



Economic Commission for Europe**Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context****Eighth session****Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment****Fourth session**

Vilnius, 8–11 December 2020

Items 3 (a) and 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

Outstanding issues: draft joint decisions**Adoption of decisions: decisions to be taken jointly****Draft joint decisions by 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****Proposals by the Bureau***Summary*

The draft decisions contained in the present document were prepared as mandated by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decisions VII/3–III/3, para. 8, VII/4–III/4, para. 21, and VII/7–III/6, para. 4). They were prepared by the Bureau of the governing bodies of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, with the support of the secretariat, reflecting the comments made by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its eighth and ninth meetings (respectively, Geneva, 26–28 November 2019, and 24–26 August 2020).

Those proposed revisions to or deletions of the text of the draft decisions that were not agreed by the Working Group at its ninth meeting are presented in square brackets. Moreover, draft decision VIII/2–IV/2 includes new text (paras. 11 and 12) that the Bureau



proposed after the meeting of the Working Group regarding early commenting on the meeting documentation, with a view to facilitating Parties' preparations and the achievement of consensus.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol are expected to review and finalize the text of the draft decisions and agree on their adoption.

Decision VIII/2–IV/2

Adoption of the workplan

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,

Recalling article 11, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, stipulating that the Meeting of the Parties will consider and undertake any additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention,

Recalling also article 14, paragraph 4 (f), of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, stipulating that the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will consider and undertake any additional action, including action to be carried out jointly under the Protocol and the Convention, that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Protocol,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to meet fully their legal obligations arising under these treaties,

Recognizing also that Parties to the Convention and the Protocol should take action to maximize the effectiveness of their application of the Convention and the Protocol, respectively, so that the best possible practical results are achieved,

[*Acknowledging* that the Convention and, in particular, its Protocol, provide a framework for the integration of environmental, including health, concerns into development activities and sectoral plans and programmes and, where appropriate, into policies and legislation, and that, consequently, their effective application contributes to supporting countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,]

Recognizing with appreciation the valuable work carried out under the workplan adopted at 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 (decision VII/3–III/3) – notwithstanding the scarcity of human and financial resources and the consequent critical challenges to the smooth implementation of the Convention and the functioning of the secretariat, which were further aggravated by the unfunded extension of the intersessional period 2017–2020, the need to organize additional intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (Geneva, 5–7 February 2019) and, as of March 2020, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

Welcoming, particularly, the accomplishment of the following activities not funded by the budget for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period 2017–2020:¹

(a) The technical assistance provided by the secretariat and the steps taken by Parties and non-Parties Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to align their environmental impact assessment legislation with the Convention and the Protocol,

(b) The workshops for subregional cooperation and/or capacity-building to support the implementation of the Protocol and/or the Convention hosted/organized by Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, with the assistance of the secretariat,

(c) The pilot implementation of the Protocol by Belarus and Kazakhstan,

¹ See ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/4–III/4, annex.

(d) The seminar for the exchange of good practices organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Investment Bank,

(e) The preparation of guidance material and recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, notably regarding:

(i) The applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants, developed by an ad hoc working group of 29 Parties co-chaired by Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

(ii) Environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context for Central Asian countries, developed with the support of consultants with funding from Switzerland,

(f) The preparation, by the secretariat, of FasTips on the Convention and the Protocol, and the publishing by the International Association for Impact Assessment of the FasTips on the Convention,

[*Appreciating* the work carried out to draft guidance on assessment of health in strategic environmental assessment with the support of consultants funded by the European Investment Bank, in consultation with WHO and a task force composed of representatives of Austria, Finland, Ireland and Slovenia, and urging Parties and stakeholders to finalize that work [in 2021][during the next intersessional period],

Noting with satisfaction that of the activities in the workplan adopted by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, at their seventh and third sessions, respectively, 100 per cent of the priority 1 activities and 100 per cent of the priority 2 activities were completed and, in addition, supplemented by intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, and that, of the unbudgeted priority 3 activities, excluding those that were cancelled by the lead/beneficiary countries/organizations, approximately 75 per cent were completed with funding from earmarked contributions or project funding identified by the secretariat,²

Noting with satisfaction also that the secretariat identified additional resources and completed 18 activities that had been wait-listed by the Meetings of the Parties and 18 additional activities,

Noting with satisfaction further that the implementation of the remaining workplan activities is ongoing or planned and is expected to be completed in the next intersessional period,

Wishing to establish a workplan that operationalizes the strategic goals and priority objectives set out in the long-term strategy and the action plan adopted through decision VIII/3–IV/3 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3), namely: full and effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol; increased impact by addressing new national, regional and global challenges; and wider application of the Convention and the Protocol within and beyond the ECE region,

Wishing also to establish a workplan that is realistic and feasible by ensuring in advance the funding of the estimated resource requirements of the workplan activities,

1. *Adopt* the workplan for the period 2021–2023 and the estimated resource requirements for its implementation, as set out in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present decision;

² Activities included in the budget adopted for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period 2017–2020 to be funded from the Convention trust fund were assigned priorities 1 (external expert to provide secretariat support and consultancy costs for drafting reviews of implementation) and 2 (participation of eligible countries in official meetings of the treaty bodies and further support for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, involving mainly secretariat travel in relation to the workplan). Other workplan activities that were to be financed to the extent possible through earmarked contributions or through additional project funding were referred to as priority 3 activities.

