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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

First session

Geneva, 20–23 June 2011

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on its first session

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Part One		
Proceedings		
I. Introduction.....	1–10	3
A. Attendance.....	3–4	3
B. Organizational matters.....	5–10	3
II. Outstanding issues.....	11–26	4
A. Declaration.....	12	4
B. Adoption of the workplan.....	13–14	4
C. Budget, financial arrangements and financial support.....	15–16	5
D. Establishment of a subsidiary body.....	17	5
E. Application of the Convention's compliance procedure to the Protocol.....	18	5
F. Reporting and the review of implementation.....	19	5
G. Accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the Economic Commission for Europe.....	20–21	5
H. Other draft decisions.....	22	5

I.	Nominations of officers and tentative calendar of meetings.....	23–26	6
III.	Review of the work done by the Meeting of the Signatories	27–28	6
IV.	Opening ceremony of the high-level segment.....	29–31	6
V.	Statements by Ministers and high-level representatives.....	32	7
VI.	Adoption of decisions	33–34	7
VII.	Adoption of declaration.....	35	7
VIII.	Election of officers for the next intersessional period.....	36–39	8
IX.	Date and venue of next meetings	40	8
X.	Conclusion of the session.....	41–43	8

Part Two

Decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Decision I/10, taken jointly with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, has been included only in the report of that body's sixth session (ECE/MP.EIA/15) to avoid duplication.

I/1.	Rules of procedure	9
I/2.	Points of contact, format for notification and focal points	10
I/3.	Capacity development.....	10
I/4.	Public participation in strategic decision-making	11
I/5.	Establishment of a subsidiary body.....	12
I/6.	Application of the compliance procedure of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	13
I/7.	Reporting and the review of implementation	15
I/8.	Accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	16
	Annex: Formats for decision	17
I/9.	Adoption of the workplan	18
	Declaration.....	31

Part One Proceedings

I. Introduction

1. The first session of 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 was held from 20 to 23 June 2011 in Geneva. It was held in conjunction with the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (see ECE/MP.EIA/15).

2. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP) and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP/MOP) convened in joint and individual meetings throughout the sessional period. The present report, however, details the first session of the MOP/MOP only.

A. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by delegations from the following Parties to the Protocol and other member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America and Uzbekistan. Hungary also made statements on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States; in addition, representatives of the European Commission attended and made statements. Iraq, Mongolia and Viet Nam, as States Members of the United Nations, were also represented.

4. Representatives of the Convention secretariat attended the meeting. Representatives of three United Nations bodies also attended the meeting: the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). One other intergovernmental organization was represented: the International Sava River Basin Commission. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were represented: Agency ECOTERRA (Russian Federation), Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, Ecoglobe (Armenia), Ecological Society "RUZGAR" (Azerbaijan), European ECO Forum, Friends of the Earth Europe, International Association for Impact Assessment and International Council of Environmental Law. In addition, academics from the following universities attended the meeting: Flinders University (Australia), Hokkaido University (Japan), Opole University (Poland), Stockholm University (Sweden), University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom), University of Ghent (Belgium) and University of Waterloo (Canada).

B. Organizational matters

5. The Chair of the Bureau, Mr. A. Vesic (Serbia), opened the meeting.

6. The Meeting adopted the decision I/1 on adoption of the rules of procedure (see ECE/MP.EIA/2011/L.1).¹

7. The Deputy Director of the Environment Division of UNECE welcomed delegates and informed the Meeting that the Convention's Bureau had recommended that Mr. Vesic be elected as Chair of the general segment of the Meeting. The Meeting elected Mr. Vesic accordingly.

8. The Meeting adopted its agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/1), which had been prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Chair of the Bureau.

9. The Meeting noted the informal report on credentials of the representatives of Parties attending the Meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/INF.9).

10. The secretariat informed the Meeting of the status of ratification of the Protocol. The delegation of Poland announced its ratification of the Protocol during the session, whereas the delegation of Portugal informed the Meeting that it was expecting to ratify the treaty soon.

II. Outstanding issues

11. The Meeting discussed and agreed on outstanding issues prior to the high-level segment as set out below.

A. Declaration

12. The secretariat explained the inclusion by the Bureau of additional paragraphs in the draft declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.3), which were intended to provide inputs to the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, to be held in September 2011, and to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012. The Meeting agreed on a revised version of the draft declaration that would be forwarded for its consideration at the high-level segment.

B. Adoption of the workplan

13. The secretariat presented an informal assessment of the implementation of the previous workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/10, decision IV/7), highlighting those activities that had not been carried out or completed. The Meeting agreed that a planned workshop for the Mediterranean Sea area would be carried forward into the next intersessional period, together with its budget. The secretariat reported that approximately 90 per cent of the workplan activities had been completed, specifically 98 per cent of priority 1 activities had been completed and 87 per cent of priority 2 activities had been completed. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of the previous workplan.

14. Draft decision I/9 (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.2) on the adoption of the workplan was to be considered by the MOP and the MOP/MOP. The Meeting agreed on a revised version of the draft decision that would be forwarded for its consideration at the high-level segment (see ECE/MP.EIA/15, section II.B, for details).

¹ All meeting documentation and other information regarding the first session of the MOP/MOP is available at http://live.unece.org/env/eia/meetings/mop_5.html.

