



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
2 September 2013

Original: English

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### **Economic Commission for Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention  
on Environmental Impact Assessment  
in a Transboundary Context

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

### **Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

#### **Third meeting**

Geneva, 11–15 November 2013

Items 2, 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda

#### **Status of ratification**

#### **Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance**

**Preparations for 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**

## **Draft joint decisions by 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**

### **Proposal by the Bureau**

#### *Summary*

The draft decisions contained in the present document were prepared by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, with the support of the Convention secretariat, as requested by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental

Assessment at its second meeting (Geneva, 27–30 May 2013). The Working Group is expected to review and agree on the text of the draft decisions to be forwarded to the next sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and to the Meeting of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment for adoption, meeting in joint session (Kyiv, 2–5 June 2014).

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## Draft decision VI/3–II/3

[to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its second 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 the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention shall undertake additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention,

*Recalling also* article 14, paragraph 4 (f), of the Protocol Strategic Environmental Assessment, stipulating that the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall take additional action, including action to be carried out jointly under the Protocol and the Convention, that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Protocol,

*Recognizing* that it is essential for Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to meet fully their legal obligations arising under these treaties,

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

*Recognizing with appreciation* the valuable work carried out under the workplan adopted 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 on Strategic Environmental Assessment (decision V/9–I/9), 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 the Protocol to report accordingly;

(b) The workshops and pilot projects for subregional cooperation and capacity-building on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) organized by the Governments of Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, [France], Georgia, Germany, the Republic of Moldova, Poland[,] [and] Ukraine [and Uzbekistan];

(c) The seminars for the exchange of good practices organized by the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Finland, Poland and Sweden; and by the European Commission, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the Chair of the Implementation Committee,

*Also recognizing with appreciation* the substantial funding raised by the secretariat to allow implementation of the workplan activities, in particular in countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the activities in the workplan adopted 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 were approximately [...] per cent completed, with [...] per cent of priority 1 activities completed and approximately [...] per cent of priority 2 activities completed,

*Noting with concern* the relatively limited funding available to support the implementation of the workplan activities in the countries of Central Asia,

*Wishing* to establish predictable intersessional workplans under the Convention and the Protocol by ensuring in advance the funding of the workplan activities,

1. *Decide* that activities for which no funding is identified should not be included in the workplan, but included on a waiting list until appropriate funding is made available;

2. *Adopt* the workplan for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third 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 annexed to the present decision;

3. *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;

4. *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;

5. *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;

6. *Invite* the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Secretary to continue supporting the work under the Convention and the Protocol by promoting the activities planned in the workplan, providing formal documentation for and ensuring publication of the outcomes of these activities as appropriate.

**Annex**

**Workplan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third 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><b>Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</b></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 compliance submissions.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Recommendations on compliance submissions.	2014–2017, presented to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	Requires budget for translation of submissions (\$10,000).
	2. Report on the Committee’s activities to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Reports of the Committee meetings and a synthesis report to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	2014–2017, presented to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	–
	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.	2014–2017, presented to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	–

<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. Examination of the outcome of the fourth review of implementation of the Convention and the first review of implementation of the Protocol.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Summary of compliance issues from the fourth review of implementation of the Convention and the first review of implementation of the Protocol.	By the end of 2014.	–
	[5. Simplification/revision of the questionnaires for the report on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol 2013–2015.]	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, of WHO.	Modified questionnaires	Presentation of draft modified questionnaires to the Working Group by the end of 2015.	–
	[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 questionnaires, one by late 2015 and the other by end of 2015.  Return of questionnaires by mid-2016.	–

<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.] Preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.	Carried out by the secretariat	Draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft second review of implementation of the Protocol for consideration by the Working Group on EIA and SEA, MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	Presentation of draft review to the Working Group at the end of 2016 and to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	Requires external consultants, and translation of national reports (\$25,000).
	[8.] Reviews of legislation, procedures and practice, and technical assistance in drafting legislation, to strengthen Parties' implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol. Prompted by the Implementation Committee or requested by Parties themselves, as follows:  (a) Country-specific reviews, including a period in-country examining national legislation and based on earlier reviews further to decision IV/2. Parties experiencing similar problems might be assisted jointly:	Undertaken by external consultant(s), with support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, WHO. Supervised by members of the Committee (if further to a Committee initiative).	Recommendations on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.	As decided by the Implementation Committee and/or the Party.	Costs: approximately \$25,000 per review, plus in-kind contributions from Parties providing experts and from target country for interpretation.

