

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
serving as the Meeting of the Parties
to the Protocol on Strategic
Environmental Assessment

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sixth meeting

Geneva, 7–10 November 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Informal notes on the agenda

Note by the secretariat

This paper presents an overview of agenda items (in chronological order), associated documentation (official, informal “INF” and other) and actions that the delegates are invited to take.

Timing of the items is indicative and subject to changes depending on the deliberations during the meeting.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Actions</i>
Monday, 7 November	10–10.15	1. Adoption of the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/3) • (These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.1) <p><i>Delegates may also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment on its fifth meeting (11–15 April 2016) ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/2 • Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 19–20 January 2016 • Report of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP) and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP/MOP) (2–5 June 2014) (ECE/MP.EIA/20-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4), including the decisions adopted by the two bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.1 and ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1/Corr.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.1/Corr.1 ○ ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.2-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.2 ○ ECE/MP.EIA/20-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting.
	10.15–11.00	2. Inputs to related international processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat will report on outcomes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) of

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Monday, 7 November			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair's summary of the Informal network of the Chairs of compliance/implementation bodies under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (4th meeting, Geneva, 20 June 2016) – if made available on time; Review of ECE activities under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol (of July 2016), and the ECE management response 	<p>relevance to the Convention and its Protocol;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the meeting of the informal network of the chairs of the MEA implementation and compliance committees (Geneva, 20 June 2016); Review of ECE activities under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol (of July 2016), and the ECE management response <p>The Working Group will be invited to comment and, as relevant, consider the reported information when finalizing the documentation for the next MoP sessions, such as the draft workplan for the next intersessional period and the draft Minsk declaration.</p>
	11.00–11.30	3. Compliance and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.3) Report of the Implementation Committee on its 36th session (Geneva, 5-7 September 2016) (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2016/4) Elements for a draft report on Committee's activities ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.5 Elements for draft decisions on the review of compliance of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.4). Information to be provided orally. <p><i>Delegates may also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure and functions of the Implementation Committee, and procedures for review of compliance and consolidated operating rules (as amended in 2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the Committee's 36th session; on the Committee's draft report to the 7th session of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (MOP7) and the 3rd session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP3); and on the progress in preparing draft decisions VII/2 and III/2 on the review of compliance of the Convention and the Protocol. The Working Group will be invited to take note of the report. Delegations may also comment the information provided on the draft decisions VI/2 and II/2 which are to be finalized by the Committee prior to their submission to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3 (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017).

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Monday, 7 November	11.30–12.30	3. Compliance and implementation (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/8) • Draft second review of implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/9) • Suggested improvements to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group is invited to consider the draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft second review of implementation of the Protocol in the period 2013–15 and to reach an agreement on the main findings of the draft reports. <p>It may wish to take into account the draft findings of the reviews when preparing the draft workplan (draft joint decision VII/3–III/3) for submission to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3 under agenda item 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegations are invited to provide the secretariat with any comments or corrections to the drafts. (As the draft reviews are at their maximum length, additional information can no longer be incorporated). The Working Group is expected to invite the secretariat to finalize the drafts reflecting the comments and corrections made and forward them to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3. • The Working Group is also invited to review and agree on draft decisions VII/1 and III/2 on reporting and the review of implementation under the Convention and the Protocol, which are to be considered by MOP7 and MOP/MOP3. • Delegations that have yet to report on their implementation of the Convention: Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the UK or the Protocol: Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are expected to indicate a date for submission of a completed questionnaire(s) in 2016.
	12.30–13	3. Compliance and implementation (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.3) • Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova will be invited to report on progress regarding the adoption or amendment of the draft

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Monday, 7 November			<p>(ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft practical guidance on reforming legal and institutional structures with regard to the application of the Protocol on SEA (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.9) • <i>Background document</i> Draft Guidelines on EIA in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/6) 	<p>legislation to implement the Convention and the Protocol further to the technical advice from the secretariat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of Kazakhstan will be invited to report on legislative assistance it will be receiving for developing new national legislation on SEA. • Representative of the Russian Federation will be invited to report on progress in the development of its national legislation on transboundary EIA and SEA. • The secretariat will present revised draft practical guidance on reforming legal and institutional structures with regard to the application of the Protocol on SEA. Delegations, in particular those from the countries concerned, may wish to provide possible further comments. • Kyrgyzstan and the secretariat will inform the Working Group about progress in the further development and update of the Guidelines on EIA in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries.
	15–18 and Tuesd. 8 Nov 10– 10.30	4. Brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft programme and background for the brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.10) 	<p>Representative(s) of the lead countries for the brainstorming session on future of the Convention and the Protocol (Austria, Finland, France, the Netherlands and Norway) will be invited to present the programme and the background for the session. The discussions will be facilitated by Mr. Rob Verheem, Director of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Delegations will be invited to actively participate in the discussions to be conducted in small groups. The Working Group will be invited to take note of the results/conclusions of the discussions to be presented on Tuesday at 10 am by Mr. Verheem. It</p>