2. *[[Also adopt][Note]* a list of activities set out in annex III to the present decision awaiting appropriate financial and human resources, and invite Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, and other stakeholders to actively seek opportunities for ensuring their financing and implementation];

3. *Agree* that all the Parties should fund the estimated resource requirements for the workplan in accordance with decision VIII/1–IV/1 on financial arrangements for 2021–2023;

4. *Invite* Parties to upgrade the sustainable availability of financing for the activities in the workplan and the functioning of the secretariat[, including for activities included in the waiting list (annex III to the present decision).] to avoid possible critical situations affecting the functioning of the treaties and their secretariat, and also invite interested Parties, organizations and other stakeholders to support the mobilization of means and resources for those activities;

5. *Call on* the Parties, and also invite non-Parties, to arrange, host and participate actively in seminars, workshops and meetings to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

6. *Invite* relevant bodies or agencies, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental and, possibly, researchers and consultants for agreed activities, to participate actively in the activities included in the workplan, where appropriate;

7. *Invite* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to continue supporting the work under the Convention and the Protocol by promoting the activities planned in the workplan and providing formal documentation for and ensuring publication of the outcomes of these activities in the three official languages of the ECE, as appropriate. Publications subject to global outreach should be processed and translated by the United Nations Conference Services and made available in the six official languages of the United Nations;

8. *Decide* that, during the intersessional period that extends until the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (preliminarily scheduled for late 2023), the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment should meet three times (initially in 2021, 2022 and 2023) and that the Implementation Committee should hold nine sessions in total, meeting three times a year;

9. *Request* the secretariat to prepare the provisional agendas and other formal documentation for and reports on the meetings referred to in paragraph 8 above, and to issue these documents in the three official languages of ECE.

10. *Also request* the secretariat to first present relevant documentation informally to the Bureau for its prior agreement, involving convening and reporting on three meetings of the Bureau in the intersessional period (or, more, if necessary and feasible to fund);

[11. *Request* Parties to make all efforts to communicate proposed amendments to the formal documentation as early as possible and, at the latest, three weeks before the meetings at which they are to be discussed, to enable other Parties to prepare and coordinate their corresponding views, and to facilitate the achievement of consensus by all Parties;]

[12. *Decide* that the Bureau and the Working Group should prepare an amendment to rule 32 (1) of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their ninth and fifth sessions, respectively;]

13. *Also decide* that the Bureau and the Working Group should agree on a new draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the next intersessional period for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their next sessions;

14. *Agree* that, as a rule and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Convention and its Protocol, the sessions of the Meetings of Parties shall take place in Geneva, unless otherwise decided by the Parties based upon an offer of a contracting Party to host the sessions.

Annex I

Draft workplan for 2021–2023

I. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities

This work area is necessary to ensure the functioning of the Convention and the Protocol and the coordination and visibility of their activities, through the following categories of activity:

- (a) Organization of meetings;
- (b) Communication, visibility, coordination;
- (c) General programme management.

A. Organization of meetings

The Meetings of the Parties are the decision-making bodies of the Convention and its Protocol. The convening and preparing of their sessions in the intersessional period, (initially scheduled for December 2023) is a key function of the secretariat, as set out in article 13 of the Convention and article 17 of the Protocol. The secretariat is also responsible for the organization of the meetings of the Bureau and of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment that assist the Meetings of the Parties in reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as for the management of their joint workplan and budget, making recommendations on further work necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the treaties. A total of six meetings are planned, with both subsidiary bodies initially scheduled to meet in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Participation in the meetings of the treaty bodies will build knowledge-sharing and capacities related to the implementation of the treaties and will enable participants to network and to explore options for enhancing that implementation. Support to travel of participants from countries eligible for financial support allows for their full and effective participation in the meetings, resulting in an inclusive and representative decision-making process, increased legitimacy of the decisions adopted and greater commitment to decisions taken.

Activities:

- (a) Prepare, edit, translate and publish on the website agendas and official meeting documents and prepare and publish informal meeting documents;
- (b) Send out invitations and information;
- (c) As relevant, organize/support the organization of parallel/side events;
- (d) Register participants and organize travel for funded participants and, as needed, facilitate the obtention of visas;
- (e) Support officers of the meeting, including by preparing detailed briefing notes;
- (f) Organize logistics at the meeting (related to the meeting venue and to United Nations security);
- (g) As relevant, collect and record credentials;
- (h) Provide conference services at the meeting;
- (i) Provide interpretation at the meeting in the three ECE languages;
- (j) Prepare, edit, translate and publish the meeting report;

- (k) As relevant, prepare press releases/media coverage;
- (l) Follow up on decisions taken.

