



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 April 2020

Original: English

UNEDITED draft, as agreed by the Bureau, for consideration of the Working Group

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

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

**To be held in [add venue], Vilnius, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 8
December 2020***

* Delegates attending the sessions are requested to register online by no later than 20 October 2020 through the following link: <https://...>. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (eia.conv@un.org and (...)). Only registered participants will have access to the meeting venue (*Name and address of the meeting venue to be added*). Prior to the meeting, registered delegates are invited to collect an entry badge from the reception desk, located in (*location to be specified*), by presenting an identification card with a photograph or a passport. On-site registration and collection of badges will be possible as of Monday, 7 December, in the morning. Detailed information on all the logistical and practical matters is available from the host country website (*URL to be added*). In case of related queries, please contact the host country secretariat, by e-mail [...] or by telephone: [...].

I. Provisional agenda

General segment

1. Opening of the sessions.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the Chair of the general segment;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Report on credentials;
 - (d) Status of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol.
3. Outstanding issues:
 - (a) Draft joint decisions:
 - (i) Draft decision financial arrangements for 2021–2023;
 - (ii) Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan;
 - (iii) Draft decision on the long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol;
 - (b) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention:
 - (i) Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention;
 - (ii) Draft decision on the applicability of the Convention to the life-time extension of nuclear power plants;
 - (iii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention
 - (c) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
 - (i) Draft decision on the review of compliance with the Protocol;
 - (ii) Draft decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment;
 - (iii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol
 - (d) Draft Vilnius declaration;
 - (e) Nomination of officers and election criteria;
 - (f) Tentative calendar of meetings.
4. Panel discussion on sustainable infrastructure, covering also energy transition.
5. Review of the workplan:
 - (a) Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol
 - (b) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
 - (c) Exchange of good practices;
 - (d) Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol and the Convention.

High-level segment

6. Opening ceremony for the high-level segment:

- (a) Election of the officers for the high-level segment;
 - (b) Introductory speeches;
 - (c) Report on the general segment panel discussion.
7. High-level event to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention.
 8. Statements by ministers and high-level representatives.
 9. Adoption of decisions:
 - (a) Decisions to be taken jointly;
 - (b) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention;
 - (c) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
 10. Adoption of the declaration.
 11. Election of officers for the next intersessional period.
 12. Date and venue of the next sessions.
 13. Other business.
 14. Conclusion of the sessions:
 - (a) Adoption of the report of the sessions;
 - (b) Closing of the sessions.

II. Proposed organization of the sessions: overview

1. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol) will meet in conjunction in a single meeting room within a sessional period from 8 to 11 December 2020:
 - (a) The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention for its eighth session;
 - (b) The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for its fourth session.
2. Delegates will be invited to be present throughout the sessional period.
3. After the opening of the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the Meetings of the Parties will be invited to elect their chair for the general segment.
4. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in joint and individual meetings, in sequence, until the high-level segment is convened.
5. The high-level segment will open on the morning of Friday, 11 December, and continue until 6 p.m. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in joint and individual meetings, in sequence, including for the adoption of decisions and a declaration, and for the holding of a panel discussion. Ministers and other heads of delegation will be invited to deliver statements to a joint meeting of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

6. All meeting documentation [and the programme of the side event (or events)¹] will be made available on a web page for the meeting on the Convention's and the Protocol's website.² Additional practical information can be accessed from the host country's website.³

III. Annotations to the provisional agenda

General segment

1. Opening of the sessions

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 December, 10–10.15

7. The eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be opened by the Chair of the Bureau.

8. Delegates will be welcomed by a representative of the Government of Lithuania.

2. Organizational matters

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 December, 10.15–10.45

(a) Election of the Chair of the general segment

9. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to elect the Chair of the general segment.

10. The Meetings of the Parties will then convene in a joint meeting to address the organizational matters set out below.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

11. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to adopt the agenda contained in the present document. The provisional agenda was drafted by the secretariat, in agreement with the Bureau and the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/29–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/12)

Informal document

Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.1)

(c) Report on credentials

12. According to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex I), which applies, mutatis mutandis, to the Meeting of

¹ [The Bureau recommended that a lead country/organization volunteer to organize a side event on the role of strategic environmental assessment (and transboundary environmental impact assessment) for promoting (smart and) sustainable cities, including to address relevant Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and health considerations in urban planning.]

