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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

Third meeting

Geneva, 11–15 November 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the third meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 11 November 2013**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 29 August 2013.

** Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the website of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (<http://www.unece.org/env/eia/mtgs/wg.2-1.html>) and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax to +41 22 917 0107 or by e-mail to nadiya.dzyubynska@unece.org. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate entrance to the Palais des Nations (14, Avenue de la Paix; a map is available at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/map.pdf>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2854.

2. Status of ratification.
3. Compliance and implementation.
4. Exchange of good practices:
 - (a) Seminar on sharing good practice and tools for communication, cooperation and conflict resolution, in particular in the context of countries with no diplomatic relations;
 - (b) Seminar on the impacts of nuclear-energy related activities;
 - (c) Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;
 - (d) Other activities foreseen in the workplan;
 - (e) Practices in States outside the region.
5. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.
6. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
7. Inputs to related international processes.
8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance.
9. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
10. Staffing of the secretariat.
11. Other business.
12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 November, 10–10.15 a.m.

1. The present document, setting out the provisional agenda for the third meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Chair of the Working Group will invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out herein.

2. Status of ratification

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 November, 10.15–11 a.m.

2. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention and its two amendments. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each Party to the Convention that has not ratified the two amendments to report on its preparations for ratification.

3. The secretariat will also report on the status of the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications. The Chair will invite each Signatory State that has not ratified the Protocol to report on its preparations for ratification.

4. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal for a draft decision on facilitating the accession to the Convention and the Protocol by countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.2). The Working Group is expected to agree on the text of the decision and forward it for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session (MOP-6) in joint session with the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP/MOP-2).

3. Compliance and implementation

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 November, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and Tuesday, 12 November, 10–11 a.m.

5. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the outcomes of the Committee's twenty-eighth session (10–12 September 2013). She will present elements for draft decisions on the review of compliance of the Convention and of the Protocol, which the Committee will finalize at its subsequent sessions for consideration by MOP-6 and MOP/MOP-2 (see informal document No. 3).

6. The secretariat will present the draft fourth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft first review of implementation of the Protocol in the period 2010–2012, prepared on the basis of the responses to the questionnaires on implementation (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/8 and ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/9). The Chair will introduce draft decisions on the review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.1 and ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.3). The Working Group is expected to consider the draft reviews and the draft decisions to be submitted to MOP-6 and MOP/MOP-2.

7. The ad hoc task force set up by the Working Group will be invited to present its proposals on how to address the inconsistencies in the text of the three authentic language versions of the Convention (English, French and Russian), with a view to bringing them into line. The Working Group is expected to consider the proposals and a draft decision prepared on their basis by the Bureau on actions to be taken to align the different language versions of the Convention (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.1). It is also expected to discuss a Bureau proposal on a draft decision on aligning the authentic language versions of the Protocol (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.3).

8. Belarus and the Republic of Moldova will be invited to report on the technical advice they have received on improving their legislation to implement the Protocol. Georgia and Uzbekistan will be invited to report on the status of legislative reviews on environmental impact assessment (EIA) in a transboundary context.

9. The secretariat will report on its promotion of the use by international financial institutions of a checklist prepared by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in accordance with decision V/4 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (para. 16), and of the development of a consolidated list reflecting common practice of those institutions.

10. The Working Group will be invited to consider a Bureau proposal for a draft decision on the adoption of the draft general guidance on enhancing consistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within State ecological expertise in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.1). As

requested by the Working Group at its last meeting, the draft guidance was finalized taking into account the comments provided before, during and after the meeting, with a view to its submission for adoption by MOP-6 (see informal document No. 5).

4. Exchange of good practices

(a) Seminar on sharing good practice and tools for communication, cooperation and conflict resolution, in particular in the context of countries with no diplomatic relations

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 November, 3–6 p.m. and Thursday, 14 November, noon–1 p.m.

11. The lead organizations for this activity, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the European Commission, together with the Chair of the Implementation Committee, will be invited to chair a seminar on sharing good practice and tools for communication, cooperation and conflict resolution, in particular in the context of countries with no diplomatic relations (see report of the Working Group on its second meeting, ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/2 (forthcoming). Detailed information on the seminar will be made available in advance. Based on the seminar outcomes, the Working Group may wish to decide on follow-up actions, and to consider a draft decision on this issue prepared by the Bureau, with input from the lead organizations and the Committee Chair (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.1).

(b) Seminar on the impacts of nuclear-energy related activities

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 November, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

12. Austria, Finland and Sweden will be invited to chair a workshop on the long-range impacts of nuclear-energy related activities, as foreseen in the workplan for the Convention and the Protocol (decision V/9–I/9). Detailed information on the seminar will be made available in advance. The Working Group is expected to decide on follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.

(c) Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 November, 10–11 a.m.

13. The Working Group will be invited to consider a draft decision for MOP-6 on the development of good practice guidance to support the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities. The draft decision has been prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the lead countries for the nuclear seminar, Austria, Finland and Sweden, and other interested Parties (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.1).

