

## **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 serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

#### **Bureau**

Geneva, 23–24 February 2017

### **Provisional annotated agenda**

**To be held at Salle VIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.  
on Thursday, 23 February 2017\***

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

- I. Organizational matters
  - A. Adoption of the agenda
  - B. Participation
- II. Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol
- III. Implementation of the workplan 2014–2017
  - A. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol
  - B. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building
  - C. Exchange of good practices
  - D. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol
- IV. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

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\* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Members of the Bureau are therefore requested **to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, i.e. by 9 February 2017** through the following link:

<https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=bkpdd4>

The use of Internet Explorer browser is recommended. In case of difficulty, please refer to the user manual (<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR/Online+Meeting+Registration+Guidelines>) or contact the secretariat by e-mail ([anelia.rambosson@unece.org](mailto:anelia.rambosson@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the ECE website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 4128.

- V. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties
  - A. Practical arrangements
  - B. Outstanding issues:
    - 1. Draft Minsk declaration.
    - 2. Draft workplan 2017–2020 (draft decision VII/3-III/3).
    - 3. Draft decision on development of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol (VII/7-III/6).
    - 4. Other draft decisions to be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties.
  - C. Programme for the MOP-7 and MOP/MOP-3
    - 1. Provisional agenda.
    - 2. Panel discussions:
      - (i) The contribution of the Convention and the Protocol to the achievement of sustainable development goals and on the future of the treaties (in the general segment);
      - (ii) The application of the Protocol and the Convention to climate change mitigation and adaptation (in the high-level segment);
    - 3. Chairs of the Meetings of the Parties.
    - 4. Financial assistance priorities.
    - 5. Side events.
- VI. Officers for the next intersessional period (2017–2020)
- VII. Preliminary schedule of meetings in 2017–2020
- VIII. Related events
- IX. Other business
- X. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **I. Organizational matters**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 23 February, 10.00–10.30*

#### **A. Adoption of the agenda**

1. This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Chair. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

#### **B. Participation**

2. Mr. Dmytro Matuschenko from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine will attend the meeting as the new member of the Bureau nominated by Ukraine. The Bureau will be informed of possible other changes in its composition, as appropriate.

## **II. Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 23 February, 10.30–11*

*Relevant documentation<sup>1</sup>:*

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2017/INF.2 – Status of ratification

3. The secretariat will inform the Bureau of the status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol. The Bureau members are expected to report on progress in their countries regarding the following ratifications: by Armenia of the two amendments to the Convention; by Belarus of the Protocol on SEA and the second amendment to the Convention; by the Republic of Moldova of the second amendment. The Bureau members will also be invited to report on the actions they have undertaken to encourage other Convention Parties to ratify in particular to facilitate the entry into effect of the first amendment and the entry into force of the second amendment, as agreed by the Working Group.

## **III. Implementation of the workplan 2014–2017**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 23 February, 11–13.00 and 15.00–16.00*

*Relevant documentation:*

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2017/INF.3 – Workplan implementation status

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/4–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/4 –Draft report on the Implementation Committee's activities

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/5–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/5 – Draft summary report on technical assistance and capacity building activities

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<sup>1</sup> The provisional agenda and all other meeting documentation will be made available on the password protected Bureau member's area website at <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/environmental-assessment/about-us/bodies/enveiabureau/members-area.html>

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/9 – Review of implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/9– Review of implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/6 –ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/6 – General guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/11 –ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/10 – Technical guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/9 – Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities

#### **A. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol**

4. The Chair of the Implementation Committee is expected to present briefly the main outcomes of the Committee's thirty-fifth to thirty-eight sessions (held in Geneva, 15–17 March; 5–7 September; 12–14 December 2016 and 20–22 February 2017, respectively).<sup>2</sup>

5. The secretariat and the Bureau members representing Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova will report on the implementation of activities in the workplan (decision VI/3–II/3) that relate to compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, including:

(a) Legislative assistance to support implementation or accession/ratification (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova);

(b) Further development and update of the Guidelines on EIA in a Transboundary context for Central Asian Countries;

(c) Finalization of the draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft second review of implementation of the Protocol in the period 2013–2015, taking into account the comments and corrections from the Parties provided before and during the sixth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 7–10 November 2016)

(d) Progress in the alignment of the authentic language versions of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention;

6. The Bureau members are invited to comment the information and to provide advice on the implementation of or follow-up to the activities, as needed.