C. Budget, financial arrangements and financial support

15. The secretariat presented the report on the budget and financial arrangements in the period since the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/1) , as described in the report of that body's fifth session (section II.C, ECE/MP.EIA/15). The Meeting expressed its satisfaction with the use of the Convention's trust fund.

16. Draft decision I/10 on the budget, financial arrangements and financial support (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.2) was to be considered by the MOP and the MOP/MOP. The Meeting agreed on a revised version of the draft decision that would be forwarded for its consideration at the high-level segment.

D. Establishment of a subsidiary body

17. The Meeting agreed to forward without amendment draft decision I/5 on the establishment of a subsidiary body (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.2) for its consideration at the high-level segment. That draft decision was to be considered by the MOP and the MOP/MOP.

E. Application of the Convention's compliance procedure to the Protocol

18. The Chair of the Implementation Committee, Mr. M. Sauer (Germany), explained draft decision I/6 on the application of the Convention's compliance procedure to the Protocol (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.2). That draft decision was to be considered by the MOP and the MOP/MOP. The Meeting agreed to forward without amendment the draft decision for its consideration at the high-level segment.

F. Reporting and the review of implementation

19. The Meeting agreed to forward without amendment draft decision I/7 on reporting and the review of implementation (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.2) for its consideration at the high-level segment. That draft decision was to be considered by the MOP and the MOP/MOP.

G. Accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the Economic Commission for Europe

20. The secretariat reported that no Member State of the United Nations from outside the UNECE region had expressed an interest in acceding to the Protocol. The Meeting concluded that it need not therefore consider draft decision I/11 on accession by a particular country (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.1).

21. The Meeting agreed to forward without amendment the more general draft decision I/8 on accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of UNECE (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.2) for its consideration at its high-level segment. That draft decision was to be considered by the MOP and the MOP/MOP.

H. Other draft decisions

22. The Meeting agreed to forward without amendment the following draft decisions for its consideration at the high-level segment: draft decision I/2 on the points of contact,

format for notification and focal points; draft decision I/3 on capacity development; and draft decision I/4 on public participation in strategic decision-making (see ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/L.1)

I. Nominations of officers and tentative calendar of meetings

23. The Chair presented an informal list of nominations of members of the Bureau, officers for the new Working Group and members of the Implementation Committee. Additional nominations for the Bureau were made for Belarus and Serbia. Ukraine withdrew its nomination to the Implementation Committee and Slovakia agreed to serve as an alternate for Protocol matters on that body. The Meeting also noted the proposal by Ukraine to host the next session of the MOP and the MOP/MOP and thus to serve as Chair of the Bureau; Germany could serve as alternate Chair of the Bureau for Protocol matters as Ukraine was not a Party to the Protocol.

24. The Meeting agreed with suggestions by the Chair that: (a) the Chair of the Working Group be elected from among that body's Vice-Chairs when it first met; (b) the first Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee should be from a Party to both the Convention and the Protocol so that he or she might serve as Chair of that body if required; and (c) the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the new Working Group, and the Chair and first Vice-Chair of the Committee, should also serve as members of the Bureau.

25. The Meeting considered a proposal by the European Environmental Bureau on behalf of European ECO Forum that a representative of the latter be permitted to participate in meetings of the Bureau as an observer. The Meeting decided that the Bureau would decide on whether such an observer would be permitted to participate, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

26. The Meeting noted an informal schedule of planned events for the next intersessional period (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2011/INF.6).

III. Review of the work done by the Meeting of the Signatories

27. The secretariat identified the workplan activities relating to the promotion of the ratification and application of the Protocol, focusing on activities completed since the final meeting of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol, held in November 2010.

28. The delegation of Kazakhstan reported on the holding of a subregional training workshop for Central Asia, held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) from 28 March to 1 April 2011. Participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan had gained an understanding of the principles and good practices of strategic environmental assessment. The Meeting welcomed that information.

IV. Opening ceremony of the high-level segment

29. The Chair of the general segment informed the MOP and MOP/MOP, meeting in joint session, that the Convention's Bureau had recommended that Hannu Himanen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations in Geneva, be elected as Chair of the high-level segment of the Meeting. The Meeting elected Mr. Himanen accordingly.

30. The Chair of the high-level segment made some opening remarks before inviting Mr. G. Poffet, Vice Director of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, to make a keynote speech.

31. The Chair also invited Mr. J. Kubis, Executive Secretary of UNECE, to make an opening statement.

V. Statements by Ministers and high-level representatives

32. The following delegations and representatives made statements: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Lithuania, Romania, Ukraine, the European Union, the European Commission and the World Health Organization. The Meeting asked that the statements be made available on the website of the Convention.

VI. Adoption of decisions

33. Having reviewed the changes made earlier in the sessional period, the Meeting adopted the following decisions:²

- (a) Decision I/2 on the points of contact, format for notification and focal points;
- (b) Decision I/3 on capacity development;
- (c) Decision I/4 on public participation in strategic decision-making;
- (d) Decision I/5 on the establishment of a subsidiary body;
- (e) Decision I/6 on the application of the compliance procedure of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- (f) Decision I/7 on reporting and the review of implementation;
- (g) Decision I/8 on accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
- (h) Decision I/9 on the adoption of the workplan;
- (i) Decision I/10 on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance.

