

## Decision VIII/2–IV/2

### Adoption of the workplan

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol), meeting in joint session,*

*Recalling* article 11, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, stipulating that the Meeting of the Parties will consider and undertake any additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention,

*Recalling also* article 14, paragraph 4 (f), of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, stipulating that the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will consider and undertake any additional action, including action to be carried out jointly under the Protocol and the Convention, that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Protocol,

*Recognizing* that it is essential for Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to meet fully their legal obligations arising under these treaties,

*Recognizing also* that Parties to the Convention and the Protocol should take action to maximize the effectiveness of their application of the Convention and the Protocol, respectively, so that the best possible practical results are achieved,

*Acknowledging* that the Convention and, in particular, its Protocol, provide a framework for the integration of environmental, including health, concerns into development activities and sectoral plans and programmes and, where appropriate, into policies and legislation, and that, consequently, their effective application contributes to supporting countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing with appreciation* the valuable work carried out under the workplan adopted at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (decision VII/3–III/3) – notwithstanding the scarcity of human and financial resources and the consequent critical challenges to the smooth implementation of the Convention and the functioning of the secretariat, which were further aggravated by the unfunded extension of the intersessional period 2017–2020, the need to organize additional intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (Geneva, 5–7 February 2019) and, as of March 2020, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Welcoming*, particularly, the accomplishment of the following activities not funded by the budget for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period 2017–2020:<sup>1</sup>

(a) The technical assistance provided by the secretariat and the steps taken by Parties and non-Parties Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to align their environmental impact assessment legislation with the Convention and the Protocol,

(b) The workshops for subregional cooperation and/or capacity-building to support the implementation of the Protocol and/or the Convention hosted/organized by Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, with the assistance of the secretariat,

(c) The pilot implementation of the Protocol by Belarus and Kazakhstan,

(d) The seminar for the exchange of good practices organized by the secretariat in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Investment Bank,

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<sup>1</sup> See ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/4–III/4, annex.

(e) The preparation of information material and recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, notably regarding:

(i) The applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants, developed by an ad hoc working group of 29 Parties co-chaired by Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

(ii) Environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context for Central Asian countries, developed with the support of consultants with funding from Switzerland,

(f) The preparation, by the secretariat, of FasTips on the Convention and the Protocol, and the publishing by the International Association for Impact Assessment of the FasTips on the Convention,

*Expressing appreciation* for the work carried out to draft guidance on assessment of health in strategic environmental assessment with the support of consultants funded by the European Investment Bank, in consultation with WHO and a task force composed of representatives of Austria, Finland, Ireland and Slovenia, and urging Parties and stakeholders to finalize that work during the next intersessional period, subject to the availability of resources,

*Noting with satisfaction* that of the activities in the workplan adopted by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, at their seventh and third sessions, respectively, 100 per cent of the priority 1 activities and 100 per cent of the priority 2 activities were completed and, in addition, supplemented by intermediary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, and that, of the unbudgeted priority 3 activities, excluding those that were cancelled by the lead/beneficiary countries/organizations, approximately 75 per cent were completed with funding from earmarked contributions or project funding identified by the secretariat,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction also* that the secretariat identified additional resources and completed 18 activities that had been wait-listed by the Meetings of the Parties and 18 additional activities,

*Noting with satisfaction further* that the implementation of the remaining workplan activities is ongoing or planned and is expected to be completed in the next intersessional period,

*Wishing* to establish a workplan that supports the strategic goals and priority objectives set out in the long-term strategy and the action plan adopted through decision VIII/3–IV/3 (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3), namely: full and effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol; increased impact by addressing new national, regional and global challenges; and wider application of the Convention and the Protocol within and beyond the ECE region,

*Wishing also* to establish a workplan that is realistic and feasible by ensuring in advance the funding of the estimated resource requirements of the workplan activities,

1. *Adopt* the workplan for the period 2021–2023 and the estimated resource requirements for its implementation, as set out in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present decision;

2. *Note* a list of activities set out in annex III to the present decision awaiting appropriate financial and human resources, and invite Parties to the Convention and the

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<sup>2</sup> Activities included in the budget adopted for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period 2017–2020 for activities to be funded from the Convention trust fund or by in-kind contributions were assigned priorities 1 (external expert to provide secretariat support and consultancy costs for drafting reviews of implementation) and 2 (participation of eligible countries in official meetings of the treaty bodies and further support for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, involving mainly secretariat travel in relation to the workplan). Other workplan activities that were to be financed to the extent possible through earmarked contributions or through additional project funding were referred to as priority 3 activities.

