

## Decision VIII/6

### Applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention,*

*Recalling* its decision VII/3–III/3<sup>1</sup> on adoption of the workplan,

*Reiterating* that the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context is a key instrument establishing rules for domestic action and international cooperation for preventing, reducing and controlling significant adverse transboundary environmental impact from proposed activities that include nuclear energy,

*Affirming* that, in line with their obligations under articles 2 (2) and (3) and 6 (1) of the Convention, Parties shall have procedures in place providing for a final decision to authorize or undertake proposed activities that fall within the scope of the Convention, taking due account of the outcome of the environmental impact assessment,

*Aware* of the need to provide guidance to the Implementation Committee and to Parties that are currently considering extending the lifetimes of their existing nuclear power plants,

*Aware also* of the public concern regarding the potential significant transboundary (and long-range) adverse environmental impacts of the lifetime extension of the existing nuclear power plants in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, and of the public's wish to participate in the related decision-making process,

*Affirming* the prime importance of the precautionary principle, early and timely notification and transparent and participatory decision-making for the effective application of the Convention,

*Affirming also* the need for legal certainty for the effective application of the Convention, through ensuring the clarity of its obligations and their scope,

*Reiterating* that it is essential for Parties to meet fully their obligations deriving from the Convention, and therefore urging them all to do so,

*Wishing* to assist Parties in complying with their obligations under the Convention, and to promote its effective application in the field of nuclear energy, in particular as regards the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants,

*Noting* that a lifetime extension of a nuclear power plants does not always fulfil the criteria for a proposed activity,

*Wishing also* to support the work of the Implementation Committee in assessing compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Convention regarding the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants,

1. *Welcomes* the development of draft guidance by an ad hoc working group of Parties to the Convention co-chaired by Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and composed of representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine, and supported by the secretariat;

2. *Endorses* the Guidance on the Applicability of the Convention to the Lifetime Extension of Nuclear Power Plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/9);

---

<sup>1</sup> See ECE/MP.EIA/23.Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7.Add.1.

3. *Recalls* its decision IS/2<sup>2</sup> and the wish to assist Parties in complying with their obligations under the Convention, to promote legal certainty and to provide guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants, the Guidance does not impose new obligations on Parties;

4. *Recommends* that the Parties take into account the contents of the Guidance when implementing the Convention;

5. *Also recommends* that the Implementation Committee consider the Guidance when performing its functions;

6. *Calls upon* the Parties to widely disseminate the Guidance to authorities and relevant stakeholders.

---

---

<sup>2</sup> See ECE/MP.EIA/27/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/11/Add.1.