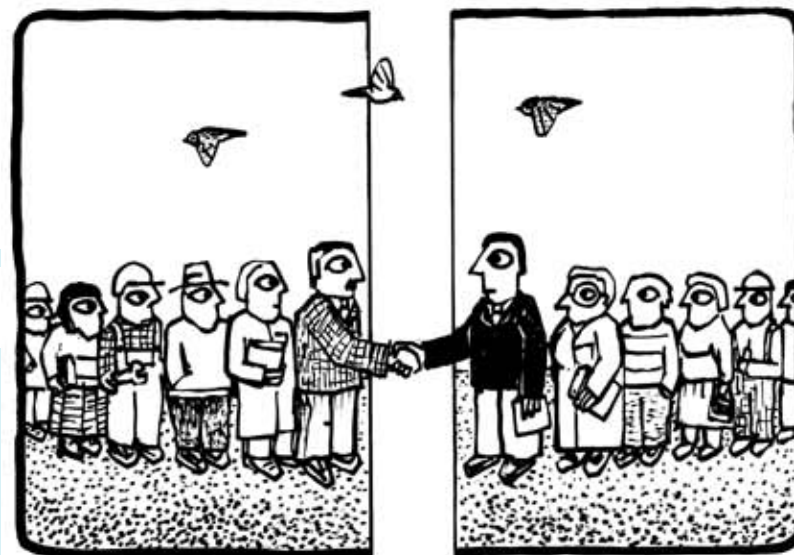


9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
**Working Group on EIA and SEA**  
24–26 August 2020, Geneva

- INFORMAL presentation of the main conclusions and decisions



## Opening of the meeting

- Working Group Chair, Ms. Kolar-Planinšič opened the meeting

### The Working Group:

- Thanked secretariat for organizing the meeting in hybrid mode, due to COVID-19, and for timely delivery of documents despite challenges
- Thanked all delegates for their flexibility and cooperation
- Noted EU delegation's challenges in preparing its positions and its statement that it would define its final position before the upcoming MOP sessions
- Regretted the lack of timely and specific comments on documents issued 5 months ago, (despite lessons learned from past meetings), which added challenge to the present meeting
- Reiterated its request for all delegations to comment within agreed deadlines prior to the MOPs

## Opening of the meeting

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

- Adopted its reduced agenda as set out in document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/1/Rev.1

### 3. Financial arrangements

- Noted information on contributions to Trust Fund in 2017-2020
- Appreciated additional funding received/invoiced further to letters from UNECE Executive Secretary, which will allow treaties & their secretariat to function until end 2020
- Invited the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare financial report July 2017-June 2020 in advance of next MOP sessions
- Thanked Parties that provided initial information on their expected funding for 2021-2023 before & during the meeting-and invited others to do so **by 2 November** to provide the basis for a workplan with matching resources
- Noted that the contributions pledged this far amounted to USD 884,500

### 3. Financial arrangements (cont'd)

- Reviewed and agreed on some revisions to draft decision VIII/1–III/1, and agreed to forward the draft to the MOP sessions for further consideration
- Noted that the voluntary use of UN adjusted scale of assessment by Parties as a reference basis for their decision on the level of their minimum contributions to the trust fund) remained open- and was to be decided by the MOPs
- Agreed that draft workplan 2021–2023 should correspond to expected future funding to ensure that demand for activities & services matches the offer of resources
- Reiterated its invitation to delegations to consider sponsoring a Junior Professional Officer to supplement secretariat's staffing

## 4. Preparations for the next MOP sessions: (a) practical preparations

- Noted Lithuania's and secretariat's information on the practical preparations for the next MOP sessions
- Invited any Party/organization keen on organizing a side event in the margins of the sessions to inform the secretariat by 7 September
- Agreed on preparatory schedule for the MOPs, including that Parties should provide through the secretariat:
- by **2 November**: information on their pledged contributions and nominations of officers for 2021-2023
- by **16 November**: detailed comments to meeting documents to be made available on the meeting

