

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention  
on Environmental Impact Assessment in  
a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention  
serving as the Meeting of the Parties  
to the Protocol on Strategic  
Environmental Assessment

### **Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Tenth meeting

Geneva, 1–3 December 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

### **Informal notes on the agenda**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

This paper presents an overview of agenda items (in chronological order), associated documentation (official, informal “INF” and other) and actions that the delegates are invited to take.

**Timing of the items is indicative and subject to changes depending on the deliberations during the meeting.**

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Actions</i>
<b>Wednesday, 1 December</b>	10– 10.15	<b>1. Adoption of the agenda</b>	Provisional agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/1)  (These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.1)  <i>Delegates may also wish to refer to:</i>  Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 16– 17 June 2021  Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on its eight session and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on its fourth session, and the decisions taken ECE/MP.EIA/30–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13; and Add.1–3	The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting.
	10.15– 11	<b>2. Status of ratification</b>	Status of ratification (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.2)	As requested by the MOPs, all concerned delegations will be invited to report on progress towards ratification of the Convention and/or its two amendments and/or the Protocol, including:  • The 5 States that were Parties to the Convention at the time of adoption of the first amendment (27 February 2001): <b>Armenia, Belgium, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the UK</b>  • For the second (2004) amendment: <b>Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the UK.</b>  • Signatories of the Protocol ( <b>Belgium, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland and the UK</b> ) and other delegations, especially from beneficiary countries of technical assistance ( <b>Azerbaijan, Belarus and Central Asian Republics</b> )  • <b>Georgia</b> regarding the Convention

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<b>Wednesday, 1 December</b>				<p>Romania, as the depositary of the Bucharest Agreement, is invited to report on the status of the Agreement and its Signatory States (<b>Croatia and Greece</b>) are invited report on their preparations to ratify the Agreement, and <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> on its plans to accede thereto.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to assess the progress made and recommend further action, in particular to accelerate the operationalization of the first amendment as soon as possible, recalling also that wider implementation of the two treaties was agreed as one of the main strategic goals.</li> </ul>
	11–13	<b>3. Compliance and implementation</b>	<p>Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.3)</p> <p>Report of the Implementation Committee on its 51st session (Geneva (online), 4–7 October 2021) (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/6)</p> <p>Report of the Implementation Committee on its 50th session (Geneva (online), 4–7 May 2021) (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/4)</p> <p>Report of the Implementation Committee on its 49th session (Geneva (online), 2–5 February 2021, ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Chair of the Implementation Committee</b> will report on the Committee's 49th, 50th and 51st sessions; and the main objectives for the 52th session.</li> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to comment and take note of the report.</li> </ul>
			<p>Proposed modifications to the questionnaire for the report on implementation of the Convention in 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/3)</p> <p>Proposed modifications to the questionnaire for the report on implementation of the Protocol in 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/4)</p> <p>Timetable for the preparation of the draft reviews of implementation (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.4)</p>	<p>Further to the Implementation Committee's proposals, the <b>Working Group</b> is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider and agree on modifications to the questionnaires for the report on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2019–202, with a view to maximizing their usefulness, including for collecting and disseminating good practice, in accordance with the workplan,.</li> <li>Confirm the timetable for the preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</li> </ul>

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<b>Wednesday, 1 December</b>	11–13	<b>3. Compliance and implementation</b>	Reporting template for the European Union for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.5)  Reporting template for the European Union for the implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note of the reporting templates to facilitate the European Union's reporting.</li> </ul>
			Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.3)	<p>Representatives of <b>Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan</b> will be invited to report on progress in establishing compliant legislation to implement the Convention and the Protocol, and, as appropriate, in ratifying or acceding to the treaties further to technical advice received.</p> <p>The delegations of <b>Ukraine and Romania</b> are invited to report on progress in finalizing a draft bilateral agreement.</p>
	15–16	<b>4. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol</b>  <b>(a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building</b>	Identification of synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/5)  Update on the implementation of the activity on cooperation in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.7 (tbc))  Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.3)	<p><b>The delegation of Italy, the secretariat and its consultant</b> are invited to report on progress in planning and implementing the workplan <b>activity in marine regions</b>, including on the outcomes of an initial joint technical meeting with regional seas conventions of 19 November 2021.</p> <p>The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to note the information and provide advice on the activity's implementation.</p>
				<p><b>A representative of Estonia</b> will be invited to report on the subregional cooperation meeting for the <b>Baltic Sea</b> region, held on 3 November 2021; and the delegation of <b>Poland</b> on plans for the next such meeting scheduled for 2022.</p>

