



International Atomic Energy Agency

Statement

8th meeting of the Parties of the Espoo Convention

Item 7. High-level segment 30th Anniversary of the Convention

Dear Chair,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguish delegates,

On the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would like to congratulate the Espoo Convention Parties and the UNECE Convention Secretariat on reaching this important milestone. The Convention, jointly with its protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessments, has been an effective instrument for improving environmental governance and promoting international cooperation.

Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA are closely in line with IAEA's efforts to promote the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear technologies, where safeguarding the environment is imperative and engaging with all stakeholders a key mechanism.

Over the past three years, UNECE and IAEA have collaborated on a wide range of topics. For example, the experts in the Convention Secretariat contributed to the IAEA Guidelines on Strategic Environmental Assessments for Nuclear Power Programmes and the supportive capacity building programmes, with the most recent virtual interregional workshop on SEA concluding just two weeks ago. In 2018, the IAEA developed an international Safety Standard which addresses 'radiological environmental impact assessment' in the framework of EIA Safety Guide GSG-10, which many countries consider as global reference and could also be a useful reference for the purposes of the Espoo Convention in connection with nuclear installations.

The IAEA would further like to highlight the work of UNECE Espoo Convention Secretariat for supporting its Member States through developing documents such as the *Good Practice Recommendations on the Application of the Convention to Nuclear Energy-related Activities*, and also for drafting guidance on the Convention's applicability to the life-time extension of nuclear power plants. The IAEA would like to thank the UNECE for the kind invitation to the IAEA experts to participate in those discussions.

The IAEA seizes this opportunity to thank the UNECE for its contributions to the IAEA Scientific Forum on Nuclear Power and the Clean Energy Transition in September 2020, and to the International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power in October 2019.

The IAEA looks forward to enhancing its collaboration with the UNECE Espoo Convention Secretariat in the area of energy for safe, secure and sustainable development, specifically on low-carbon energy sources such as nuclear power and related environmental assessments.

7 December 2020