#### **B. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building**

7. The secretariat will report on the implementation of workplan activities that relate to subregional cooperation and capacity-building since the last Bureau meeting in the following subregions:

(a) South-Eastern Europe subregion;

(b) Baltic Sea subregion;

(c) Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

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<sup>2</sup> Reports on the Implementation Committee's sessions held in 2014 are available at: <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/environmental-impact-assessment/meetings-and-events.html?id=7113#/2014/0/28089/19940/>

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8. The Bureau is expected take note of the information and to agree on actions to ensure the implementation of these activities.

### **C. Exchange of good practices**

9. The Chair of the Working Group and/or the secretariat will report on the implementation of workshops or seminars within the meetings of the Working Group as specified in, or related to, the workplan, regarding the exchange of good practices. In particular, the Bureau will be informed about the outcomes of the workshop on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol organized by the European Investment Bank and the brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol, organized by Austria, Finland and the Netherlands. The Bureau may wish to consider how to best take the outcomes of these events into account in the workplan and the relevant decisions for the next intersessional period.

10. The secretariat will report on the finalization of the general and technical parts of the joint draft guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects subsequent to the revisions by the Working Group at its last meeting and the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau under the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. The secretariat will also inform the Bureau about the proposal by the Bureau is then invited to secretariat will also present the preliminary outcomes of the survey for the development of good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities as well as the subsequent steps for the preparation of the guidance and their time schedule. The Bureau is expected to provide guidance and agree on actions to ensure the publication and implementation of the guidance document. It is also invited to consider proposed follow-up activities, including a joint workshop with the Industrial Accidents Convention in autumn 2018.

11. The Chair of the Working Group or the secretariat will report on progress in the finalization of the good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities, as agreed by the Working Group at its meeting in November. The Bureau will be invited in particular to review the compilation of good practice examples (in boxes) prepared by the editorial group after the meeting of the Working Group, “in order to ensure the coherence with the recommendations and the decisions of the Meetings of the Parties”.

### **D. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol**

12. The secretariat and/or the beneficiary/lead countries represented in the Bureau (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) will report on the implementation of activities specified in or related to the workplan for promoting ratification and application of the Protocol: including

- (a) Preparation national guidance documents;
- (b) Holding of training workshops, including training;
- (c) Implementation of pilot projects;
- (d) Preparation of fact sheets and “FasTips”
- (e) Preparation and dissemination of advocacy material;

13. The Bureau is expected to provide its views on the information provided and, as needed, agree on actions to ensure the implementation of or follow-up to these activities.

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

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 23 February, 16.00–17.00*

*Relevant documentation:*

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2017/INF.4 – Elements for financial report

14. The secretariat will report on received contributions to, and on expenditure from the Convention's trust fund. It will also inform the meeting about changes in the level of detail of the future financial reporting by UNECE. The biannual financial report until the end of December 2016 will be made available for consideration of the Bureau upon the release of the budgetary figures by the UN administration. Finally, the secretariat will report on any recent or foreseen staff changes in the secretariat.

15. The Bureau may wish to discuss any further measures to encourage Parties that have so far not pledged anything to make contributions, and Parties that have so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions to raise their contributions, during the current and future budget cycles (decision VI/4–II/4, paras. 6-7). It may also wish to review and comment the implementation of the financial strategy adopted at the last sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in 2014 (decision VI/4–II/4, Annex II, ECE/MP.EIA/20.Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.3). Finally, it may consider new funding strategies for the treaties, e.g. creating synergies with new partners, such as international financial institutions, as had been proposed by the delegates at the brainstorming session held during the Working Group's last meeting.

