



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
25 January 2016

Original: English

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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

#### Fifth meeting

Geneva, 11–15 April 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m.  
on Monday, 11 April 2016\*

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

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\* In accordance with the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates attending the meeting are requested to register online by no later than **24 March 2016** through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=xKqr1s>. Registration details are available on the website. The use of the Internet Explorer browser is recommended for registration. In case of difficulty, please refer to the online user manual (<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR/Online+Meeting+Registration+Guidelines>), or contact the secretariat by e-mail ([anelia.rambosson@unece.org](mailto:anelia.rambosson@unece.org) or [eia.conv@unece.org](mailto:eia.conv@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's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 24 39.



2. Status of ratification.
3. Compliance and implementation.
4. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building.
5. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
6. Inputs to related international processes.
7. Exchange of good practices:
  - (a) Workshop on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects;
  - (b) Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;
  - (c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan.
8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance.
9. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.
10. Other business.
11. 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 April, 3–3.15 p.m.*

1. The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment will invite the Working Group to adopt the agenda for its fifth meeting, as set out in the present document. The provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Meetings of the Parties to the two treaties.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/1)

Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.1)

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<sup>1</sup> All meeting documentation will be made available on a dedicated web page for the meeting on the Economic Commission for Europe website ([http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40431#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40431#/)). Please note that documents with symbols ending in “INF.” and a number are informal documents and can be located in the documents table by clicking on the “unofficial documents” tab.

## 2. Status of ratification

*Tentative timing: Monday, 11 April, 3.15–5 p.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 yet ratified the two amendments to report on its preparations for ratification. In particular, delegations of the States that were Parties to the Convention at the time the first amendment was adopted (27 February 2001) will be invited to provide detailed information on steps taken towards the ratification of that amendment.

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 its signature to report on its preparations for ratification.

4. The Working Group will be invited to propose actions that might be taken to encourage accession to or ratification of the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol. In particular, to facilitate the entry into effect of the first amendment, permitting global accession to the Convention, as soon as possible, the Working Group will be invited to consider proposals from the Bureau, including for the possible adoption by the Parties to the Convention of an agreement to modify article 17, paragraph 3.

5. The secretariat will also report on interest expressed by countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region in acceding to either the Convention or the Protocol.

### Documentation

Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.2)

Accelerating the entry into effect of the first amendment to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.3)

## 3. Compliance and implementation

*Tentative timing: Monday, 11 April, 5–6 p.m. and Tuesday, 12 April, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.*

6. The Chair of the Implementation Committee is expected to report on compliance and implementation. He will present the report of the Committee's thirty-fourth session (Geneva, 8–10 December 2015; ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2015/4) and the outcomes of the Committee's thirty-fifth session (Geneva, 15–17 March 2016). He will also report on the Committee's activities in follow up to decision VI/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention regarding Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine.

7. The secretariat will report on the receipt of completed questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2013–2015, which are due on 31 March 2016. It will also report on its plans for the preparation of the draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft second review of implementation of the Protocol, which are to be submitted to the Working Group at its sixth meeting (Geneva, 7–10 November 2016) for consideration. The Working Group may wish to comment the rate and timeliness of the reporting, as well as provide guidance to the secretariat for the production of the draft reviews of implementation.

8. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation will be invited to report on the technical advice they have received or will be receiving on how to improve their legislation in order to implement

the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol and to assist them in ratifying or acceding to the two instruments, as appropriate. As needed, the secretariat will provide additional information on the legislative assistance it has provided. The consultants to the secretariat or the secretariat will also present a draft overview of the legislative reviews and legal advice on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) that have already been delivered (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.6), together with draft practical guidance prepared to steer any future reform of legal and institutional structures with regard to the application of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.7). Delegations will be invited to comment the documents, in particular those from the countries concerned. The countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia will also be expected to express any possible further needs for technical assistance to improve their national legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol that should be included in the workplan for the next intersessional period 2017–2020, or wait-listed subject to the availability of funding.

9. The secretariat and Kyrgyzstan will inform the Working Group about the plans for the further development and update of the Guidelines on EIA in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/6), foreseen in the workplan.

10. Belarus, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be invited to present proposals on how to address the inconsistencies in the text of the three authentic language versions of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention (English, French and Russian) identified by the United Nations Office at Geneva translation group, with a view to bringing them into line (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.4). The discrepancies regarding the Protocol were already presented at the previous meeting of the Working Group (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/INF.9), and the identification of the discrepancies regarding the two amendments was carried out in early 2016. Based on the proposals, the Working Group is expected to agree on a list of discrepancies of a technical nature to be addressed through a correction procedure and any possible substantive inconsistencies to be addressed through the amendment procedure. It is also expected to invite the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to prepare draft decisions for aligning the authentic language versions of the Protocol and the amendments to the Convention, in accordance with its conclusions, for the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to consider at the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in 2017.

