
Economic Commission for Europe

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

Text as adopted by the
Meeting of the Parties,
but subject to editing.

Fifth session

Geneva, 20–23 June 2011

Item 11 (b) of the provisional agenda

Adoption of decisions: decisions to be taken jointly

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

First session

Geneva, 20–23 June 2011

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

Adoption of decisions: decisions to be taken jointly

Draft decision V/9

(to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context at its fifth session)

Draft decision I/9

(to be considered by the 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 at its first session)

Adoption of the workplan

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 on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Meeting in joint session,

Recalling article 11, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, stipulating that additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention shall be undertaken,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to the Convention to meet fully their legal obligations arising under the Convention,

Recognizing also that Parties to the Convention should take action to maximize the effectiveness of their application of the Convention so that the best possible practical results are achieved,

Recognizing with appreciation the valuable work carried out under the workplan adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (decision IV/7), particularly:

(a) The steps taken by Parties and non-Parties to ensure their environmental impact assessment systems are consistent with the provisions of the Convention and to report accordingly;

(b) The workshops and pilot projects for subregional cooperation and capacity-building organized by the Governments of Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan and Tunisia, and by the Regional Environmental Centres for Central and Eastern Europe and for Central Asia;

(c) The seminars for the exchange of good practices organized by the Governments of Armenia and Austria and by the European Commission;

Noting with satisfaction that the activities in the workplan adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention were approximately 90 per cent completed, specifically 98 per cent of priority 1 activities were completed and approximately 87 per cent of priority 2 activities were completed,

1. *Adopt* the workplan for the period up to 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, as set out in the table below;

2. *Suggest* that lead countries that carry out the relevant activities should consult each other in order to benefit from each other's experience and to avoid unnecessary overlap;

3. *Call on* the Parties, and also invite non-Parties, to arrange, host and participate actively in seminars, workshops and meetings to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

4. *Invite* every relevant body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, and, as appropriate, researchers, commercial firms, developers, consultants or other commercial entities to participate actively in the activities included in the workplan.

Workplan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to 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

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<p>Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</p> <p>Enhance the implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol</p>					Most items included in Implementation Committee and secretariat costs. Exceptions are identified below.
	1. Consideration by the Implementation Committee of received compliance submissions.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Recommendations on compliance submissions.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 ^a and the MOP/MOP2. ^b	Requires budget for translation of submissions: \$10,000.
	2. Report on the Committee’s activities to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Reports of the Committee meetings and a synthesis report to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–
	3. If necessary, review of the Committee’s structure and functions and operating rules.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Possible revision of the Committee’s structure and functions and operating rules.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–
	4. Examination of the outcome of the third review of implementation.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Summary on compliance issues from the third review of implementation.	By the end of 2011.	–

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	5. Simplification of the questionnaire for the report on implementation of the Convention, and its extension for the report on implementation of the Protocol.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, of the World Health Organization (WHO).	One questionnaire with two distinct parts.	Presentation of draft modified questionnaire to the Working Group by the end of 2012.	–
	6. Distribution of the questionnaire to the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol for them to complete and return.	Carried out by the secretariat	Completed questionnaires.	Issue of questionnaire, early 2013. Return of questionnaires by mid-2013.	–
	7. Preparation of a draft review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.	Carried out by the secretariat	Draft fourth review of implementation for consideration by the Working Group and MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Presentation of draft review to the Working Group at the end of 2013 and to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Requires an external consultant, budget: \$20,000.