Entity(ies) responsible: The secretariat, whenever needed, in consultation with the Bureau. For meetings hosted by a Party, the host country is responsible for the organizational aspects (and their costs) – in accordance with a detailed host country agreement to be concluded with the secretariat.

Resource requirements: Professional and support staff of the secretariat. Support for travel of eligible participants and experts (speakers).

B. Communication, visibility, coordination

Activities:

The secretariat's key functions include general communication and coordination tasks under the Convention and its Protocol and ensuring the visibility of and access to information about the treaties and their activities. To this end, the secretariat is to:

- (a) Liaise with focal points, stakeholders and relevant partner organizations within and outside the United Nations, responding to any queries and raising awareness of the treaties and their activities;
- (b) Coordinate the implementation of workplan activities, including cooperating with other ECE multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and subprogrammes, and, subject to the resources available, with other United Nations bodies and other international organizations;
- (c) Represent the Convention and the Protocol at relevant meetings and events, as needed, to promote and/or coordinate activities;
- (d) Ensure visibility and easy access to up-to-date information and documents on the treaty website, including online databases of focal points for administrative matters and points of contact for notification under the Convention and the Protocol and online meeting calendars;
- (e) Prepare correspondence and briefings for ECE senior management for high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings within and beyond the ECE region;
- (f) As needed, prepare press-releases and other advocacy materials.

Entity(ies) responsible: The secretariat, whenever needed, in consultation with the treaty bodies. Parties are to inform the secretariat of any changes to their focal points/points of contact.

Resource requirements: Professional and support staff of the secretariat; travel funds for the secretariat to attend meetings related to workplan implementation, and, as needed, meetings of external bodies of relevance; and funds for promotional material, as needed.

C. General programme management

As part of its key functions, the secretariat is to undertake financial, human-resources and other general programme planning and management-related tasks, administrative actions and reporting necessary for the functioning of the treaties and their secretariat.

Activities:

- (a) Prepare payment requests for donors' contributions to the trust fund;
- (b) Prepare and submit for the Bureau's agreement annual financial reports, prior to publishing them on the website;
- (c) If requested, and on an exceptional basis, prepare separate financial reports to individual donors;

- (d) Prepare annual and longer-term cost-plans and forecast meetings, documents and publications for processing by the United Nations administration and relevant services;
- (e) Report on substantive and administrative issues;
- (f) Recruit/contract and manage secretariat staff and consultants.

Entity(ies) responsible: The secretariat.

Resource requirements: Professional and support staff of the secretariat.

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

The work area aims to promote full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol, through the following categories of activity, of which (a) and (b) are mandatory under the two treaties:

- (a) Review of compliance;
- (b) Reporting and review of implementation;
- (c) Legislative assistance for aligning Parties' legislation with the Convention and the Protocol;
- (d) Development of guidance on the implementation of the treaties.

A. Review of compliance

The review of compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Convention and the Protocol is provided for in article 14bis of the Convention and decision V/6-I/6 (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2).

Entity(ies) responsible: The Implementation Committee, supported by the secretariat.

Method of work: The Committee is to hold three annual (in total, nine) meetings in 2021–2023, and, in between, as needed, work via email, and hold virtual (for example, Webex) meetings or audio/videoconferences.

As part of its key functions, the secretariat is to: organize and service the meetings; prepare, edit and translate official meeting agendas and reports; support curators and the officers in the preparation and follow-up of the meetings; make informal working documents available to the Committee members; maintain the official website; and assist the Chair in communicating regarding the Committee's deliberations.

Resource requirements: Requires secretariat staffing, including a professional staff member to serve as a secretary to the Implementation Committee and general support staff; funding for travel support for eligible Committee members to meetings.

1. Consideration of compliance issues

The Implementation Committee is to consider compliance submissions, Committee initiatives, information from other sources and any general and specific compliance issues arising from the reviews of implementation.

As appropriate, the Committee is to present draft decisions, with findings and recommendations on compliance by Parties to the Convention and the Protocol with their obligations thereunder to the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their ninth and fifth sessions, respectively.

2. Examination of the outcome of the sixth review of implementation of the Convention and the third review of implementation of the Protocol

The Committee is to examine the outcomes of the sixth and the third reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, respectively, with support from the

secretariat, by the end of 2021, in order to identify possible general and specific compliance issues during the period 2021–2023.

3. If necessary, review and revision of the Committee’s structure and functions and operating rules

The Committee is to review the rules governing its mode of operation in the light of its experience and, as needed, present proposals for possible amendments to the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocol at their next sessions.

4. Report on the Committee’s activities

The Committee is to report on its activities to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, initially scheduled for 2023, in the form of an official document. In the interim period, it is to provide regular updates on its work to the Bureau and the Working Group.

5. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol

The secretariat is to collect the Committee’s new findings and opinions and publish them on-line as an informal publication – on an annual basis.

