

Decision VII/5–III/5

Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects

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 (Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol), meeting in joint session,

Recognizing the need to more effectively mitigate the effects of possible industrial accidents and the consequences on human health, the environment and cultural heritage within countries and across borders,

Acknowledging important interlinkages, synergies and complementarities between the obligations of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) in the area of land-use planning, safety and the siting of hazardous activities,

Convinced of the benefits of the application of these treaty obligations in a mutually consistent and complementary manner,

Aware of the challenges in the practical implementation of these legal instruments within and across countries in relation to land-use planning, safety and hazardous industrial activities,

Wishing to support public authorities and practitioners in applying the relevant treaty obligations.

Having considered the outcome of the workshop organized jointly with the Working Group on the Development of the Convention under the Industrial Accidents Convention (Geneva, 13 April 2016), which highlighted the importance of exchanging information and experiences and promoting synergies and cooperation among stakeholders at the national and international levels,

Having also considered the two parts of the draft guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects — divided into general guidance and technical guidance,

1. *Recognize* the need to support competent public authorities and practitioners in applying the relevant treaty obligations;
2. *Endorse* the general part of the guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects, as set out in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/6–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/6;
3. *Take note* of the technical part of the guidance, contained in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/11–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/10;
4. *Invite* Parties to promote the implementation of the guidance and cooperation and consultation among land-use planners, environmental assessment experts and industrial safety specialists;
5. *Invite* the relevant treaty body secretariats to publish the guidance.