Protocol, and other stakeholders to actively seek opportunities for ensuring their financing and implementation;

3. *Agree* that all the Parties should fund the estimated resource requirements for the workplan in accordance with decision VIII/1–IV/1 on financial arrangements for 2021–2023;

4. *Invite* Parties to upgrade the sustainable availability of financing for the activities in the workplan and the functioning of the secretariat, including for activities included in the waiting list (annex III to the present decision) to avoid possible critical situations affecting the functioning of the treaties and their secretariat, and also invite interested Parties, organizations and other stakeholders to support the mobilization of means and resources for those activities;

5. *Call on* the Parties, and also invite non-Parties, to arrange, host and participate actively in seminars, workshops and meetings to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

6. *Invite* relevant bodies or agencies, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental and, possibly, researchers and consultants for agreed activities, to participate actively in the activities included in the workplan, where appropriate;

7. *Invite* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to continue supporting the work under the Convention and the Protocol by promoting the activities planned in the workplan and providing formal documentation for and ensuring publication of the outcomes of these activities in the three official languages of the ECE, as appropriate and within the limits of the resources available. Publications subject to global outreach should be processed and translated by the United Nations Conference Services and made available in the six official languages of the United Nations;

8. *Decide* that, during the intersessional period that extends until the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (preliminarily scheduled for late 2023), the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment should meet three times (initially in 2021, 2022 and 2023) and that the Implementation Committee should hold nine sessions in total, meeting three times a year;

9. *Request* the secretariat to prepare the provisional agendas and other formal documentation for and reports on the meetings referred to in paragraph 8 above, and to issue these documents in the three official languages of ECE;

10. *Also request* the secretariat to first present relevant documentation informally to the Bureau for its prior agreement, involving convening and reporting on three meetings of the Bureau in the intersessional period (or, more, if necessary and feasible to fund);

11. *Encourage* Parties to make every effort to communicate proposed amendments to the formal documentation as early as possible, in order to facilitate the preparation and coordination by other Parties of their corresponding views and the achievement of consensus by all Parties;

12. *Decide* that the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, should develop a system to recognize in-kind contributions in a proper manner within the financial scheme;

13. *Also decide* that the Bureau and the Working Group should agree on a new draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the next intersessional period for adoption by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their next sessions;

14. *Agree* that, as a rule and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Convention and its Protocol, the sessions of the Meetings of Parties shall take place in Geneva, unless otherwise decided by the Parties based upon an offer of a contracting Party to host the sessions.

## Annex I

### Draft workplan for 2021–2023

#### I. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities

This work area is necessary to ensure the functioning of the Convention and the Protocol and the coordination and visibility of their activities, through the following categories of activity:

- (a) Organization of meetings;
- (b) Communication, visibility, coordination;
- (c) General programme management.

##### A. Organization of meetings

The Meetings of the Parties are the decision-making bodies of the Convention and its Protocol. The convening and preparing of their sessions in the intersessional period, (initially scheduled for December 2023) is a key function of the secretariat, as set out in article 13 of the Convention and article 17 of the Protocol. The secretariat is also responsible for the organization of the meetings of the Bureau and of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment that assist the Meetings of the Parties in reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as for the management of their joint workplan and budget, making recommendations on further work necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the treaties. A total of six meetings are planned, with both subsidiary bodies initially scheduled to meet in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Participation in the meetings of the treaty bodies will build knowledge-sharing and capacities related to the implementation of the treaties and will enable participants to network and to explore options for enhancing that implementation. Support to travel of participants from countries eligible for financial support allows for their full and effective participation in the meetings, resulting in an inclusive and representative decision-making process, increased legitimacy of the decisions adopted and greater commitment to decisions taken.

##### *Activities:*

- (a) Prepare, edit, translate and publish on the website agendas and official meeting documents and prepare and publish informal meeting documents;
- (b) Send out invitations and information;
- (c) As relevant, organize/support the organization of parallel/side events;
- (d) Register participants and organize travel for funded participants and, as needed, facilitate the obtention of visas;
- (e) Support officers of the meeting, including by preparing detailed briefing notes;
- (f) Organize logistics at the meeting (related to the meeting venue and to United Nations security);
- (g) As relevant, collect and record credentials;
- (h) Provide conference services at the meeting;
- (i) Provide interpretation at the meeting in the three ECE languages;
- (j) Prepare, edit, translate and publish the meeting report;
- (k) As relevant, prepare press releases/media coverage;
- (l) Follow up on decisions taken;

(m) In consultation with the Bureau, assist the Meetings of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies in possible further clarification of procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation for consideration by the Meetings of the Parties in 2023.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, whenever needed, in consultation with the Bureau. For meetings hosted by a Party, the host country is responsible for the organizational aspects (and their costs) – in accordance with a detailed host country agreement to be concluded with the secretariat.

*Resource requirements:* Professional and support staff of the secretariat. Support for travel of eligible participants and experts (speakers). Subject to sufficient additional unpledged voluntary contributions being made available by Parties, upon the decision of the Bureau in advance of the meetings to prioritize the eligibility of those who can benefit from travel support.