6. Exploring possible synergies with other relevant forums

The Committee is to explore possible synergies with other relevant forums regarding compliance matters, including by attending informal meetings of the Chairs of the compliance bodies under the other ECE multilateral treaties.

Additional resource requirements: As needed, travel support for the Chair.

B. Reporting and review of implementation

Mandatory reporting by Parties is provided for in articles 14(bis) of the Convention and 13 (4) and 14 (7) of the Protocol. Review of implementation is required under articles 11 (2) of the Convention and 14 (4) of the Protocol.

Entity(ies) responsible: Parties, the Implementation Committee and the secretariat

1. Modification of the questionnaires for the report on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in 2019–2021

Objective: Improve the information obtained through the questionnaires for the report on Parties’ implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, regarding progress achieved and remaining challenges. Contribute to making the reviews of implementation more informative for the Implementation Committee regarding potential non-compliance and turn them into tools for collecting and disseminating good practice.

Activities: The Implementation Committee is to: adjust the questionnaires in the first half of 2021, considering the comments by Parties and the secretariat; present the drafts to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment for approval at its meeting in 2021; and finalize them on the basis of the Working Group’s comments in advance of distribution.

2. Distribution of the questionnaires for reporting on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in 2019–2021

The secretariat is to distribute the questionnaires to Parties by the end of December 2021, for return by the end of April 2022.

[3. Preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol

The secretariat, with support from consultants, is to draft reviews summarizing the outcomes of Parties’ implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, for presentation

to the Implementation Committee and the Working Group in 2022 and to the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions in 2023. Upon adoption, the secretariat is to publish the reviews as electronic publications in English, French and Russian.

Resource requirements: \$25,000 for consultants and translation of national reports.]]

C. Legislative assistance

Objective: This category of activities aims to support beneficiary countries in aligning their legislation with the Convention and/or the Protocol, through assistance in drafting new primary or secondary legislation or amendments to existing primary or secondary legislation, with a view to promoting implementation of and accession to the two treaties.

Entity(ies) responsible: The secretariat, with support from consultants, to provide legislative assistance to beneficiary countries at their request and/or as recommended by the Implementation Committee, and in cooperation with those countries, and, as needed, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, the Bureau and/or the Working Group. The related activities will be implemented within the limits of the available project funding.

Resource requirements: Funding available from the EU4Environment programme, covering professional and administrative project staff time in the secretariat and the implementation of the activities.

1. Assistance in legal drafting

Support for drafting of secondary legislation for the implementation of the Protocol and for amending primary and secondary legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

Foreseen in 2021 and 2022, targeting the following countries:

- (a) Belarus (amendment of primary and secondary legislation);
- (b) Republic of Moldova (amendment of primary legislation and drafting of secondary legislation).

Примечание [КА1]: TBC

2. Awareness-raising events to support the adoption of the legislation

Organizing an awareness-raising event for parliamentarians and/or decision-makers to support the adoption of amendments to the primary and secondary legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

Planned for 2021 and/or 2022 (to be confirmed) in Belarus.

Примечание [КА2]: TBC

D. Development of guidance on the implementation of the treaties.

Development of guidance for adoption by the Meeting(s) of the Parties (and for their subsequent publishing by the secretariat), on the consideration of alternatives and rationale for for selected options of the proposed activities in the environmental impact assessment documentation.

Entity(ies) responsible: To be developed by external consultant(s), with support from the secretariat, involving a survey to gather good practice, and, as needed, an ad hoc task force/working group to contribute to the work.

Resource requirements: Will require secretariat resources and funding of \$25,000 for consultant(s) and in-kind contributions from Parties.

III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol

This work area aims to promote effective practical application of the Convention and the Protocol, through the following categories of activity:

- (a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
- (b) Exchange of good practices;
- (c) Capacity-building;
- [(d) Development and updating of guidance material.]

A. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

The activity pursues the following objectives in the different ECE subregions:

- (a) Contribute to common understanding and improved implementation of the Convention and its Protocol within the ECE subregions;
- (b) Promote cooperation among Parties within and between the subregions and strengthen contacts with States and subregions outside the ECE region;
- (c) Increase professional skills of officials at all government levels and awareness of the public, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in relation to strategic environmental assessment, transboundary environmental impact assessment and the application of the Convention and its Protocol;
- (d) Contribute to increased cooperation and synergies with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, other international instruments and organizations;
- (e) Contribute to wider application of the Convention and the Protocol within and beyond the ECE region.

[1. Baltic Sea subregion

Activities: Organize up to three subregional seminars on cooperation on the Convention and the Protocol, on topics of interest for the subregion that the lead countries concerned are to identify in advance of the meeting in consultation with the other countries, and prepare a report on the outcomes for the secretariat to make available on the website.

Entity(ies) responsible: The lead countries from around the Baltic Sea, as needed, with support from the secretariat.

Resource requirements: In-kind contributions to be confirmed by the countries concerned. As relevant, the participation of the secretariat requires funding of the related travel costs.]

2. Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Activity: Organize a subregional event (a training workshop or study tour) for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing among the countries.