² See <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53198>.

³ See [URL to be provided].

the Parties to Protocol, the credentials of representatives of Parties, and the names of alternate representatives and advisers, are to be submitted to the secretariat if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation must also be submitted to the secretariat. The credentials should be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the minister of foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Only Parties with valid credentials will be able to participate in the adoption of a decision or declaration. Parties are also invited to send the secretariat a copy of the credentials two weeks prior to the session, that is, by 24 November 2020.

13. The Chair will examine the credentials and report on them to the Meetings of the Parties (see rule 17 of the rules of procedure). The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to take note of the report on credentials of the representatives of Parties attending the Meetings of the Parties. Representatives may participate provisionally, pending this action.

(e) Status of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol

14. The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification of the Convention and its two amendments since the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (Geneva, 5–7 February 2019). Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each Party to the Convention that has not yet ratified the two amendments to report on its preparations for ratification. In particular, the delegations of Armenia, Belgium, North Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine will be invited to provide detailed information on steps taken towards the ratification of the first amendment to the Convention. The missing ratifications from these five Parties, which were Parties to the Convention at the time of the adoption of the first amendment, are necessary for that amendment to have effect, opening accession to the Convention to all States Members of the United Nations. Then, the representatives of the nine Parties that have not yet ratified the second amendment – Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – will be invited to report on their progress towards that end. The completion of those ratifications is important to ensure unified application of the Convention by all its Parties.

15. The secretariat will then report on the status of ratification of the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each signatory State that has not completed the process of ratifying the Protocol (Belgium, Greece, France, Ireland, Georgia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) to report on its preparations for ratification. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to note the information and to propose any further actions that could be taken to encourage accession to, or ratification of, the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol and, in particular, to accelerate the operationalization of the first amendment as soon as possible.

16. Lastly, Romania, as the depository of the Multilateral agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the Bucharest Agreement), will be expected to report on the status of that agreement. The two signatory States that have not yet ratified that agreement, Croatia and Greece, will be invited to report on their progress towards that end. The Meetings of the Parties are invited to take note of the information.

Documentation

Informal document

Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.2)

3. Outstanding issues

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 December, 10.45 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 December, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.; and Thursday, 10 December, 10 a.m.–noon

16. The Meetings of the Parties, convened in joint or individual meetings, are expected to review all draft decisions and related documents set out below. The Meetings of the Parties are invited to discuss and agree on any outstanding issues in the drafts with a view to finalizing them and putting them forward for adoption in the high-level segment.

(a) Draft joint decisions

(i) Draft decision on financial arrangements for 2021–2023

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 December, 10.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.

17. The secretariat will present its report on the budget and financial arrangements in the period since 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 (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017), as prepared in agreement with the Bureau.

18. Delegations will be invited to confirm to the secretariat by 2 November 2020 their pledged contributions to the budget for the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2021–2023, to allow the information on the pledges to be compiled and presented at the sessions.

19. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to review and finalize draft decision VIII/1–IV/1 on financial arrangements for 2021–2023. They are invited to keep their deliberations and the information on the Parties' pledged contributions in mind when discussing the workplan under item 3 (a) (ii) below with a view to ensuring that the workplan to be adopted for the period 2021–2023 matches the resources that are expected to be available for its implementation.

Documentation

Draft joint decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/1)

Report on the budget and financial arrangements 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/2)

Informal documents

Status of contributions to the trust fund (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.3)

Information on pledged contributions for the period 2021–2023 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.4)

(ii) Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 December, 12.15–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

20. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to finalize and agree on draft decision VIII/2–IV/2 on the adoption of the workplan and its annexes I–III. Annex I to the draft decision contains a draft workplan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol with proposed work areas and activities in the period 2021–2023. Annex II outlines the minimum necessary financial and the secretariat staffing resources for the implementation of the workplan activities. Annex III lists additional activities that require further resources, including additional secretariat staff, to be implemented. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to finalize the workplan, making sure that for each activity, information is provided on the lead countries or organizations, organizational arrangements, identified resources, and,

as relevant, any specific time schedule for implementation. Delegations will be invited to confirm leading or sponsoring activities and hosting events. Considering its earlier discussion on financial matters and the information on contributions for the next intersessional period pledged by Parties earlier, under item 3 (a)(i), the Meetings of the Parties are expected to ensure that the workplan matches the resources available for its implementation in the period 2021–2023.