## **B. Communication, visibility, coordination**

*Activities:*

The secretariat's key functions include general communication and coordination tasks under the Convention and its Protocol and ensuring the visibility of and access to information about the treaties and their activities. To this end, the secretariat is to:

(a) Liaise with focal points, stakeholders and relevant partner organizations within and outside the United Nations, responding to any queries and raising awareness of the treaties and their activities;

(b) Coordinate the implementation of workplan activities, including cooperating with other ECE multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and subprogrammes, and, subject to the resources available, with other United Nations bodies and other international organizations;

(c) Represent the Convention and the Protocol at relevant meetings and events, as needed, to promote and/or coordinate activities;

(d) Ensure visibility and easy access to up-to-date information and documents on the treaty website, including online databases of focal points for administrative matters and points of contact for notification under the Convention and the Protocol and online meeting calendars;

(e) Prepare correspondence and briefings for ECE senior management for high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings within and beyond the ECE region;

(f) As needed, prepare press-releases and other advocacy materials.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, whenever needed, in consultation with the treaty bodies. Parties are to inform the secretariat of any changes to their focal points/points of contact.

*Resource requirements:* Professional and support staff of the secretariat; travel funds for the secretariat to attend meetings related to workplan implementation, and, as needed, meetings of external bodies of relevance; and funds for promotional material, as needed.

## **C. General programme management**

As part of its key functions, the secretariat is to undertake financial, human-resources and other general programme planning and management-related tasks, administrative actions and reporting necessary for the functioning of the treaties and their secretariat.

*Activities:*

(a) Prepare payment requests for donors' contributions to the trust fund;

(b) Prepare and submit for the Bureau's agreement annual financial reports, prior to publishing them on the website;

(c) If requested, and on an exceptional basis, prepare separate financial reports to individual donors;

(d) Support the Bureau in preparing a proposal on how to better reflect the in-kind contributions and their monetary value in the financial scheme/as part of the resource requirements of the workplan under the Convention and the Protocol for consideration of the Meetings of the Parties in 2023;

(e) Prepare annual and longer-term cost-plans and forecast meetings, documents and publications for processing by the United Nations administration and relevant services;

(f) Report on substantive and administrative issues;

(g) Recruit/contract and manage secretariat staff and consultants.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat.

*Resource requirements:* Professional and support staff of the secretariat.

## II. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol

The work area aims to promote full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol, through the following categories of activity, of which (a) and (b) are mandatory under the two treaties:

(a) Review of compliance;

(b) Reporting and review of implementation;

(c) Legislative assistance for aligning Parties' legislation with the Convention and the Protocol.

### A. Review of compliance

The review of compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Convention and the Protocol is provided for in article 14bis of the Convention and decision V/6-I/6 (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2).

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The Implementation Committee, supported by the secretariat.

*Method of work:* The Committee is to hold three annual (in total, nine) meetings in 2021–2023, and, in between, as needed, work via email, and hold virtual (for example, Webex) meetings or audio/videoconferences.

As part of its key functions, the secretariat is to: organize and service the meetings; prepare, edit and translate official meeting agendas and reports; support curators and the officers in the preparation and follow-up of the meetings; make informal working documents available to the Committee members; maintain the official website; and assist the Chair in communicating regarding the Committee's deliberations.

*Resource requirements:* Requires secretariat staffing, including a professional staff member to serve as a secretary to the Implementation Committee and general support staff; funding for travel support for eligible Committee members to meetings.

#### 1. Consideration of compliance issues

The Implementation Committee is to consider compliance submissions, Committee initiatives, information from other sources and any general and specific compliance issues arising from the reviews of implementation.

As appropriate, the Committee is to present draft decisions, with findings and recommendations on compliance by Parties to the Convention and the Protocol with their obligations thereunder to the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their ninth and fifth sessions, respectively.

**2. Examination of the outcome of the sixth review of implementation of the Convention and the third review of implementation of the Protocol**

The Committee is to examine the outcomes of the sixth and the third reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, respectively, with support from the secretariat, by the end of 2021, in order to identify possible general and specific compliance issues during the period 2021–2023.

**3. If necessary, review and revision of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules**

The Committee is to review the rules governing its mode of operation in the light of its experience and, as needed, present proposals for possible amendments to the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocol at their next sessions.

**4. Report on the Committee's activities**

The Committee is to report on its activities to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, initially scheduled for 2023, in the form of an official document. In the interim period, it is to provide regular updates on its work to the Bureau and the Working Group.

**5. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol**

The secretariat is to collect the Committee's new findings and opinions and publish them on-line as an informal publication on an annual basis.

**6. Exploring possible synergies with other relevant forums**

The Committee is to explore possible synergies with other relevant forums regarding compliance matters, including by attending informal meetings of the Chairs of the compliance bodies under the other ECE multilateral treaties.

*Additional resource requirements:* As needed, travel support for the Chair.

**B. Reporting and review of implementation**

Mandatory reporting by Parties is provided for in articles 14 (bis) of the Convention and 13 (4) and 14 (7) of the Protocol. Review of implementation is required under articles 11 (2) of the Convention and 14 (4) of the Protocol.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Parties, the Implementation Committee and the secretariat.

**1. Modification of the questionnaires for the report on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in 2019–2021**

*Objective:* Improve the information obtained through the questionnaires for the report on Parties' implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, regarding progress achieved and remaining challenges. Contribute to making the reviews of implementation more informative for the Implementation Committee regarding potential non-compliance and turn them into tools for collecting and disseminating good practice.

