

Decision V/10

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

Decision I/10

Adopted 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

Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

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 decision III/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the budget and financial arrangements for the period up to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties,

Recognizing the wish of the Parties for a high degree of transparency and accountability,

Welcoming the biannual financial reports prepared by the secretariat since the fourth session of the Meeting of Parties to the Convention, with biannual reporting best addressing the schedule of the meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, 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, as well as national budgeting cycles,

Recognizing with appreciation the contributions made in cash and in kind to the budget in the period between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention,

Seeking to facilitate willingness of donor countries to make further contributions, as well as assisting financial and project management,

Believing that the Parties should be informed in a timely manner of the status and developments in the financing of activities under the Convention and the Protocol,

Also believing that the financing of activities under the Convention and the Protocol should be distributed among as many Parties and non-Parties as possible,

Aware of the importance of wide participation by the Parties in its activities in order to ensure progress,

Aware also of the need to facilitate the participation of certain countries with economies in transition that may otherwise not be able to take part,

Recalling the amendment to the Convention (decision II/14 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention) which allows United Nations Member States not members of United Nations Economic Commission (UNECE) for Europe to accede to the Convention,

and recalling article 23, paragraph 3, of its Protocol which allows United Nations Member States not members of UNECE to accede to the Protocol,

1. *Confirm* for country Parties the system of shares endorsed by decision III/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, whereby countries choose to make contributions equivalent in value to a number of shares of the budget;

2. *Recognize* the commitment by the European Union to contribute 2.5 per cent of the total amount needed and not covered by the United Nations regular budget for activities of the workplan of the Convention and its Protocol and to maintain its annual pledge of 50,000 euros towards the combined costs until that amount becomes less than 2.5 per cent of the total. This commitment is subject to annual endorsement by the budgetary authorities of the European Union and is without prejudice to paragraph 1;

3. *Adopt* the report prepared by the secretariat on the budget and financial arrangements in the period since the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2011/1);

4. *Decide* that activities under 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, which are not covered by the United Nations regular budget should be covered by contributions of 1,135 shares of 1,000 United States dollars each, of which 470 shares would cover the core (priority 1) requirements and 665 shares would cover the remaining non-core (priority 2) requirements;

5. *Agree* the budget 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, as set out in the table below;

6. *Also agree* that contributions shall be allocated to the budgets of the individual items in the table below in the order of priority set for each item unless and to the extent that a contributor specifies that a contribution should be allocated to a particular item in the table; where funds remain after the completion of such items, the surplus shall be transferred to the overall budget to be spent on the items in the table below in the order of priority set for each item;

7. *Request* that Parties seek to transfer their contributions to the UNECE Trust Fund on Local Technical Cooperation (Espoo Convention) as early as possible in their budget year, so as to provide greater certainty for future financial and project management;

8. *Encourage* Parties that have so far not pledged anything to make contributions during the current and future budget cycles, and request the Bureau to contact such Parties for this purpose;

9. *Also encourage* Parties that have so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions to raise their contributions during the current and future budget cycles, and request the Bureau to contact such Parties for this purpose;

10. *Request* the secretariat to continue to prepare and submit to the Bureau biannual reports with the view to assist in preparing the report 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 requested in paragraph 14 below, and further request the Bureau to consider the biannual reports prepared by the secretariat and to agree their circulation to the Parties;

11. *Also request* the secretariat to include in the biannual reports information on the resources available (including in-kind contributions and United Nations programme support) and the expenditure on each item specified in the budget, as well as highlighting significant developments;

12. *Further request* the secretariat to provide Parties with timely reminders concerning outstanding pledges;

13. *Decide* that the Bureau shall be able to propose limited adjustments to the budget, up to a maximum of 10 per cent, where such adjustments are necessary before the next meeting of Parties, provided that Parties are promptly informed of such adjustments and given the opportunity to comment both in writing at the time and at the next meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, at which time Parties should be invited to indicate confirmation of the adjustments;

