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    I    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
Main outcomes

• 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
Main outcomes

• 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.
Main outcomes

- 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.
Main outcomes

• 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
Main outcomes

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

• 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
• 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

- 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
Main outcomes

• 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