34. The secretariat reported on the pledges made to contribute to the budget of the Convention and its Protocol (see annex to ECE/MP.EIA/15). The secretariat noted that the total value of the pledges made was less than that at the previous session of the MOP and that that would limit the secretariat's expenditure in accordance with the budget.

VII. Adoption of declaration

35. Having reviewed the draft text agreed earlier in the sessional period, the Meeting adopted the declaration.

² Decision I/1 was adopted at the opening of the session. Decisions I/5 through I/10 were taken jointly with the MOP. Decisions I/1 through I/9 are included later in the present document. To avoid duplication, decision I/10 is included only in the report of the fifth session of the MOP (ECE/MP.EIA/15).

VIII. Election of officers for the next intersessional period

36. The MOP and the MOP/MOP convened again in a joint meeting to elect officers for the next intersessional period.

37. The Meeting elected four Vice-Chairs of the newly established Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Ms. M. Masaityte (Lithuania); Mr. P. Otawski (Poland); a representative of Ukraine (to be named later); and Mr. G. Kremlis (European Commission). The Meeting decided that the Working Group would elect its own Chair from among the Vice-Chairs when it first meets, in the expectation that Mr. Otawski would be chosen.

38. The Meeting elected Mr. D. Mormul (Ukraine) as the Chair of the Bureau, with Mr. Sauer (Germany) as his alternate for Protocol matters. The Meeting also elected Mr. A. Andreev (Belarus) and Mr. Vesic (Serbia) as Vice-Chairs of the Bureau, together with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group (with the exception of the Vice-Chair from Ukraine), and the Chair and first Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee. The first Vice-Chair of the Committee would serve as alternate to Mr. Andreev for Protocol matters as Belarus had not joined the Protocol.

39. The Meeting elected five new members of the Implementation Committee for Protocol matters: Ms. E. Grigoryan (Armenia); Mr. J. Brun (Norway); Mr. F. Zaharia (Romania); Ms. L. Papajova Majeska (Slovakia); and Ms. L. A. Hernando (Spain).³ They were to join the two continuing members of the Committee for Protocol matters: Ms. N. Stoyanova (Bulgaria); and Ms. V. Kolar-Planinsic (Slovenia), previously Vice-Chair.⁴ The Meeting decided that the Bureau would identify an eighth member of the Committee for Protocol matters in the light of further ratifications.⁵ The Committee was to elect its own chair from among its members.

IX. Date and venue of next meetings

40. The MOP and the MOP/MOP convened in a joint meeting to welcome the proposal by Ukraine to host the next joint session. It was decided that the second session of the MOP/MOP would be held in conjunction with the sixth session of the MOP in May or June 2014.

X. Conclusion of the session

41. The Meeting agreed on the main decisions taken in the sessional period, as presented by the secretariat. The Meeting authorized the secretariat to complete the report after the session under the guidance of the outgoing Bureau.

42. In closing the Meeting, the Chair thanked delegations for their work in finding solutions.

43. The Chair closed the Meeting on Thursday, 23 June 2011.

³ Mr. Brun and Ms. Papajova Majeska were elected as Committee members for Protocol matters only, serving as alternates to Ms. Javanshir (Azerbaijan) and Mr. Prieur (France), respectively. The other new members were elected as Committee members for both Convention and Protocol matters.

⁴ Ms. Stoyanova and Ms. Kolar-Planinsic will serve as members for both Convention and Protocol matters.

⁵ The eighth member would serve as alternate for Protocol matters to Ms. Plesco (Republic of Moldova).

Part Two

Decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Decision I/10, taken jointly with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, has been included only in the report of that body's sixth session (ECE/MP.EIA/15) to avoid duplication.

Decision I/1

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

Rules of procedure

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Recalling article 14, paragraph 5, of the Protocol, which provides that the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention shall be applied *mutatis mutandis* under the Protocol, except as may otherwise be decided by consensus by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

Also recalling article 14, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, which addresses the composition of the Bureau,

Having reviewed the application of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention under the Protocol,

1. *Decides*, by consensus, that, when rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is applied to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, this rule shall be supplemented by the following paragraph:

“A member of the Bureau of the Meeting of Parties to the Convention that represents a Party to the Protocol, having replaced a member representing a Party to the Convention, shall serve a term of office that expires at the same time as the term of office of the member of the Bureau whom he or she replaces.”;

2. *Also decides*, by consensus, that when the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention are amended by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, those amendments shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Decision I/2

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

Points of contact, format for notification and focal points

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Recalling article 10 of the Protocol,

1. *Agrees* that notifications of proposed plans and programmes, the implementation of which are likely to cause significant transboundary environmental, including health, effects shall be transmitted to the relevant points of contact listed on the website of the Convention unless otherwise provided for in bilateral or multilateral agreements or other arrangements. Where no point of contact has been nominated, the notification shall be transmitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the affected Party or Parties;

2. *Recommends* Parties to use the format for notification appended to decision I/4 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, *mutatis mutandis*, to the extent possible when transmitting a notification according to article 10 of the Protocol, and invites the subsidiary body, responsible for assisting in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol and the management of their joint workplan, to prepare a revised format for notification to be presented at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

3. *Establishes* a network of focal points, listed on the website of the Convention, with the aim of strengthening links between Parties and facilitating a systematic exchange of relevant information;

4. *Calls on* Parties to submit information on modifications or additions to the list of points of contact and the list of focal points to the secretariat immediately;

5. *Also calls on* Parties which have not yet informed the secretariat of their point of contact or focal point to do so as soon as possible;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to update these lists continuously in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the Protocol.

