

Decision VII/6

Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling its decision VI/7 on the application of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to nuclear energy-related activities and its decision V/9–I/9 on the adoption of the workplan up to the fifth meeting of the Parties,

Also recalling part A of the Geneva Declaration (see ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3), adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session (Geneva, 2–5 June 2014),

Reiterating that nuclear energy-related activities by their nature can lead to significant transboundary and long-range adverse environmental impacts and imply special challenges owing, inter alia, to national interests and, in some countries, greater public concern,

Further reiterating that the Convention is a key instrument establishing rules for domestic action and international cooperation for preventing, reducing and controlling significant adverse transboundary environmental impact from proposed activities that include nuclear energy-related activities,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to meet fully their obligations deriving from the Convention, and therefore urging them all to do so,

Wishing to assist Parties in complying with their obligations under the Convention, and to promote its effective application,

1. *Welcomes* the development of draft good practice recommendations by consultants to the secretariat under the supervision of members of an editorial group representing Austria, Belarus, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the European ECO Forum, with support from the secretariat, in line with agreed terms of reference, and taking into account the information provided by a number of Parties and stakeholders through a questionnaire survey and also comments from the Bureau and the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment;

2. *Endorses* the good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (Good Practice Recommendations) set out in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/10;

3. *Recognizes* that the Good Practice Recommendations do not seek to offer a legal interpretation of, or impose obligations under, the Convention;

4. *Recommends* that the Parties take into account the contents of the Good Practice Recommendations when implementing and applying the Convention;

5. *Calls on* the Parties to distribute the Good Practice Recommendations to authorities and relevant stakeholders;

6. *Invites* Parties to provide information to the Working Group on the usefulness of the Good Practice Recommendations;

7. *Welcomes* the other examples of existing practices provided by Parties on their application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities, as included in an informal document submitted to the Meeting of the Parties;¹

8. *Proposes* that the Good Practice Recommendations could be used in the capacity-building activities included in the workplan.

¹ Practical examples of the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (informal document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/INF.6) available from http://www.unece.org/env/eia/meetings/mop_7.html#.