21. The secretariat will present an informal assessment of the degree to which the workplan adopted at the seventh and third sessions of the Meetings of the Parties has been completed.

Documentation

Draft joint decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/1– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/1)

Informal documents

Informal assessment of the completion of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.5)

- (iii) *Draft decision on the long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol*

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 December, 4–5 p.m.

23. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to review and, as needed, finalize the draft long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol, which builds on the informal discussions led by the Netherlands and Poland. It is also invited to review and agree on the related draft decision VIII/3–IV/3. [Both documents were agreed by the Working Group at its ninth meeting (Geneva, 24–26 August 2020)].

Documentation

Draft joint decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/1– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/1)

Draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3)

- (b) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention**

- (i) *Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention*

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 8 December, 5–6 p.m. and Wednesday, 9 December 10–11 a.m.

24. The Chair and the First Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee will present draft decisions VIII/4 and VIII/4a–e on the review of compliance with the Convention, finalized by the Committee at its forty-eighth session (Geneva, 1–4 September 2020), considering, as appropriate, the additional information and comments provided before and during the ninth meeting of the Working Group. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is expected to discuss and agree on the draft decisions to be forwarded to the high-level segment for adoption (under item 9 (b) below).

Documentation

Draft decision VIII/4 on general issues of compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/10)

Draft decision VIII/4a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/11)

Draft decision VIII/4b on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/12)

Draft decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/13)

Draft decision VIII/4d on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/14)

Draft decision VIII/4e on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of extension of the lifetime of the Rivne nuclear power plant (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/15)

- (ii) *Draft decision on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 December 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

25. Delegations will be invited to discuss and agree on any outstanding issues in the draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants, prepared by an ad hoc working group Co-Chaired by Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, considering the comments made before and during the ninth meeting of the Working Group. Delegations are also invited to discuss and agree on the related draft decision VIII/6 [as amended by the Working Group at its ninth meeting].

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/7)

Guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/9).

- (iii) *Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 December 12.30 p.m.–1 p.m.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is invited to review, and as needed, finalize draft decision VIII/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention.

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/7)

Draft sixth review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8)

- (c) **Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol**

- (i) *Draft decision on general issues of compliance with the Protocol*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 December 3–3.30 p.m.

26. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present draft decision IV/4 on the general issues of compliance with the Protocol, finalized by the Committee at its forty-eighth session (Geneva, 1–4 September 2020), considering, as appropriate, the comments made before and during the ninth meeting of the Working Group. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is expected to discuss and agree on the draft decision.

Documentation

Draft decision on general issues of compliance with the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/9)

- (ii) *Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 December 3.30–4 p.m.

27. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is invited to review, and as needed, finalize draft decision IV/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol.

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/7)

Draft third review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8)

- (iii) *Draft decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 December 4–5 p.m.

28. Delegations will be invited to discuss and agree on any outstanding issues in the draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment, prepared by consultants funded by the European Investment Bank and considered by the Working Group during its eighth and ninth meetings. Delegations are also expected to review and agree on the related draft decision IV/6 [as amended by the Working Group at its ninth meeting].

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/7)

Guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/10)

- (d) **Draft Vilnius declaration**

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 9 December 5–6 p.m.

29. Delegations will be invited to review and, as needed, finalize the draft Vilnius declaration, which was agreed by the Working Group at its ninth meeting. They are expected to take into account the earlier deliberations on the draft decisions under item 3 (a)–(c) above.

Documentation

Draft Vilnius declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/5– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/5)

- (e) **Nomination of officers and election criteria**

Tentative timing: Thursday, 10 December 10–11 a.m.