Decision I/3

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

Capacity development

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Having considered the draft resource manual to support the application of the Protocol,

Recognizing that capacity-development activities, such as training and pilot projects, improve the practical application of the Protocol,

1. *Welcomes* the resource manual, including its health annex, as a flexible document;
2. *Also welcomes* the work done by, among others, the secretariat and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, and by the members of the small editorial group on the draft resource manual;
3. *Further welcomes* the work done by the above-mentioned bodies, together with the World Health Organization, on the production of a supplement to the draft resource manual addressing the consideration of health concerns;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to continue maintenance of the version of the resource manual on the Internet;
5. *Proposes* to include in the Protocol workplan the elaboration of a compact and simplified version of the resource manual that focuses on the practical application of the Protocol;
6. *Proposes also* that capacity-development activities be included in the workplan;
7. *Invites* users to submit comments to the secretariat on the usefulness of the resource manual and requests the secretariat to facilitate the submission of such comments.

Decision I/4

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

Public participation in strategic decision-making

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Recalling the workshop on public participation in strategic decision-making, held in Sofia on 3 and 4 December 2007,

Noting the work programme for the period 2009–2011 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention),

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the ad hoc expert group and the task force on public participation under the Aarhus Convention;
2. *Decides* to explore further synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under the Aarhus Convention;
3. *Proposes* that a joint workshop on public participation in strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the Protocol and with article 7 of the Aarhus Convention should be included in the workplan.

Decision I/5

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

Decision V/5

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

Establishment of a subsidiary body

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 article 14, paragraph 4 (d), of the Protocol, which concerns the establishment of subsidiary bodies necessary for the implementation of the Protocol,

Recalling also decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention, which established the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment as a subsidiary body to assist in the implementation of the Convention and the management of its workplan,

Having considered the most appropriate ways of effectively implementing the Convention and the Protocol and successfully taking forward their workplan,

Recognizing that there are both synergies and differences between the Convention and the Protocol,

Concluding that a subsidiary body is needed to assist in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol and the management of their workplan,

1. *Discontinue* the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment;
2. *Establish* a subsidiary body, called the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, to assist in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol and the management of their joint workplan;
3. *Request* this subsidiary body, in carrying out the tasks assigned to it in paragraph 2, to take the necessary steps to take forward the workplan agreed at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to monitor the expenditure of funds associated with the implementation of the workplan, to report to both bodies at their subsequent sessions on progress in the implementation of the workplan and monitoring of expenditure, and to ensure the efficient management of workplans which are agreed from time to time by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Protocol;
4. *Invite* the subsidiary body, in the light of experience in the implementation of the workplan, to make recommendations for consideration at subsequent sessions of 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 of further work necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol;

5. *Also invite* non-Parties to the Convention that are member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and governmental, non-governmental and other relevant international organizations and institutions, and, as appropriate, researchers, commercial firms, developers, consultants or other commercial entities to contribute fully, in accordance with the rules of procedure, as observers to the work undertaken by the subsidiary body to implement the Convention;

6. *Further invite* non-Parties to the Protocol that are member States of UNECE and governmental, non-governmental and other relevant international organizations and institutions, and, as appropriate, researchers, commercial firms, developers, consultants or other commercial entities to contribute fully, in accordance with the rules of procedure, as observers to the work undertaken by the subsidiary body to implement the Protocol.

Decision I/6

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

Decision V/6

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

Application of the compliance procedure of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the Protocol on 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 on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Meeting in joint session,

Recalling article 14, paragraph 6, of the Protocol, which concerns the application of the procedure for the review of compliance with the Convention to the Protocol,

Noting the appendix to decision III/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, setting out the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee and procedures for the review of compliance, and annex IV to decision IV/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, setting out operating rules of the Implementation Committee,

Recalling also the decision by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its fifth session to keep under review and develop if necessary the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee, as well as its operating rules, particularly in the light of experience gained by the Committee in considering issues relating to compliance with the Protocol,

Having considered the modalities for the application of the procedure for the review of compliance, pursuant to article 14, paragraph 6, of the Protocol,

Emphasizing that, in applying to the Protocol the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee and the procedures for review of compliance which are set out in the appendix to decision III/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, references in the appendix to the Convention and to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention shall, where review of compliance with the Protocol is concerned, be understood as references to the Protocol and to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, respectively,

1. *Decide* that, where the Implementation Committee is considering issues relating to compliance with the Convention, it shall be comprised only of Parties to the Convention, and that, where the Implementation Committee is considering issues relating to compliance with the Protocol, it shall be comprised only of Parties to the Protocol;