(d) Other activities foreseen in the workplan

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 November, 11–11.30 a.m.

14. The lead country, Poland, will be invited to report on progress in the organization of the seminar on renewable energy, focusing on wind energy, to be held during the next Meetings of the Parties. Countries with experience on other forms of renewable energy are invited to inform the meeting of their possibilities to provide inputs. The Working Group is expected to discuss and agree on the main contents of the workshop.

(e) **Practices in States outside the region**

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 November, 11.30 a.m.–noon.

15. The Chair will invite possible representatives or experts from States outside the ECE region participating in a meeting of the Working Group for the first time to present briefly the EIA and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) systems and practices in their country.

5. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 November, 11 a.m.–noon.

16. Lead countries for the subregional cooperation and capacity-building activities foreseen in the workplan and the secretariat will be invited to report on the outcomes of, or preparations for, the activities.

17. The delegation of Romania, which is the depository for the multilateral cooperation agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention — the Bucharest Agreement — is expected to report on the status of the Agreement. The countries of South-Eastern Europe will be invited to report on actions taken to increase the membership of the Agreement and on arrangements for the first meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.

6. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 November, noon–1 p.m.

18. The secretariat will report on the status of the Russian version of the electronic publication, *Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment*, including its health annex (ECE/MP.EIA/17).

19. The representative of IAIA will be invited to report on the preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice, as outlined in the workplan.

20. Representatives of Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine will be invited to report on workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol, which were held or are about to be held in their countries. Other lead countries and the secretariat will also be invited to report on progress in organizing other training workshops and pilot SEAs foreseen in the workplan.

21. The Working Group is expected to consider a Bureau proposal for a draft decision on the adoption of the draft good practice recommendations on public participation in SEA by MOP/MOP-2 (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.3). As requested by the Working Group at its second meeting, the secretariat has revised the draft based on the comments made at that meeting, including with a view to aligning the document with the obligations under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (see informal document No. 8).

22. Delegations will be invited to propose cases in which the Protocol has been applied and that could be described in case study fact sheets to be published by the secretariat.

7. Inputs to related international processes

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 November, 3–3.30 p.m.

23. The Chair will report on the outcomes of an informal meeting of the chairs and vice-chairs of the bureaux of the ECE environmental treaties and the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, to be held in Geneva on 21 October 2013.

8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 November, 3.30–5.30 p.m.

24. The secretariat will present the biannual financial report for the period to 30 June 2013 (ECE/MP.EIA/15, decision V/10–I/10, para. 10). The secretariat will also highlight the contributions made to the trust fund of the Convention, including any outstanding pledges.

25. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal for a draft decision on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance, as well as a revised draft financial strategy, amended based on the comments made at the second meeting of the Working Group (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.2 and informal document No. 9). The Working Group is expected to agree on the draft documents to be considered by the Meetings of the Parties in a joint session.

9. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 November, 3–6 p.m. (and Friday, a.m., as needed)

26. The Chair of the Bureau will report on the practical arrangements for MOP-6 and MOP/MOP-2, to be held in Kyiv from 2 to 5 June 2014.

27. The Chair will present the remaining Bureau proposals for draft decisions to be considered by the Meetings of the Parties not discussed under the previous agenda items. In particular, the Chair will describe the draft workplan for the next intersessional period, 2014–2017, to be considered for adoption by the two governing bodies (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.2). The delegations will be invited to make further proposals on possible elements for the draft workplan and on reconciling the draft workplan with the corresponding draft budget. In the development of the draft workplan, the Working Group may wish to consider the general compliance issues from the Third Review of Implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2011/2–3) and the key findings from the draft fourth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft first review of the implementation of the Protocol. The Working Group is expected to ensure that for each activity in the workplan a lead country or organization and a source of funding is identified.

28. The Working Group is expected to review and agree the text of all the draft decisions to be forwarded for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.1, ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.2 and ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/L.3).

29. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal on the draft programme for MOP-6 and MOP/MOP-2 (see informal document No. 10). Delegations are invited to make further proposals on attracting high-level representation to those meetings, and on enriching the

draft agenda, for example by holding side events, signing bilateral agreements or making common declarations. The Working Group is expected to agree on the draft programme.

30. As requested by the Working Group at its last meeting, delegations are invited to propose further nominations for officers for the next intersessional period, that is, four Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, three members of the Bureau and four members of the Implementation Committee. Additional new members of the Committee may need to be nominated depending on whether Committee members are Parties to the Protocol.

31. The Chair will also invite delegations to provide proposals for the timing and location for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

10. Staffing of the secretariat

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 November, 10–10.30 a.m.

32. The secretariat will report on any staff changes that have occurred or that are anticipated since the last meeting of the Working Group.

11. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 November, 10.30–11.30 a.m.

33. Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 November, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

34. The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the session, to authorize the secretariat to complete the report after the session under the guidance of the Chair and to confirm the date and venue of its next meeting before the Chair formally closes the second meeting.
