in which the Protocol has been applied for the preparation of fact sheets on the application of strategic environmental assessment to be published on the Convention and the Protocol’s website by the secretariat.

21. The Working Group is expected to consider the information provided and, as needed, agree on actions to ensure the implementation of or follow-up to the activities to promote the Protocol.

Documentation

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.3)

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.8)

8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 November, 3–4.30 p.m.

22. The secretariat will present a financial report for the period to 30 June 2016, in accordance with the request of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3, decision VI/4–II/4, para. 13), and inform the Working Group about any updates on the status of financial reporting on donations to ECE. The secretariat will also highlight the contributions made to the trust fund of the Convention, including any outstanding pledges.

23. The secretariat will report on any actual or anticipated changes in the staff resources that have occurred since the fifth meeting of the Working Group.

24. The Chair will be present a Bureau proposal for a draft decision on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance. The Working Group is expected to agree on the draft decision to be considered by the Meetings of the Parties in a joint session. It will be invited to consider measures to encourage Parties that have so far not pledged anything to make contributions and to encourage those that have so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions to raise their contributions during the current and future budget cycles (see ibid., paras. 6–7). The Working Group will also be invited to review and assess the implementation of the decision on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance, as well as the financial strategy adopted by the Meetings of the Parties in 2014 (ibid., para. 19 and annex II.).

25. Delegations may also wish to provide preliminary information on their pledges to support the activities and the secretariat functions under the Convention and the Protocol in the next intersessional period.

Documentation

Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6)
9. Exchange of good practices

(a) Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects

_Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 November, 4.30–6 p.m._

The Working Group will be invited to comment and agree on the text of the policy and legal part of the draft guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects and, to the extent relevant, on the technical part of the guidance on the risks aspects from hazardous facilities. The draft guidance is supplemented by a number of annexes. The draft guidance has been revised by consultants to the European Investment Bank, with support from the secretariat (for the policy and legal guidance), based on the feedback from the Working Group and from the workshop held in Geneva on 13 April 2016 under the joint framework of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the European Investment Bank. The Bureaux under the two Conventions have also commented the revised draft guidance. The Working Group is also expected to consider and agree on a draft decision for the Meetings of the Parties concerning the guidance (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6).

_Documentation_

Draft policy and legal guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/10–ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/8)

Draft technical guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/9)

Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6)

(b) Workshop on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol

_Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m._

The lead organization for this activity, the European Investment Bank, will be invited to open a half-a-day workshop on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol, to be organized by the Bank with the assistance of a consultant and in cooperation with the secretariat. The workshop will aim at raising awareness on the Convention and the Protocol and their benefits and at promoting cooperation and exchange of experience and good practice with countries outside the ECE region and the international financial institutions. Relevant current practice in non-ECE countries and the international financial institutions will also be presented. Finally, the workshop will seek to highlight the needs and expectations of the non-ECE countries and identify possible avenues for enhanced future collaboration, in particular to strengthen capacities for the implementation of the Convention’s and the Protocol’s procedures, looking specifically at the role of the international financial institutions in that regard. Detailed information on the workshop will be made available in advance on the web page for the meeting closer to the meeting date.

_Documentation_

Draft programme and background for the workshop on the global application of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.11)
(c) Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 November, 3–5.30 p.m.

28. A consultant to the secretariat will present draft good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities prepared under the supervision of the editorial group, also taking into account the feedback provided by the Working Group at its fifth meeting. The Working Group is expected to agree on the finalization of the draft to be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention for adoption. It is also expected to consider and agree on a draft decision for the Meeting of the Parties concerning the good practice recommendations (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5).

Documentation

Draft good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.12)

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5)

10. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties

Tentative timing: Thursday, 10 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4.30 p.m.

29. The representative of Belarus and the secretariat will report on the practical arrangements for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to be held in Minsk from 13 to 16 June 2017.

30. The Working Group will be invited to continue its consideration of the draft Minsk declaration presented at its fifth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.2), taking into account the outcomes of the brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol held earlier, as well as the relevant outcomes of the Batumi Ministerial Conference and those of other related international processes. No comments on the draft declaration were submitted to the secretariat subsequent to the Working Group’s fifth meeting. The Working Group is expected to agree on the text of the draft declaration to be forwarded for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties.

31. The Working Group will be invited to continue its review of the draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the next intersessional period (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/7) and its two annexes, which the secretariat has revised based on the Working Group’s comments at its fifth meeting. Delegations will be invited to review and agree on proposed elements for the workplan, set out in annex I, making sure that for each sub-activity full information is provided on the organizational arrangements, expected outcome, time schedule and identified budget. Delegations will be invited to confirm their possibilities for leading or sponsoring activities, and for hosting capacity-building or subregional cooperation events within the ECE region or beyond. In the finalization of the draft workplan, the Working Group may wish to consider the key findings from the draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft second review of the implementation of the Protocol, as well as the outcomes of the brainstorming session, the external evaluation of ECE activities and other relevant information. The Working Group will also be invited to agree on which activities are to be waitlisted in the absence of funding, as provisionally set out in annex II to the document. The secretariat will present a needs assessment for further capacity-building activities.
building on the outcomes of the work carried out thus far. The concerned countries will be invited to confirm their priority needs for further assistance. The Working Group is expected to agree on the text of the draft decision and its annexes to be forwarded for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties.

32. The Working Group is expected to reach an agreement on the text of all the draft decisions to be forwarded for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties not yet agreed under the previous agenda items.

33. The Chair will present the draft programme for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties as revised by the Working Group at its fifth meeting. The Working Group is expected to agree on the draft programme. It will also be invited to propose high-level speakers in the panel dedicated to climate change and to specify the contents of and to suggest speakers for the seminar to be held in the general segment to discuss the Convention’s and the Protocol’s future priorities and role, including as regards the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. The Chair will present a draft overview of the pros and cons of extending the interval between the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, prepared by the Bureau with support from the secretariat, as requested by the Working Group at its fifth meeting. The Working Group will be invited to agree on a proposal to be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties for their consideration.

35. The Chair will invite the delegations to come forward with nominations for officers for the next intersessional period, that is, a Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, members of the Bureau and four members of Implementation Committee. Additional new members of the Implementation 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 Parties to the Protocol.

36. The Chair will also invite delegations to provide preliminary proposals for hosting the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Documentation
Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6
A needs assessment for further-capacity building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.13)
Draft programme and preparations for the 2017 sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.14)
Draft overview of the pros and cons of extending the interval between the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.15)
Information on the required nominations for officers for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.16)

11. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 10 November, 4.30–5 p.m.

37. Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.
12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

Tentative timing: Thursday, 10 November, 5–6 p.m.

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

III. Organization of work

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