2. *Also decide* that the Parties to the Convention shall decide upon the composition of the Implementation Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the appendix to decision III/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, after which the Parties to the Protocol shall elect the number of Parties necessary for the operation of paragraph 1 of the current decision, to take the place on the Implementation Committee of those Parties to the Convention which at that time are not a Party to the Protocol, for the same term as those Parties; and decide that the Chair of the Implementation Committee shall be from a Party to the Convention which is also a Party to the Protocol;

3. *Further decide* that the two election processes set out in paragraph 2 shall take place during a joint session of 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, at which the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol shall also cooperate with a view to ensuring that the total of the number of Parties elected under the Convention and under the Protocol shall preferably not exceed twelve;

4. *Further decide* that when the appendix to decision III/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is amended by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, the amended appendix shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Protocol, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

5. *Further decide* that the operating rules of the Implementation Committee which are set out in annex IV to decision IV/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Protocol, and shall continue to apply when amended by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Decision I/7

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

Decision V/7

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

Reporting and the review of implementation

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 decisions III/1 and IV/1 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the review of implementation,

Recalling also article 14 bis of the Convention, as adopted by decision III/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, that provides a legal obligation on Parties to report on their implementation of the Convention,

Recalling further article 14, paragraph 4, of the Protocol, which concerns the keeping under regular review of the implementation of the Protocol,

Recalling furthermore article 14, paragraph 7, of the Protocol, which concerns the reporting by each Party on measures that it has taken to implement the Protocol,

Recalling additionally article 13, paragraph 4, of the Protocol, which concerns the reporting by each Party on its application of article 13 on policies and legislation,

Recognizing that there are both synergies and differences between the Convention and the Protocol,

Recognizing also that regular reporting by each Party provides important information that facilitates the review of compliance under the Convention and the Protocol and thereby contributes to the work of the Implementation Committee,

Emphasizing the importance of the timely submission of reports,

1. *Request* the Implementation Committee to modify the current questionnaire to provide a questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention and of the Protocol during the period 2010–2012, for consideration by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment and for circulation, and for conversion into a parallel Internet-based questionnaire by the secretariat thereafter;

2. *Decide* that Parties to the Convention shall complete the parts of the questionnaire relating to the Convention as a report on their implementation of the Convention during the period 2010–2012, taking note of the obligation to report arising from article 14 bis of the Convention as adopted by decision III/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and that a failure to report on implementation might be a compliance matter to be considered by the Implementation Committee;

3. *Also decide* that Parties to the Protocol shall complete the parts of the questionnaire relating to the Protocol as a report on their implementation of the Protocol during the period 2010–2012, taking note of the obligations to report arising from article 14, paragraph 7, and article 13, paragraph 4, of the Protocol;

4. *Request* the secretariat to put the project lists included in the answers to the questionnaire on the website of the Convention unless the responding Party does not agree;

5. *Further decide* that a draft review of implementation of the Convention and of the Protocol during the period 2010–2012 based on the reports by Parties will be presented at the sixth session of Meeting of the Parties of 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, and that the workplan shall reflect the elements required to prepare the draft review;

6. *Also request* the secretariat to post the review of implementation of the Convention and of the Protocol and national reports on the website of the Convention in the languages in which they are available.

Decision I/8

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

Decision V/8

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

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 on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Meeting in joint session,

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 (UNECE),

Recalling also 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 UNECE,

1. *Request* any State that wishes to accede to the Convention or to the Protocol, and that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of UNECE, to address a letter to the Executive Secretary of UNECE from its Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing the State's desire to accede to the Convention or to the Protocol;

2. *Also request* a State referred to in paragraph 1, which wishes to accede to the Convention, to provide a copy of its legislation in one of the official languages of the

United Nations, establishing clear, transparent and effective procedures for environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Further request* a State referred to in paragraph 1, which wishes to accede to the Protocol, to provide a copy of its legislation in one of the official languages of the United Nations, establishing clear, transparent and effective procedures for strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the objective and provisions of the Protocol;

4. *Expect* to consider the information referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, when deciding whether to approve the accession of a State that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of UNECE;

5. *Also expect* to instruct the secretariat to inform the Depositary of any decision to approve the accession of a State that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of UNECE;

6. *Further expect* to use the formats presented in the annex to this decision when deciding whether to approve the accession of a State that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of UNECE.

Annex

Formats for decision

I. Accession to the Convention

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention,

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 UNECE,

Having received a copy of a letter addressed to the Executive Secretary of UNECE from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of ... expressing that State's desire to accede to the Convention,

Having also received a copy of the legislation of ... in one of the official languages of the United Nations, establishing clear, transparent and effective procedures for environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

1. *Approves* the accession of ... to the Convention;
2. *Instructs* the secretariat to inform the Depositary of this decision.

II. Accession to the Protocol

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

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 the Economic Commission for Europe,

Having received a copy of a letter addressed to the Executive Secretary of UNECE from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of ... expressing that State's desire to accede to the Protocol,

Having also received a copy of the legislation of ... in one of the official languages of the United Nations, establishing clear, transparent and effective procedures for strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the objective of the Protocol,

1. *Approves* the accession of ... to the Protocol;
2. *Instructs* the secretariat to inform the Depositary of this decision.