<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>
	(i) Technical advice to Armenia on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments;			2014.	Funding from EaP-GREEN. <sup>a</sup>
	(ii) Kyrgyzstan requested technical advice to improve its legislation implement the Convention, taking into account the outcomes of the pilot project between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in 2006–2009, and to develop implementation guidelines;			2014?	Funding from Switzerland may be available to support Kyrgyzstan? (Requires \$25,000?)
	(iii) Technical advice to the Russian Federation?;				Some funding from Sweden available (carried forward).
	(iv) Other requests by Parties?;				Requires funding (\$25,000, in conjunction with (a) (v)).
	(v) Possible Committee Initiatives?;				Requires funding (\$25,000, in conjunction with (a) (iv)).

<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>
	(b) Subregional overview based on legislative reviews on EIA and SEA combined with information gathered when developing general guidance on enhancing consistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.	Subregional overview of SEA and EIA systems prepared and disseminated.	2015.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	[9.] Pre-accession legislative assistance:	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) Technical advice to Azerbaijan on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments;			2014.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(b) Technical advice to Georgia on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments;			2014–2015.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(c) Technical advice to Uzbekistan to review its national legislation for implementation of the Protocol and to propose			To be specified.	Requires donor funding (\$ 25,000) and/or in-kind contributions by

<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>
	amendments.				beneficiary countries.
	[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>
	[11. Preparation or further development/updating of existing guidance on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol].	Undertaken by external consultant(s), with support of the secretariat and, as needed, the Working Group on EIA and SEA.	[(Updated) guidance document].		Requires external consultant (\$10,000 per guidance document).
<p><b>Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the ECE region</b></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>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 NGOs;</p> <p>(c) Common understanding of elements of application and possible multilateral agreements.</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>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 transboundary EIA and to the application of the Convention and its Protocol.</p>	<p><b>South-Eastern Europe subregion</b></p> <p>1. Workshop(s) on implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Bucharest Agreement in the subregion.</p>	Lead country: ?			Donor/in-kind (e.g., project) funding might be required.

<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>
Increased coordination between environmental treaties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	<p><b>Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea</b></p> <p>2. <i>Carried forward</i> Workshop in France on practical application of the Convention on the basis of the results in the previous workshops.</p>	Lead country: France, in collaboration with Spain.	Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues.	2014-15?	In kind.
	<p>3. <i>Carried forward</i> workshop for Mediterranean</p>	Lead country: Morocco previously indicated an interest, possibly with support.			Funding largely available (\$20,000).
	<p><b>Baltic Sea subregion</b></p> <p>3. Holding at least two meetings, on issues (to be specified by lead countries) such as:</p> <p>(a) ...;</p> <p>(b) ...;</p> <p>(c) ....</p>	Lead countries?	Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues	(a) 2014? (b) 2015? (c) Possible further meeting in 2016?	In kind.
	<p><b>Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</b></p>				Require donor and/or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries
	4. Pilot bilateral projects between countries of subregions and inter-subregional projects (e.g., energy, transboundary watercourses, mining, infrastructure projects,	Pilot transboundary EIAs, countries to express their interest and to specify topics.	–	?	(\$85,000-\$100,000 per pilot)

<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>
	other), including seminars prior to and during the pilot projects with the sectoral ministries, project developers, NGOs, communities and other stakeholders.				
	5. Subregional coordination and experience-sharing events to share successes, challenges, solutions and experiences as well as the results of capacity-building activities on SEA and EIA, followed by the dissemination of seminar results in all countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, including to the public and NGOs. The events can focus one or several challenges in SEA or EIA implementation (e.g., public participation; monitoring; interministerial cooperation/consultations) or on a sector (energy, mining, etc.) Countries to propose themes/topics for the events:	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine (countries to propose hosting the event).	Dissemination of seminar results: All countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.		
	(a) ...;	?		2014.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.