*Activities:* The Implementation Committee is to: adjust the questionnaires in the first half of 2021, considering the comments by Parties and the secretariat; present the drafts to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment for approval at its meeting in 2021; and finalize them on the basis of the Working Group's comments in advance of distribution.

## **2. Distribution of the questionnaires for reporting on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in 2019–2021**

The secretariat is to distribute the questionnaires to Parties by the end of December 2021, for return by the end of April 2022.

## **3. Preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol**

The secretariat, with support from consultants, is to draft reviews summarizing the outcomes of Parties' implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, for presentation to the Implementation Committee and the Working Group in 2022 and to the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions in 2023. Upon adoption, the secretariat is to publish the reviews as electronic publications in English, French and Russian.

*Resource requirements:* \$25,000 for consultants and translation of national reports.

## **C. Legislative assistance**

*Objective:* This category of activities aims to support beneficiary countries in aligning their legislation with the Convention and/or the Protocol, through assistance in drafting new primary or secondary legislation or amendments to existing primary or secondary legislation, with a view to promoting implementation of and accession to the two treaties.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, with support from consultants, to provide legislative assistance to beneficiary countries at their request and/or as recommended by the Implementation Committee, and in cooperation with those countries, and, as needed, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, the Bureau and/or the Working Group. The related activities will be implemented within the limits of the available project funding.

*Resource requirements:* Funding available for subactivities 1 (a)–(c) and 2 below from the EU4Environment programme, covering professional and administrative project staff time in the secretariat and the implementation of the activities, and for 1 (d) from Switzerland.

### **1. Assistance in legal drafting**

Support for drafting of secondary legislation for the implementation of the Protocol and for amending primary and secondary legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

Foreseen in 2021 and 2022, targeting the following countries:

- (a) Belarus (amendment of primary and secondary legislation);
- (b) Republic of Moldova (amendment of primary legislation and drafting of secondary legislation);
- (c) Ukraine (support in finalizing a draft bilateral agreement with Romania to implement the Convention) (to be confirmed);
- (d) Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (support in finalizing the primary legislation and in drafting the secondary legislation for the implementation of the Convention, subject to subsequent confirmation by the beneficiary Governments and Switzerland).

### **2. Awareness-raising events to support the adoption of the legislation**

Organizing an awareness-raising event for parliamentarians and/or decision-makers to support the adoption of amendments to the primary and secondary legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

Planned for 2021 and/or 2022 (to be confirmed) in Belarus.

### III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol

This work area aims to promote effective practical application of the Convention and the Protocol, through the following categories of activity:

- (a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
- (b) Exchange of good practices;
- (c) Capacity-building.

#### A. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

The activity pursues the following objectives in the different ECE subregions:

- (a) Contribute to common understanding and improved implementation of the Convention and its Protocol within the ECE subregions;
- (b) Promote cooperation among Parties within and between the subregions and strengthen contacts with States and subregions outside the ECE region;
- (c) Increase professional skills of officials at all government levels and awareness of the public, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in relation to strategic environmental assessment, transboundary environmental impact assessment and the application of the Convention and its Protocol;
- (d) Contribute to increased cooperation and synergies with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, other international instruments and organizations;
- (e) Contribute to wider application of the Convention and the Protocol within and beyond the ECE region.

##### 1. Baltic Sea subregion

*Activities:* Organize subregional meetings (preferably two) on cooperation on the Convention and the Protocol, on topics of interest for the subregion that the lead countries concerned are to identify in advance of the meeting in consultation with the other countries, and prepare the minutes of the meeting on the outcomes for the secretariat to make available on the website.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Lead countries – Estonia (virtual meeting) and Poland, as needed, with support from the secretariat.

*Resource requirements:* In-kind contributions to be confirmed by the countries concerned. As relevant, the participation of the secretariat requires funding of the related travel costs.

##### 2. Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

*Activity:* Organize a subregional event (a training workshop or study tour) for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing among the countries.

Event provisionally planned for the first half of 2022.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat in consultation with the countries concerned.

*Resource requirements:* Funding from the EU4Environment programme. Participation may be extended to other countries from the ECE region and beyond, if additional funding is identified.

##### 3. Central Asia

*Activities:* Finalize needs assessment exercises/feasibility studies and draft capacity-building strategies/action plans for introducing strategic environmental assessment systems in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and organize national awareness raising workshops in some Central Asian countries to present and discuss them.

Organize a final sub-regional event in one of the Central Asian countries to share experience and discuss lessons learned.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Lead partner, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with support from the secretariat and in consultation with the concerned countries.

*Resource requirements:* Funding available from a joint OSCE/ECE project “Strengthening national and regional capacities and cooperation on Strategic Environmental Assessment in Central Asia, including as a response to climate change”, mainly from Germany with co-funding from ECE and OSCE.