Decision I/9

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

Decision V/9

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

Adoption of the workplan

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 article 11, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, stipulating that additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention shall be undertaken,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to the Convention to meet fully their legal obligations arising under the Convention,

Recognizing also that Parties to the Convention should take action to maximize the effectiveness of their application of the Convention so that the best possible practical results are achieved,

Recognizing with appreciation the valuable work carried out under the workplan adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (decision IV/7), particularly:

(a) The steps taken by Parties and non-Parties to ensure their environmental impact assessment systems are consistent with the provisions of the Convention and to report accordingly;

(b) The workshops and pilot projects for subregional cooperation and capacity-building organized by the Governments of Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan and Tunisia, and by the Regional Environmental Centres for Central and Eastern Europe and for Central Asia;

(c) The seminars for the exchange of good practices organized by the Governments of Armenia and Austria and by the European Commission;

Noting with satisfaction that the activities in the workplan adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention were approximately 90 per cent

completed, specifically 98 per cent of priority 1 activities were completed and approximately 87 per cent of priority 2 activities were completed,

1. *Adopt* 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, as set out in the table below;

2. *Suggest* that lead countries that carry out the relevant activities should consult each other in order to benefit from each other's experience and to avoid unnecessary overlap;

3. *Call on* the Parties, and also invite non-Parties, to arrange, host and participate actively in seminars, workshops and meetings to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

4. *Invite* every relevant body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, and, as appropriate, researchers, commercial firms, developers, consultants or other commercial entities to participate actively in the activities included in the workplan.

Workplan 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

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<p>Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</p> <p>Enhance the implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol</p>					Most items included in Implementation Committee and secretariat costs. Exceptions are identified below.
	1. Consideration by the Implementation Committee of received compliance submissions.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Recommendations on compliance submissions.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 ^a and the MOP/MOP2. ^b	Requires budget for translation of submissions: \$10,000.
	2. Report on the Committee's activities to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Reports of the Committee meetings and a synthesis report to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–
	3. If necessary, review of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Possible revision of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–
	4. Examination of the outcome of the third review of implementation.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Summary on compliance issues from the third review of implementation.	By the end of 2011.	–

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	5. Simplification of the questionnaire for the report on implementation of the Convention, and its extension for the report on implementation of the Protocol.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, of the World Health Organization (WHO).	One questionnaire with two distinct parts.	Presentation of draft modified questionnaire to the Working Group by the end of 2012.	–
	6. Distribution of the questionnaire to the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol for them to complete and return.	Carried out by the secretariat	Completed questionnaires.	Issue of questionnaire, early 2013. Return of questionnaires by mid-2013.	–
	7. Preparation of a draft review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.	Carried out by the secretariat	Draft fourth review of implementation for consideration by the Working Group and MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Presentation of draft review to the Working Group at the end of 2013 and to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Requires an external consultant, budget: \$20,000.

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	<p>8. Country-specific performance reviews and technical assistance in drafting legislation, in agreement with Parties wishing to strengthen their implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol.</p> <p>(a) Review would include a period in-country examining legislation, procedures and practice (case study), and would build upon earlier reviews further to decision IV/2. Parties experiencing similar problems might be assisted jointly.</p> <p>(b) Development of general guidance on resolving a possible systemic inconsistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise.</p>	<p>Undertaken by external consultant(s) under supervision of members of the Committee, with support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, WHO.</p>	<p>Recommendations to the country on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.</p>	<p>As decided by the Implementation Committee.</p>	<p>\$75,000 (approximately \$25,000 per review), plus in-kind contributions from Parties providing experts and from target country providing interpretation, translation, etc., and/or through the Environment and Security Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.^c</p>

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	<p>9. Pre-accession legislative assistance:</p> <p>(a) Technical support to Uzbekistan to review its national legislation for implementation of the Convention and to propose amendments;</p> <p>(b) Technical advice to Belarus and Ukraine on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments. Review of legislation and administrative measures with aim to ratify Protocol.</p>	Undertaken by external consultant(s), with support of the secretariat.	Recommendations to the country on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.	(a) 2012–2013; (b) 2011–2012.	Donor or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries, and/or through the Environment and Security Initiative. ^c
	10. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol, posted on website.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Online collection of the Committee's findings and opinions.	Annual updates.	–

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<p>Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the UNECE^d region</p> <p>Improved and developed application of the Convention and its Protocol within the subregions.</p> <p>Promotion of cooperation in all subregions.</p> <p>Increased professional skills of officials and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs,^e as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA^f and transboundary EIA^g and to the application of the Convention and its Protocol.</p> <p>Increased coordination between environmental treaties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.</p>	<p>South-Eastern Europe subregion</p> <p>1. Workshop(s) on implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Bucharest Agreement in the subregion.</p> <p>Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea</p> <p>2. Workshop in France on practical application of the Convention on the basis of the results in the previous workshops</p>	<p>Lead country: Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support of the secretariat and UNEP.^h</p> <p>Lead country: France, in collaboration with Spain.</p>	<p>For all subregions:</p> <p>(a) Possible evaluation of relevant guidance;</p> <p>(b) Possible guidance on subregional issues such as public participation and the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs);</p> <p>(c) Common understanding of elements of application and possible multilateral agreements.</p>	<p>–</p> <p>2012</p>	<p>Participants cover their own travel and accommodation costs, while host countries cover organizational and venue costs in kind (approximately \$20,000 per workshop).</p> <p>Donor in-kind (e.g., project) funding might be applicable.</p>

