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Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

ON-LINE EXPERT CONSULTATION MEETING IN RELATION TO THE GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT IN ARMENIA

Session I – Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia

DRAFT AGENDA

5 June 2020, Yerevan, Armenia and Geneva, Switzerland
11:00 Yerevan time; 09:00 Geneva time

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Background

The on-line consultation meeting in relation to the Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context in Armenia (the Guidelines) is organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Ministry of Environment of Armenia, within the framework of the EU-funded “EU4Environment” Programme.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

Its overall aim is to discuss the extended outline of the Guidelines prepared by the international EIA consultants to UNECE. These Guidelines are being developed to assist national stakeholders in applying the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (‘the Convention’) and the respective national legislation. The Guidelines, which are recommendatory in nature, will contain step-by-step procedures in accordance with the Convention taking into account the relevant provisions of the updated legislation on EIA (Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expert Review), which is currently under adoption in Armenia.

The objectives of the expert consultation meeting are to:

- clarify roles of various state and non-state actors in the EIA process, especially in relation to any transboundary procedures;
- discuss the extent to which procedural and substantial aspects of a transboundary EIA should be elaborated in the Guidelines;
- build understanding about the recent status of the updated national legislation on EIA and ensure its consideration in the Guidelines, as relevantly;
- discuss practical steps and arrangements for application of EIA in a transboundary context;
- identify needs for practical examples / templates and their use/presentation in the Guidelines; and
- discuss the content and level of detail of annexes to the Guidelines, etc.

Participants

The expert consultation meeting will be attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Armenia, UNECE project team (EU4Environment Project Manager and Programme Management Assistant), international EIA consultants, and national EIA consultant.

Practical Information

Due to the COVID-19 related restrictions, this consultation meeting will be organized as an on-line meeting. UNECE will provide necessary technical support in this regard.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

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Time	Item
11.00-11.10	Opening remarks <i>Dr. Irina Ghaplanyan (Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia; EU4Environment National Focal Point)</i> <i>Leonid Kalashnyk (EU4Environment Project Manager, UNECE)</i>
11.10-11.20	Introduction to the Expert Consultation Meeting <i>Leonid Kalashnyk (UNECE)</i> <i>Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Gor Movsisyan (International EIA Consultants to UNECE)</i>
11.20-11.40	Presentation of the key constituents and contents of the Extended Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context in Armenia <i>Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Gor Movsisyan (International EIA Consultants to UNECE)</i>
11.40-12.40	Discussion of the practical arrangements and substantial and procedural aspects related to the implementation of the Guidelines (part I) <i>All participants</i> <i>Led / moderated by Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Gor Movsisyan (International EIA Consultants to UNECE)</i>
12.40-13.40	Discussion of the practical arrangements and substantial and procedural aspects related to the implementation of the Guidelines (part II) <i>All participants</i> <i>Led / moderated by Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Gor Movsisyan (International EIA Consultants to UNECE)</i>
13.40-13.50	Summary of the meeting, further steps <i>Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Gor Movsisyan (International EIA Consultants to UNECE)</i>
13.50-13.55	Closing remarks <i>TBC (Ministry of Environment of Armenia)</i> <i>Leonid Kalashnyk (EU4Environment Project Manager, UNECE)</i>