#### **4. Marine regions**

*Activities:*

- Carry out a feasibility study to map out synergies and benefits for possible future cooperation activities to improve the coherence and the links between the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) and other regional seas conventions. The activity would also contribute to raising awareness of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol, and to enhancing contacts with the non-ECE countries of the subregions.
- Organize up to one joint technical (online) meeting per year, with interested Parties and the secretariats of the Barcelona Convention and the other regional seas conventions, to discuss and further develop the outcomes of the feasibility study, with a view to identifying synergies and possible cooperation opportunities between the respective treaties (looking at the treaty obligations and operational activities for their implementation). As needed, for the Mediterranean subregion, the possibility of online French interpretation should be explored. Prepare reports on the outcomes of the joint technical meetings and make them available for information and consideration of the Parties to the respective treaties.
- Prepare a final report presenting the identified synergies and a vision for the “way forward” and its benefits, and proposing possible joint activities for the subsequent workplans, starting with the workplan for 2024–2026 to be considered by the Meetings of the Parties.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Italy, as the lead country, together with other interested Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol and to the other regional seas conventions, supported by the treaty secretariats, within the limits of the available resources. The Bureau, assisted by the secretariat, would be responsible for the initial planning of the activity, to be implemented with the support of consultants.

*Resource requirements:* €120,000 (or €40,000 per year), to be earmarked by Italy during the next three years (2021–2023) to cover all the costs, including those of the consultants and other organizational costs; possible contributions by other interested Parties.

## **B. Exchange of good practices**

The objective of the work area is to share knowledge and experience regarding the legislation and practice for implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, leading to better national legislation and improved implementation of the treaties. It also contributes to awareness-raising on the two treaties and their benefits. The work area is implemented through the following categories of activity:

- (a) Thematic workshops or seminars;
- (b) Fact sheets;
- (c) Online database of Parties’ good practice, or collection and compilation of good practice.

## 1. Thematic workshops or seminars

*Activities:* To organize half- or full-day workshops or seminars during the meetings of the Working Group in 2021–2023 and/or the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in 2023 on specific themes/topics, in order to produce a clear and concise document presenting advice on the most important problems identified for the theme in question, also referring to the contribution of the topics to the application of Sustainable Development Goals. The specific themes/topics concerned are the following:

- (a) Smart and sustainable cities;
- (b) Circular economy;
- (c) Sustainable infrastructure and greening the Belt and Road Initiative (related to the 2022 “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference);
- (d) Biodiversity;
- (e) Energy transition;
- (f) Promoting the application of strategic environmental assessment in development cooperation;
- (g) Consideration of alternatives to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the environmental impact assessment documentation.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The following lead-country(ies) or organizations, with support from the secretariat, within the limits of its resources:

- (a), (b) or (d) WHO, together with interested Parties and partner organizations;
- (c) Switzerland, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and other interested Parties and partner organizations;
- (e) Lead-country(ies) or organizations to be identified;
- (f) Italy and other interested Parties and partner organizations with support from the secretariat;
- (g) Belarus, the secretariat and interested Parties.

*Resource requirements:* Will require secretariat resources and funds from the trust fund to cover travel costs for countries eligible for financial support and non-ECE countries. Costs for speakers, provision and translation of materials to be covered in kind by lead countries, to the extent possible: for (f), €20,000 per year, to be earmarked by Italy during the next three years (2021–2023) to cover the costs of two consultants for the preparation of the information document, in consultation with treaty bodies and Parties’ authorities responsible for development cooperation; for (g), funds from the EU4Environment programme (to be confirmed).

## 2. Fact sheets

*Activities:* Preparation of fact sheets on the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol, to be presented during the meetings of the Working Group and posted on the website.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* All Parties, with support from the secretariat.

*Resource requirements:* In-kind.

## 3. Online database of Parties’ good practice, or collection and compilation of good practice

*Activities:* Establishment of an online database on the ECE website/compiling of good practice from Parties. Involves designing a structure and template for Parties’ submissions of good practice, as well as soliciting, proofreading, editing and uploading the good practice. Alternatively, the good practice could be collected and compiled into an online informal publication that would be updated regularly.

*Responsible:* Parties to provide good practice; the secretariat, with support from a consultant, to collect, (analyse and summarize), compile and upload good practice.

*Resource requirements:* Will require secretariat resources and funding for consultants of \$15,000–\$25,000. Implementation will depend on the availability of funding from Parties or partner organizations.

## C. Capacity-building

This category of activities aims at promoting fully compliant application of the Protocol and the Convention, including through increased capacities and improved professional skills of officials at all relevant administrative levels and increased public awareness, including NGOs, regarding the treaty provisions and their application. It also contributes to wider application of the Convention and the Protocol by promoting the ratification of the treaties by non-Parties.

This category of activities will be implemented through the following activities:

1. Implementation of pilot projects;
2. Training workshops on treaty application;
3. National awareness-raising events;
4. National awareness-raising materials;
5. National issue- or sector-specific guidelines;
6. A model database on strategic environmental assessment;
7. Translating the video on the application of the Convention;
8. Preparation of FasTips.