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	<p>Baltic Sea subregion</p> <p>3. Holding at least two meetings, on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and water management; • Cumulative impacts (especially of off-shore wind farms); • Climate change in EIA and SEA; • Marine ecosystems and protected marine areas; • Marine spatial planning and SEA; • Case studies on transboundary EIAs and SEAs, including large-scale projects and nuclear installations; • Enhanced application of the Convention and the Protocol — common understanding or agreements; • Experience of large-scale transboundary projects with several Parties of origin; • Transboundary access to justice by the public and NGOs; • Post-project analysis and monitoring; • Carbon capture and storage; • Efficiency of resources in EIA and SEA; • Implications of the review of the EIA Directive by the EUⁱ on the Convention and Protocol defining “likely significant effects” under the Protocol (case studies). 	Lead countries: Sweden, Poland, Germany, Estonia.	Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues	<p>(a) Seminar on 27–28 October 2011 in Poland.</p> <p>(b) Meeting in 2012/13.</p> <p>(c) Possible further meeting in 2012/13.</p>	In kind

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia				Donor or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries
	4. Pilot bilateral projects between countries of subregions and inter-subregional projects (energy, transboundary watercourses, mining, infrastructure projects, other), including seminars prior and during the pilot projects with the sectoral ministries, project developers, NGOs, communities and other stakeholders.	Two pilot transboundary EIAs, with lead countries: (a) Belarus with Ukraine (post-project analysis), (b) Kyrgyzstan with Kazakhstan	–	(a) 2011 (b) 2012	Through the Environment and Security Initiative. ^c
	5. Subregional workshop for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on EIA in the context of climate change, biodiversity, desertification (forming platform of collaboration with other environmental treaties).	Lead country: Kazakhstan	–	–	
	6. Seminars for all countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia for the exchange of information, legislation and good practice between all States, followed by the dissemination of seminar results in each country, including to the public and NGOs. Themes: (a) Exchange among those countries that reformed their national legislation and have experience in strengthening their professional	Lead countries: (a) Georgia; (b) Ukraine; (c) Belarus. Dissemination of seminar results: All countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	–	(a) 2013. (b) 2012. (c) 2012.	(a) Through the Environment and Security Initiative. ^c

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	potential (invite experts from the EU, for example); (b) On EIA, nature protection areas and mining, and guidance on sectors such as mining, energy, construction and agriculture.				
	7. Conference on climate change and EIA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova, with the support of the secretariat.	–	2012.	Through the Environment and Security Initiative. ^c
	8. Conference “Silk Road: development and environmental protection in EIA”.	Lead country: Uzbekistan.	–	2013.	Through the Environment and Security Initiative. ^c
Exchange of good practices	Workshops or half-day seminars within meetings of the Working Group on:				
Shared knowledge and experience in appropriate legislation for implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, leading to better national legislation and application.			From each workshop or seminar, a brief, clear document presenting advice on the most important identified problems for the theme in question.		\$40,000 (approximately \$10,000 per seminar, with up to four seminars)
Improved implementation and application of the Convention and the Protocol by learning	1. Biodiversity;	Lead country: Belgium, with support of EC ^j	–	2013.	
	2. Renewable energy: wind farms, renewable fuels (including biomass) and large-scale solar;	Lead country: Poland and Portugal, with support of REC-CEE. ^c	Workshop reports and raising of awareness	Spring 2013.	

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
from Parties' experiences. Awareness-raising on the Convention, its amendments and its ratification.	3. One-day workshop on the long-range impacts of nuclear energy-related activities.	Lead countries: Austria, Finland and Sweden.	–		
Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA			Ratifications and other outcomes specified below.		
Ratification, full legal implementation and practical application of the Protocol.	1. Maintenance of the Resource Manual, including its health annex.	Lead: secretariat with the support of WHO	Electronic publication of the Resource Manual.	Ongoing.	
Increased professional skills of officials, and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs, as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA and to the application of the Protocol.	2. Elaboration of compact and simplified version of the Resource Manual that focuses on the practical application of the Protocol.	Lead: secretariat with the assistance of an editorial group comprising, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, EC, WHO and REC-CEE. ^c	A compact and simplified version of the Resource Manual (in paper and digital forms).	–	
Increased exchange of information and experience in the application of the Protocol.	3. Preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice (e.g., how to diversify alternatives, stakeholder engagement, assessment tools, and health and SEA).	Lead organization: the International Association for Impact Assessment, with the support of WHO, SEA and health experts, and the secretariat.	Informal pamphlets on key issues.	Ongoing	

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	4. Workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol for countries in the UNECE region and other Parties to the Protocol, in particular countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	Lead country: organizing country (for training: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, and Ukraine), with support of experts from Austria and Slovenia, and from REC-CEE and WHO ^c invited to share their experience.	Workshop and training reports.	–	
	5. Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with WHO, where relevant.	Project reports.	Pilot project in the Republic of Moldova: 2012. Pilot project in Armenia: 2012–2013. Pilot project in Azerbaijan: 2012–2013.	Through the Environment and Security Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. ^c
	6. Preparation of a format for SEA notification.	Lead: secretariat with assistance of an editorial group comprising Austria and Germany.	Format for SEA notification.	–	

<i>Activity Objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	7. Development of legislation on SEA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova.	Draft legislation.	2013.	
	8. Joint workshop on public participation in SEA in accordance with the Protocol and article 7 of the Aarhus Convention.	Lead: Bureau in collaboration with Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making under the Aarhus Convention.	Workshop report.	2013.	