16. The Bureau is expected to discuss as necessary limited adjustments to the budget (decision V/10–I/10, para. 13).

#### **V. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 23 February, 17.00–18.00 and Friday, 24 February, 10.00–12.00*

*Relevant documentation:*

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2017/INF.4 – Preparations for the 2017 sessions of the Meetings of the Parties  
ECE/MP.EIA/2017/4–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/4 – Draft Minsk declaration

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/1– Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol

ECE/MP.EIA/2017/7 – Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention

ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/7 – Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

ECE/MP.EIA/22- ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/6 – Provisional agenda

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2017/INF.5 – Information on the nominations for officers for the period 2017–2020

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2017/INF.6– Informal timetable of formal meetings 2017–2020

##### **A. Practical arrangements**

17. The representative of Belarus and the secretariat will provide an update on the practical arrangements for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to be held in

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Minsk (Hotel Beijing Minsk) from 13 to 16 June 2017 and the time schedule for the preparation of the documentation and other next steps. The secretariat will consult the Bureau on the language of the invitation letters to environment ministers of the ECE and selected non ECE countries.

## **B. Outstanding issues**

### **1. Draft Minsk Declaration**

18. The Bureau will be invited to review and update the relevant paragraphs of the draft Minsk declaration it prepared in January 2016, taking into account possible comments by Parties and stakeholders, and considering the outcomes of the relevant conclusions of the Batumi Ministerial Conference and the outcomes of the brainstorming session. It is expected to finalize the draft declaration for submission to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

### **2. Draft workplan 2017–2020**

19. The secretariat will present the decision VII/3–III/3 on the draft workplan for 2017–2020 and its annexes, as revised by the Working Group at its meeting in November. The Bureau is invited to review the draft workplan in detail ensuring that for each sub-activity in the annex I full information is provided on the organizational arrangements, expected outcome, timeschedule and budget; and that information on the waitlisted activities (in annex II) is as complete as possible. The Bureau is expected to finalize the draft document for submission to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties taking into account any further comments and clarifications from the delegations by the end of January 2017.

### **3. Draft decision on development of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol (VII/7–III/6);**

20. The Bureau is expected to review and agree on the text of the draft decision VII/7–III/6 to be forwarded to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties taking into account the possible comments from the delegations and the conclusions of the Working Group's discussions at its sixth meeting.

### **4. Other draft decisions to be forwarded to the MOPs**

21. The Bureau is expected to review the draft decisions to be forwarded to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties taking into account the conclusions of the Working Group's discussions at its sixth meeting (see the table in annex presenting the status of draft decisions).

## **C. Programme for the MOP–7 and MOP/MOP–3**

### **1. Provisional agenda**

22. The Bureau is expected to review and agree on provisional annotated agendas for the two MOP sessions based on drafts prepared by the secretariat taking into account the outline programme agreed by the Working Group at its sixth meeting (draft ECE/MP.EIA/22- ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/6). It may wish to ensure that the tentative timing proposed for the outstanding issues, including the workplan, the draft decisions and the draft declaration, will allow for their sufficient consideration by the MOPs in the general segment, and also discuss arrangements for possible parallel negotiations on issues that are more effectively addressed outside the plenary session.

**2. Panel discussions**

23. Taking into account the suggestions put forward at the Working Group's last meeting, the Bureau is expected to discuss the organization of panel discussions on:

- (a) The contribution of the Convention and the Protocol to the achievement of sustainable development goals and on the future of the treaties (in the general segment);
- (b) The application of the Protocol and the Convention to climate change mitigation and adaptation (in the high-level segment);

24. The Bureau members are invited to consider volunteering as lead-countries or organizations for the organization of the panels and/or propose speakers to be invited; discuss issues to be covered; background material and timing and other organizational matters.