30. Delegations are invited to consider and agree on election criteria for officers and other procedural guidance, including regarding functions and tasks of the Bureau.

31. Delegations will be invited to submit to the secretariat, by 2 November 2020, nominations of officers to be elected for the next intersessional period. The Chair for the general segment will invite delegations to nominate a chair and members/vice-chairs of the Bureau. In accordance with the past practice, he/she will suggest that the Bureau include the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, and also the Chair and the first Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee – once elected by the Committee.

32. Following each nomination, the Chair will ask the secretariat to inform the Meetings of the Parties of whether the State nominated is a Party to both the Convention and the Protocol, or whether the nomination of an alternate member is needed to ensure an equal representation of the two treaties in the Bureau. Once sufficient nominations have been made, the Chair will invite the Meetings of the Parties to consider the endorsement of the nominations in turn. Formal election of the Bureau members will take place in the high-level segment (item 11 below).

33. The above procedure will be repeated for the five permanent and the five alternate members of the Implementation Committee to be formally elected during the high-level segment. In case the State nominated is not a Party to both the Convention and the Protocol, the nomination of an additional permanent and alternate member is needed to ensure an equal representation of the two treaties in the Committee. (The Implementation Committee will elect its own Chair and Vice-Chairs from among its members when it will first meet in its new composition, in February 2021).

34. Lastly, the Chair will invite the delegations to nominate a chair and a number of vice-chairs for the Working Group. As in the past, the Chair of the Working Group should be a representative of a State that is a Party to both the Convention and the Protocol.

Documentation

Informal documents

Informal list of nominations and proposed election criteria (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.7)

(f) Tentative calendar of meetings

Tentative timing: Thursday, 10 December 11–11.30 a.m.

35. The Meetings of the Parties may agree a tentative calendar of meetings of their subsidiary bodies in the intersessional period. Delegations may also wish to put forward proposals for hosting such meetings.

Documentation

Informal documents

Provisional schedule of meetings (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.8)

4. Review of the workplan

Tentative timing: Thursday, 10 December, 11.30 a.m.– 1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

36. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to review progress in the implementation of the current workplan (see ECE/MP.EIA/23.Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7.Add.1, decision VII/3–III/3), since the ninth meeting of the Working Group, focusing on activities not yet addressed under agenda item 3 above. Based on an informal assessment prepared by the secretariat, the Meetings of the Parties will also be invited to assess the overall completion of the workplan, waitlisted activities and any additional undertaken in the intersessional period 2017–2020.

Documentation

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities in the period from June 2017– September 2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/6– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/6)

Informal document

Informal assessment of the completion of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.5)

(a) Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol

37. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the Committee's activities in the period since 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 (2017–2020).

38. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in developing and adopting legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol further to technical assistance facilitated by the secretariat.

Documentation

Report on the activities of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/4–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/4)

(b) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

39. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in organizing subregional cooperation and capacity-building events.

(c) Exchange of good practices

40. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in organizing possible events for the exchange of good practices since the ninth meeting of the Working Group.

(d) Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol and the Convention

41. The secretariat will report on the finalization of the informal pamphlets or “FasTips” on the Convention and the Protocol and progress in their publication by the International Association of Impact Assessment.

42. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in organizing workshops, including training, implementing pilot strategic environmental assessments and preparing fact sheets and national guidance documents on the application of strategic environmental assessment since the ninth meeting of the Working Group.

Documentation

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context (FasTips) [(ECE/MP.EIA/2020/16) or (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.10)]

Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (FasTips) [(ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/11) or (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.11)]

5. Panel discussion on the contribution of the Protocol to sustainable infrastructure, including with a view to promoting energy transition

Tentative timing: Thursday, 10 December, 4–6 p.m.

43. A panel comprising experts from Governments, together with representatives from intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders, will be invited to discuss the role of strategic environmental assessment [and transboundary environmental impact assessment] for sustainable infrastructure, including with a view to promoting energy transition and to combatting climate change. The discussion is expected to cover major

infrastructure plans of relevance to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and beyond, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, and, at the European Union level, the Trans-European Transport Network corridor. The panelists are expected to present the main achievements and share good practice examples and lessons learned with regard to the application of the Protocol [and the Convention] for sustainable infrastructure and explore ways to expand the awareness and the application of the treaty[/treaties] in that context.