*Resource requirements:* For subactivities 1–7, funding available from the EU4Environment programme, covering professional and administrative project staff time in the secretariat and the implementation of the activities. For subactivities 1 (vii)–(viii) (to be confirmed), funding is expected from the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme.

### 1. Implementation of pilot projects

*Activities:* Pilot implementation of strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) to a plan or project to be identified by the beneficiary countries – to provide hands-on learning for implementing the strategic environmental assessment (or the transboundary environmental impact assessment) procedure, with built-in training involving analytical and consultative tasks, in accordance with the Protocol/(the Convention). The pilot projects on strategic environmental assessment to be implemented include the following:

- (i) Pilot project in Armenia (2021);
- (ii) Pilot project in Azerbaijan (2021);
- (iii) Pilot project in Belarus (2021–2022);
- (iv) Pilot project in Georgia (2021–2022);
- (v) Pilot project in the Republic of Moldova (2021–2022);
- (vi) Pilot project in Ukraine (2021–2022);
- (vii) Pilot project in Kazakhstan (2022–2023) (to be confirmed);
- (viii) Pilot project in Kyrgyzstan (2022–2023) (to be confirmed).

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Subactivities 1 (i)–(vi) to be facilitated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, and implemented with the active participation of the beneficiary countries, and, as relevant, partner organizations. The European Union delegations to the

beneficiary countries and the European Commission are to be consulted regarding selection of pilot projects. Subactivities 1(vii)–(viii) to be implemented by the lead partner, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with support from the secretariat and in consultation with the concerned countries.

## **2. Training workshops on treaty application**

*Activities:* Organization of the following training workshops to build capacities on the practical application of the Protocol:

- (i) Training workshop in Azerbaijan (2021 or 2022);
- (ii) Training workshop in Ukraine (2021 or 2022 (to be confirmed)).

*Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

## **3. National awareness-raising events**

*Activities:* The organization of the following events to raise the awareness of sectoral authorities and other relevant actors on the need for and the benefits of the effective implementation of strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) legislation in accordance with the Convention and the Protocol:

- (i) Awareness-raising event in Azerbaijan (2021 or 2022);
- (ii) Awareness-raising event in Belarus (2021 or 2022);
- (iii) Awareness-raising event in the Republic of Moldova (2021 or 2022).

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

## **4. National awareness-raising materials**

*Activities:* The preparation of the following awareness-raising materials on strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) requested by the beneficiary countries (for example, a leaflet presenting good practice or a brochure on the role of public participation):

- (i) Awareness-raising materials for Azerbaijan (in 2021 or 2022);
- (ii) Awareness-raising materials for Belarus (in 2021 or 2022);
- (iii) Awareness-raising materials for the Republic of Moldova (2021);
- (iv) Awareness-raising materials for Ukraine (in 2021 or 2022).

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

## **5. National issue- or sector-specific guidelines**

*Activities:* The preparation of the following guidelines to complement existing general guidelines on strategic environmental assessment, on selected issues/sectors, as agreed with the beneficiary countries:

- (i) Guidelines for Azerbaijan in the field of regional development/transport/agriculture (sector to be confirmed), in 2021 or 2022;
- (ii) Guidelines for Belarus in the field of urban planning, in 2021 (to be confirmed);
- (iii) Guidelines for the Republic of Moldova on transboundary procedures, in 2021–2022;
- (iv) Guidelines for Ukraine in the field of urban planning, in 2021.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

## **6. A model database on strategic environmental assessment**

*Activities:* The development of a model for a database aims to support the application of strategic environmental assessment in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* To be coordinated by the secretariat in 2021, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

## **7. Translating the video on the application of the Convention**

*Activities:* The translation of the video on the application of the Convention into the national languages of the beneficiary countries aims to raise awareness and facilitate the application of the Convention in those countries.

*Entity(ies) responsible:* To be coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

*Resource requirements:* Funding available from the EU4Environment programme for the benefit of the EU4Environment target countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), covering professional and administrative project staff time in the secretariat and the implementation of the activities. Other interested Parties may choose to finance themselves the translation of the video into their national languages.

## **8. Preparation of FasTips**

*Activities:* The preparation of two-page informal pamphlets, or “FasTips”, on key issues in strategic environmental assessment practice (topics to be suggested).

*Entity(ies) responsible:* International Association for Impact Assessment.

*Resources:* In-kind.

## Annex II

## Resource requirements for the workplan for 2021–2023

Table 1  
Resource requirements for 2021–2023

Area	Activities	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
<b>I.</b>	<b>Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities</b>		<b>29.5</b>	<b>15.75</b>
<b>A. Organization of meetings</b>	Substantive and administrative preparations, servicing and follow-up to meetings of the Bureau, the Working Group and the Meetings of the Parties			
	Meetings of the Bureau (4 meetings estimated): travel of eligible experts (estimated 2 experts/\$6,000 for a 2-day meeting)	12 000		
	Meetings of the Working Group (3): travel of approximately 20 experts/meeting: 14 from eligible ECE countries (max. \$20,000); 5 from NGOs (max. \$10,000); 1 from non-ECE countries (max. \$3,000) – subject to funding and Bureau’s approval)	100 000		
	Meetings of the Parties’ sessions (in 2023): travel of approximately 37 experts: 22 from eligible ECE countries (max. \$30,000); 10 from NGOs (max. \$20,000); 5 from non-ECE countries (max. \$15,000); 5 speakers (max. \$15,000)	80 000		
<b>B. Communication, visibility, coordination</b>	Secretariat travel in relation to the workplan, and promotion or coordination activities (approximately 8 trips/per year)	40 000		
	Consultancy support and promotional materials	10 000		
<b>C. General programme management</b>	Financial, human-resources and other general programme planning and management-related functions, administrative actions and reporting	-		