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	<p>8. Country-specific performance reviews and technical assistance in drafting legislation, in agreement with Parties wishing to strengthen their implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol.</p> <p>(a) Review would include a period in-country examining legislation, procedures and practice (case study), and would build upon earlier reviews further to decision IV/2. Parties experiencing similar problems might be assisted jointly.</p> <p>(b) Development of general guidance on resolving a possible systemic inconsistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise.</p>	<p>Undertaken by external consultant(s) under supervision of members of the Committee, with support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, WHO.</p>	<p>Recommendations to the country on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.</p>	<p>As decided by the Implementation Committee.</p>	<p>\$75,000 (approximately \$25,000 per review), plus in-kind contributions from Parties providing experts and from target country providing interpretation, translation, etc., and/or through the Environment and Security Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, subject to the availability of funding.</p>

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	<p>9. Pre-accession legislative assistance:</p> <p>(a) Technical support to Uzbekistan to review its national legislation for implementation of the Convention and to propose amendments;</p> <p>(b) Technical advice to Belarus and Ukraine on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments. Review of legislation and administrative measures with aim to ratify Protocol.</p>	Undertaken by external consultant(s), with support of the secretariat.	Recommendations to the country on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.	(a) 2012–2013; (b) 2011–2012.	Donor or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries, and/or through the Environment and Security Initiative, subject to the availability of funding.
	10. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol, posted on website.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Online collection of the Committee's findings and opinions.	Annual updates.	–

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<p>Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the UNECE^e region</p> <p>Improved and developed application of the Convention and its Protocol within the subregions.</p> <p>Promotion of cooperation in all subregions.</p> <p>Increased professional skills of officials and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs,^d as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA^e and transboundary EIA^f and to the application of the Convention and its Protocol.</p> <p>Increased coordination between environmental treaties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.</p>	<p>South-Eastern Europe subregion</p> <p>1. Workshop(s) on implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Bucharest Agreement in the subregion.</p> <p>Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea</p> <p>2. Workshop in France on practical application of the Convention on the basis of the results in the previous workshops</p>	<p>Lead country: Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support of the secretariat and UNEP^g</p> <p>Lead country: France, in collaboration with Spain.</p>	<p>For all subregions:</p> <p>(a) Possible evaluation of relevant guidance;</p> <p>(b) Possible guidance on subregional issues such as public participation and the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs);</p> <p>(c) Common understanding of elements of application and possible multilateral agreements.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>2012</p>	<p>Participants cover their own travel and accommodation costs, while host countries cover organizational and venue costs in kind (approximately \$20,000 per workshop).</p> <p>Donor in-kind (e.g., project) funding might be applicable.</p>

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	<p>Baltic Sea subregion</p> <p>3. Holding at least two meetings, on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and water management; • Cumulative impacts (especially of off-shore wind farms); • Climate change in EIA and SEA; • Marine ecosystems and protected marine areas; • Marine spatial planning and SEA; • Case studies on transboundary EIAs and SEAs, including large-scale projects and nuclear installations; • Enhanced application of the Convention and the Protocol – common understanding or agreements; • Experience of large-scale transboundary projects with several Parties of origin; • Transboundary access to justice by the public and NGOs; • Post-project analysis and monitoring; • Carbon capture and storage; • Efficiency of resources in EIA and SEA; • Implications of the review of the 	Lead countries: Sweden, Poland, Germany, Estonia.	Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues	<p>(a) Seminar , on 27–28 October 2011 in Poland.</p> <p>(b) Meeting in 2012/13.</p> <p>(c) Possible further meeting in 2012/13.</p>	In kind

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	EIA Directive by the EU ^h on the Convention and Protocol defining “likely significant effects” under the Protocol (case studies).				
	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia				Donor or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries
	4. Pilot bilateral projects between countries of subregions and inter-subregional projects (energy, transboundary watercourses, mining, infrastructure projects, other), including seminars prior and during the pilot projects with the sectoral ministries, project developers, NGOs, communities and other stakeholders.	Two pilot transboundary EIAs, with lead countries: (a) Belarus with Ukraine (post-project analysis), (b) Kyrgyzstan with Kazakhstan		(a) 2011 (b) 2012	Through the Environment and Security Initiative (subject to the availability of funding)
	5. Subregional workshop for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on EIA in the context of climate change, biodiversity, desertification (forming platform of collaboration with other environmental treaties).	Lead country: Kazakhstan		...	
	6. Seminars for all countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia for the exchange of information, legislation and good practice between all States, followed by the dissemination of seminar results in each country, including to	Lead countries: (a) Georgia; (b) Ukraine; (c) Belarus. Dissemination of seminar results: All		(a) 2013. (b) 2012. (c) 2012.	(a) Through the Environment and Security Initiative, subject to the availability of funding