^a Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

^b Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

^c Subject to the availability of funding.

^d United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

^e Non-governmental organizations.

^f Strategic environmental assessment.

^g Environmental impact assessment.

^h United Nations Environment Programme.

ⁱ European Union.

^j European Commission.

Declaration

We, the high-level representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States and of the European Union, gathered in Geneva from 20 to 23 June 2011 on the occasion of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Protocol as a key legal instrument for fostering environmentally sound and sustainable development, aiming at integrating environmental, including health, considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes that set the framework for future development consent for projects and, to the extent appropriate, policies and legislation,

Recognizing strategic environmental assessment as a key instrument to ensure that environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the strategic decision-making process regarding plans and programmes that set the framework for future development consent for projects and, to the extent appropriate, policies and legislation, and cannot be considered in isolation from it, and that concerned citizens should have the opportunity to participate in strategic decision-making processes, in accordance with principles 4 and 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recognizing also that strategic environmental assessment can help achieve the Millennium Development Goal of integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes to ensure environmental sustainability,

Acknowledging the importance of coordinated international cooperation among governmental organizations in the region in assessing environmental, including health, effects, in particular in a transboundary context,

1. *Welcome* the entry into force of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and support the implementation of its provisions;

2. *Recognize* the contribution of strategic environmental assessment to sustainable development, in particular in the UNECE region;

3. *Acknowledge* the importance of an integrated approach to environmental protection and of the mainstreaming of the environment into economic development through the implementation of the Protocol;

4. *Underscore* the potential for exploring linkages between strategic environmental assessment at the level of plans and programmes — and, to the extent appropriate, policies and legislation — and environmental impact assessment at the project level, and that such linkages should be explored with the aim of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental assessments and of facilitating the decision-making process at the strategic and project levels;

5. *Emphasize* that Parties to the Protocol should observe that proposed plans and programmes that fall under the provisions of the Protocol and are within their jurisdiction or control comply with article 7, paragraph 2, as well as annex IV, paragraph 7, of the Protocol, and thereby accomplish that the measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate significant adverse transboundary environmental, including health, effects are described and assessed;

6. *Also emphasize* the importance of promoting public participation in strategic environmental assessment;

7. *Further emphasize* the potential for furthering sustainable development when environmental concerns are considered and integrated, to the extent appropriate, in the preparation of proposals for policies and legislation;

8. *Recognize* that strategic environmental assessment can be an appropriate mechanism to introduce the consideration of climate change impacts in plans and programmes that are prepared for regional development planning, and for town and country planning or for land-use planning, and thus to increase adaptive capacity;

9. *Invite* the UNECE Executive Secretary to continue to provide adequate secretariat support for the Protocol and request the allocation of regular United Nations budget funds to ensure the stable and effective provision of secretariat functions for the Protocol;

10. *Also invite* the secretariats of other conventions, as well as relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to participate in and support the relevant activities under the Protocol and to promote the application of the Protocol within their fields of competence;

11. *Recognize* that the successful implementation of the Protocol depends in part on adequate administrative and financial resources being made available to support and maintain the initiatives necessary to achieve its goals and, in that respect, and bearing in mind the special situation of countries in transition, call upon Parties, Signatories, other States and institutional financing organizations to endeavour to ensure that the resources necessary to meet the workplan are provided;

12. *Welcome* the efforts of countries with economies in transition to develop capacity to implement the Protocol, notably through the Belgrade Initiative on Strategic Environmental Assessment, led by Armenia, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, and encourage Parties to support actively these efforts;

13. *Encourage* the Parties and Signatories to the Protocol, as well other States, to develop further capacity for the Protocol's ratification and implementation on the basis of demonstrated need, giving particular support to the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and, wherever possible, working with regional institutions to make expertise and resources available as necessary;

14. *Recognize with appreciation* the valuable work carried out by the Signatories, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization and others to provide guidance in the practical application of the Protocol;

15. *Invite* civil society and all stakeholders to continue to assist with and contribute to the implementation and application of the Protocol, noting that the meetings under the Protocol provide for an exchange of views and information;

16. *Encourage* multilateral lending institutions and bilateral aid agencies to apply the principles of the Protocol to the development and implementation of their plans and programmes and, to the extent appropriate, policies;

17. *Call upon* member States of UNECE that have not yet done so to ratify the Protocol and invite other States that are Members of the United Nations to accede to the Protocol;

18. *Recognize* that strategic environmental assessment is a unique and important instrument for planning and policymaking related to greening the economy;

19. *Invite* the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, to be held in Astana from 21 to 23 September 2011, to take into consideration the importance of

strategic environmental assessment in the Conference's two themes of sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development;

20. *Request* UNECE to report within the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20) on the contribution of the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol to the implementation of the principles proclaimed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I)).