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>	<i>RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)</i>	
			P	G
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>242 000</b>		
<b>II. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</b>			<b>26.5</b>	<b>10.25</b>
<b>A. Review of compliance</b>	Meetings of the Implementation Committee (9): travel of eligible experts (up to 2 experts/max. \$6,000 for a 4-day meeting)	27 000		
<b>B. Reporting and the review of implementation</b>	Preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol: costs for consultants and translation of national reports	25 000		
<b>C. Legislative assistance</b>	Assistance in legal drafting and awareness-raising for Central Asian countries under item 1 (d) (see table 3 below for the available project funding for items 1 (a)–(c))	68 000		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>120 000</b>		
<b>III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol</b>				
<b>A. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building</b>			<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	Baltic Sea (in-kind contributions to be confirmed)			
	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (see table 3 below for the available project funding)			

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>G</i>
	Resources for travel of approximately 10 Central Asian experts to the subregional conference (to be identified)	20 000		
	Organize up to one technical meeting per year (virtual) and identify/develop possible operative actions and/or projects. Develop a feasibility study and a final report  (Consultancy fees and other operational costs financed by Italy. Could be supplemented by contributions by any other interested Parties)	140 000		
<b>B.</b>	<b>Exchange of good practices</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	Thematic workshops or seminars within meetings of the Working Group or the Meetings of the Parties (for items 1 (a)–(e) in-kind contributions by Parties/stakeholders, for item 1 (g) see table 3 below for the available project funding (tbc), for item 1 (f) see information below)  Development of an information document on how to apply the principles of SEA to development cooperation projects and organization of a thematic seminar during one of the Working Group’s meetings. Funding by Italy and by any other interested Parties.	70 000		
	Preparation of fact sheets (in-kind contributions by Parties/stakeholders)	-		
	Development of an online database of Parties’ good practice or collection and compilation of good practice (consultancy fees to be identified)	20 000		

*RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)*

Area	Activities	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
<b>C. Capacity-building</b>			<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>
	Pilot projects, training, awareness-raising, issue- or sector-specific guidelines and model for a database for countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (see table 3 below for the available project funding for items 1 (i)–(vi) and items 2–7. For items 1(vii)–(viii) funding to be specified separately)	-		
	Preparation of FasTips by IAIA (in-kind)	-		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>250 000</b>		
<b>Total activities (work areas sections I–V)</b>		<b>612 000</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>31.5</b>

*Abbreviations:* EIA, Environmental impact assessment; G, General Service staff; IAIA, International Association for Impact Assessment; P, Professional staff; RB, Regular budget; SEA, Strategic environmental assessment; XB, Extrabudgetary.

<sup>a</sup> The financing of the workplan activities for 2021–2023, as set out in table 1, is contingent on sufficient funds being made available by Parties through their voluntary contributions to the Convention and the Protocol trust fund.

Table 2  
**Total resources for 2021–2023**  
(in United States dollars)

Items/activities + human resources (from table 1 above)	Costs
Activities	612 000
Staff:	
RB, Professional, full-time, P–4 level (31.5 work-months)	<sup>a</sup>
RB, General Service, part-time, at 50% (15.75 work-months)	<sup>a</sup>
XB, Professional, full-time, P–3 level (31.5 work-months)	630 000
XB, General Service, part-time at 50% (15.75 work-months)	165 000 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 407 000</b>
Overhead (13%) (rounded)	182 910
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 589 910</b>

*Note:* One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 10.5 work-months per year, or into 31.5 work-months per triennium for one staff member. The staff resource estimates indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates, including net salary, taxes and common staff costs, as

well as mandatory costs for office space, information technology equipment, communication and training).

<sup>a</sup> Provided under the United Nations regular budget. The RB, Professional post is that of the Secretary to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol, involving oversight of the functioning of the treaty secretariat and the workplan implementation.

<sup>b</sup> Subject to the availability of resources.