<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>
	(b) ...;	?		2015.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(c) ....	?		2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	6. Joint capacity-building activities with the Aarhus Convention for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on public participation in decision-making, including to strengthen the capacities of national Aarhus Centres and the regional Aarhus Centres Network in the EIA and SEA processes. Build on the Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation on SEA and General Guidance on enhancing systemic consistency.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, involving Aarhus Centres in these countries, with support from OSCE and inputs from Aarhus Convention and Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) secretariats.	Capacity-building and training materials.	2014–2015 (tbc)	Funding from the Environment and Security Initiative.
	(a) Development and compiling of capacity-building materials;				
	(b) Regional and national training workshops.				

<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><b>Exchange of good practices</b></p> <p>Shared knowledge and experience in appropriate legislation for implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, leading to better national legislation and application.</p> <p>Improved implementation and application of the Convention and the Protocol by learning from Parties' experiences.</p> <p>Awareness-raising on the Convention, its amendments and its ratification.</p>	1. Workshops or half-day seminars within meetings of the Working Group on [lead countries to propose themes]:		From each workshop or seminar, a brief, clear document presenting advice on the most important identified problems for the theme in question.		Costs (e.g., costs for speakers, provision and translation of materials ) to be covered in kind by lead countries, to the extent possible (approximately \$10,000 per seminar).
	(a)...	Lead country: ?		2015?	In kind.
	(b)...	Lead country: ?		2016?	In kind.
	(c) ....	Lead country: ?		2017?	In kind.
	2. Development of guidance to codify practical experience in the application of the Convention (and the Protocol) on nuclear energy-related activities.	Ad hoc drafting/(editorial) group, including [... ], with support from the secretariat	Guidance document for adoption by MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	2014	In kind. [Requires consultant(s) for drafting (\$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><b>Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA</b></p> <p>Ratification, full legal implementation and practical application of the Protocol.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Increased exchange of information and experience in the application of the Protocol.</p>	1. Preparation of factsheets on application of SEA to:		Ratifications and other outcomes specified below.	2014–2016.	
	<p>(a) industrial reconversion and investment plans;</p> <p>(b) sustainable agricultural practices;</p> <p>(c) other issues?</p>	<p>Lead: secretariat in cooperation with UNEP, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.</p> <p>Lead: secretariat in cooperation with UNEP, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.</p> <p>All Parties.</p>	Factsheets.		<p>Funding from EaP-GREEN (for translation and publication).</p> <p>Funding from EaP-GREEN (for translation and publication) and in-kind funding.</p>
	[2. Preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice (e.g., on ...).]	[Lead organization: IAIA, with the support of WHO, SEA and health experts, and the secretariat.]	[Informal pamphlets on key issues?]	[Ongoing]	[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>
	3. Workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol for countries in the ECE region and other Parties to the Protocol, in particular countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.	Workshop and training reports.	Countries to specify the timing.	
	(a) One national training event, two local training events;	Armenia		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(b) Two national training events, two local training events;	Azerbaijan		2014–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(c) Two national training events;	Belarus		2014–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(d) Two national training events, two local training events;	Georgia		2014–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(e) Two national training events, two local training events;	Republic of Moldova		2014–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(f) One national training event, two local training events;	Ukraine		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	(g) Others?	Russian Federation?			
	4. National guidance documents on SEA	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.	Published guidance documents.		

<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>
		(a) Armenia		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
		(b) Azerbaijan		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
		(c) Belarus		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
		(d) Georgia		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
		(e) Republic of Moldova		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
		(f) Ukraine		2015–2016.	Funding from EaP-GREEN.
	5. Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine, in collaboration with UNEP and WHO, where relevant.	Project reports.		

<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>
		(a) Armenia;		(a) 2014?;	(a) –(f) funding from EaP-GREEN
		(b) Azerbaijan;		(b) 2015–2016;	
		(c) Belarus;		(c) 2015–2016;	(g) Requires funding (\$80,000–\$100 000).
		(d) Georgia;		(d) 2015–2016;	
		(e) Republic of Moldova;		(e) 2014;	
		(f) Ukraine;		(f) 2015–2016;	
		(g) Requested by Tajikistan.		(g) ?	

