

Annex XII

**DECISION III/12
PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
PROTOCOL**

The Meeting.

Recalling the resolution of the Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment on the occasion of the extraordinary meeting of the Parties to strive for the entry into force of the Protocol as soon as possible,

Acknowledging that at its first and subsequent meetings following the entry into force of the Protocol, it will be necessary for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to take decisions necessary for the implementation of the Protocol, including on the content of its work plan and on its budget,

Noting that it will be necessary for preparations to take place in the period leading up to the first meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

1. Requests the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol to undertake the preparatory work identified in paragraph 4 below;
2. Decides to enable the Meeting of the Signatories to convene a maximum of three times prior to the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Convention, or the first meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, whichever occurs first;
3. Decides that the Meeting of the Signatories will convene consecutively to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment, unless it is considered necessary to do otherwise;
4. Also decides that the following activities shall be undertaken in order to prepare for the first meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and shall be reflected in the work plan of the Convention:
 - (a) Institutional and procedural activities:
 - (i) Consideration of whether any amendments are necessary to the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention arising from the application of these rules to the Protocol, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 5, of the Protocol; and if necessary, the drafting of such amendments;
 - (ii) If necessary, preparation for the election of substitute members of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 3, of the Protocol;

- (iii) Consideration of the modalities for the application of the compliance procedure of the Convention to the Protocol and preparation for the adoption of modalities, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 6, of the Protocol;
 - (iv) Preparation for establishing such subsidiary bodies as are considered necessary for the implementation of the Protocol, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 4 (d), of the Protocol; and
 - (v) Consideration of the institutional and administrative aspects of the relationship between the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.
- (b) The other activities relating to the Protocol listed in the work plan.
5. Furthermore decides to reflect this decision in the budget of the Convention.