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<b>Wednesday, 1 December</b>	15-16	<b>4(a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building</b>		<p>Representative of <b>OSCE</b> and the <b>secretariat</b> will report on the outcomes of the final subregional conference of the joint project “Strengthening national and regional capacities and co-operation on SEA <b>Central Asia</b>, including as a response to climate change”, held on 10 November 2021.</p> <p><b>Delegations, in particular from the countries concerned</b>, are invited to comment.</p>
				<p>The secretariat will report on its preparations for a <b>subregional workshop funded by the EU4Environment</b> project in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, scheduled for summer 2022.</p> <p><b>Delegations, in particular from the countries concerned</b>, are invited to comment.</p>
	16-17.30	<b>4(b) Capacity-building</b>	<p>Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2020/7</p> <p>Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.3)</p>	<p>As requested by the Protocol MOP, the Working Group is invited to consider the way forward for finalizing an outstanding activity from the previous (2017–2019) workplan: <b>draft guidance on assessing health impacts in SEA</b>, taking into account the comments and textual revisions put forward by delegations.</p>
				<p>Representatives of the beneficiary countries (<b>Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine</b>) and the secretariat will be invited to report on capacity building activities undertaken and planned for with funding from the EU4Environment project.</p>
				<p>The <b>secretariat, OSCE</b> and <b>Kazakhstan</b> will be invited to report on progress in the establishment of compliant EIA and SEA systems in Kazakhstan.</p>
			<p><i>See IAIA FasTips published this far at: <a href="https://www.iaia.org/fasttips.php">https://www.iaia.org/fasttips.php</a></i></p>	<p>A representative of <b>IAIA</b> will be invited to provide an update on its preparation of “FasTips”</p>

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				The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to take note of the information and, as relevant, provide advice for the implementation or follow-up of the activities.
<b>Wednesday, 1 December</b>	17.30– 18	<b>4 (c) Exchange of good practices</b>		<p>The <b>secretariat and lead countries/organizations</b> will be invited to describe their plans for <b>thematic workshops/seminars</b> during the Working Group's meetings in 2022 and 2023 and/or the MOP sessions in 2023 for the exchange of good practices on the selected topics in the workplan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart and sustainable cities (WHO with interested Parties/partners)</li> <li>• Circular economy (WHO with interested Parties/partners)</li> <li>• Biodiversity (WHO with interested Parties/partners)</li> <li>• Energy transition</li> <li>• Promoting the application of SEA in development cooperation (<i>Italy, with interested Parties/partners</i>)</li> <li>• Consideration of alternatives to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the EIA documentation (<i>Belarus with secretariat and interested Parties</i>).</li> </ul> <p>The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to provide guidance on the organization of the events, starting with the event to be held during the next (11<sup>th</sup>) Working Group meeting (Geneva, 19–21 December 2022). <b>Delegations</b> are invited to volunteer to contribute to their organization.</p>

