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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Intermediary session

Geneva, 5–7 February 2019

Items 3 (a) and 8 of the provisional agenda

Outstanding issues: draft decisions

Adoption of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties

Draft decision IS/1a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation

Proposal by the Implementation Committee

Summary

The draft decision contained in the present document responds to the request of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context at its seventh session (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017) for the Implementation Committee to revise draft decision VII/2 on the review of compliance with the Convention, taking into account the work already carried out and the progress achieved before, during and after the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/23-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7, para. 27). To facilitate its consideration and adoption, draft decision VII/2 has been split into separate draft decisions: a draft decision on general issues of compliance and draft decisions on separate country-specific compliance issues.

Draft decision IS/1a presents a revised version of the text of draft decision VII/2 concerning the follow-up by Armenia to decision VI/2 in respect of its national legislation.

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to review the draft decision and agree on its adoption.

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The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 11, paragraph 2, and article 14 bis of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context,

Recalling also its decision IV/2, paragraphs 15–19,¹ its decision V/4, paragraphs 27–28,² and its decision VI/2, paragraphs 29–35,³ concerning compliance by Armenia with regard to its national legislation for the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling further its decision at its seventh session to finalize its deliberations on the review of compliance with the Convention at an intermediary session, based on a revised draft decision to be prepared by the Implementation Committee and taking into account the work carried out and progress achieved before and during the seventh session,⁴

Having considered the relevant sections concerning Armenia in the report on the activities of the Implementation Committee to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session⁵ and in the reports of the Committee on its thirty-ninth,⁶ fortieth⁷, forty-first⁸ and forty-second sessions,⁹

Recalling its decision IS/1 on the review of compliance with the Convention adopted at the intermediary session,

Acknowledging the technical advice provided by the secretariat to the Government of Armenia to assist the country in bringing its legislation into line with the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, further to decision VI/2, paragraph 35,

1. *Appreciates* the regular reports received from the Government of Armenia since the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 2–5 June 2014);

2. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Government of Armenia of legislation for the implementation of the Convention, including the regulation on public participation in compliance with the Convention and the Protocol, further to paragraph 31 of decision VI/2;

3. *Notes*, however, some deficiencies in the legislation adopted related to its application;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of efforts undertaken by Armenia to address the deficiencies referred in paragraph 3 above by amending its legislation and drafting secondary legislation;

5. *Requests* Armenia to enhance the distinction between the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures to facilitate practical application of the legislation based on the recommendations of the international consultants to the secretariat;

¹ See ECE/MP.EIA/10.

² See ECE/MP.EIA/15.

³ See ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1.

⁴ See ECE/MP.EIA/23-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7, para. 27. See also draft decision VII/2 (ECE/MP.EIA/2017/8).

⁵ ECE/MP.EIA/2017/4-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/4, paras. 22–26.

⁶ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2017/4, paras. 26–30.

⁷ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2017/6, paras. 9–12.

⁸ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2018/2, para. 9.

⁹ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2018/4, para. 10.

6. *Invites* the Government of Armenia to adopt the proposed amendments to the legislation and the secondary legislation without delay and to inform the Implementation Committee of the progress made;

7. *Requests* the Implementation Committee to evaluate the amendments to the legislation and the secondary regulation adopted by Armenia for the implementation of the Convention and to report to the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session thereon.