**3. Chairs of the Meetings of the Parties**

25. At its meeting in November, the Working Group proposed nominations for the chairs as follows:

- (a) the Chair of the Bureau: for the general segments of the two sessions of the Meetings of the Parties;
- (b) Belarus: for the high-level segment of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and possibly also for that of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, provided that it had ratified the Protocol at least 90 days before that session.

26. Considering the uncertainty about the ratification by Belarus, the Working Group invited the delegations to come forward with nominations for a co-Chair for the high-level segment on the Protocol matters. The Bureau may wish consider any nominations put forward after the meeting of the Working Group or make proposals.

**4. Financial assistance priorities.**

27. The Bureau may wish to confirm priorities for the financial assistance to participants from the eligible ECE countries, NGOs, non-ECE countries and invited speakers, in line with the budget agreed by previous MOPs and funds available.

**5. Side events**

28. At its sixth meeting, the Working Group noted proposals of the EU for two possible side-events to be held in connection with the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and invited delegations to volunteer as lead countries for the organization of those events. The side events related to:

- (a) Public participation in the field of sustainable energy;
- (b) The preparation of good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (with suggested participation of countries that proposed good practice examples).

29. The Bureau members are invited to consider volunteering as lead-countries or organizations for the organization of the side events; and discuss speakers to be invited; issues to be covered; background material, as well as timing and other organizational matters.



## **VI. Officers for the next intersessional period (2017–2020)**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 24 February, 12.00–13.00*

30. The secretariat will present the preliminary information provided by Parties on their proposed nominations of Members of the Bureau, the Working Group; and the Implementation Committee. The Bureau is expected to consider the nominations provide its view. It may also wish to discuss and make proposals to the Meetings of the Parties regarding the number and the selection criteria of the officers for ensuring the optimal functioning of the treaty bodies.

## **VII. Preliminary schedule of meetings in 2017–2020**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 24 February, 15.00–15.30*

31. The Bureau is expected to review and agree an informal timetable of formal meetings under the Convention and the Protocol in 2017-2020 to be presented at the next sessions of the meetings of the Parties.

## **VIII. Related events**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 24 February, 15.30–16.00*

32. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the meeting of the informal network of the Chairs of the MEA implementation and compliance committees held on 20 June 2016. The secretariat will then inform the Bureau about the informal meeting between representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) (24 January 2017); as well as of the segment devoted to the MEAs at the 22nd session of the CEP held in Geneva on 25 January 2017 focusing on how the UNECE MEAs contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. The Bureau members will be invited to take note of the information. comment the informal documents discussed at the meetings, including a possibly background document for the Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe to be held in Batumi, Georgia, on 8–10 June 2016 on the contribution of UNECE MEAs to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

33. The secretariat will present the relevant outcomes of a review of ECE activities under the Convention and its Protocol between 2011 and 2016, its recommendations, and the ECE “management review” to them. The Bureau may wish to consider how to implement the recommendations of the review.

## **IX. Other business**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 24 February, 16.00–16.30*

34. Members of the Bureau wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **X. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 24 February, 16.30–17.30*

35. The Bureau is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.

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**Annex: Status of draft decisions**

<i>Title</i>	<i>MOP7 symbol</i>	<i>MOP/MOP3 symbol</i>	<i>Status</i>
Reporting and review of implementation of the Convention	VII/1		<i>Agreed by WG6, to be updated based on received reports</i>
Reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol		III/1	<i>Agreed by WG6, to be updated based on received reports</i>
Review of compliance with the Convention	VII/2		<i>To be finalized by the Implementation Committee</i>
Review of compliance with the Protocol		III/2	<i>To be finalized by the Implementation Committee</i>
Adoption of the workplan	VII/3	III/3	<i>Revised by WG6, to be finalized based on new information and proposals</i>
Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance	VII/4	III/4	<i>Agreed by WG6</i>
Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects	VII/5	III/5	<i>Agreed by WG6</i>
Development of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol	VII/7	III/3	<i>To be finalized by the Bureau</i>
Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities	VII/7		<i>Agreed by WG6</i>