

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, 31 January–1 February 2012

Annotated provisional agenda

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 31 January 2012***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Membership of the Bureau.
3. Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol.
4. Review of decisions by the Meetings of the Parties.
5. Outcomes of related events.
6. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.
7. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.
8. Exchange of good practices.
9. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol.
10. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance.
11. Staffing of the secretariat.
12. Preparations for the first meeting of the Working Group.
13. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

* Members of the Bureau are requested to complete the registration form available from the website of the Economic Commission for Europe (<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>) and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax to +41 22 917 0107 or by e-mail to eia.conv@unece.org.

14. Publications.
15. Other business.
16. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. 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.

2. Participation

2. The members of the Bureau are expected to introduce themselves.
3. The Bureau is expected to decide on whether a representative of European ECO-Forum be permitted to participate in meetings of the Bureau as an observer, in accordance with the rules of procedure, further to a proposal by the European Environmental Bureau and a decision by the Meetings of the Parties.

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

4. The secretariat will inform the Bureau of the status of ratification, and on the secretariat's efforts to encourage accession by States that are not parties. The Bureau might suggest additional actions to be taken to encourage accession and, in particular, to facilitate the entry into force of the two amendments to the Convention.

4. Review of decisions by the Meetings of the Parties

5. The Bureau will review decisions taken by the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and by the first 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 reports of the two sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/15 and ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2, respectively).

5. Outcomes of related events

6. The secretariat is expected to report on the holding of a side-event to the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference held in Astana from 21 to 23 September 2011 (further to the declaration, para. 19), and on relevant outcomes of the Conference.
7. The secretariat is also expected to describe how it reported within the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20) on the contribution of the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol to the implementation of the principles proclaimed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I)) (further to the declaration, para. 20). The Bureau might advise on further actions to be taken in this regard.

8. The Chair of the Bureau will be invited to inform the Bureau on the outcomes of a joint meeting of the chairs of the bureaus of the multilateral environmental agreements under the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and of the chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy, held in Geneva on 22 November 2011.

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

8. The Bureau is expected to confirm the identity an eighth member of the Implementation Committee for Protocol matters in the light of further ratifications.

9. The Chair of the Implementation Committee is expected to present very briefly an outline of the work of the Committee in the period since the June 2011 sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, and report a Committee proposal that a small group be established to examine possible substantive inconsistencies between the different language versions of the Convention.

10. The secretariat will report on the implementation of activities in the workplan (decision V/9-I/9) that relate to compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, notably:

(a) Simplification of the questionnaire for the report on implementation of the Convention, and its extension for the report on implementation of the Protocol;

(b) The timetable for the production of the fourth review of implementation;

(c) Pre-accession legislative assistance.

11. The secretariat will report on its actions to promote the use by international financial institutions of a checklist prepared by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development under the workplan adopted by decision IV/7 (decision V/9-I/9, para. 16).

12. The Bureau is expected to agree on actions to ensure the implementation of these activities.

7. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

13. 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;

(c) Baltic Sea subregion;

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

14. The Bureau is expected to agree on actions to ensure the implementation of these activities.

8. Exchange of good practices

15. The secretariat will report on the implementation of workshops or half-day seminars specified in the workplan that relate to the exchange of good practices.

16. The Bureau is expected to agree on actions to ensure the holding of these events.

17. The Bureau might also discuss further activities to support Parties in their application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities. In addition, the Bureau might discuss the proposal, made by the moderator of the panel discussion on that topic during the Meeting of the Parties, on the need for the development of guidance to codify practical experience, which could be based on the secretariat's background paper, and which might address a series of key issues.

9. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol

18. 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) Organization of pilot projects;
- (d) Preparation of a format for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) notification;
- (e) Development of legislation on SEA;
- (f) A joint workshop on public participation in SEA in accordance with the Protocol and article 7 of the Aarhus Convention, which is expected to be held from 29 to 30 October 2012.

19. The Bureau is expected to agree on actions to ensure the implementation of these activities.

10. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

20. The secretariat will report on the receipt of contributions to, and on expenditure from, the Convention's trust fund.

21. The Bureau is expected to decide on 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 V/10-I/10, paras. 8-9).

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

23. The Bureau is expected to decide on the development, possibly with the support of a small group, of a strategy for carrying out the work under the Convention and the Protocol given the financial constraints (decision V/10-I/10, para. 16). The secretariat will provide recommendations developed by the Environment Division on harmonizing planning, workplans and budgets for the multilateral environmental agreements serviced by ECE.

24. The Bureau is expected to examine responses to an open letter inviting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to apply for financial assistance, and to then draw up a list of up to five experts from NGOs to receive assistance for their participation in meetings under the Convention and under its Protocol (decision V/10-I/10, para. 21). To assist the Bureau in its work, the secretariat will report on the past participation of supported NGOs.

25. The Bureau is also expected to consider proposals by the secretariat for possible financial assistance for the participation in meetings under the Convention and its Protocol

by representatives and experts from States outside the ECE region (decision V/10-I/10, para. 22).

11. Staffing of the secretariat

26. The secretariat is expected to report on any recent or expected changes in its staffing.

12. Preparations for the first meeting of the Working Group

27. The Bureau is expected to review the annotated provisional agenda of the first meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, to be held in Geneva from 23 to 26 April 2012 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2012/1).

28. The Bureau might decide on a simple procedure by which it might later agree to the invitation of a researcher, commercial firm, developer, consultant or other commercial entity to participate in the meeting of the Working Group as an observer, further to rule 7, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Procedure of the Convention, as amended.

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

29. The Chair of the Bureau is expected to report on the initiation of practical arrangements 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 (MOP6/MOP2), which is expected to be held in Ukraine in May or June 2014.

14. Publications

30. The secretariat will report on progress in publishing the revised operating rules of the Implementation Committee, the opinions of the Committee, the Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol, the Third Review of Implementation, and the informal list of cases of the application of the Convention.

15. Other business

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

16. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

32. 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.
