



UNECE

INFORMAL RECORD OF THE MAIN DECISIONS TAKEN

Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention

8th session

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on SEA

4th session

8 - 11 December 2020 | hosted by Lithuania



- Elected the Chairs
- Noted report on credentials
- Noted planned ratifications, with those by Ukraine + the UK being the most advance concerning 1st amendment;
- Noted that Greece considered ratification of the Protocol and the Bucharest Agreement

- Urged Armenia, Belgium, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the UK to make every effort to ratify the 1st amendment asap in 2021-2023 to allow accession by non-UNECE countries
- Stressed importance of the 2nd amendment's ratification to ensure Convention's unified application
- Urged Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the UK to ratify the 2nd amendment

- Urged the signatories (Belgium, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, UK) to ratify the Protocol - and beneficiary countries of technical support on SEA to accede to it
- Encouraged Bucharest Agreement's ratification by countries in that subregion: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece
- Invited all concerned Parties to report on progress towards ratification to Bureau + Working Group in 2021.

- **Noted that contributions in 2017-2020 = insufficient; unpredictable; unequally distributed + unsustainable, with 3 Parties covering 60% and 12 Parties not contributing;**
- **Appreciated Parties' additional funding to fill in 6-month budgetary gap – due to extended intersessional period (July 2017-Dec 2020).**
- **Noted positive trust fund balance as at end Sept 2020- owing to savings e.g. in travel support (as meetings held online)**
- **Expressed their satisfaction with trust fund's use**
- **Invited secretariat, in consultation with Bureau, to finalize the financial report with data until end of 2020**

- **Thanked Parties for pledged contributions to fund 2021-2023 workplan; with Italy but also EU + some other Parties having increased amounts**
- **Regretted that:**
 - **Pledges (\$1,205,000) largely insufficient to cover workplan resource requirements (\$ 1,589,910) – with a deficit of some \$385,000**
 - **16 Parties had not pledged contributions**
- **Urged Parties to complete their pledges by mid-January and/or to provide unpledged contributions to fill in the gap**



Main outcomes

- **Adopted decision VIII/1–IV/1 on financial arrangements for 2021–2023**
- **Adopted decision VIII/2–IV/2 on adoption of workplan**
- **Noted inclusion in the 2021-2023 workplan of a thematic seminar on consideration of alternatives in EIA documentation to be organized by Belarus, secretariat and interested Parties (with funding from EU4Environment to be confirmed)**



Main outcomes

- **Adopted long-term strategy and action plan for the Convention and the Protocol through decision VIII/3–IV/3, noting editing and formatting needs prior to its issuing**
- **Adopted guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants through decision VIII/6**



- **Adopted decisions VIII/4 and IV/4 on general issues of compliance with the Convention and Protocol, respectively**
- **Adopted decisions VIII/4a-VIII/4e on issues of compliance with the Convention regarding Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and twice Ukraine**



- **Adopted decisions VIII/5 and IV/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, respectively**
- **Adopted the Vilnius declaration**

- Agreed on election criteria and procedural guidance regarding the Bureau (size, composition, terms of office, tasks)
- Elected Bureau members, Working Group officers + Implementation Committee members, as per list
- Invited Parties elected to the Implementation Committee to nominate alternate members by the first IC meeting (2-5 February 2020) – if not done so
- Thanked outgoing Chairs and members of the treaty bodies
- Agreed on a tentative calendar of official meetings in 2021-2023

Main outcomes: Review of 2017-2020 workplan

Espoo / SEA MOPs

- **Thanked ad hoc group, successfully co-chaired by Germany and UK, for extensive efforts in the challenging drafting of guidance on applicability of the Convention to LTE of NPPs**
- **Thanked IC for its excellent and extensive work**
- **Noted reports by Denmark, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan as well as IAIA, OSCE, WHO and the secretariat on the 2017 – 2020 workplan implementation**
- **Invited Parties to contribute in-kind expertise for finalization of draft guidance on health**

Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs

- Celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Convention
- Thanked panelists from Canada (Connelly Consulting); Georgia; Lithuania; Switzerland; Uzbekistan; “Society & Environment (NGO) and Hokkaido University
- Thanked OSCE for cartoon on the Convention + its Protocol



ESPOO CONVENTION

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

- **Thanked Lithuania for co-organizing the MOP sessions and hosting them online**
- **Invited the secretariat to draft the report under (outgoing) Bureau's guidance**
- **Decided to hold next sessions (MOP-9 and MOP/MOP-5) on 12–15 December 2023 in Geneva (unless host country identified)**
- **Invited any offers to host next MOP sessions by next Working Group's meeting in December 2021**