11. Consultants to the secretariat or the secretariat will present draft guidance on implementation of the Convention drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee as foreseen in the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.8). The Chair will inform the Working Group of any recommendation of the Bureau regarding the draft guidance and its further development. The Working Group will be invited to comment the draft with a view to its finalization and subsequent submission to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention for adoption at its seventh session.

12. Finally, the secretariat will report on the electronic publication of the opinions of the Implementation Committee and their periodic revision.

### **Documentation**

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.3)

Aligning the authentic texts of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.4)

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.5)

Draft overview of legislative and administrative reforms for implementing strategic environmental assessment in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.6)

Draft practical guidance on reforming legal and institutional structures with regard to application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.7)

Draft guidance on implementation of the Convention drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.8)

Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)

#### **4. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 April, 12 p.m.–1 p.m.*

13. Lead countries for 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, activities in this area carried out since the previous meeting of the Working Group. Participants will be briefed on the outcomes of a meeting in the Baltic Sea subregion hosted by Lithuania in September 2015 and a subregional coordination and experience-sharing event held in Kakheti, Georgia, in November 2015. The delegation of Latvia will be invited to report on progress in organizing a meeting in the Baltic Sea subregion, scheduled to be held in 2016.

14. The delegation of Romania, the depository for the multilateral cooperation agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention (Bucharest Agreement), is expected to report on the status of the Agreement and on arrangements for the workshop to prepare the first meeting of the Parties foreseen in the workplan.

15. Delegations will also be invited to come forward with proposals for hosting or sponsoring subregional cooperation and/or capacity-building events in the next intersessional period, 2017–2020, within the ECE region or beyond.

##### **Documentation**

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.3)

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.5)

Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)

#### **5. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 April, 3–5 p.m.*

16. The secretariat will present a video and a draft brochure it prepared to promote awareness about the Protocol and its benefits in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.9). The Working Group may wish to comment the communication material presented and agree on actions for its dissemination within and beyond the region, as appropriate. Delegations will also be invited to suggest possible other

material or means to further promote the Protocol that could be developed in the next intersessional period.

17. The countries concerned and the secretariat will be invited to report on: (a) the preparation of fact sheets on the application of SEA; (b) the development of national guidance documents on SEA (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

18. The secretariat and the countries concerned (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) will be invited to report on recent or planned workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol. They will also be invited to report on progress in implementing pilot SEAs, as foreseen in the workplan. Building on the accomplished or expected results from the capacity-building activities in the current intersessional period, delegations in particular from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia will also be invited to voice possible priority needs for further activities in the period 2017–2020 that would facilitate their countries' accession to and implementation of the Protocol.

19. A representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment will be invited to report on the Association's preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice.

20. Poland may wish to present its case study on the application of the Protocol to its national nuclear power programme. Other delegations will be invited to propose cases in which the Protocol has been applied for the preparation of fact sheets on the application of SEA, e.g., on industrial reconversion and investment plans or sustainable agricultural practices, to be published on the Convention and the Protocol's website by the secretariat.

21. The Working Group is expected to consider the information provided and, as needed, agree on actions to ensure the implementation of or follow-up to the activities to promote the Protocol.

### **Documentation**

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.3)

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.5)

Draft brochure on the Protocol on SEA and its benefits in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.9)

Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)

## **6. Inputs to related international processes**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 April, 5–6 p.m.*

22. The Chair will be invited to report on the outcomes of a joint meeting of the Chairs of the bureaux of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and the Committee on Environmental Policy, as well as on the outcome of the segment devoted to the multilateral environmental agreements at the twenty-first session of the Committee on Environmental Policy, held in Geneva on 27 October 2015. The secretariat will also report on the meeting of the informal network of the chairs of the multilateral environmental agreement implementation and compliance committees held on 29 June 2015. Finally, the Working Group will be informed about the preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe

Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) of relevance to the Convention and its Protocol.

## **7. Exchange of good practices**

### **(a) Workshop on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 April, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.*

23. A one-day workshop on safety and land-use planning, with a focus on siting of hazardous activities, will be held under the joint framework of the Protocol on SEA and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the European Investment Bank. The workshop will serve as a platform for participants to discuss the related draft guidance under preparation by consultants to the ECE secretariat that draws, among others, on information gathered from focal points and stakeholders through a survey. National approaches, good practice, challenges and lessons learned regarding safety and land-use planning, in particular in relation to siting of hazardous activities, will also be presented. Delegations are invited to comment and supplement the information provided, with a view to assisting the further development of the draft guidance in advance of its next meeting. Detailed information on the workshop will be made available in advance.

