

## **Decision VI/5–II/5**

**Decisions and the Declaration adopted jointly 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**

### **Accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

*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 in joint session,*

*Recalling* their decision V/8–I/8 on accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

*Also recalling* decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on interpretation of article 14 of the Convention, and the desire expressed therein to bring about an early entry into force of the amendments adopted through its decisions II/14 and III/7,

*Further recalling* article 17, paragraph 3, of the Convention, as adopted by decision II/14 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, which concerns the accession upon approval of a State that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),

*Additionally recalling* article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, which concerns the accession upon approval of a State that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of ECE,

*Convinced* that the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment are effective instruments for fostering environmentally sound and sustainable development, and for supporting cooperation also beyond the ECE region,

*Wishing* to share the knowledge, practices and experience gained in the ECE region and, at the same time, to benefit from the knowledge, practices and experience in other regions of the world,

*Recognizing* the increased interest in the Convention and the Protocol and the involvement of many non-ECE countries in activities within their framework,

*Acknowledging* the need for a procedure for accession by non-ECE countries not differing from the procedure for accession by ECE-countries,

*Expressing* the unanimous desire to allow countries outside the ECE region to become Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol as soon as possible,

1. *Express satisfaction* that article 17, paragraph 3, adopted by decision II/4 will enter into force on 26 August 2014, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, and taking into account decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the interpretation of article 14 of the Convention, for those States that have ratified, approved or accepted the amendment;

2. *Urge* all the States that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001 that have not yet done so to ratify the amendment to article 17 as soon as possible, for it to have effect;

3. *Decide* that, for the purposes of the amendment to article 17 of the Convention, adopted by decision II/14, any future request for accession to the

Convention by any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is welcome and, therefore, shall be considered as approved by the Meeting of the Parties;

4. *Acknowledge* that the present approval of future requests for accession to the Convention will take effect upon entry into force of the amendment to article 17 in accordance with article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, and taking into account decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on interpretation of article 14 of the Convention;

5. *Invite* any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and which submits an instrument of accession in accordance with paragraph 3 above to unilaterally accept the provisional application of the Convention until the amendment to article 17 of the Convention has entered into force for all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001;

6. *Decide* that, for the purposes of article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, any future request for accession to the Protocol by any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is welcome and, therefore, shall be considered as approved by the Meeting of the Parties;

7. *Also decide*, that the provision of article 24, paragraph 3, of the Protocol shall be interpreted as applying, *mutatis mutandis*, to the case of accession pursuant to article 23, paragraph 3, and that the Protocol shall therefore enter into force for any State referred to in article 23, paragraph 3, on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by the State of its instrument of accession;

8. *Request* the secretariat to inform the United Nations Treaty Section and the interested Members of the United Nations which are not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe about the present decision;

9. *Invite* interested Members of the United Nations that are not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to take steps to implement the two treaties with a view to a future accession to the Convention and the Protocol in accordance with article 17, paragraph 3, of the Convention, and article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, respectively.