14. *Request* the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare a report for the next meeting of the Parties, based on the information contained in the biannual reports and giving a clear indication of the significant developments during the period in order that Parties can best meet future demands for resources under the Convention and its Protocol;

15. *Also request* the secretariat to seek additional staff funded by the regular budget of the United Nations to provide long-term and stable secretariat functions;

16. *Decide* that the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment shall prepare a further draft decision on financial arrangements for adoption at 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, based on experience gained in the meantime under the financial arrangements adopted by this meeting, and request the Bureau, possibly with the support of a small group, to develop a strategy for carrying out the work under the Convention and the Protocol given the financial constraints;

17. *Call upon* countries with economies in transition to finance to the extent possible their own participation in the activities under the Convention and its Protocol in order to ensure that the limited funds available are used efficiently;

18. *Urge* Parties and encourage non-Parties and relevant international organizations to contribute financial resources to enable countries with economies in transition and non-governmental organizations to participate in the meetings under the Convention and its Protocol;

19. *Decide* that securing proper staffing of the secretariat has priority above financial support to participants in formal meetings and that, among participants, priority should be given to representatives of Parties, then of non-Parties and then of non-governmental organizations;

20. *Recommend* that the Convention and its Protocol should apply the guiding criteria established and periodically updated by the Committee on Environmental Policy for financial assistance to support the participation of experts and representatives from countries with economies in transition in meetings and workshops organized within the framework of the Convention and its Protocol and other relevant activities, depending upon the availability of funds;

21. *Request* the secretariat to grant, subject to the availability of funds, financial assistance for the participation in meetings under the Convention and under its Protocol of designated experts from non-governmental organizations identified in a list to be drawn up by its Bureau, subject to a maximum of five such experts, unless otherwise decided by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment;

22. *Decide* that its Bureau shall, depending on the availability of funding and subject to priority being given to funding the workplan, examine requests for possible

financial assistance for the participation in meetings under the Convention and its Protocol by representatives and experts from States outside the UNECE region.

Budget 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, for activities to be funded from the Convention Trust Fund or by in-kind contributions

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Notes/sub-activities</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Cost per item per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Cost per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Number of units over three years</i>	<i>Total cost over three years (shares)</i>
Organizational activities (with most meetings taking place in Geneva)							
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	2	Participation of countries with economies in transition (CITs)	Meeting	40	90	1	90
	2	Participation of non-governmental organizations		20			
	2	Invited speakers		10			
	2	Participation of non-UNECE countries		20			
Meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment	2	Participation of CITs	Meeting	20	40	3	120
	2	Participation of non-governmental organizations		10			
	2	Participation of non-UNECE countries		10			
Bureau meetings (free standing)	2	Participation of CITs (Bureau members)	Meeting		5	4	20
Meetings of the Implementation Committee	2	Participation of CITs (Committee members)	Meeting		5	8	40
Informal translations of informal papers for meetings listed above	2		Meeting		5	13	65
Promotion of contacts with countries outside the UNECE region (with reporting of results to Working Group)	2	Travel of secretariat and Chair	Mission		5	5	25
External expert to provide secretariat support for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol ^a	1	External expert (United Nations Standard Salary Cost, including net salary, taxes and common staff costs)	Year		150	3	450
Further secretariat support for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol	2	Consultants	Year	20	60	3	180
	2	Promotional materials		10			
	2	Secretariat travel in relation to the workplan		30			
Total (organizational)							990

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Notes/sub-activities</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Cost per item per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Cost per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Number of units over three years</i>	<i>Total cost over three years (shares)</i>
Substantive activities (see corresponding workplan for details)							
Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol	2	Informal translations of submissions					10
	1	Drafting of review of implementation	Consultant				20
	2	Country-specific performance reviews	Review		25	3	75
Exchange of good practices	2	Workshops or half-day seminars	Seminar		10	4	40
Total (substantive)							145
Grand total (in shares, 1 share = \$1,000)							1 135

^a Including coordination of capacity-development, development and maintenance of website, modification of questionnaire, drafting of review of implementation and of other documents.