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				is expected to consider any implications of the sessions outcomes for the future workplans, resources and working methods under the two treaties, and to take them into account when discussing and agreeing on the relevant draft decisions and documents to be submitted to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3. It may also wish to decide on additional follow-up actions, as needed..
Tuesday, 8 November	10.30– 11	3. Compliance and implementation (cont'd from Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligning the authentic texts of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The secretariat will report on progress in submitting to the UN treaty depositary the list of proposed corrections to the three authentic language versions of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention that the Working Group agreed at its fifth meeting, with a view to aligning the texts. The secretariat will also inform participants of the steps taken to publish the revised text of the Protocol. Since the UN treaty depositary has expressed the need to receive assurance that all the signatory and contracting Parties are in full consensus regarding the proposed corrections before it initiates the correction procedure, delegations representing Parties and signatory States to the Protocol and the Convention will be invited to thoroughly review the proposed corrections again and express any objections to them or (re)confirm that they will not object to any of them.
	11– 11.45	5. Status of ratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opinions of the Implementation Committee, 2001–2017 (updated, English only) Status of ratification (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The secretariat will report on the electronic publication of the opinions of the Implementation Committee and their periodic revision. Delegations will be invited to report on planned ratifications of the Convention and its two amendments. In particular, each Party to the Convention that has not ratified the two

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				<p>amendments will be expected to report on its preparations for ratification; delegations of the 10 States that were Parties to the Convention at the time of adoption of the first amendment (27 February 2001) (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the UK) will be invited to provide detailed information on steps taken towards ratification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau members, the EU Presidency and the European Commission will be invited to report on their actions to prompt the countries concerned to ratify the amendments; • Signatories of the Protocol (Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Republic of Moldova and the United Kingdom) and other delegations will be invited report on their preparations to ratify the Protocol. • Delegations/Signatories of the Bucharest Agreement (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece and Serbia) are invited report on their preparations to ratify the Bucharest Agreement. • The secretariat will 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. • The Working Group is expected to assess the progress made in ensuring the necessary ratifications by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its 7th session in 2017, and recommend further action accordingly.
Tuesday,	11.45–	6. Subregional cooperation and	• Workplan implementation status	• A representative of Latvia will be invited to report on progress in the organization of a subregional

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8 November	12.15	capacity building	(ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.3)	<p>cooperation workshop for the Baltic Sea area in autumn 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of Romania are invited to report on arrangements for the workshop to prepare for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement; The secretariat and representative of Ukraine will report on progress in the preparation of a final subregional coordination and experience-sharing scheduled to be held in Ukraine in 2017 (stocktaking of workplan activities funded by EU under EaP Green programme);
Tuesday, 8 November	12.15–13	7. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.3) Video on the Protocol on SEA and its benefits (available from the Convention website in English and Russian: http://www.unece.org/env/eia/welcome.html http://www.unece.org/ru/env/eia/privet.html) The brochure on Strategic Environmental Assessment: Facts and Benefits Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.8) IAIA "Fastips" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegations will be invited to report on their actions for disseminating the video prepared by the secretariat to promote awareness of the Protocol and its benefits; the Working Group may agree on actions for its dissemination within and beyond the region, as appropriate The secretariat will report on the finalization of the brochure to promote awareness about the Protocol and its benefits in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus Secretariat and representatives of the countries concerned (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine). 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 Representatives of lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), and/or the secretariat, will be invited to report on workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol held or under preparation, as well as pilot SEAs, as foreseen in the

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				<p>workplan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) may wish to report on the preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice. • 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 • The Working Group is expected to agree on actions to ensure the implementation of or follow-up to the activities to promote the Protocol.
Tuesday, 8 November	15–16.30	8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft financial report for the period to 31 May 2016 • Information from UNECE Executive Secretary regarding financial reporting • Draft decision VII/4–III/4 on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance (See: Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6 • Decision VII/4–III/4 on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance (See ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3, and annex II (Financial strategy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat will present a financial report for the period to 31 May 2016, and any update to it. The Working Group will be invited to comment. • The secretariat will present information on changes in UNECE’s financial reporting to donors. The Working Group will be invited to comment • The secretariat will report on any changes in the staff resources that have occurred since the fifth meeting of the Working Group; • The Chair will present a Bureau proposal for a draft decision VII/4–III/4 on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance. The Working Group is expected to review and agree on the draft decision to be considered by MOP7 and MOP/MOP3. • Working Group may also wish to review and assess the implementation of decision VII/4–II/4 on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance, as well as the financial strategy adopted by the Meetings of the Parties in 2014. • Delegations might indicate their expected financial contributions to the trust fund in the next