## 4. Preparations for the next MOP sessions

### (b) Provisional agenda

- Noted that the Bureau would meet in Vilnius, on 7 December (10 am.-noon) to address any last-minute issues
- Agreed on **provisional annotated agenda** for the MOP sessions
- **By 15 September**, requested offers for organization of general segment's panel on sustainable infrastructure Agreed that in absence of offers to organize the general segment panel, it would not be included in the agenda
- **By end September**, requested inputs for Convention's high-level 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event
  - Proposals for speakers, moderators, and good practice
  - Pictures from the 30-year period, brief quotes/text on Convention's benefits to be included into an informal electronic publication

## 4. Preparations for the next MOP sessions

### (c) Draft workplan 2021-2023

- Welcomed Bureau's efforts supported by the secretariat to prepare a **draft workplan for 2021-2023** that indicates the funding and staffing available and required for the implementation of the activities
- Reviewed and agreed on the text of draft decision VIII/3-IV/3 on the adoption of the workplan (preamble and paras. 1-11)
- Reviewed in detail annexes I-III to the draft decision
- Agreed that until information from Parties on their expected contributions was available, it could not establish whether the workplan was realistic and implementable: again urged all Parties to provide still missing information on their contributions by 2 November



## 4. Preparations for the next MOP sessions

### (c) Draft workplan 2021-2023 (cont'd)

- Took note of the comments by Belarus and EU on the draft workplan 2021-2023
- In light of the comments, invited secretariat to process and forward the draft decision VIII/2-IV/2 and its annexes to the MOP after making some technical modifications:
  - Slightly restructuring the workplan
  - Indicating which elements are required by the Treaties and/or necessary for their functioning

## 4. (d)-(f): Preparations for the next MOP sessions

- Proposed revisions to the text of **the draft Vilnius declaration** and agreed to forward it for further consideration by the MOPs
- Welcomed nomination of Finland's Environment Minister, H.E Ms. Mikkonen, as candidate for **Chair of the MOP sessions' high-level segment**
- Also welcomed nomination of the Bureau Chair, Mr. Kremlis as candidate for **general segment Chair of the MOP sessions**
- Noted updated **provisional schedule of meetings** for 2021-2023

## 4 (g). Preparations for the next MOP sessions

- Welcomed **nominations this far of officers** to be elected to the treaty bodies for next intersessional period
- **By 2 November**, encouraged other Parties to submit through secretariat missing nominations:
  - 5 Committee members; Working Group Chair
- Welcomed availability of present Bureau Chair to continue in absence of other candidates
- Considered election criteria for officers and information on Bureau's tasks agreed by the Bureau and decided to forward the criteria to the MOPs for further consideration
- Noted concerns by Armenia and Belarus that the required fluency in English of the Bureau members would negatively impact possibilities of Russian speaking Parties to be represented; and also that Russian interpretation exceptionally provided for the Bureau meetings had to be discontinued (due to budgetary decisions at UN Geneva office)
- Also noted concerns and questions of Belarus regarding the terms of office of European Commission in the Bureau as well as the explanations provided by Bureau Chair

## 6. Compliance and implementation

### (a) Review of compliance and related draft decisions

- Noted Implementation Committee Chair's and First Vice-Chair's reports and welcomed the Committee's work in addressing complex & numerous compliance issues
- Noted comments by Armenia, Belarus, EU and Ukraine and invited the Committee to consider them, as relevant, when finalizing the draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol at its next session (1–4 September 2020) before forwarding them to the MOPs

## 6 (b). Compliance and implementation

- Thanked the ad hoc group and their German and UK Co-Chairs for their intensive efforts over 3 years to develop **draft guidance on applicability of the Convention to LTE of NPPs**, also in consultation with stakeholders
- Thanked Germany for the in-kind Russian translation of the draft document
- Thanked ad hoc group's meetings' hosts (Austria, Germany, European Commission, Netherlands, Portugal and UK) and regretted that meetings in Bulgaria, Finland and Italy had to be cancelled due to COVID-19; thanked also secretariat for organizing 7 on-line meetings to complement the written procedure