Event provisionally planned for the first half of 2022.

Entity(ies) responsible: The secretariat in consultation with the countries concerned.

Resource requirements: Funding from the EU4Environment programme. Participation may be extended to other countries from the ECE region and beyond, if additional funding is identified.

3. Central Asia

Activities: Finalize needs assessment exercises/feasibility studies and draft capacity-building strategies/action plans for introducing strategic environmental assessment systems

in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and organize national awareness raising workshops in some Central Asian countries to present and discuss them.

Organize a final sub-regional event in one of the Central Asian countries to share experience and discuss lessons learned.

Entity(ies) responsible: Lead partner, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with support from the secretariat and in consultation with the concerned countries.

Resource requirements: Funding available from a joint OSCE/ECE project “Strengthening national and regional capacities and cooperation on Strategic Environmental Assessment in Central Asia, including as a response to climate change”, mainly from Germany with co-funding from ECE, OSCE, and Switzerland.

[B. Exchange of good practices

The objective of the work area is to share knowledge and experience regarding the legislation and practice for implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, leading to better national legislation and improved implementation of the treaties. It also contributes to awareness-raising on the two treaties and their benefits. The work area is implemented through the following categories of activity:

- (a) Thematic workshops or seminars;
- (b) Fact sheets;
- (c) Online database of Parties’ good practice, or collection and compilation of good practice;
- (d) Good practice recommendations.

1. Thematic workshops or seminars

Activities: To organize half- or full-day workshops or seminars during the meetings of the Working Group in 2021–2023 and/or the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in 2023 on the following specific themes/topics:

- (a) Smart and sustainable cities;
- (b) Circular economy;
- (c) Greening the Belt and Road Initiative;
- (d) Biodiversity;
- (e) Energy transition;
- [(f) ...]

To produce a clear and concise document presenting advice on the most important problems identified for the theme in question, also referring to the contribution of the topics to the application of Sustainable Development Goals.

Entity(ies) responsible: The following lead-country(ies) or organizations [...], with support from the secretariat.

Resource requirements: Costs for speakers, provision and translation of materials to be covered in kind by lead countries, to the extent possible. Will require secretariat resources and funds from the trust fund to cover travel costs for countries eligible for financial support and non-ECE countries.

2. Fact sheets

Activities: Preparation of fact sheets on the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol, to be presented during the meetings of the Working Group and posted on the website.

Entity(ies) responsible: All Parties, with support from the secretariat[including the following volunteering Parties:...].

Resource requirements: In-kind.

3. Online database of Parties' good practice, or collection and compilation of good practice

Activities: Establishment of an online database on the ECE website/compiling of good practice from Parties. Involves designing a structure and template for Parties' submissions of good practice, as well as soliciting, proofreading, editing and uploading the good practice. Alternatively, the good practice could be collected and compiled into an online informal publication that would be updated regularly.

Responsible: Parties to provide good practice; the secretariat, with support from a consultant, to collect, (analyse and summarize), compile and upload good practice.

Resource requirements: Will require secretariat resources and funding for consultants of \$15,000–\$25,000.]

[4. Good practice recommendations

Activities: Development of good practice recommendations for adoption by the Meeting(s) of the Parties (and for their subsequent publishing by the secretariat), on [one of] the following topics:

(a) ~~The consideration of alternatives and rationale for site selection, as proposed by Belarus;~~

(b) Any of the topics in item IV.A. above (smart and sustainable cities; circular economy; greening the Belt and Road Initiative; biodiversity; energy transition).

Entity(ies) responsible: To be developed by external consultant(s), with support from the secretariat, possibly involving a survey to gather good practice, and, as needed, an ad hoc task force/working group to contribute to the work.

Resource requirements: Will require secretariat resources and funding of \$15,000–\$25,000 for consultant(s) and in-kind contributions from Parties.

Note by the secretariat: The items on the guidance document and good practice recommendations could also be combined under one item, as, essentially, both are soft law instruments under the treaties aimed at improving treaty application.]

C. Capacity-building

This category of activities aims at promoting fully compliant application of the Protocol and the Convention, including through increased capacities and improved professional skills of officials at all relevant administrative levels and increased public awareness, including NGOs, regarding the treaty provisions and their application. It also contributes to wider application of the Convention and the Protocol by promoting the ratification of the treaties by non-Parties.

This category of activities will be implemented through the following subactivities:

1. Implementation of pilot projects;
2. Training workshops on treaty application;
3. National awareness-raising events;
4. National awareness-raising materials;
5. National issue- or sector-specific guidelines;
6. A model database on strategic environmental assessment;
7. Translating the video on the application of the Convention;

8. Preparation of FasTips.

Resource requirements: For subactivities 1–9, funding available from the EU4Environment programme, covering professional and administrative project staff time in the secretariat and the implementation of the activities.