#### **Documentation**

Joint guidance and workshop on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2016/4)

Draft programme of the joint workshop on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.10)

Draft guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.11)

### **(b) Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.*

24. A consultant to the secretariat will present draft good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities that draws on information gathered through a survey completed by national focal points and stakeholders. The draft document was prepared by a team of consultants under the supervision of the editorial group established by the Meeting of the Parties (see ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1, decision VI/7, para. 6, and also ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3, decision VI/3-II/3, annex I), in consultation with the Bureau and with support from the secretariat. The Working Group will be invited to consider the draft and to provide guidance for the development of a revised draft in advance of its next meeting.

#### **Documentation**

Draft good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.12)

(c) **Other activities foreseen in the workplan**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, 12–12.30 p.m.*

25. The European Investment Bank, as the lead organization for the activity, will be invited to describe its plans for a half-day seminar on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol focusing on non-ECE countries and international financial institutions, foreseen in the workplan and scheduled to be held in November 2016. The Working Group will be invited to provide its views and guidance for the preparation of the event.

**8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, 12.30–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.*

26. The secretariat will present the biannual financial report for the period to 31 December 2015, in accordance with the request of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3, decision VI/4–II/4, para. 13). The secretariat will also highlight the contributions made to the trust fund of the Convention, including any outstanding pledges.

27. The secretariat will also report on any changes in the staff resources that have occurred since the fourth meeting of the Working Group or that are anticipated.

28. The Chair will be invited to report on proposed further measures by the Bureau to encourage Parties that have so far not pledged anything to make contributions and to encourage those that have so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions to raise their contributions during the current and future budget cycles (see *ibid.*, paras. 6–7). The Working Group is invited to review and assess the implementation of the decision on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance, as well as the financial strategy adopted by the Meetings of the Parties in 2014 (*ibid.*, para. 19 and annex II.). It may then wish to request the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a new draft decision on financial arrangements based on experience gained since the sixth session of the Meetings of the Parties. The draft should be ready for the Working Group to consider at its next meeting, with a view to finalizing a draft for submission to the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions.

**Documentation**

Biannual financial report up to 31 December 2015 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/INF.13)

**9. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, 4–6 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m.–1 p.m.*

29. The representative of Belarus and the secretariat will report on the initiation of practical arrangements 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, scheduled to be held in Belarus in May or June 2017. The Working Group will be invited to consider the Bureau's proposal to hold the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in Minsk from 12 to 16 June 2017, and to agree on the dates for the sessions.



30. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal for a draft Minsk declaration. The Working Group is expected to comment the draft and agree on its further development by the Bureau with support from the secretariat.

31. The Chair and the secretariat will also describe a draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the next intersessional period 2017–2020 to be adopted at the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1). The Working Group will be invited to review and comment all the elements of the document that have not already been addressed under the previous agenda items above. Delegations, individually or in groups, will be invited to make further proposals on possible elements for the workplan, as provisionally set out in annex I to the document. 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. It is also invited to agree which activities are to be waitlisted in the absence of funding, as provisionally set out in annex II to the document. The Working Group is expected to decide on the further development of the draft workplan in advance of its next meeting.

32. The secretariat will present a note on the preparatory work, including documentation, for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties with an indicative time schedule.

33. The Chair will present an initial list of draft decisions that might be considered by the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions. The Working Group is invited to provide its feedback and to request that the Bureau prepare, with the support of the secretariat, for consideration by the Working Group at its next meeting, all draft decisions to be considered by the Meetings of the Parties in 2017, except that on the review of the compliance to be drafted by the Implementation Committee.

34. The Chair will invite delegations to make proposals for attracting high-level representatives to attend the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and on enriching the programme of the sessions, for example by holding side events, signing bilateral agreements or making common declarations. The Working Group will then invite the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat to prepare a draft programme for discussion at the next meeting of the Working Group, taking into account the outcomes of the discussion.

35. The Chair will ask delegations to come forward with nominations for officers for the next intersessional period, that is, a Chair and three Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, three members of the Bureau and four members of Implementation Committee. Additional new members of the Implementation Committee may need to be nominated depending on whether Committee members are Parties to the Protocol, but these additional members will be nominated by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

36. The Chair will also invite delegations to provide preliminary proposals for hosting 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, scheduled to be held in mid-2020.

#### **Documentation**

Preparation for the 2017 sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.14)

Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)

Draft Minsk declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.2)

Information on the required nominations for officers for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.15)

Mapping of the Convention and the Protocol activities that support countries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16)

## **10. Other business**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 15 April, 3–4 p.m.*

37. Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.

## **11. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 15 April, 4–5.30 p.m.*

38. The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at its fifth meeting, to authorize the secretariat to complete the report after the meeting under the guidance of the Chair and to confirm the date and venue of its next meeting.

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