## 6 (b). Compliance and implementation: draft LTE guidance (cont'd)

- Noted comments and concerns regarding the draft guidance provided by Parties (CA, CH, EU, UA, UK) and observer stakeholders before and during the meeting (available on-line)
- Invited additional comments **by end August**
- Again acknowledged IC's repeated requests for guidance, and thanked for its inputs to ad hoc group's work
- Agreed on urgency for guidance to Parties and IC
- Recognized difficulties in reaching consensus owing to Parties' and stakeholders' differing/opposing positions, concerns and interests
- Called for Parties' willingness to compromise, and to make all efforts to provide guidance that is helpful for Parties and IC, addressing also Parties' and public's concerns

## 6. Compliance and implementation:

### (b) Draft LTE guidance (cont'd)

- Invited the ad hoc group to finalize the draft considering delegations' comments **by 19 October** for the secretariat to process and forward to the MOP as an official document (max word limit of 10,700 words)
- Noted the Co-Chairs' request to the ad hoc group members to receive by 31 August [later changed to 4 September] proposals for amending and shortening the draft guidance – the proposals should be on substance (not editorial), in track-changes, and preferably prepared jointly with other delegations
- Reviewed the text of draft decision VIII/6 but agreed that it should be considered by the MOPs based on the finalized draft guidance to be submitted to it

## 5. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol and the Convention

### (a) Draft guidance on addressing health impacts in SEA

- Thanked the consultants, EIB, WHO, the task force composed of representatives from Austria, Finland, Ireland and Slovenia and the secretariat for their contribution to the preparation of the draft guidance on health
- Noted comments from EU and observers: WHO, IAIA and Nuclear Transparency Watch
- Reviewed the text of the draft guidance document, but not all delegations could agree on its contents
- Agreed on importance of assessing health and in involving health authorities in SEA, as required under the Protocol, in particular now for ensuring healthy and green recovery from the COVID-19



## 5. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol and the Convention

### (a) Draft guidance on health in SEA (cont'd)

- Agreed that a revised draft health guidance should be produced for Working Group's next meeting (preliminarily in December 2021).
- Invited volunteering members of the task force (Ireland and Slovenia) to continue working electronically and via on-line meetings, and invited other Parties (and stakeholders) to also join the group – indicating their wish to do so by 15 October
- Welcomed the offer of WHO to support the work
- Agreed not to consider draft decision IV/6 on the adoption of the guidance at this stage
- Invited Parties to submit through the secretariat good practice in assessing health and in involving health sector in SEA to be published on-line & considered in the draft guidance

## 6. Compliance and implementation

### (a) Reporting and review of implementation

- Reviewed and agreed on the text of the draft decision VIII/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention, as revised, to be forwarded to the MOP of the Convention
- Reviewed and agreed on the text of the draft decision IV/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol, as revised, to be forwarded to the Protocol MOP
- Noted that the revised text now differed from the general findings of the reviews of implementation that summarized Parties' actual reports

## 6. Compliance and implementation

### (c) Draft long-term strategy & action plan

- Considered the draft long-term strategy and action plan for the Convention & the Protocol, and agreed to forward it with proposed amendments to the MOPs for further consideration
- Thanked Austria, Poland and the Netherlands, and all the other delegations that had contributed to preparing the draft with secretariat's support
- Reviewed and agreed on the text of the draft decision VIII/3–IV/3 on the adoption of the long-term strategy to be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties

## Closing of the meeting

- Endorsed the main decisions agreed at the meeting, as presented by secretariat, and asked them to be posted on meeting webpage
- Noted that all comments & statements provided in writing were available on the meeting webpage
- Invited secretariat to prepare the meeting report in consultation with Chair