

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, 5–6 February 2015

Provisional annotated agenda

**To be held at Salle V, Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Thursday, 5 February 2015***

I. Provisional agenda

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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 22 January 2015** through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=Hsxqxa>. 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 (nadiya.dzyubynska@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.

- VI. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties
- VII. Preparations for the fourth session of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment
- VIII. Related events
- IX. Other business
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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

I. Organizational matters

Tentative timing: Thursday, 5 February, 10.00-10.15

A. Adoption of the agenda

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

B. Participation

2. The members of the Bureau are expected to introduce themselves.
3. The secretariat will report on the recent and expected changes in its composition.

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 5 February, 10.15-10.30

Relevant documentation: ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.2 – Status of ratification

4. The secretariat will inform the Bureau of the status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol, as well as of its efforts to encourage ratification/accession. The Bureau members are expected to report on progress of their countries regarding ratifications and to discuss possible measures to further encourage ratification and accession, in particular to facilitate the operationalization of the first amendment and the entry into force of the second amendment.

III. Review of decisions by the Meetings of the Parties

Tentative timing: Thursday, 5 February, 10.30-11.00

Relevant documentation: ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.3 – Tasks

5. The Bureau will review decisions taken by the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and by the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, particularly with regard to tasks assigned to the Bureau, as included in the report of the two sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/20-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4, including Add. 1–3).

IV. Implementation of the workplan 2014-2017

Tentative timing: Thursday, 5 February, 11.00-13.00 and 15.00-16.00

Relevant documentation:

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.4 – Workplan implementation status

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.5 – Timetable for the modification of questionnaires and the preparation of the draft reviews of implementation

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.6 – Proposed modifications to the Convention questionnaire

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.7 – Proposed modifications to the Protocol questionnaire
ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.8 – Concordance table for the Kiev Protocol/authentic text
ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.9 – Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities/terms of reference

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

6. The Chair of the Implementation Committee is expected to present briefly the main outcomes of the Committee's thirty-first and thirty-second sessions (held from 2 to 4 September and from 9 to 11 December 2014, respectively)¹ as well as the main objectives for the Committee's upcoming session (17-19 March 2015).

7. The secretariat 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) Modification of the questionnaires for the report on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (in the period 2014–2016) and the timetable for the production of the fifth review of implementation with the Convention and the second review of implementation with the Protocol;

(b) Legislative assistance to support implementation or accession/ratification (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan);

(c) Developments on the alignment of the authentic language versions of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention;

(d) Preparation of guidance on the implementation of the Convention (drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee).

8. The Bureau is expected to note the information and provide advice on the implementation of or follow-up to the activities, as needed.

B. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

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

(a) South-Eastern Europe subregion;

(b) Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea;

(c) Baltic Sea subregion;

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

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

¹ 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#/2014/0/0/28089/19940/>

C. Exchange of good practices

11. The secretariat will report on the implementation of workshops or half-day seminars within the meetings of the Working Group specified in the workplan and relating to the exchange of good practices. The secretariat will also present the draft terms of reference for the development of good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities.

12. In addition, the secretariat will present the expression of interest of the European Investment Bank with the support of the European Commission to develop joint good practice guidance including recommendations on land use planning, together with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, and organize a workshop to exchange experiences on approaches to land use planning with due account to the Protocol on SEA, the Industrial Accidents Convention and agreed approaches to land use planning in the framework of the work of the ECE housing and land management programme.

13. The Bureau is expected to provide guidance and agree on actions to ensure the holding of the events and the development of the good practice recommendations.

D. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol

14. The secretariat will report on the implementation of activities specified in the workplan that relate to promoting ratification and application of the Protocol:

- (a) Preparation and maintenance of guidance materials;
- (b) Holding of workshops, including training;
- (c) Implementation of pilot projects;
- (d) Development of legislation on SEA;
- (e) Development of communication materials.

15. 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.

V. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

Tentative timing: Thursday, 5 February, 16.00-17.30

Relevant documentation:

ECE/MP.EIA/B/2015/INF.10 – Biannual financial report

Note prepared by the Environment Division regarding funding of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

16. The secretariat will report on received contributions to, and on expenditure from, the Convention's trust fund.

17. 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).

18. The Director of the ECE Environment Division will present a note prepared in 2014 regarding the funding of the MEAs, adequate staffing and sustainability of the services

provided by the secretariat. The Bureau will be invited to share their views about the proposals.

VI. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties

Tentative timing: Thursday, 5 February, 17.30-18.00

19. The Bureau is expected to discuss possible offers by Parties to host 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. The Bureau is also expected to consider possible dates of the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in May or June 2017.

VII. Preparations for the fourth session of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Tentative timing: Friday, 6 February, 10.00-10.30

Relevant documentation: ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/1 – Draft provisional agenda : fourth session of the Working Group on EIA and SEA

20. The Bureau is expected to review the annotated provisional agenda of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, to be held in Geneva from 26 to 28 May 2015 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/1).

VIII. Related events

Tentative timing: Friday, 6 February, 10.30-11.30

21. The Chair of the Working Group on EIA and SEA will inform the Bureau about the outcomes of the joint meeting of the Chairs of the bureau of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and of the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy that was held in Geneva on 27 October 2014.

IX. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 6 February, 11.30-12.00

22. 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, 6 February, 12.00-13.00

23. 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.