1. Implementation of pilot projects

Activities: Pilot implementation of strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) to a plan or project to be identified by the beneficiary countries – to provide hands-on learning for implementing the strategic environmental assessment (or the transboundary environmental impact assessment) procedure, with built-in training involving analytical and consultative tasks, in accordance with the Protocol/(the Convention). The pilot projects on strategic environmental assessment to be implemented include the following:

- (i) Pilot project in Armenia (2021);
- (ii) Pilot project in Azerbaijan (2021);
- (iii) Pilot project in Belarus (2021–2022);
- (iv) Pilot project in Georgia (2021–2022);
- (v) Pilot project in the Republic of Moldova (2021–2022);
- (vi) Pilot project in Ukraine (2021–2022).

Entity(ies) responsible: To be facilitated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, and implemented with the active participation of the beneficiary countries, and, as relevant, partner organizations. The European Union delegations to the beneficiary countries and the European Commission are to be consulted regarding selection of pilot projects.

2. Training workshops on treaty application

Activities: Organization of the following training workshops to build capacities on the practical application of the Protocol:

- (i) Training workshop in Azerbaijan (2021 or 2022);
- (ii) Training workshop in Ukraine (2021 or 2022 (to be confirmed)).

Entity(ies) responsible: The secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

3. National awareness-raising events

Activities: The organization of the following events to raise the awareness of sectoral authorities and other relevant actors on the need for and the benefits of the effective implementation of strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) legislation in accordance with the Convention and the Protocol:

- (i) Awareness-raising event in Azerbaijan (2021 or 2022);
- (ii) Awareness-raising event in Belarus (2021 or 2022);
- (iii) Awareness-raising event in the Republic of Moldova (2021 or 2022).

Entity(ies) responsible: Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

4. National awareness-raising materials

Activities: The preparation of the following awareness-raising materials on strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) requested by the beneficiary countries (for example, a leaflet presenting good practice or a brochure on the role of public participation):

- (i) Awareness-raising materials for Azerbaijan (in 2021 or 2022);

Примечание [КА3]: ТБС

Примечание [КА4]: ТБС

- (ii) Awareness-raising materials for Belarus (in 2021 or 2022);
- (iii) Awareness-raising materials for the Republic of Moldova (2021)
- (iv) Awareness-raising materials for Ukraine (in 2021 or 2022).

Entity(ies) responsible: Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

5. National issue- or sector-specific guidelines

Activities: The preparation of the following guidelines to complement existing general guidelines on strategic environmental assessment, on selected issues/sectors, as agreed with the beneficiary countries:

- (i) Guidelines for Azerbaijan in the field of regional development/transport/agriculture (sector to be confirmed), in 2021 or 2022;
- (ii) Guidelines for Belarus in the field of urban planning, in 2021 (to be confirmed);
- (iii) Guidelines for the Republic of Moldova on transboundary procedures, in 2021–2022;
- (iv) Guidelines for Ukraine in the field of urban planning, in 2021.

Entity(ies) responsible: Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

6. A model database on strategic environmental assessment

Action: The development of a model for a database aims to support the application of strategic environmental assessment in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Entity(ies) responsible: To be coordinated by the secretariat in 2021, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

7. Translating the video on the application of the Convention

Activities: The translation of the video on the application of the Convention into the national languages of the beneficiary countries aims to raise awareness and facilitate the application of the Convention in those countries.

Entity(ies) responsible: To be coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

Resource requirements: Funding available from the EU4Environment programme for the benefit of the EU4Environment target countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), covering professional and administrative project staff time in the secretariat and the implementation of the activities. Other interested Parties may choose to finance themselves the translation of the video into their national languages.

8. Preparation of FasTips

Action: The preparation of two-page informal pamphlets, or “FasTips”, on key issues in strategic environmental assessment practice (topics to be suggested).

Entity(ies) responsible: International Association for Impact Assessment.

Resources: In-kind.

[D]. Development and updating of guidance materials

Entity(ies) responsible: The secretariat, possibly with volunteering lead countries/organizations, with support from consultants, in consultation with the Bureau and the Working Group, and, as needed, with support from an ad hoc drafting group/task force,

Примечание [КА5]: ТБС

Примечание [КА6]: ТБС

and in coordination with relevant treaties/organizations. Possibly involving a survey with inputs from Parties (and stakeholders). Upon adoption, and, to the extent feasible, the secretariat is to publish documents in English, French and Russian.

Resource requirements: Requires resources from the secretariat and funding of consultants of approximately \$10,000–\$15,000 per document for an update and \$15,000–\$25,000 per document for the development of new guidance.

1. Updating of the existing guidance documents

Updating the relevant parts of the previously prepared guidance documents on the application of the Convention and/or the Protocol, including:

(a) The publication *Guidance on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*,³ in cooperation with the ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters;

[(b) ...].

2. Development of guidance

Developing guidance on one [or several] of the following topics:

(a) Transboundary consultations [under the Protocol];

(b) The global application of the treaties;

(c) The practical implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) The use of scientific data and tools available under the ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to determine the likelihood and significance of a transboundary environmental impact of coal- and lignite-related activities. (As a follow-up to the side event held on 6 February 2019, during the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (Geneva, 5–7 February 2019). Guidance to be prepared with support from consultants and a joint ad hoc working group of Parties to the Convention jointly with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Meeting costs to be covered in kind.)

³ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.EIA/7.

Annex II

Resource requirements for the workplan for 2021–2023

Table 1
Resource requirements for 2021–2023

Area	Activities	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
I. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities			29.5	15.75
A. Organization of meetings	Substantive and administrative preparations, servicing and follow-up to meetings of the Bureau, the Working Group and the Meetings of the Parties			
	Meetings of the Bureau (4 meetings estimated): travel of eligible experts (estimated 4 experts/\$6,000 for a 2-day meeting)	24 000		
	Meetings of the Working Group (3): travel of approximately 20 experts/meeting: 14 from eligible ECE countries (max. \$20,000); 5 from NGOs (max. \$10,000); 1 from non-ECE countries (max. \$3,000) – subject to funding and Bureau’s approval	100 000		
	Meetings of the Parties’ sessions (in 2023): travel of approximately 37 experts: 22 from eligible ECE countries (max. \$30,000); 10 from NGOs (max. \$20,000); 5 from non-ECE countries (max. \$15,000); 5 speakers (max. \$15,000)	80 000		
B. Communication, visibility, coordination	Secretariat travel in relation to the workplan, and promotion or coordination activities (approximately 8 trips/per year)	40 000		
	Consultancy support and promotional materials	10 000		
C. General programme management	Financial, human-resources and other general programme planning and management-related functions, administrative actions and reporting	-		
Subtotal		254 000		
II. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol			26.5	10.25
A. Review of compliance	Meetings of the Implementation Committee (9): travel of eligible experts (up to 4 experts/max. \$6,000 for a 4-day meeting)	54 000		

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>	<i>RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)</i>	
			<i>P</i>	<i>G</i>
B. Reporting and the review of implementation	Preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol: costs for consultants and translation of national reports	25 000		
C. Legislative assistance	Assistance in legal drafting and awareness-raising (see table 3 below for the available project funding)			
	<u>Development of guidance on the implementation of the treaties</u>	<u>25 000</u>		
	Subtotal	79 000		
III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol				
A. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building			1.5	2.5
	Baltic Sea (in-kind contributions to be confirmed)			
	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (see table 3 below for the available project funding)			
	Resources for travel of approximately 10 Central Asian experts to the subregional conference (to be identified)	20 000		
B. Exchange of good practices			3	3
	Thematic workshops or seminars within meetings of the Working Group or the Meetings of the Parties (in-kind contributions by Parties/stakeholders)	-		
	Preparation of fact sheets (in-kind contributions by Parties/stakeholders)	-		
	[Development of an online database of Parties' good practice or collection and compilation of good practice (consultancy fees to be identified)]	20 000		
	[Development of good practice recommendations (consultancy fees to be identified)]	20 000		

Area	Activities	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
C.	Capacity-building		2.5	0
	Pilot projects, training, awareness-raising, issue- or sector-specific guidelines and model for a database for countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (see table 3 below for the available project funding)	-		
	Preparation of FasTips by IAIA (in-kind)	-		
[D.]	Development and updating of guidance materials]			
	[Development of a guidance document (consultancy fees to be identified)]	25 000		
	[Updating a guidance document (consultancy fees to be identified)]	15 000]		
	Subtotal	100 000		
	Total activities (work areas sections I–V)	433 000	63	31.5

Abbreviations: EIA, Environmental impact assessment; G, General Service staff; IAIA, International Association for Impact Assessment; P, Professional staff; RB, Regular budget; XB, Extrabudgetary.

^a The financing of the workplan activities for 2021–2023, as set out in table 1, is contingent on sufficient funds being made available by Parties through their voluntary contributions to the Convention and the Protocol trust fund.

Table 2
Total resources for 2021–2023
(in United States dollars)

Items/activities + human resources (from table 1 above)	Costs
Activities	433 000
Staff:	
RB, Professional, full-time, P–4 level (31.5 work-months)	^a
RB, General Service, part-time, at 50% (15.75 work-months)	^a
XB, Professional, full-time, P–3 level (31.5 work-months)	630 000
XB, General Service, part-time at 50% (15.75 work-months)	165 000
Subtotal	1 228 000
Overhead (13%) (rounded)	159 640
Total	1 387 640

Note: One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 10.5 work-months per year, or into 31.5 work-months per triennium for one staff member. The staff resource estimates indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates, including net salary, taxes and common staff costs, as well as mandatory costs for office space, information technology equipment, communication and training).

^a Provided under the United Nations regular budget. The RB, Professional post is that of the Secretary to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol, involving oversight of the functioning of the treaty secretariat and the workplan implementation.

