

Decision VI/7

Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context at its sixth session

Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling its decision V/9–I/9 on adoption of the workplan up to the fifth meeting of the Parties,

Having considered the outcome of the workshop on the long-range impacts of nuclear energy-related activities foreseen in the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/7, annex II),

Having also considered the outcome of the panel discussions on nuclear energy-related projects likely to have a significant adverse transboundary impact held at the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/15, paras. 44–47) and the background document prepared by the secretariat on the topic (ECE/MP.EIA/2011/5),

Additionally having considered the outcome of the discussions held on nuclear-energy related activities under the auspices of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/6, paras. 22–73),¹

Aware that nuclear energy-related activities are being carried out or planned in the region,

Also aware of the opinions, findings and recommendations of the Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment regarding the application of the Convention to planned nuclear energy-related activities,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to meet fully their obligations deriving from the Convention and therefore urging them all to do so,

1. *Notes* the main findings of the workshop, which state, inter alia, that:

(a) Nuclear energy-related activities imply special challenges due to, e.g., the potentially wide scope of severe impacts, great public concern and national interests;

(b) There was a major benefit in having an open discussion and sharing experiences, which showed the diversity of different practices in applying the Convention to such activities and facilitated learning from each other;

(c) Mutual understanding of other Parties' needs gives good ground for their better cooperation with a view to fully applying the Convention;

(d) Further discussion is needed on identifying good practice in applying the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;

2. *Welcomes* the practical experience presented at the workshop by countries and organizations within the region and beyond;

3. *Recognizes* the need for good practice recommendations to assist countries in the practical application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;

¹ Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp16.html>.

4. *Proposes* to include in the Convention workplan the elaboration, with the assistance of a consultant, of good practice recommendations to support the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;

5. *Decides* that the recommendations should build on document ECE/MP.EIA/2011/5 on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;

6. *Establishes* an editorial group with a mandate to oversee the development of the draft recommendations;

7. *Decides* that the ad hoc editorial group should work electronically and finalize the draft recommendations for consideration by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment before their submission for adoption to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session;

8. *Invites* Parties and non-Parties and other stakeholders to lead and contribute to work under this activity, including through providing further examples of practical experience for inclusion in the recommendations which the secretariat shall make available on the Convention website.