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	<p>the public and NGOs. Themes:</p> <p>(a) Exchange among those countries that reformed their national legislation and have experience in strengthening their professional potential (invite experts from EU, for example);</p> <p>(b) On EIA, nature protection areas and mining, and guidance on sectors such as mining, energy, construction and agriculture.</p>	<p>countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.</p>			
	7. Conference on climate change and EIA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova, with the support of the secretariat.		2012.	Through the Environment and Security Initiative, subject to the availability of funding
	8. Conference "Silk Road: development and environmental protection in EIA".	Lead country: Uzbekistan.		2013.	Through the Environment and Security Initiative, subject to the availability of funding
<p>Exchange of good practices</p> <p>Shared knowledge and experience in appropriate legislation for implementation of the Convention and the</p>	<p>Workshops or half-day seminars within meetings of the Working Group on:</p>		<p>From each workshop or seminar, a brief, clear document presenting advice on the most important identified problems for the theme in question.</p>		<p>\$40,000 (approximately \$10,000 per seminar, with up to four seminars)</p>

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Protocol, leading to better national legislation and application.	1. Biodiversity;	Lead country: Belgium, with support of EC ⁱ		2013.	
Improved implementation and application of the Convention and the Protocol by learning from Parties' experiences.	2. Renewable energy: wind farms, renewable fuels (including biomass) and large-scale solar;	Lead country: Poland and Portugal, with support of REC-CEE (subject to the availability of funding)	Workshop reports and raising of awareness	Spring 2013.	
Awareness-raising on the Convention, its amendments and its ratification.					
Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA			Ratifications and other outcomes specified below.		
Ratification, full legal implementation and practical application of the Protocol.	1. Maintenance of the Resource Manual, including its health annex.	Lead: secretariat with the support of WHO	Electronic publication of the Resource Manual.	Ongoing.	
Increased professional skills of officials, and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs, as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA and to the application of the Protocol.	2. Elaboration of compact and simplified version of the Resource Manual that focuses on the practical application of the Protocol.	Lead: secretariat with the assistance of an editorial group comprising, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, EC, WHO and REC-CEE (subject to the availability of funding)	A compact and simplified version of the Resource Manual (in paper and digital forms).	...	

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Increased exchange of information and experience in the application of the Protocol.	3. Preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice (e.g., how to diversify alternatives, stakeholder engagement, assessment tools, and health and SEA).	Lead organization: the International Association for Impact Assessment, with the support of WHO, SEA and health experts, and the secretariat.	Informal pamphlets on key issues.	Ongoing	
	4. Workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol for countries in the UNECE region and other Parties to the Protocol, in particular countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	Lead country: organizing country (for training: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, and Ukraine), with support of experts from Austria and Slovenia, and from REC-CEE and WHO (subject to the availability of funding) invited to share their experience.	Workshop and training reports.	...	

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	5. Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with WHO, where relevant.	Project reports.	Pilot project in the Republic of Moldova: 2012. Pilot project in Armenia: 2012–2013. Pilot project in Azerbaijan: 2012–2013.	Through the Environment and Security Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, subject to the availability of funding.
	6. Preparation of a format for SEA notification.	Lead: secretariat with assistance of an editorial group comprising Austria and Germany.	Format for SEA notification.	...	
	7. Development of legislation on SEA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova.	Draft legislation.	2013.	
	8. Joint workshop on public participation in SEA in accordance with the Protocol and article 7 of the Aarhus Convention.	Lead: Bureau in collaboration with Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making under the Aarhus Convention.	Workshop report.	2013.	

^a Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

^b Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

^c United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

^d Non-governmental organizations.

^e Strategic Environmental Assessment.

^f Environmental Impact Assessment.

- ^g United Nations Environment Programme.
- ^h European Union.
- ⁱ European Commission.

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