Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 26 November 2019*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

* In accordance with the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to register online no later than three weeks prior to the meeting, i.e. by 4 November 2019, through the following: https://unccd.unep.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=icBbys. Registration details are available on the website. The use of the Internet Explorer browser is recommended. In case of difficulty, please refer to the online user manual (www2.unep.org/wiki/display/OMR/Online+Meeting+Registration+Guidelines), or contact the secretariat by email (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
2. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance.


4. Compliance and implementation.

5. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.


7. Exchange of good practices:
   (a) Workshop on the assessment of health impacts and health sector involvement in strategic environmental assessment;
   (b) Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment;
   (c) Other activities for the exchange of good practices;
   (d) Practices of States from other regions.

8. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.
   (a) Lessons learned from the previous sessions;
   (b) Practical arrangements;
   (c) Provisional programme;
   (d) List of draft documents and decisions;
   (e) Chairs of the sessions;
   (f) Possible activities for the next draft workplan (2021–2023);
   (g) Tentative sequence of meetings in the next intersessional period;
   (h) Officers for the next intersessional period.

9. Inputs to related international processes.

10. Other business.

11. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

_Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 10–10.15 a.m._

1. The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment will invite the Working Group to adopt the agenda for its eighth meeting, as set
out in the present document. The provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Bureau of the Meetings of the Parties to the two treaties.\(^1\)

**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/1)

**Informal document**

Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.1)

### 2. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

**Tentative timing:** Tuesday, 26 November, 10.15–11.30 a.m.

2. The secretariat will present the second annual financial report in the period between the seventh/third and eighth/fourth sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention/Protocol (period extending from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019). The secretariat will also report on recently received contributions to, and on expenditure from, the Convention’s and the Protocol’s trust fund.

3. As mandated by the Meetings of the Parties at their intermediary sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/27–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/11, para. 54), the Bureau, in consultation with the secretariat, has put forward proposals – which the Chair will present for approval by the Working Group – on how to fill the budgetary hole and ensure the functioning of the secretariat during the intersessional period that was extended until December 2020 (the budget adopted through decision VII/4-III/4 (see ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1) in June 2017 covers only three years). The Chair will also present proposals from the Bureau for addressing the general and long-standing shortage of contributions to the trust fund under the Convention and the Protocol that puts at risk the servicing of the two treaties. The Bureau’s proposals include the following:

   (a) Urging those Parties that have so far not contributed to do so;

   (b) Encouraging all Parties to raise their contributions during the current and future budget cycles;

   (c) Inviting Parties to again consider adopting various measures for a more sustainable, predictable and equitable funding for the Convention and its Protocol, including:

   - a scheme based on a gross domestic product per capita-based scale of assessment;
   - fixing indicative minimum amounts of contributions;
   - and/or a mandatory scheme of contribution.

4. The Working Group is invited to consider the Bureau’s proposals set out in an informal document and to agree on:

   (a) How to cover the costs of one secretariat staff member, and any other expenses in the second half of 2020;

   (b) Proposed measures for a more sustainable and equitably distributed funding of the two treaties during future budget cycles, to be submitted for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions (preliminarily scheduled for 8–11 December 2019).

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\(^1\) All meeting documentation will be made available on a dedicated web page for the meeting on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website (www.unece.org/index.php?id=50466). Please note that documents with symbols ending in “INF.” and a number are informal documents and can be located in the documents table by clicking on the “Informal documents” tab.
3. **Status of ratification**

_Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 11.30 a.m.–12 p.m._

5. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention and its two amendments. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each Party to the Convention that has not yet ratified the two amendments to report on its preparations for ratification. In particular, further to the appeal made by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its intermediary session (Geneva, 5–7 February 2019), the delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, North Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine will be invited to provide detailed information on steps taken towards the ratification of the first amendment to the Convention. The missing ratifications from these six countries are necessary for the first amendment to have effect, opening accession to the Convention to all States Members of the United Nations.

6. The secretariat will also report on the status of the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each signatory State that has not completed the process of ratifying the Protocol to report on its preparations for ratification.

