

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Panel discussion on the contribution of the Convention and the Protocol to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the future of the treaties

7-th session of Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, 6-th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Minsk, 13-16 June 2017.

Global partnership, long-term planning and Environmental assessment for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- **Environment** - one of 3 key elements of pillars of Sustainable Development (SD) (reflected in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals).
- **Long-term planning** - one of the mechanisms for 17 SDG (Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in NY, by General Assembly on 25 September 2015. [un.org](https://www.un.org/)).
- **Global Partnership** - necessary condition and mean for implementation of 2030 Agenda for SD (Means of Implementation, 39.", 17-th SDG “revitalize the Global Partnership”).

Global partnership, long-term planning and Environmental assessment for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- **Environmental assessment (EIA & SEA)** creates favorable conditions for ***Global Partnership for SDG***, because it is oriented to healthy and clean environment in ***International context*** (EIA, Espoo) and in ***long-term prospective*** (SEA, Protocol);
- **SEA** - tool to achieve SDG, recognized on the 2030 Agenda for SD level (Protocol on SEA. Facts and Benefits. Brochure by EaPGreen and UNECE).

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- Implementation of the Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA, as well as SDG are complementary & synchronous processes.
- So, for successful SDG achievement Parties should implement their respective commitments into their national systems of legislation in ways that are ***not contradictory, comprehensively, feasible and binding.***

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The following would be helpful:

- participation in all the UN mechanisms (Espoo and Aarhus Conventions, Protocol on SEA, 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement etc.);
- improvement of the national legislative framework;
- training, information, cardinal improvement of practice, cooperation. the following would be helpful:
 - - participation in all the UN mechanisms (Espoo and Aarhus Conventions, Protocol on SEA, 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement etc.);
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 - - training, information, cardinal improvement of practice, cooperation.
- *Role of government bodies, NGO and the broader public?*
- *Platform for cooperation, including cross-governmental, inter-ministerial dialogue and training?*

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In Belarus, because of the high level of state control:

- 1. Legislation is **sectoral & contradictory**, any rule could be suspended/canceled by the legislative act by President of the country.
- 2. For real implementation so-called **political will** is necessary, but it does not solve these problems: voluntary implementation & responsibility; resources; cooperation; role of the local communities.

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For Belarus these could be helpful:

- Joining the Protocol on SEA (Belarus already adopted some legislative acts on SEA - evaluation, including by TIC?);
- Eliminating the conflicts in legislation & supremacy of Presidential legislative acts, in particular, when they contradict the Convention & Protocol & Agenda;
- Improving the national legislative framework for its feasibility and compulsion;
- Training and education for representatives of governmental bodies, public and business;
- Creating new possibilities for cooperation (state, NGO, business),
- strengthening the roles of local communities (through SEA).

Environmental Assessment as a tool for Strategic Planning.

- **Planning on the National Level** - key tool for 2030 Agenda implementation (which calls for National Plans and Strategies).
- Planning on the regional and global levels - tool of the partnership for the SDG implementation (2030 Agenda).
- EIA & SEA procedure should be carried out before the planned activity.
- SEA, including ***sectoral plans and programs***, is carried out at an earlier stage, then EIA, at the planning stage. SEA helps to implement the National SD Strategies through binding mechanisms.

Good practice

Using Protocol on SEA in EU

(examples given into the EaPGreen Publication “SEA. Facts and Benefits”):

- taking into account public opinion during decision-making (Bulgaria, Denmark, wind generators);
- improving city planning and development (plan of development of the city Orgeev Moldova);
- Improving inter-sectoral and transboundary cooperation (Norway, wind generators).

Good practice

in Belarus

Belarus has recently adopted the Law on EIA, SEA and ecological expertize and related subordinate regulations. According to the UNECE reports, the UNECE secretariat to the Espoo provided technical support to Belarus with the funding from EaPGREEN. However, according to the final review of the adopted law by the UNECE consultant further amendments to the adopted law and subsequent regulations are required to bring the recently adopted legislation in full compliance with the Convention and the Protocol.

Good practice

Practice in Belarus

- Pilot project on SEA (State Program of the tourism development for 20016-2010). Results: identified the problems with SEA implementation. Program realization, monitoring?
- Case on NPP construction at Implementation Committee as possibility which still is open for parties for transboundary cooperation, sustainable decision-making, strategic planning. MOP Implementation and political will in Belarus? Experience for (of?) the country and possible conflicts?

Thank you for attention!

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