Table 3
Overview of resources from the European Union for Environment programme for 2021 and 2022^a

(in United States dollars)

Year	Work areas and activities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	Total XB financial resources from EU4Environment (in cash, in United States dollars) (Activities + XB staff)	EU4Environment funded-XB staff		Other secretariat resources staff (RB+ XB) (in work-months) ^b
			P	G	
2021	II. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (C);				
	III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and/or the Protocol (A + C);				
	Subtotal	664 007	10.5	10.5	1
2022	III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and/or the Protocol (A + B)				
	Subtotal	402 795	10.5	10.5	1
Total XB resources for 2021 and 2022 (covering activities and staffing)		1 066 802	42	42	2

^a “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment), a European Union-funded regional multi-stakeholder project extending from 2019 to 2022. Total European Union funding for the ECE component on environmental impact assessment is €2,384,687, or approximately \$2,579,670 (December 2019 exchange rate). Funding is subject to applicable procedures under the project.

^b One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 10.5 work-months per year or 31.5 work-months for a triennium.

[Annex III

Activities requiring additional resources, including secretariat staffing, for implementation in the period 2021–2023

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	Initial estimates of XB financial resources (cash months, with financial cost and in United States dollars in in kind, in United States dollars)	XB human resources needed to support the implementation of the activities (in person- resources (cash months, with financial cost and in United States dollars in brackets beneath)	
			P	G
III. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building				
South-Eastern Europe				
1. Meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement	<p><i>Entity(ies) responsible:</i> Romania, as depositary of the Bucharest Agreement, possibly jointly with another lead country</p> <p><i>Activity(ies):</i> To organize the first meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement. The details and timing to be specified.</p> <p><i>Resource requirements:</i> Approximately \$40,000 for a 2-day event for 2–3 persons/country; or in-kind contributions by the host country and possibly other lead countries, and, as needed, secretariat resources to support the activity.</p>	40 000 (or in-kind)	1.5	1.5
2. Capacity-building for implementing the Bucharest Agreement	<p>A subregional initiative proposed by Montenegro (and, so far, supported by Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia), which aims at improving implementation of the Bucharest Agreement, the Convention and its Protocol in a transboundary context among the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement (and other countries of the South-Eastern Europe subregion).</p> <p>The activities proposed involve the establishment of a secretariat to coordinate implementation of the Bucharest Agreement, the exchange of good practices and the design and implementation of capacity-building activities, such as training workshops, for example, for 5 countries (\$25,000), development of guidelines (\$25,000) and pilot projects (\$85,000–\$100,000).</p> <p>The activities, timing and modalities of their implementation are to be specified.</p> <p>Montenegro proposed possible cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.</p>	750 000	15	15
V. Promoting practical application of the Protocol and/or the Convention				
Central Asia	Capacity-building activities in the 5 Central Asian republics to support the implementation and ratification of the Protocol and/or the Convention. Building on the legislative assistance provided	750 000	15	15

A	previously.			
b	Training workshops (\$25,000), development			
b	of guidelines (\$25,000) and pilot projects			
r	(\$85,000–\$100,000).			
e			31.5	31.5
v	III and V. Activities and			
t	staff resources:	1 540 000	(610 000)	(330 000)
t	Subtotal III and V: 2 480 000 + 13% overhead (322 400) = 2 802 400			
o	VI. Outreach activities			
o	<i>Objective:</i> Increase awareness of and accession to the Convention and the Protocol, and the application of their principles			
	outside the ECE region.			
	<i>Entity(ies) responsible:</i> Secretariat, with lead countries, in consultation with the treaty bodies.			
	1. Raising awareness of the	Promoting awareness of the treaties and their	50 000	
	Convention and the	activities at global and regional events,		
	Protocol	through presentations and organization of		
	c	sessions and/or side events;		
	h	resources to cover travel costs.		
	a	2. Supporting accession	25 000	
	r	Preparing and translating specific guidance		
	e	material addressing common and specific		
	s	issues related to the accession to and		
	t	implementation of the treaties. Consultancy		
		costs of approximately \$25,000		
	3. Promoting and	Development of a brief for policymakers on	25 000	
	communicating benefits of	benefits of the Convention and the Protocol,		
	the treaties	including good practice and case studies		
	a	4. Legislative assistance	150 000	
	e	Reviews of legislation and support for legal		
	m	drafting for aligning national legislation with		
	e	the Convention and the Protocol (\$30,000)		
	n	for 5 countries		
	5. Capacity-building	Promoting efficient practical application of	750 000	
	,	the Convention and the Protocol.		
	M	Training workshops (\$25,000), development		
	u	of guidelines (\$25,000) and pilot projects		
		(\$85,000–\$100,000) for 5 countries.		
	VI. Activities and staff resources		31.5	31.5
	t		950 000	(610 000)
	i			(330 000)
	Subtotal VI: 1 890 000 + 13% overhead (245 700) = 2 135 700			
	a	Total III, V and VI = 4 938 100		

ral agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; G, General Service staff; P, Professional staff; RB, regular budget; XB, extrabudgetary.

Note: One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 10.5 work-months per year, or into 31.5 work-months per triennium for one staff member. The staff resource estimates indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates, including net salary, taxes and common staff costs, as well as costs for office and information technology equipment and communication and training.)]