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				intersessional period, to be pledged at the June 2017 MOP sessions.
Tuesday, 8 November	16.30–18	9. Exchange of good practices (a) Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft policy and legal guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/10–ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/8) • Draft technical guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/9) • Draft decision VII/5–III/5 (See Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group will be invited to comment and agree on the text of the policy and legal part of the draft guidance and, to the extent relevant, on the technical part of the guidance. • The Working Group is also expected to consider and agree on a draft decision VII/5–III/5 concerning the guidance to be considered by MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.
Wednesday, 9 November	10.00–12.00	(b) Workshop on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft programme and background for the workshop on the global application of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Investment Bank, will be invited to open the workshop on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol, organized by the Bank with the assistance of a consultant and in cooperation with the secretariat, as foreseen in the workplan. • The Working Group may propose follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.
Wednesday, 9 November	15–17.30	(c) Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.12) • Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultant to the secretariat will present draft good practice recommendations prepared under the supervision of the editorial group and taking into account the feedback provided by the Working Group • The Working Group will be invited to agree on the finalization of the draft to be forwarded to MOP7 for adoption. • The Working Group will also be invited to consider and agree on draft decision VII/7 concerning the good practice recommendations.
Thursday,	10–13	10. Preparations for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft joint decisions by the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A representative of Belarus and the secretariat

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<p>10 November</p> <p>Thursday, 10 November</p>	<p>and</p> <p>15–16.30 p.m.</p>	<p>MOP7 and MOP/MOP3</p>	<p>Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Minsk declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.2) • A needs assessment for further-capacity building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.13) 	<p>will report on progress in practical arrangements for the MOP7 and MOP/MOP3 to be held in Minsk, 13–16 June 2017. The Working Group may wish to note and comment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group is expected to consider and agree on the text of the draft Minsk declaration presented by the Chair taking into account the outcomes of the brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol; the relevant outcomes of the Batumi Ministerial Conference and those of other related international processes. • The Working Group will be invited to review and agree on draft decision VII/3–III/3 on the workplan adoption; and on proposed elements for the workplan (in annex D), taking into account of: key findings from the draft reviews of implementation, outcomes of the brainstorming session, the review of ECE activities and other relevant information. Delegations in particular from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia will be invited to confirm or express possible other priority needs for activities in the next intersessional period 2017–2020 that would facilitate their countries’ accession to and implementation of the Protocol (for inclusion to the workplan or to a waiting list until identification of funding). Delegations will be invited to come forward with proposals or to confirm possibilities for leading or sponsoring activities, and for hosting events in the next intersessional period within the ECE region or beyond. The Working Group is expected to ensure that for each sub-activity full information is provided on organizational arrangements, expected outcome, identified budget and preliminary time schedule. • The Working Group will also be invited to agree on which activities are to be waitlisted in the

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Thursday, 10 November			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft programme and preparations for the 2017 sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.14) • Information on the required nominations for officers for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.16) • Draft overview of the pros and cons of extending the interval between the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties 	<p>absence of funding, as provisionally set out in annex II to the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group is expected to review the draft decisions not discussed/agreed under the previous agenda items and agree their text to be considered by MOP7 and MOP/MOP3. • The Working Group may wish to comment the updated note by the secretariat on the preparatory work for the MOPs, with an indicative time schedule, including lists of documentation and draft MOP decisions. • The Working Group will be invited to further consider its proposal for the provisional programme of the MOPs (in inf.doc. 14), and make specific proposals to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specify the contents of the panel discussions; ○ Attract high-level representation and to enrich the agenda; ○ Identify one or more keynote speaker, and facilitator for the panel discussions • Delegations will be invited to come forward with initial proposals for holding one or several side events. • Delegations will be invited to come forward with preliminary nominations for officers for the next intersessional period, that is, a Chair and three Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, a Chair and three members of the Bureau and four members of Implementation Committee (see inf doc 15); • The Chair and/or the secretariat will present considerations that could be of relevance to the Working Group when considering whether to propose extending the intersessional period from three to four years. The Working Group will be

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			(ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/6/INF.15)	invited to discuss pros and cons of these and other considerations and reach a consensus on any proposal to be put forward for endorsement by MOP7 and MOP/MOP3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegations may wish to provide preliminary proposals for hosting the eighth session of the MOP and the fourth session of the MOP/MOP, preliminarily scheduled to be held in mid-2020.
	16.30–17	11. Other business	(none)	Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.
	17–18	12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting.