



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 November 2018

Original: English

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

Intermediary session

Geneva, 5–7 February 2019

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the intermediary sessions of 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

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Tuesday,
5 February 2019, starting at 10 a.m.***

* In accordance with the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to register online no later than four weeks prior to the meeting, i.e., by 8 January 2019, through the following link: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=rzKgwj>. Registration details are available on the website. The use of the Internet Explorer browser is recommended. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by email (elizabeth.james@un.org and eia.conv@un.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's 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:



I. Provisional agenda

General segment

1. Opening of the intermediary sessions.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the Chair of the general segment;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Report on credentials;
 - (d) Status of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol.
3. Outstanding issues:
 - (a) Draft decisions;
 - (b) Nomination of the Chair of the Bureau;
 - (c) Tentative calendar of meetings for 2019 and 2020.
4. Review of the workplan:
 - (a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
 - (b) Exchange of good practices;
 - (c) Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol.
5. Review of compliance, implementation and the activities of the Implementation Committee.

High-level segment

6. Opening ceremony for the high-level segment:
 - (a) Election of the Chair of the high-level segment;
 - (b) Introductory speeches.
7. Statements by ministers and high-level representatives.
8. Adoption of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.
9. Election of the Chair of the Bureau.
10. Date and venue of the next meetings.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the report and closing of the session.

II. Proposed organization of the sessions: overview

1. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic

<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

Environmental Assessment (Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol) will meet for their intermediary sessions in conjunction in a single meeting room within a sessional period from 5 to 7 February 2019.

2. Delegates will be invited to be present throughout the sessional period.
3. After the joint opening of the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, the Meetings of the Parties will be invited to elect their chair for the general segment.
4. Following the joint opening, the meetings will continue to alternate between joint sessions of the two governing bodies and individual sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, including for the adoption of decisions.
5. The high-level segment will open on the morning of Thursday, 7 February, and continue until 1 p.m. Ministers and other heads of delegation will be invited to deliver statements to the joint high-level segment of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
6. All meeting documentation, and the programme of a side event to be organized by the non-governmental organization ClientEarth on transboundary impact assessment of coal and lignite-related activities, scheduled for lunchtime on Wednesday, 6 February 2019, will be made available on a web page for the meeting on the Convention's website.¹

III. Annotations to the provisional agenda

General segment

1. Opening of the intermediary sessions

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 5 February 2019, morning

7. The general segment of the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol will be opened by the Chair of the Bureau.

2. Organizational matters

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 5 February 2019, morning

(a) Election of the Chair of the general segment

8. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to elect the Chair of the general segment.
9. The Meetings of the Parties will then convene in a joint meeting to address the organizational matters set out below.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

10. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to adopt the agenda contained in the present document. The provisional agenda was drafted by the secretariat, in agreement with the Bureau, taking into account the views expressed by the Parties during the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 28–30 May 2018).

¹ See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50226>.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the intermediary sessions of 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 Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/26-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/10)

Informal document

Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/INF.1)

(c) Report on credentials

11. According to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex I), which applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the credentials of representatives of Parties and the names of alternate representatives and advisers are to be submitted to the secretariat if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation must also be submitted to the secretariat. The credentials should be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the minister of foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. The Bureau will examine the credentials and report on them to the Meetings of the Parties (see rule 17 of the rules of procedure). Representatives are entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Meetings of the Parties to accept their credentials (see rule 18). Only Parties with valid credentials will be able to participate in the adoption of a decision or declaration. Parties are also invited to send the secretariat a copy of the credentials two weeks prior to the session.

12. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to take note of the report by the secretariat on credentials of the representatives of Parties attending the intermediary session. Representatives may participate provisionally, pending this action.

(d) Status of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol

13. The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification of the Convention and the declarations made by Parties upon deposit of their instruments of ratification of the Convention since the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017). It will also indicate the status of ratification of the amendments to the Convention adopted at the second and third sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

14. The secretariat will then report on the status of ratification of the Protocol and the declarations made by Parties upon deposit of their instruments of ratification.

15. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol.