7. Romania, as the depository of the Multilateral Agreement among the countries of South-East Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Bucharest Agreement), will be expected to report on the status of that agreement. The signatory States Croatia and Greece will be invited to report on their plans to ratify the Bucharest Agreement, and Bosnia and Herzegovina on its plans to accede thereto.

8. The Working Group will be invited to propose actions that could be taken to encourage accession to or ratification of the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol and, in particular, to accelerate the operationalization of the first amendment as soon as possible.

**Documentation**

*Informal document*

Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.3)
4. Compliance and implementation

_Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 12–1 p.m. and 3–5 p.m._

9. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on compliance and implementation. He will present the main outcomes of the Committee’s forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (Geneva, 12–15 March and 10–13 September 2019, respectively), and the main objectives for the Committee’s forty-sixth session (Geneva, 10–13 December 2019). He will also present the plans for the preparatory work for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, in December 2020.

10. The secretariat will present the draft sixth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft third review of implementation of the Protocol, which it prepared with the assistance of consultants based on the reports submitted by Parties. The Working Group will be invited to consider and reach an agreement on the main findings of the draft reports. Delegations are also expected to present possible comments on or corrections to the drafts concerning their own countries with a view to their finalization. Lastly, the Working Group will also be invited to consider proposals for improving the questionnaires for the next reporting round.

11. The delegations of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be invited to provide an update on progress in the preparation of draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants by the ad hoc working group, including the outcomes of the group’s meetings held in Geneva, on 25 and 26 March, in Lisbon, on 3 and 4 June, and in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 8 and 9 October 2019. They will also be invited to report on their plans for finalizing the draft for consideration by the Working Group at its ninth meeting, preliminarily scheduled for 9 to 11 June 2020. A representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment will present the conclusions of the International workshop on environment and health impacts of lifetime extension of nuclear power plants, organized by its initiative in Lisbon, on 5 June 2019, to support the preparation of the draft guidance. The Working Group is expected to comment on the information and provide guidance on the finalization of the draft by the ad hoc group.

12. Representatives of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the secretariat will be invited to report on legislative assistance planned in 2019 to support the countries’ legal reforms and their efforts in implementing and ratifying the Convention and/or the Protocol. The activities in Kazakhstan are funded by Switzerland and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Programme Office in Nur-Sultan. The activities in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are funded by Germany, with additional financial support from Switzerland and the Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan. The secretariat will also be invited to report on its planned further legislative assistance to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, to be funded through the European Union “EU4Environment” project during the period 2019–2022.

13. The secretariat will report on its publication of the Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries, as endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its intermediary session through decision IS/3 (see ECE/MP.EIA/27/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/11/Add.1).

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2 The reports on the Implementation Committee’s 2019 sessions are available at www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/environmental-assessment/meetings-and-events.html##/0/0/0/28089/19940.
14. The delegations of Austria and the Netherlands will be invited to present further developments and proposals regarding the preparation of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol that was to be undertaken in the period 2017–2020, resources permitting, further to decision VII/7–III/6 (see ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1). In particular, they will be invited to report on the outcomes of the informal discussions to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 7 October 2019. The delegations are invited to comment on and propose contributing to this work.

Documentation

Draft sixth review of implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/3)

Draft third review of implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/4)

Informal documents

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.4)

Suggested improvements to the questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.5)

Update on the progress in drafting guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.6)

Note on a draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.7)

5. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 5–5.15 p.m.

15. Lead countries for subregional cooperation and capacity-building activities foreseen in the workplan and the secretariat will be invited to report on the outcomes of, or preparations for, activities in the following subregions:

   (a) Baltic Sea, including plans for a meeting to be organized by Denmark, Finland and Sweden in Denmark in spring 2020;

   (b) South-Eastern Europe, with the fourth Regional Conference on Environmental Impact Assessment, with outcomes of relevance to the Convention and the Protocol (Vodice, Croatia, 18–21 September 2019).

16. The secretariat will also report on the plans to organize up to two subregional workshops in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus financed by the “EU4Environment” programme, with one possibly to be held in 2020 and the other one in the next intersessional period. The workshops could be also extended to participants from Central Asian countries, provided that funding is available.

17. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information and, as needed, to provide advice and agree on actions to ensure the implementation of, or follow-up to, these activities.
6. **Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol and the Convention**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 5.15–6 p.m.*

18. The secretariat and delegations from the countries or organizations concerned will be invited to report on the following activities undertaken or planned for since the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in February 2019 to promote ratification and application of the Protocol and the Convention:

(a) Activities to further promote the implementation in particular of strategic environmental assessment in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine funded or co-funded by the “EU4Environment” programme;

(b) Informal pamphlets, or “FasTips”, prepared by the International Association for Impact Assessment, and the draft “FasTips” on the Convention and the Protocol prepared by the secretariat;

(c) Planned activities, including a study tour to Germany and a series of national workshops on strategic environmental assessment, to raise Central Asian countries’ awareness of the Protocol’s benefits and to build capacity on its practical application, with funding from Germany and implemented in cooperation with OSCE.

19. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information and, as relevant, provide advice for the implementation or follow-up of the activities.

**Documentation**

Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (FastTip) (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/6)

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context (FastTip) (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/7)

**Informal documents**

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.4)

7. **Exchange of good practices**

(a) **Workshop on the assessment of health impacts and health sector involvement in strategic environmental assessment**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.*

20. Two consultants will be invited to present draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment developed in consultation with the secretariat, the World Health Organization and the European Investment Bank, which also funds the activity. The consultants will subsequently moderate a workshop involving discussion of the draft guidance prior to its consideration by the Working Group. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to present and discuss selected good practices, challenges and possible solutions regarding the assessment of health impacts and the involvement of the health sector in strategic environmental assessment. Representatives from the health sector are invited to take part in the discussions. Detailed information on the workshop will be made available in advance.
(b) Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 3–4.30 p.m.

21. Subsequently, taking into account the workshop outcomes, the Working Group is expected to discuss the draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment and provide guidance for its finalization.

(c) Other activities for the exchange of good practices

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 4.30–5 p.m.

22. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the activities under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) that have promoted the application of the joint Guidance on Land-use Planning, the Siting of Hazardous Activities and related Safety Aspects. The Working Group is invited to note and comment on the information, including regarding possible follow-up activities.

23. As decided by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017), Parties will be invited to provide information to the Working Group on the usefulness of the Good Practice Recommendations on the Application of the Convention to Nuclear Energy-related Activities, endorsed at that session (See ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.2, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para. 11).

(d) Practices in States from other regions

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 5–6 p.m.

24. The Chair will invite representatives or experts from States outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region that are participating in a meeting under the Convention or its Protocol for the first time to present briefly the strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment systems and practice in their country.

Documentation

Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/5)

Informal document

Provisional programme for the workshop on the assessment of health impacts of plans and programmes in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.8)

8. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 November, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

(a) Lessons learned from the previous sessions

25. The Chair and the Chair of the Bureau will brief the delegations about the outcomes of the Bureau’s stocktaking of the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in


4 United Nations publication, ECE/MP.EIA/24.
February 2019, including its views on any lessons to be learned and recommendations for the future. The Working Group is invited to discuss the matter and to keep its discussions in mind when considering the preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

(b) Practical arrangements

26. The secretariat will report on the schedule for the preparations of the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in December 2020. Any delegations wishing to host the sessions should confirm their commitment to do so at the latest at the present meeting of the Working Group, to allow for the timely conclusion of a host country agreement with ECE.

(c) Provisional programme

27. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal for the provisional programme for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, taking account of the Bureau’s views on the optimal duration of these sessions. The Working Group is expected to consider the provisional programme and provide guidance for the preparation of an annotated provisional agenda for the two sessions, for it to agree on at its next meeting in 2020.

28. The Chair will invite delegations to make proposals for attracting high-level participation to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and for enriching the programme of the sessions. Considering the recommendations from the Bureau, the Working Group is invited to discuss, in particular, topics for a thematic seminar and/or a panel, to be organized during the sessions’ general and/or high-level segment(s). Delegations may also wish to propose holding side events. Delegations are invited to propose leading the organization of the events and to suggest speakers.

(d) List of draft documents and decisions

29. Based on a proposal by the Bureau, the Working Group is invited to agree on an initial list of draft decisions and documents to be prepared for consideration by the Meetings of the Parties. It will be invited to consider, for example, elements for a draft declaration for the next sessions prepared by the Bureau with support from the secretariat and to agree on its main messages.

30. The Working Group will be expected to provide guidance on the development of the draft declaration, draft documents and draft decisions. It is also expected to request that draft documents be prepared for the Working Group’s consideration and agreement at its next meeting, either by the Bureau with support from the secretariat, or by establishing a drafting group of volunteering Parties that would consult with the Bureau and the secretariat – with the exception of the draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol and the report on the activities of the Implementation Committee, which are to be drafted by the Committee.

(e) Chairs of the sessions

31. The Working Group is also expected to initially discuss the chairing of the general and high-level segments of the sessions, taking into account any proposals from the Bureau.

(f) Possible activities for the next draft workplan (2021–2023)

32. Delegations will be invited to consider the initial workplan elements for the next intersessional period (2021–2023) proposed by the Bureau, including based on the requests for capacity-building activities and on suggestions from the Implementation Committee, and to make further proposals on possible elements to be included. The beneficiary countries for the capacity-building activities will be invited to confirm their priority needs for further assistance. In drawing up the workplan, the Working Group may also wish to consider the key findings from the draft sixth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft
third review of the implementation of the Protocol, which will identify possible weaknesses to be addressed.

33. The Working Group is expected to initially ensure that, for each activity in the workplan, a lead country or organization and a source of funding are identified. Delegations will be invited to consider their possibilities for leading or sponsoring activities, and for hosting capacity-building or subregional cooperation events within the ECE region or beyond. The Working Group is also invited on consider which activities could be waitlisted in the absence of funding at present. Lastly, the Working Group will be invited to agree on the format of the draft workplan proposed by the Bureau and its further development in advance of its next meeting, with inputs from the delegations.

(g) Tentative sequence of meetings in the next intersessional period

34. At their intermediary sessions, the Meetings of the Parties decided to extend the present intersessional period from June until December 2020, altering the usual schedule of the meetings of the Bureau and the Working Group held during the period. The Working Group is expected to consider a Bureau proposal and decide how the meetings of the treaty bodies should best be scheduled in the next intersessional period, which will start in January 2021 and is likely to extend until December 2023.

(h) Officers for the next intersessional period

35. The Chair will ask delegations to come forward with nominations for officers to be elected for the next intersessional period, that is, a Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, a Chair and members of the Bureau and five members of the Implementation Committee. Additional new members of the Implementation Committee may need to be nominated depending on whether Committee members are Parties to the Protocol. The Working Group may wish to consider the outcomes of the Bureau’s deliberations, including its identification of Parties that have never or not recently been represented in the treaty bodies and any informal consultations carried out by the secretariat. The Working Group may also wish to discuss possible criteria for the officers to be elected.

Documentation

Informal documents

Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.9)

Elements for a draft declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.10)

Possible activities for the draft workplan (2021–2023) (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.11)

A list of vacancies (chairs and members) in the treaty bodies for 2021–2023 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.12)

Provisional schedule of meetings 2021–2023 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.13)

9. Inputs to related international processes

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 November, 4–4.30 p.m.

36. The secretariat will report on the outcomes of any relevant events, including:

(a) The Workshop on Regional Cooperation to Enhance Transboundary Consultation on Nuclear Power Development in South-East Asia (Singapore, 8 and 9 May 2019);
(b) The Consultancy Meeting to Develop Capacity-building Material on Strategic Environmental Assessments of Nuclear Power Programmes, organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna, 3–5 July 2019) and proposals for further collaboration;

(c) The Seventh Meeting of the European Union Eastern Partnership Panel on Environment and Climate Change (Vienna, 27 and 28 May 2019).

37. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the information provided and, as relevant, to advise on further actions to be taken.

10. **Other business**

   Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 November, 4.30–5 p.m.

38. Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.

11. **Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**

   Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 November, 5–6 p.m.

39. The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at its eighth meeting, to authorize the secretariat to complete the report after the meeting under the guidance of the Chair and to confirm the date and venue of its next meeting.