Date: 17 January 2022

TO: **Focal Points for the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a**

 **Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Protocol on Strategic**

 **Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)**

FROM: Tea Aulavuo

 Secretary to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA

**SUBJECT : Request to report by 30 April 2022 on the implementation of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA during the period 2019-2021;
and reporting instructions**

 At their last sessions (Vilnius (online) 8–11 December 2020), the Meeting of Parties to the Espoo Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on SEA, requested Parties to these treaties to complete a questionnaire as a report on their implementation of the Convention and the Protocol during the period 2019-2021. The Meetings recalled the obligations to report arising from article 14 bis of the Convention; and from article 14, paragraph 7; and article 13, paragraph 4 of the Protocol. The Meetings also recognized that regular reporting by each Party provides important information and facilitates the review of compliance under the Convention and the Protocol and thereby contributes to the work of the Implementation Committee (See decision VIII/5, ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2; and decision IV/5, ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3).

 Please find attached the questionnaires for the period 2019–2021, as revised by the Implementation Committee in 2021 and as agreed by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, at its tenth meeting in December 2021.

 In accordance with the deadlines agreed by the Working Group, you are kindly requested to complete and return the questionnaire(s) to the secretariat **by e-mail (eia.conv@un.org)** no later than **by** **30 April 2022**. The Meetings of the Parties has strongly emphasized the importance of timeliness and the quality of national reporting.

 As requested by the Meetings of the Parties, the secretariat will post the national reports on the website in the languages in which they are available. The secretariat will also upload the project/plans/ programmes lists included in the answers to Part II of the questionnaire, unless the responding Party does not agree.

 The secretariat will subsequently prepare draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol for the period 2019-2021 based on the reports by Parties, which will be presented for adoption at the next sessions of Meetings of the Parties in 2023.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING**

The questionnaire is a Microsoft Word document. Please do not try to modify or reorder any of the questions.

Please answer all questions and assure that the responses are complete.

The responses should be precise and clear and should avoid cross-referencing, as far as possible.

Please limit the length of your responses so that the overall report is not too long.

If you completed the previous questionnaire and wish to use your previous responses, do note that the questionnaires has been modified to enhance their clarity and conciseness, including through quoting the articles of the Convention, removing redundancies and reformulating and restructuring some of the questions. Therefore, kindly double check your responses and revise them as needed.

You are invited to ensure consultation of the relevant stakeholders in the preparation of the report.

**Please respect the deadline of 30 April 2022 for submission**.

Please return the questionnaire to the secretariat by sending it by e-mail to eia.conv@un.org.

Do not hesitate to contact the secretariat should you need further information or clarifications (by e-mail: eia.conv@un.org; or by telephone: Elena Santer +41-76 608 8 000).

**Part I of the questionnaires**

Please provide the information requested under each question.

You are invited to describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol. This part should describe the framework for your country’s implementation, and not experience in the application of the Convention and the Protocol.

Please do not reproduce legal text but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant legal provisions transposing the Convention text (e.g., EIA Law of the Republic of …, art. 5, para. 3, of Government Resolution No. …, para. … item…).

**Part II of the questionnaires**

In part II, please report on your country’s practical experiences in applying the Convention or the Protocol (not your country’s procedures, as described in part one). Responding to the questions regarding transboundary procedure refer to your experience both as a Party of origin or as an affected Party.

The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have encountered in applying the Convention in practice. At its tenth meeting, the Working Group specified that sharing good practice was not considered a reporting obligation, but echoing the Bureau, it encouraged the Parties to do so. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Please therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Convention or the Protocol and innovative approaches to improving its application.

Part two also focuses on general issues arising from the sixth review of implementation of the Convention (2016–2018) and issues that have been identified as priorities by Parties in the 2021–2023 workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2). It also addresses the goals of the Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol that requires that the reviews of implementation be adapted “to maximize their usefulness as a source of information, highlight progress achieved, draw attention to areas that need improvement, [and to] disseminate best practice…” ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex, item II.A.9