44. Delegations will be invited to make short interventions from the floor in response to the expert presentations.

Documentation

Information note for the panel discussion on the sustainable infrastructure, including energy transition (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.6)

High-level segment

6. Opening ceremony for the high-level segment

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 10–10.30

(a) Election of officers for the high-level segment

45. The Meetings of the Parties, convened in a joint meeting, will be invited to elect their chair for the high-level segment.

(b) Introductory speeches

46. The high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties will begin with opening remarks by the Chair, a high-level representative of the host country and the Executive Secretary of ECE.

(c) Report on the general segment panel discussion

47. The rapporteur will report back to the high-level segment on the outcomes of the panel discussion on the contribution of the Protocol to sustainable infrastructure, including with a view to promoting energy transition (item 5). The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to note the outcomes and consider possible follow-up actions under the Convention and the Protocol.

7. High-level event to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

48. To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, the Meetings of the Parties will hold a special event where invited speakers will highlight the Convention's successes in protecting the environment and in promoting international cooperation in environmental impact assessment within and beyond the ECE region. A separate information note with a programme will be available.

49. Delegations will be invited to make short interventions from the floor in response to the presentations.

Documentation

Information note on the high-level event to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.9)

8. Statements by ministers and high-level representatives

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 12.30–1 p.m.

50. Statements by delegates will be heard in a joint meeting of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol.

51. Ministers, other heads of delegation, and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs may make statements, with a recommended time limit of three minutes. The full texts of the official statements will be circulated if a sufficient number of copies are provided to the secretariat in the course of the session. Delegations are requested to register statements in advance of the session.

9. Adoption of decisions

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 3–4 p.m.

52. The Chair for the high-level segments will introduce the decisions, indicating their title and number, the symbol of the document containing the draft text for consideration and which States are invited to consider and adopt the decision: States Parties to the Convention; States Parties to the Protocol; or States Parties to either instrument. Members of the Bureau will provide additional information on each decision, as appropriate. The decisions will be introduced in the sequence indicated below.

(a) Decisions to be taken jointly

53. Meeting jointly, the Meetings of the Parties will be invited to consider adoption of the following joint decisions and documents, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment:

- (a) Decision on financial arrangements for 2021–2023 (decision VIII/1–IV/1);
- (b) Decision on the adoption of the workplan (decision VIII/2–IV/2);
- (c) Decision on the long term-strategy and the action plan for the Convention and its Protocol (decision VIII/3–IV/3).

Documentation

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 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/1– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/1)

Report on the budget and financial arrangements 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/2– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/2)

Draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3)

Report on the activities of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/4– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/4)

Summary report on the implementation of technical assistance and capacity-building activities in the period from June 2017 to September 2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/5– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/5)

(b) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention

54. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will be invited to consider adoption of the following decisions and related documents, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment:

- (a) Decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention (decision VIII/4 and VIII/4 a-e);
- (b) Decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention (decision VIII/5);
- (c) Decision on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (decision VIII/6).

Documentation

Draft decision VIII/4 on general issues of compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/10)

Draft decision VIII/4a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/11)

Draft decision VIII/4b on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/12)

Draft decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/13)

Draft decision VIII/4d on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/14)

Draft decision VIII/4e on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of extension of the lifetime of the Rivne nuclear power plant (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/15)

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/7)

Sixth review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8)

Guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/9)

(c) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

55. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be invited to consider adoption of the following decisions and related documents, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment:

- (a) Decision on general issues of compliance with the Protocol (decision IV/4);
- (b) Decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol (decision IV/5);
- (c) Decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (decision IV/6).

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/7)

Draft third review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/8)

Guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/10)

10. Adoption of the declaration

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 4–4.15 p.m.

56. Meeting jointly, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be invited to consider adoption of the Vilnius declaration, proposed by the Bureau, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment.