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	17.30–18	<b>4 (c) Exchange of good practices (continued)</b>		<b>Delegations</b> are invited put forward proposals the preparation of <b>fact sheets</b> on the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol, to be presented during the meetings of the Working Group and posted on the ECE website
				<b>Delegations</b> may wish to propose funding for an <b>online database of Parties' good practice or</b> for the collection and <b>compilation of good practice</b> , which is foreseen in the workplan, subject to the identification of additional resources and funding for consultants.
<b>Thursday, 2 December</b>	10–13 and 15–17	<b>5. Seminar on sustainable infrastructure</b>	Draft programme for the seminar on sustainable infrastructure (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.8)	<p>The delegation of <b>Switzerland</b> will be invited to moderate the seminar it co-organized with the secretariat.</p> <p><b>Delegations</b> are invited to actively take part in the seminar.</p> <p>The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to note the Chair's conclusions on the seminar to be presented and agree on possible follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.</p>
<b>Friday, 3 December</b>	10–noon	<b>6. Financial arrangements</b>	Status of the trust fund: contributions and expenditures (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.9)	<p>The secretariat will provide an <b>update on the status of contributions</b> to the Convention's and Protocol's trust fund.</p> <p>The <b>Working Group</b> may wish to review and comment on any discrepancies between the agreed budgetary requirements for the present period and Parties' (pledged) contributions to fund them</p> <p>All Parties that have not yet pledged funding for 2021-2023 (<b>Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Malta, North-Macedonia, Serbia, the UK</b>) are invited to inform the Working Group about their plans to do so.</p> <p>The Working Group is expected to note and comment</p>

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				on the information, and invite the secretariat to write to all Parties whose contribution has not been received by 31 December 2021, as requested by the Meetings of the Parties.
<b>Friday, 3 December</b>	10–noon	<b>6. Financial arrangements (continued)</b>	Bureau's proposals on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.10)	<p>The Chair will report on the Bureau's initial further reflections on the insufficiency, uneven distribution and unpredictability of contributions for 2021–2023.</p> <p>The secretariat will also brief the Working Group on the financial arrangements recently adopted under the UNECE Aarhus Convention and its Protocol and the Water Convention. The Working Group is invited to consider and comment on the information provided</p>
			Consideration of in-kind contributions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.11)	<p>The Chair or the Chair of the Bureau will report on the Bureau's initial discussions on the requested development of a system "to recognize in-kind contributions in a proper manner within the financial scheme". The Working Group is invited to consider and clarify:</p> <p>(a) The determination of monetary values of in-kind contributions</p> <p>(b) The types of in-kind contributions to be "monetarized"</p> <p>(c) The establishment of possible thresholds/minimum values for the acknowledgement of in-kind contributions</p> <p>(d) The extent to which secretariat support or other expenditure from the trust fund is needed to supplement in-kind contributions.</p>
				The Chair or the Chair of the Bureau will report on the Bureau's consideration of criteria for financial support to meeting participants and its selection of the following NGOs to receive, subject to the availability of funds, financial assistance for their participation in meetings: the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network,



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				the European ECO-Forum/Society and Environment (Ukraine), the European Environmental Bureau, IAIA and Nuclear Transparency Watch  The Working Group may wish to note the information.
<b>Friday, 3 December</b>	noon–1 p.m.	<b>7.Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities</b>	Note on procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation due to extraordinary circumstances (of 27 November 2020)	The <b>delegation of the European Union, and possible other delegations</b> , are invited to clarify the possible further development needs of the Bureau's informal note on procedural matters that had been prepared with the secretariat's support in agreement with the UN Office of Legal Affairs and acknowledged by the MOP in December.  <b>The Working Group</b> is invited to consider any textual proposals submitted well in advance of its meeting and agree on further actions to be taken, if any, and their timeline.
	3–3.30 p.m.	<b>8.Inputs to related international processes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://regionalforum.unece.org/">2021 UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development</a> <a href="https://regionalforum.unece.org/">https://regionalforum.unece.org/</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Draft thematic document for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure</a> <a href="#">Information paper No. 2</a></li> </ul>	<p>The <b>secretariat</b> will report on events of relevance to the Convention and its Protocol, including:</p> <p>(a) Relevant outcomes of the meeting of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region (Geneva, (online), 10–18 March 2021);</p> <p>(b) Relevant outcomes of the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, focusing on circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources in the ECE region (Geneva, 20 and 21 April 2021);</p> <p>(c) Organization of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022).</p> <p><b>Delegations</b> will be invited to note and comment on the information provided.</p>

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<b>Friday, 3 December</b>	3.30–4 p.m.	<b>9. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties</b>	(none)	<b>Delegations</b> may wish to put forward offers to host the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, preliminarily scheduled to take place in December 2023.
	4–4.30 p.m.	<b>10. Other business</b>	(none)	Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.
	4.30–6 p.m.	<b>11. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting</b>		The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting.