

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Ninth meeting

Geneva, 24–26 August 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Informal notes on the - reduced - agenda

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ninth meeting of the Working Group was postponed from 9–11 June to 24–26 August and delegations given the possibility to participate either in person or virtually. (The meeting is held in the Palais des Nations, in room XVII)

For technical reasons, and until further notice, the authorized duration of virtual/hybrid meetings with simultaneous interpretation has been limited to 4 hours/day (10 a.m.–noon and 4–6 p.m.) Consequently, the draft agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/Rev.1) had to be substantially shortened. This was done in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group and the Bureau, ensuring, as a priority, that the preparatory work for the upcoming sessions the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (Vilnius, 8–11 December 2020) will be covered. The meeting's main objective remains agreeing on all the draft decisions and documents to be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties.

This paper presents an overview of items and organization of work under the reduced agenda, associated documentation and actions that the delegates are invited to take. The timing of the items is indicative and subject to changes depending on the deliberations.

Given the reduced sessional period and its hybrid format, it is primordial that all comments or revision proposals to the documents and other information and inputs are made available on-line well in advance of the meeting. **Delegations are invited to e-mail their inputs to the secretariat (eia.conv@un.org) as soon as possible** (initial deadlines 30.6, then 3.8).

All documents, including on the items left out from the reduced agenda, and any comments to the documents, can be accessed from the meeting webpage at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53209>.

Reduced agenda: Organization of work

<i>Date and tentative time schedule</i>	<i>Agenda item (numbering from the agenda ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2.1_Rev1)</i>
Monday, 24 August 2020	
10–10.15	1. Adoption of the agenda
10.15–11.15	3. Financial arrangements
	4. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties:
11.15–11.30	(a) Practical arrangements;
11.30.–noon	(b) Provisional agenda;
16–17	(c) Draft workplan 2021–2023;
17-17.30	(d) Draft declaration;
17.30-17.45	(e) Chairs of the sessions;
17.45–18	(f) Provisional schedule of meetings 2021–2023
Tuesday, 25 August 2020	
	4. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (continued):
10–10.30	(g) Officers for the next intersessional period
	6. Compliance and implementation:
10.30–11.30	(a) Review of compliance and related draft decisions;
11.30–noon and 16–17	(b) Draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants
	5. Promoting ratification and application of the Convention and the Protocol:
17–18	Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment;
Wednesday, 26 August 2020	
	6. Compliance and implementation (continued):
10–11	(b) Draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants.
11–11.30	(c) Reporting and review of implementation;
	(d) Draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol;
11.30–noon	
16–18	10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item (numbering follows the official agenda)</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Actions</i>
Monday, 24 August	10– 10.15	1. Adoption of the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/1_rev) • (These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.1_rev) <p><i>Delegates may also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 25–26 February 2020 • Report of the intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (5–7 February 2019) (ECE/MP.EIA/27-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/11) • Report of the seventh and the third sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and the decisions adopted (13–16 June 2017), ECE/MP.EIA/23/-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7, Add.1–Add.3 	<p>The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting.</p> <p>The items of the reduced agenda and the revised schedule of work are presented in (these) informal notes on the agenda.</p> <p>In case time becomes available, also other items from the provisional agenda could be taken up. At any event, delegations may refer to the documentation made available on these items.</p>
	10.15– 11.15	3. Financial arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to the trust fund of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.3) • Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/3) 	<p>The secretariat will report on contributions to the trust fund of the Convention and the Protocol – including for filling the budgetary gap of July–December 2020.</p> <p>All delegations will be invited to provide initial information on the contributions they will pledge to the trust fund in the period 2021–2023.</p> <p>The Working Group will consider and agree on draft decision VIII/1–IV/1 on financial arrangements for 2021–2023.</p> <p>The Working Group is expected to take note of the initial information on Parties’ expected funding for the next intersessional period.</p>

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item (numbering follows the official agenda)</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Actions</i>
Monday, 24 August	11.15– noon + 14–16	4. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties	• Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.4)	
	11.15– 11.30	(a) Practical arrangements		The secretariat and the host country, Lithuania, will report on practical preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, to be held in Vilnius, from 8 to 11 December 2020.
	11.30– noon	(b) Provisional agenda	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/WG.2/2020/INF.5)	The Working Group is invited to consider and agree on the provisional annotated agenda for the Meetings of the Parties' next sessions. The Working Group will be invited to agree on thematic seminars and/or panels to be organized considering the Bureau's recommendations - General segment: panel on sustainable infrastructure, also covering energy transition and climate change issues, - High-level event for the 30 th anniversary of the Convention. Delegations are expected to specify contents; suggest speakers and moderators; and propose leading the organization of the events.
	16–17	(c) Draft workplan 2021-2023	Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/3)	The Working Group 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 1. Ensuring: - Based on the initial information by delegations under item 3, that the draft workplan matches

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item (numbering follows the official agenda)</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Actions</i>
Monday, 24 August				<p>the expected resources for its implementation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That for each workplan activity, information is provided on the lead countries/organizations organizational arrangements, identified resources, and, as relevant, any specific time schedule for implementation <p>Delegations will be invited to propose leading or sponsoring activities and hosting events.</p> <p>2. Deciding whether/which activities should be wait-listed pending the identification of possible future resources and included as annex III to the draft decision.</p> <p>3. Agreeing on the text of the draft decision and its annexes to be forwarded for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties.</p>
	17-17.30	(d) Draft declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Vilnius declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/6) 	The Working Group will be invited to review and agree on the text of the draft Vilnius declaration to be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties.
	17.30-17.45	(e) Chairs of the sessions		<p>The Working Group is expected to discuss and recommend chairs to be elected for the general and high-level segments of the sessions. It may consider that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The offer of Finland's Environment Minister, H.E Ms. Krista Mikkonen to chair the high-level segment - The Bureau has welcomed the availability of the Bureau Chair; Mr. George Kremlis, to again chair the general segment, if needed
	17.45-18	(f) Provisional schedule of meetings 2021–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional schedule of meetings 2021–2023 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.7) 	The Working Group is invited to consider an updated provisional schedule of official meetings in 2021–2023.

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Tuesday, 25 August		2023		
	10– 10.30	4. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (cont'd) (g) Officers for the next intersessional period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers for the period 2021–2023: Nominations, election criteria and tasks (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.6) 	<p>Delegations will be invited submit to the secretariat, by 3 August, nominations for officers to be elected for the next intersessional period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, Chair and members of the Bureau 5 (permanent and alternate) members of the Implementation Committee <p>Parties never/not recently represented in the treaty bodies are encouraged to consider taking on that role.</p> <p>The Working Group is invited to consider Bureau proposals for possible criteria for the officers to be elected and information on the tasks of the Bureau members to be submitted to the Meetings of the Parties</p> <p>It will also be invited to propose actions to ensure that all the vacancies are adequately filled and all nominations are confirmed well in advance of the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.</p>
		6. Compliance and implementation		
	10.30– 11.30	(a) Review of compliance and related draft decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/4) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/5) Initial draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.11) 	<p>The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present the main outcomes of the Committee's forty-sixth and seventh sessions (Geneva, 10–13 December 2019 and 16–19 March 2020). Specifically, he, and, where relevant, the first Vice-Chair of the Committee will present initial draft decisions on compliance with the Convention and the Protocol.</p> <p>Delegations are invited to provide their comments to the drafts in writing by 31 July 2020 and may also wish to take the floor during the meeting.</p>

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Tuesday, 25 August				The Committee will then finalize the draft decisions at its forty-eighth session (Geneva, 1–4 September 2020) considering the comments and any other information received by 31 July 2020, prior to forwarding the draft decisions to the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions
	11.30–noon and 16–17	(b) Draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.12) • Introductory note/statement by the Co-Chairs of the ad hoc group on the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants 	<p>The representatives of Germany and the UK will be invited to present a draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants by an ad hoc working group chaired jointly by them.</p> <p>The Working Group is expected to comment the draft, and also take note of comments submitted by delegates in advance of the meeting. It will invite the ad hoc group to reflect its feedback and recommendations in a revised draft to be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties as an official document.</p> <p>The Working Group is also invited to review and agree on the text of draft decision VIII/6 on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</p>
	17–18	5. Promoting ratification and application of the Convention and the Protocol (b) Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.8) • Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/5) • Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group is expected to review and agree on the draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment • It may also consider the additional sentences proposed by the two consultants (re. pandemics) • The Working Group is also invited to review and agree on draft decision IV/6 on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment

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Wednesday, 26 August	10–11	6. (e) Draft guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (cont'd)		
	11– 11.30	(a) Reporting and review of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/4) • Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/5) • Initial draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/INF.11) 	The Working Group will be invited to consider and agree on draft decisions VIII/5 and IV/5 on reporting and review of implementation of, respectively, the Convention and the Protocol
	11.30– 12	(c) Draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/8) • Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/4) • Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/5) 	The Working Group is expected to finalize and agree on the text of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol - Draft decision VIII/3–IV/3 on the long-term strategy and the action plan
	16–18	10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting		The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting.