*Abbreviations:* ECE = United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; EIA = environmental impact assessment; IAIA = International Association for Impact Assessment; MOP7 = the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session; MOP/MOP3 = the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its third session; NGOs = non-governmental organizations; OSCE = Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; SEA = strategic environmental assessment; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; WHO = World Health Organization;

<sup>a</sup> “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Partnership” (EaP-GREEN), a European Union-funded regional multi-stakeholder project.

## **Draft decision VI/4–II/4**

*[to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its second 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 V/10–I/10 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 on Strategic Environmental Assessment, on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance 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,

*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 fifth 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 fifth and sixth sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention, and between the first and second sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

*Seeking* to facilitate the 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 of 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 activities under the Convention and the Protocol 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 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to accede to the Convention, and recalling article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, which allows United Nations Member States not members of ECE to accede to the Protocol,

[1.] *Establish* a mandatory scheme of financial contributions, whereby Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol shall contribute each year an amount that they may choose on a voluntary basis;]

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

[3.] *Recognize* the [commitment by] [intention of] 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 towards the combined costs until that amount becomes less than 2.5 per cent of the total, while noting that this commitment is subject to annual endorsement by the budgetary authorities of the European Union and is without prejudice to paragraph 1;

[4.] *Adopt* the financial strategy for carrying out the work under the Convention and the Protocol given the financial constraints, as annexed to this decision;]

[5.] *Urge* all Parties to contribute to ensuring sustainable funding of activities and an equitable and proportionate sharing of the financial burden among the Parties [and Signatories];

[6.] *Strongly urge* Parties that have so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions to raise their contributions during the current and future budget cycle;

[7.] *Agree* that [each Party and Signatory] [each Party that has not contributed or pledged or that has so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions] should contribute each year an amount based on one of three “categories of donors” [depending on its gross domestic product (GDP) per capita;]<sup>2</sup>

[7.] *Agree* that [each Party and Signatory] [each Party that has not contributed or pledged or that has so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions] should contribute each year, as a minimum, an amount derived from the adjusted scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations;]<sup>3</sup>

[8.] *Adopt* the report prepared by the secretariat on the budget and financial arrangements in the period since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2014/[...]–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/[...]);

[9.] *Decide* that activities under the workplan for the period up to the seventh 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 [...] shares of US\$ 1,000 each, of which [...] shares would cover the core (priority 1) requirements and [...] shares would cover the remaining non-core (priority 2) requirements;

[10.] *Agree* the budget of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as set out in annex I;

[11.] *Also agree* that contributions shall be allocated to the budgets of the individual items in the budget table contained in annex I, in the order of priority set for each item unless and to the extent that a contributor specifies that a contribution should be

<sup>1</sup> Language to be modified based on the agreement of the “financial scheme”.

<sup>2</sup> See alternative C in paragraph 6 of the draft financial strategy annexed to this decision (annex II).

<sup>3</sup> See alternative B in paragraph 6 of the draft financial strategy annexed to this decision (annex II).

allocated to a particular item in the budget; where funds remain after the completion of such items, the surplus shall be transferred to the overall budget to be spent on the budget items in the in the order of priority set for each item;

[12.] *Request* that Parties seek to transfer their contributions to the ECE Trust Fund on Local Technical Cooperation under the Convention and the Protocol as early as possible in their budget year and, insofar as possible, contributions for a given calendar year should be made by the end of the preceding year so as to provide greater certainty for future financial and project management;

[13.] *Request* the secretariat to continue to prepare and submit to the Bureau biannual reports with a view to assisting in the preparation of the report to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as requested in paragraph [17] below, and further request the Bureau to consider the biannual reports prepared by the secretariat and to agree their circulation to the Parties;

[14.] *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;

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

[16.] *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;

[17.] *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;

[18.] *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;

[19.] *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 seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third 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;

[20.] *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;

[21.] *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;

[22.] *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;

[23.] *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;

[24.] *Request* the secretariat to grant, subject to the availability of funds, financial assistance to a maximum of designated experts from non-governmental organizations identified by the Bureau for their participation in meetings under the Convention and under the Protocol, unless otherwise decided by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment;

[25.] *Decide* that the 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 by representatives and experts from States outside the ECE region in meetings under the Convention and its Protocol.

## Annex I

**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>
<b>Organizational activities (with most meetings taking place in Geneva)</b>							
Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third 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	30	80	1	80
	2	Participation of non-governmental organizations		20			
	2	Invited speakers		15			
	2	Participation of non-ECE countries		15			
Meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment	2	Participation of CITs	Meeting	20	35	3	105
	2	Participation of non-governmental organizations		10			
	2	Participation of non-ECE countries		5			
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	6	30
Promotion of contacts with countries outside the ECE 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 <sup>a</sup>	1	External expert (United Nations Standard Salary Cost, including net salary, taxes and common staff costs)	Year	–	180	3	540
Further secretariat support for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol	2	Consultants	Year	15	40	3	120
	2	Promotional materials		5			
	2	Secretariat travel in relation to the workplan		20			
<b>Subtotal (organizational)</b>							<b>960</b>

<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>
<b>Substantive activities (see corresponding workplan for details)</b>							
Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol	2	Informal translations of submissions		–	–	–	10
	1	Drafting of reviews of implementation	Consultants	–	–	–	25
	2	Drafting guidance on nuclear energy					15
	2	Country-specific performance reviews	Review	–	25	3	75
Exchange of good practices	2	Workshops or half-day seminars	Seminar	–	10	4	40
<b>Subtotal (substantive activities)</b>							<b>165</b>
<b>Grand total (in shares, 1 share = \$1,000)</b>							<b>1 125</b>

<sup>a</sup> Including coordination of capacity-development, development and maintenance of website, modification of questionnaire, drafting of review of implementation and of other documents

**Annex II**  
**[Draft] financial strategy**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The financial strategy set out in the present document has been prepared further to decision V/10–I/10 on budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA), requesting “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” (ECE/MP.EIA/15, para. 16).
2. The draft strategy was agreed by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, on the basis of a proposal prepared by the Bureau and with support from the secretariat.
3. The strategy draws also on the experience of the other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) environmental conventions in developing sustainable extrabudgetary financial arrangements.

## **II. Objectives**

4. The objectives of the financial strategy are:
  - (a) To establish the basis for preparing predictable intersessional workplans with defined resource requirements under the Convention and the Protocol;
  - (b) To ensure sufficient resources for covering the costs of activities that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget;<sup>4</sup>
  - (c) To improve the stability and predictability of the sources of funding;
  - (d) To maintain a voluntary scheme of contributions that is transparent and open to all Parties, Signatories and other States and organizations wishing to contribute;
  - (e) To encourage all Parties and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the workplans[;]
  - [(f) To introduce arrangements based on the equitable and proportionate sharing of the burden among the Parties for financing of the workplan activities.]

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<sup>4</sup> Regular budget (RB) resources of the ECE secretariat are made available to cover its core mandate, that is, to ensure the servicing of meetings of the governing bodies and key subsidiary groups. The level of the RB resources is determined by United Nations Member States through relevant decisions in the Fifth Committee (with responsibilities for administration and budgetary matters) and later in the General Assembly. RB resources are not enough, therefore, for activities that go beyond the core mandate (workshops, capacity-building), which must be financed through extrabudgetary funds.

### III. Elements of the financial strategy

#### A. Planning

5. The following elements should be taken into account when planning future activities and drafting budgets:

(a) The Meetings of the Parties, when deciding on the next intersessional workplan, should at the same time agree on the budget and ensure that sources of appropriate additional extrabudgetary resources are identified;

(b) The primary responsibility for securing the necessary resources to implement the workplan should lie with the Parties;

(c) Activities for which no funding can be identified should not be included in the workplan upon its adoption [, but should be included on a waiting list until appropriate funding is made available. The funding of the “waitlisted” activities should however be subject to reassessment [by the Bureau] based on possibly changed priorities];

(d) The secretariat should not be tasked with fundraising, which takes up a significant amount of resources;

(e) The draft workplans should indicate funding requirements/estimated costs (in United States dollars) for all the proposed activities;

(f) Extrabudgetary funds must be appropriate to cover not only the activities but also the staff — both professional staff and programme assistants — needed to implement them;

(g) The allocation of resources for the budget and intersessional workplan items should be based on agreed priorities.

#### B. Contributions to the trust fund

6. To ensure sustainable funding of the activities and an equitable and proportionate distribution of the financial burden among the Parties [and the Signatories], [...].