Documentation

Informal document

Status of ratification of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/INF.2)

3. Outstanding issues

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 5 February 2019, morning and afternoon; Wednesday, 6 February 2019, morning and, as necessary, afternoon

(a) Draft decisions

Draft decision on the review of compliance with the Convention

16. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present draft decisions IS/1 and IS/1a–g on the review of compliance with the Convention. As mandated by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session, the Implementation Committee prepared the draft decisions based on its review of draft decision VII/2, taking into account the progress made before, during and after the seventh session (ECE/MP.EIA/23-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7, para. 27). Moreover, as suggested by the delegation of Ukraine in June 2017, the Committee decided to present the revised general and country-specific draft decisions in separate documents to facilitate their subsequent consideration and adoption. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is expected to discuss and finalize the draft decisions.

Documentation

Draft decision IS/1 on general issues of compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/1)

Draft decision IS/1a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/2)

Draft decision IS/1b on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of a nuclear power plant in Metsamor (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/3)

Draft decision IS/1c on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/4)

Draft decision IS/1d on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/5)

Draft decision IS/1e on compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of a third block of the Kostolac lignite power plant (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/6)

Draft decision IS/1f on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/7)

Draft decision IS/1g on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the extension of the lifetime of the Rivne nuclear power plant (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/8)

Draft decision IS/1h on compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/9)

Findings and recommendations of the Implementation Committee on compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/14)

Draft decision on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants

17. The delegations of Germany and the United Kingdom will be invited to report on work in progress by an ad hoc working group with a view to developing guidance on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is expected to comment and provide advice for the finalization of the guidance for its consideration at its eighth session, preliminarily scheduled for December 2020.

18. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review and finalize draft decision IS/2 on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants, as amended by the Bureau at its meeting on 22 and 23 October 2018 based on comments from the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its seventh meeting.

Documentation

Progress report on the development of guidance on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/10)

Draft decision IS/2 on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/11)

Draft decision on the revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries

19. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will be invited to review and finalize draft decision IS/3 on the revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries. Delegations may also wish to comment the updated Guidelines that the secretariat revised based on the comments by the Working Group during and after its seventh meeting.

Documentation

Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian countries (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/12)

Draft decision IS/3 on the revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/13)

(b) Nomination of the Chair of the Bureau

20. At their most recent sessions (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017), the Meetings of the Parties extended the mandate of the current Chair of the Bureau until the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties. The Chair of the general segment will therefore invite delegations to nominate a chair of the Bureau for the remainder of the current intersessional period. Formal election of the Chair of the Bureau will take place during the high-level segment (item 9).

(c) Tentative calendar of meetings for 2019 and 2020

21. The Meetings of the Parties may agree a revised tentative calendar of meetings for 2019 and 2020. Delegations may also wish to put forward proposals for hosting such meetings.

Documentation

Informal document

Provisional schedule of meetings (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/INF.3)

4. Review of the workplan

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 6 February 2019, afternoon

22. Delegations and the secretariat will report on progress in the implementation of the workplan for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol for the period 2017–2020 (see ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/3–III/3) since the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to take note of the information and, as needed, provide advice on the implementation of or follow-up to the activities in the remainder of the current intersessional period.

Documentation

Informal documents

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/INF.4)

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/INF.5)

(a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

23. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in and plans for organizing subregional cooperation and capacity-building workshops.

(b) Exchange of good practices

24. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in or plans for organizing events for the exchange of good practices.

(c) Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol

25. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in and plans for organizing workshops, including training, implementing pilot strategic environmental assessments and preparing fact sheets and national guidance documents on the application of strategic environmental assessment.

5. Review of compliance, implementation and the activities of the Implementation Committee

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 6 February 2019, afternoon

26. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in developing and adopting legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol further to technical assistance facilitated by the secretariat.

27. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the Committee's activities in the period since 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.

28. The secretariat will report on the receipt of completed questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2016–2018, which are due on 31 March 2019. It will also report on its plans for the preparation of the draft sixth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft third review of implementation of the Protocol, which are to be submitted to the Working Group at its eighth meeting, preliminarily scheduled for 26 to 28 November 2019, for consideration.

29. Representatives of Austria and the Netherlands will be invited to report on the outcomes of an informal meeting on the possible elaboration of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol (London, 1 October 2018), foreseen in the workplan and in decision VII/7–III/6. The Chair may wish to present the Bureau's views and recommendations on the matter.

30. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to take note of the information and, as needed, provide advice on the implementation of or follow-up to the activities.

Documentation

Informal document

Note on the possible elaboration of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/INF.6)

High-level segment

6. Opening ceremony for the high-level segment

Tentative timing: Thursday, 7 February, morning

(a) Election of Chair of the high-level segment

31. The Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to elect a chair for the high-level segment.

(b) Introductory speeches

32. The high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties will begin with opening statements by the Chair of the high-level segment and the Executive Secretary of ECE.

7. Statements by ministers and high-level representatives

Tentative timing: Thursday, 7 February, morning

33. Statements by delegates will be heard in a joint meeting of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol.

34. Ministers, other heads of delegation and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations may make statements, with a recommended time limit of three minutes. The full texts of the official statements will be circulated if a sufficient number of copies are provided to the secretariat in the course of the session. Delegations are requested to indicate to the secretariat if they wish to make a statement during the high-level segment in advance of the session.

8. Adoption of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 7 February, morning.

35. The Chair of the high-level segment will introduce the draft decisions, indicating their title and number, and the symbol of the document containing the draft text that the States Parties to the Convention will be invited to consider and adopt. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee and other members of the Bureau will provide additional information on each decision, as appropriate.

36. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will be invited to consider adoption of the following draft decisions proposed by the Implementation Committee or the Bureau, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment:

(a) Draft decision IS/1 on the review of compliance with the Convention and decisions IS/1a–h on country-specific compliance issues;

(b) Draft decision IS/2 on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants;

(c) Draft decision IS/3 on the revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries.

Documentation

Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/1–9)

Progress report on the development of guidance on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/10)

Draft decision on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/11)

Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/12)

Draft decision on the revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/13)

Findings and recommendations of the Implementation Committee on compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant (ECE/MP.EIA/2019/14)

9. Election of the Chair of the Bureau

Tentative timing: Thursday, 7 February, morning

37. The Meetings of the Parties will reconvene in a joint meeting and will be invited to elect the Chair of the Bureau for the remainder of the current intersessional period, following the earlier agreement on nominations (item 3 (b) above).

10. Date and venue of the next meetings

Tentative timing: Thursday, 7 February, morning

38. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in a joint meeting and will be expected, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, to decide on the date and venue of the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in conjunction with the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The Bureau and the

Working Group have proposed 9 to 11 December 2020 as a preliminary date for these sessions.

11. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 7 February, morning

39. Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Adoption of the report and closing of the session

Tentative timing: Thursday, 7 February, morning

40. The Chair for the high-level segment with the assistance of the secretariat will present a record of the main decisions taken at the intermediary sessions, which will form the basis for the draft report.

41. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report of the intermediary sessions and authorize the secretariat to complete the report after the session under the guidance of the Bureau.

42. The Chair will close the session.

IV. Provisional programme of the sessions

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
General segment		
<i>Tuesday, 5 February</i>		
10–10.15 a.m.	1	Opening of the intermediary sessions
10.15–11 a.m.	2 (a)–(e)	Organizational matters
11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.	3 (a)	Outstanding issues: draft decisions
<i>Wednesday, 6 February</i>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 (a)	Outstanding issues: draft decisions (continued)
	3 (b)	Nomination of the Chair of the Bureau
	3 (c)	Tentative calendar of meetings for 2019 and 2020
3–6 p.m.	3	Outstanding issues (continued, as needed)
	4 (a)–(c)	Review of the workplan
	5	Review of compliance, implementation and the activities of the Implementation Committee

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
High-level segment		
<i>Thursday, 7 February</i>		
10–10.15 a.m.	6	Opening ceremony for high-level segment
	6 (a)	Election of the Chair of the high-level segment
	6 (b)	Introductory speeches
10.15–10.45 a.m.	7	Statements by ministers and high-level representatives
10.45–11.15 a.m.	8	Adoption of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
11.15–11.30 a.m.	9	Election of the Chair of the Bureau
11.30–11.45 a.m.	10	Date and venue of the next meetings
11.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.	11	Other business
12.15–1 p.m.	12	Adoption of the report and closing of the session