Documentation

Draft Vilnius declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/5– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/5)

11. Election of officers for the next intersessional period

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 4.15–4.45 p.m.

57. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in a joint meeting and will be invited to elect officers for the next intersessional period, following the earlier agreement on nominations (item 3 (e) above). They will also be invited to endorse the agreed criteria for the election of the officers and guidance on the functioning of the Bureau, to be recorded in the report on the sessions.

58. The Meetings of the Parties will consider the election of States nominated as a Party to both instruments, i.e., the Parties to either instrument will be invited to consider the nomination.

59. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will consider the election of States nominated as a Party to the Convention.

60. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will consider the election of States nominated as a Party to the Protocol.

61. The above procedure will be repeated for the new members of the Implementation Committee.

62. The Chair will invite the Meetings of the Parties to express their gratitude to the outgoing members of the Bureau and the Implementation Committee.

Documentation

Informal list of nominations and proposed election criteria (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/INF.7)

12. Date and venue of the next sessions

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 4.45–5 p.m.

63. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in a joint meeting and will be expected, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, to decide on the date and venue of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention to be held in conjunction with the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

13. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 5–5.15 p.m.

64. Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

14. Conclusion of the sessions

Tentative timing: Friday, 11 December, 5.15–6 p.m.

(a) Adoption of the report of the sessions

65. The Chair for the high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties, with support from the secretariat, will present a record of the main decisions taken at the sessions, which will form the basis for the draft report.

66. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to review and adopt the draft report and authorize the secretariat to complete the report after the sessions under the guidance of the outgoing Bureau.

(b) Closing of the sessions

67. The Chair will close the sessions.

IV. Provisional programme of the sessions

<i>Date and indicative timing</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
General segment		
Tuesday, 8 December		
10–10.15 a.m.	1	Opening of the sessions
10.15–10.45 a.m.	2 (a)–(e)	Organizational matters
	3	Outstanding issues
	3 (a)	Draft joint decisions
10.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.		(i) Draft decision on financial arrangements for 2021–2023
12.15–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.		(ii) Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan
4–5 p.m.		(iii) Draft decision on the long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol
	3 (b)	Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
5–6 p.m.		(i) Draft decisions on the review of compliance of the Convention
Wednesday, 9 December		
10–11 a.m.	3 (b)	(i) Draft decisions on the review of compliance of the Convention (continued)

<i>Date and indicative timing</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.		(ii) Draft decision on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants
12.30–1 p.m.		(iii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention
	3 (c)	Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol
3–3.30 p.m.		(i) Draft decision[s] on the review of compliance with the Protocol
3.30–4 p.m.		(ii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol
4–5 p.m.	3 (c)	(iii) Draft decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment
5–6 p.m.	3 (d)	Draft Vilnius declaration
Thursday, 10 December		
10–11 a.m.	3 (e)	Nomination of officers and election criteria
11–11.30 a.m.	3 (f)	Tentative calendar of meetings
11.30– 1 p.m.	4 (a)-(d)	Review of the workplan
3–4 p.m.	4 (a)-(d)	Review of the workplan (continues)
4–6 p.m.	5	Panel discussion on the contribution of the Protocol to sustainable infrastructure, including with a view to promoting energy transition
High-level segment		
Friday, 11 December		
10–10.30 a.m.	6	Opening ceremony for the high-level segment
	6 (a)	Election of officers for the high-level segment
	6 (b)	Introductory speeches
	6 (c)	Report on the general segment panel discussion
10.30 a.m. –12.30 p.m.	7	High-level event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention
12.30–1 p.m.	8	Statements by ministers and high-level representatives
3–4 p.m.	9	Adoption of decisions
	9 (a)	Decisions to be taken jointly
	9 (b)	Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
	9 (c)	Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol
4–4.15 p.m.	10	Adoption of the declaration

<i>Date and indicative timing</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
4.15–4.45 p.m.	11	Election of officers for the next intersessional period
4.45–5 p.m.	12	Date and venue of the next meetings
5–5.15 p.m.	13	Other business
5.15–6 p.m.	14	Conclusion of the sessions
	14 (a)	Adoption of the report of the sessions
	14 (b)	Closing of the sessions