*Alternative A:*

[the system of voluntary financial contributions, based upon a system of shares, established by decision III/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, is maintained, whereby Parties to the Convention and the Protocol as well as Signatory States, other countries, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions [and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)<sup>5</sup>] may choose to make contributions equivalent in value to a number of shares of the budget.]

*Alternative B:*

[the system of voluntary financial contributions, based upon a system of shares, established by decision III/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, is adapted: [each Party and Signatory] [each Party that has not contributed or pledged

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<sup>5</sup> Parties are invited to clarify whether NGOs (or other interest groups) may contribute to finance activities under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol. Thus far, financial contributions to the Espoo Convention Trust Fund have been received only from Parties (Governments and the European Union). This is also the case for the other ECE multilateral environmental conventions. Administratively it is possible to receive and manage funds that would be received from an outside entity, such as an NGO.

or that has so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions] should be invited to contribute each year, as a minimum, a minimum amount calculated based on the agreed budget for the Convention and the adjusted scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, which reflects the economic strength of the country.<sup>6]</sup>

*Alternative C:*

[the system of voluntary financial contributions, based upon a system of shares, established by decision III/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, is adapted: [each Party and Signatory] [each Party that has not contributed or pledged or that has so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions] should be invited to make a contribution in the intersessional period based on three “categories of donors”, as described below. [The Parties should be “assigned” to one of the three categories based on their GDP per capita.<sup>7]</sup> [It would be left to each Party to determine to which category it should belong.<sup>8]</sup>

- (a) “Small” donors are expected to contribute US\$ 500–US\$ 5,000;
- (b) “Medium” donors are expected to contribute US\$ 5,000–US\$ 30,000;
- (c) “Large” donors are expected to contribute not less than US\$ 30,000.]

<sup>6</sup> The United Nations scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses is the basis for national contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations. The informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.9 (forthcoming) for the third meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment provides a calculation of a possible cost sharing among the Parties to the Espoo Convention for the Convention budget for 2011–2014, based on the United Nations scale of assessments (as adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2012 for the period 2013–2014). This United Nations scale has been adjusted (a) by considering only those States that are Parties to the Espoo Convention (the Parties account for 44.606 per cent of the total scale); and (b) by including a standard contribution from the European Union of 3.330 per cent. In 2012 and 2013, when inviting contributions from Parties that had not pledged or contributed to the Convention trust fund, the Bureau used this method of calculation for suggesting an amount to be contributed. The calculation demonstrated that, if the scale is applied to all Parties to the Convention, the bulk of the financial burden would fall mainly on six Parties that would cover almost 70 per cent of the total budget, with the highest percentage shares attributed, in decreasing order, to Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Italy, Canada and Spain. The comparison with Parties’ actual pledges for 2011–2014 showed that France and Germany pledged less than one third of their United Nations scale-based share, and that the other four biggest contributors did not pledge or contribute at all during the period in question. The calculation also showed that several other Parties contributed substantially more than their United Nations scale-based share (e.g., Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine).

<sup>7</sup> See informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.9 (forthcoming) for the third meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment for an illustration of classes of donors based on GDP per capita.

<sup>8</sup> The method was applied to calculate a possible cost sharing among the Parties using as a basis the budget for 2011–2014 under two assumptions. First, under the assumption that all Parties would contribute the lowest amount in each of the classes (small, medium or large), for securing the sufficient financing of the budget, there should be no less than 29 “large donor” Parties that pay US\$ 30,000 or more each, 11 Parties that pay the intermediate amount of US\$ 5,000 each, and 4 Parties the pay the smallest amount of US\$ 500 each, over the intersessional period. Under a second assumption that each Party would pay the average amount within each class, 15 Parties should contribute US\$ 45,000, 14 Parties US\$15,000 and 15 Parties US\$ 2,500 in order to cover the budgetary requirements. The calculations were made assuming that the European Union would contribute according to its pledge for 2011–2014.

*Alternative D:*

[a mandatory scheme of financial contributions is established whereby each Party to the Convention and to the Protocol has an obligation to contribute each year an amount that it may choose on a voluntary basis. [As a guidance, Parties could be referred to minimum amounts to be contributed calculated based on the United Nations scale of assessments or on any another appropriate method.]]