Table 3

**Overview of resources from the European Union for Environment programme for 2021 and 2022<sup>a</sup>**

(in United States dollars)

Year	Work areas and activities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	Total XB financial resources from EU4Environment (in cash, in United States dollars) (Activities + XB staff)	EU4Environment funded-XB staff resources (Project manager + assistant) (in work-months) <sup>b</sup>		Other secretariat staff (RB+XB) resources (in work-months)
			P	G	P
2021	II. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (C);				
	III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and/or the Protocol (A + C);				
	<b>Subtotal</b>	664 007	10.5	10.5	1
2022	III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and/or the Protocol (A + B)				
	<b>Subtotal</b>	402 795	10.5	10.5	1
<b>Total XB resources for 2021 and 2022 (covering activities and staffing)</b>		<b>1 066 802</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>

<sup>a</sup> “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment), a European Union-funded regional multi-stakeholder project extending from 2019 to 2022. Total European Union funding for the ECE component on environmental impact assessment is €2,384,687, or approximately \$2,579,670 (December 2019 exchange rate). Funding is subject to applicable procedures under the project.

<sup>b</sup> One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 10.5 work-months per year or 31.5 work-months for a triennium.

## Annex III

### Activities requiring additional resources, including secretariat staffing, for implementation in the period 2021–2023, subject to funding becoming available

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>Initial estimates of XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>G</i>
<i>XB human resources needed to support the implementation of the activities (in person-months, with financial cost in United States dollars in brackets beneath)</i>				
<b>III. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building</b>				
<b>South-Eastern Europe</b>				
<b>1. Meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement</b>	<p>Entity(ies) responsible: Romania, as depositary of the Bucharest Agreement, possibly jointly with another lead country</p> <p>Activity(ies): To organize the first meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement. The details and timing to be specified.</p> <p>Resource requirements: Approximately \$40,000 for a 2-day event for 2–3 persons/country; or in-kind contributions by the host country and possibly other lead countries, and, as needed, secretariat resources to support the activity.</p>	40 000 (or in-kind)	1.5	1.5
<b>2. Capacity-building for implementing the Bucharest Agreement</b>	<p>A subregional initiative proposed by Montenegro (and, so far, supported by Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia), which aims at improving implementation of the Bucharest Agreement, the Convention and its Protocol in a transboundary context among the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement (and other countries of the South-Eastern Europe subregion).</p> <p>The activities proposed involve the establishment of a secretariat to coordinate implementation of the Bucharest Agreement, the exchange of good practices and the design and implementation of capacity-building activities, such as training workshops, for example, for 5 countries</p>	750 000	15	15

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>Initial estimates of XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>XB human resources needed to support the implementation of the activities (in person- months, with financial cost in United States dollars in brackets beneath)</i>
	(\$25,000), and pilot projects (\$85,000–\$100,000).  The activities, timing and modalities of their implementation are to be specified. Montenegro proposed possible cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.				
<b>V. Promoting practical application of the Protocol and/or the Convention</b>					
<b>Central Asia</b>	Capacity-building activities in the 5 Central Asian republics to support the implementation and ratification of the Protocol and/or the Convention. Building on the legislative assistance provided previously.  Training workshops (\$25,000) and pilot projects (\$85,000–\$100,000).	750 000	15	15	
<b>III and V. Activities and staff resources:</b>		<b>1 540 000</b>	<b>31.5</b> <b>(610</b>	<b>31.5</b> <b>(330 000)</b>	
<b>Subtotal III and V: 2 480 000 + 13% overhead (322 400) = 2 802 400</b>					
<b>VI. Outreach activities</b>					
Objective: Increase awareness of and accession to the Convention and the Protocol, and the application of their principles outside the ECE region.					
Entity(ies) responsible: Secretariat, with lead countries, in consultation with the treaty bodies.					
<b>1. Raising awareness of the Convention and the Protocol</b>	Promoting awareness of the treaties and their activities at global and regional events, through presentations and organization of sessions and/or side events;  resources to cover travel costs.	50 000			
<b>2. Supporting accession</b>	Preparing and translating specific information material addressing common and specific issues related to the accession to and implementation of the treaties. Consultancy costs of approximately \$25,000	25 000			
<b>3. Promoting and communicating benefits of the treaties</b>	Development of a brief for policymakers on benefits of the Convention and the Protocol,	25 000			

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>Initial estimates of XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>G</i>
	including good practice and case studies			
<b>4. Legislative assistance</b>	Reviews of legislation and support for legal drafting for aligning national legislation with the Convention and the Protocol (\$30,000) for 5 countries	150 000		
<b>5. Capacity-building</b>	Promoting efficient practical application of the Convention and the Protocol.  Training workshops (\$25,000) and pilot projects (\$85,000–\$100,000) for 5 countries.	750 000		
<b>VI. Activities and staff resources</b>			<b>31.5</b>	<b>31.5</b>
		<b>950 000</b>	<b>(610 000)</b>	<b>(330 000)</b>
<b>Subtotal VI: 1 890 000 + 13% overhead (245 700) = 2 135 700</b>				
<b>Total III, V and VI = 4 938 100</b>				

*Abbreviations:* Bucharest Agreement, Multilateral agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; G, General Service staff; P, Professional staff; RB, regular budget; XB, extrabudgetary.

*Note:* One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 10.5 work-months per year, or into 31.5 work-months per triennium for one staff member. The staff resource estimates indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates, including net salary, taxes and common staff costs, as well as costs for office and information technology equipment and communication and training)