7. To improve the sustainable availability and predictability of the extrabudgetary funding for the activities under the Convention and the Protocol:

(a) Insofar as possible, and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, contributions for a given calendar year should be made by the end of the preceding year, so as to secure staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the activities;

(b) Financial contributions should preferably be made towards the overall implementation of the workplan, but could also be earmarked for a particular activity;

(c) To the extent possible, the financial contributions to the trust fund under the Convention should be “unconditional”, that is, they should be provided without signed agreements or other exchange of written communication and requiring no specific financial or substantive reporting by the secretariat on their use other than that provided in the biannual financial reports produced by the secretariat;

(d) The secretariat should write to Parties [and Signatories] to encourage further and timely financial contributions. The letters should be sent out before the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and at the end of each subsequent calendar year of the intersessional period. [The letters should be addressed to all the Parties that have made pledges at the session, as well as to Parties that have so far not pledged or contributed to the trust fund under the Convention.] [If Parties opt for the mandatory scheme in paragraph 7, *alternative D*: The letters should be sent to all Parties to remind them of their obligation to contribute each year. If a Party failed to provide its annual contribution contribute, the letter sent out the following year would invite it to pay its annual contribution and to also cover “its arrears” for the preceding year.] [The letter should refer to an indicative amount to be contributed, [as a minimum, calculated based on the United Nations scale of assessments. Letters should only be sent to those Parties that would be expected to contribute at least US\$ 500 in line with this calculation] or [based on the “categories of donors”].];

(e) Signatories, other ECE and non-ECE countries, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions [and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)] should also be invited to provide extrabudgetary resources.

### **C. In-kind contributions**

8. In addition to the extrabudgetary contributions to be made in cash to the trust fund under the Convention, Parties as well as Signatories, other ECE and non-ECE countries, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions [and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)] should be encouraged to make in-kind contributions. These could include:

(a) Covering the cost of services linked to workplan activities (provision of expertise, organization of a meeting, publication of results, etc.);

(b) Funding directly the participation of representatives of countries with economies in transition and the secretariat, rather than through contributions to the trust fund;

(c) Providing financial support for representatives of States outside the ECE region that they wished to participate in activities or meetings;

(d) Provision of leadership and expertise within the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Protocol.

9. Parties should also be encouraged to provide human resources for the implementation of the activities by the Convention secretariat, for example through:

(a) Providing a junior or associate expert;<sup>9</sup>

(b) Staff secondment.

### **C. Expenditure from the trust fund**

10. The contributions should continue to be allocated to the budgets of the individual items of expenditure in the order of priority set for each item, as decided on by the Meeting of the Parties. In addition to this:

(a) Financial support to representatives of States outside the ECE region should be provided only if such representatives would draw clear benefits from their participation, such as attendance at a workshop or involvement in relevant discussions;

(b) Financial support for States neighbouring the ECE region should be prioritized over other States outside the ECE region;

(c) Savings could be made by reducing the number of printed items and moving to electronic publications, as well as by reducing the length of printed documents.

### **E. Expenditure from the regular budget**

11. Savings from the regular budget should be made, including through:

(a) Continued reduction in the number of documents, their length and their translation;

(b) Continued reduction in printing, with a move to electronic publications;

(c) More even distribution of the meetings throughout the year.

## **Draft decision VI/5–II/5**

*[to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its second session]*

*[The secretariat prepared the following text drawing on the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to the ECE Convention on the Protection and the Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) at its sixth session (28–30 November 2012) on accession to the Water Convention by non-United Nations Economic Commission for Europe countries (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2, forthcoming).]*

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<sup>9</sup> Parties that have a junior professional officer programme may wish to consider providing an associate expert. These are typically young professionals with a university degree in an appropriate discipline and a few years of professional experience that are made available to a receiving international organization for a period of two to three years.

## 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* its decision V/8–I/8 on accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

*Also recalling* decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on interpretation of article 14 of the Convention, and the desire expressed therein to bring about an early entry into force of the amendments adopted through its decisions II/1 and III/7,

*Further 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 (ECE),

*Additionally 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 ECE,

*Convinced* that the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment are effective instruments for fostering environmentally sound and sustainable development, and for supporting cooperation also beyond the ECE region,

*Wishing* to share the knowledge, practices and experience gained in the ECE region and, at the same time, to benefit from the knowledge, practices and experience in other regions of the world,

*Recognizing* the increased interest in the Convention and the Protocol and the involvement of many non-ECE countries in activities within their framework,

*Acknowledging* the need for a procedure for accession by non-ECE countries not differing from the procedure for accession by ECE-countries,

*Expressing* the wish to allow countries outside the ECE region to become Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol as soon as possible,

[1. *Express satisfaction* that article 17, paragraph 3 adopted by decision II/4 will enter into force on [add date], in accordance with article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, and taking into account decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the interpretation of article 14 of the Convention, for those States that have ratified, approved or accepted the amendment;]

[2.] *Urge* all the States that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001 that have not yet done so to ratify the amendment to article 17 as soon as possible, and not later than by the end of 2015;

[3.] *Decide* that, for the purposes of the amendment to article 17 of the Convention, adopted by decision II/14, any future request for accession to the Convention by any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is welcome and, therefore, shall be considered as approved by the Meeting of the Parties. Accordingly, reference to the present decision will have to be made by any such State in submitting its instrument for accession;

[*Alternative module A*]

[4. *Also decide* that the present approval of future requests for accession to the Convention will take effect upon entry into force of the amendment to article 17 in accordance with article 14, paragraph 4 of the Convention, and taking into account decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties Convention on interpretation of article 14 of the Convention, without having to wait until all the Parties that adopted the amendments ratify them;<sup>10</sup>]

[*Alternative B*]

[4. *Decide* that this approval is subject to the entry into force, for all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001, of the amendment to article 17. A State or organization referred to in article 16 of the Convention that becomes a Party to the Convention between the adoption of this decision and the entry into force of article 17, paragraph 3, for all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001 shall be notified by the ECE secretariat of this decision and that the State or organization is deemed to have accepted it; accordingly, reference to the present decision will have to be made by any Member State of the United Nations that is not referred to in article 16 of the Convention and 21 of the Protocol when submitting its instrument for accession;]

[5.] *Request* the secretariat to inform the United Nations Treaty Section about this procedure so that appropriate arrangements can be made, and to disseminate information on the procedure to interested Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Economic Commission for Europe.

[6.] *Invite* interested Members of the United Nations that are not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to start and finalize all the national steps necessary for accession to the Convention and the Protocol according to national legal provisions, and to deposit their instruments of accession in accordance with article 17, paragraph 3, of the Convention, and article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, accompanied by a declaration to undertake all the obligations of the Convention, making reference to the present decision, and at the same time to address a letter to the Executive Secretary of ECE from its ministry of foreign affairs, and to comply with other requirements set out in decision V/8-I/8;

[7. *Decide* to assign, by the present decision, [an Associate Party] [a Preliminary Party] [a Provisional Party] status to any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, which has submitted or will in future submit an instrument of accession in accordance with paragraph [5] above, [pending the entry into force of the amendments for all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001];

8. *Resolve* that [Associate Party] [Preliminary Party] [Provisional Party] status will entail all the rights and obligations of the Convention, with the exception of the rights related to article 12 (Right to vote) and article 14 (Amendments to the Convention) of the

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<sup>10</sup> The alternative module A is considered to substantially accelerate the accession by non-ECE countries to the Convention, as the Parties would decide not to apply the requirement set out in the first amendment to the Convention, that "the Meeting of the Parties shall not consider or approve any request for accession by such a [non-ECE] State until this paragraph has entered into force for all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001" (art. 17, para. 3, as amended). The first amendment will enter into force once ratified by at least three fourths of the number of Parties at the time of the amendment, i.e., by 23 out of 31 Parties — which is expected to take place relatively soon, considering that, as at 28 August 2013, 20 Parties have ratified the amendment and only three further ratifications are needed. If Parties do decide to apply the requirement set out above, 11 further ratifications would be needed for the amendment to be effective.

Convention as well as to article 16 (Right to vote) and article 19 (Amendments to the Protocol) of the Protocol. The Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to [Associate] [Preliminary] [Provisional] Parties, with the exception of rules 34 to 43 on voting].

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