

Questionnaire for the report of the Republic of Belarus on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in the period 2019–2021

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10. Date on which report was completed: 29 April 2022

Part one

Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Convention

In this part, please provide the information requested, or revise any information relative to the previous report. Describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not its experience in the application of the Convention.

Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the text of the Convention (for example, Environmental Impact Assessment Law of the Republic of ..., article 5 (3) of Government Resolution No. ..., para. ... item...)

Article 1

Definitions

I.1.1. Is the definition of the term “impact” for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as that contained in article 1 (vii)?

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes, with some minor differences (please explain the differences):
- (c) No, there are major differences (please explain the differences):
- (d) The term “impact” is not defined in the legislation

Your comments: According to the Law on “Environmental protection” of the Republic of Belarus of 26.11.1992 N 1982-XII, the environmental impact is any direct or indirect environmental impact caused by economic or any other activity, the outcomes of which lead to change of environment.

I.1.2. Is the definition of the term “transboundary impact” for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as that contained in article 1 (viii)?

- (a) Yes, the same
- (b) Yes, with some minor differences (please explain the differences):
- (c) No, there are major differences (please explain the differences):
- (d) The term “transboundary impact” is not defined in the legislation

Your comments: According to the Law “On State Environmental Expert Review, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment” of 18.07.2016 N 399-3 (the Law on SEE, SEA and EIA) the transboundary impact is an impact on environment of an affected Party that can be caused by planned economic or any other activity.

I.1.3. Please specify how the term “major change” is defined in your national legislation:

- (a) It is not defined
- (b) By using thresholds (Please explain:)
- (c) By using criteria (Please explain:)
- (d) On a case-by-case basis (Please explain:)

Your comments: EIA is conducted, among others, in case of increased parameters of impact of the activity on environment set in the conclusion issued after the state environmental

expert review on the object during the previous phase (para 2, art. 19 of the Law on SEE, SEA and EIA).

I.1.4. How do you identify the public “of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected”? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Based on the geographical location of the proposed project
- (b) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned
- (c) By other means (please specify):

Your comments: According to the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 14 June 2016 N 458, the concerned public first is being identified based on territorial criteria (the public that live on the territory where the implementation of economic or any other activity was planned and the territory that is affected by the implementation of such activity).

At the same time, all the public concerned is provided through the Internet with an access to all documentation foreseen under the EIA procedure.

I.1.5. How do you determine the “significance” of the environmental impact of the activities falling within the scope of the Convention?¹ Please specify (more than one option may apply), providing relevant explanations:

(a) By establishing threshold levels (according to the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus, the list of activities for which EIA is conducted, includes, among others, thermal power plants and other installations for fuel combustion of total (thermal and electrical power) 100 megawatts or more

(b) By applying criteria related to the location of proposed activities (according to the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus, the list of activities for which EIA is conducted, includes, among others, economic or any other activity on swamps in the adjacent territories to the Republic of Belarus or territories from which the possible impact on those swamps is possible)

(c) By applying criteria related to the nature of proposed activities (according to the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus, the list of activities for which EIA is conducted, includes, among others, activities that have basic size of the sanitary protection zone of 300 meters and more, except of agricultural activities that are not aimed at conducting ecologically hazardous activity)

(d) By applying criteria related to the size of proposed activities
(please explain)

(e) By applying criteria related to the effects of proposed activities
(please explain)

(f) Other (please explain):

(g) It is not determined (please explain:)

Your comments:

I.1.6. Please clarify whether “cumulative impacts” are taken into account in transboundary procedures under the Convention in your national legislation and, if so, how:

- (a) Yes, the legislation provides for taking into account cumulative impacts:

¹ Although the term “significance” is not explicitly defined in the Convention, appendix III thereto provides general criteria to assist in determining the environmental significance of activities not listed in appendix I.

Please explain:

- (b) No, the legislation does not provide for taking into account cumulative impacts

Please explain:

Your comments:

Article 2

General provisions

I.2.1. Provide information on legislative, regulatory, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention (art. 2 (2)):

- (a) Law on environmental impact assessment (please provide exact title/reference number/year/access link, if any): the Law of the Republic of Belarus on “Environmental Protection” of 26.11.1992 N 1982-XII

The Law of the Republic of Belarus “On State Environmental Expert Review, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment” of 18.07.2016 N 399-3

- (b) The Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 19.01.2017 N 47 “On some issues regarding the state environmental expert review, environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment (together with a Decree on “order of conducting the state environmental expert review, including the requirements for the preparation of documentation, submitted for the state environmental expert review, conclusions of state environmental expert review, the order of its approval or cancellation), special conditions for implementation of projects, as well as requirements to experts conducting the state environmental expert review”, the Decree on “order of conducting environmental impact assessment, requirements to report of environmental impact assessment, requirements to experts conducting the environmental impact assessment”, the Decree on “order of conducting strategic environmental assessment, requirements to the composition of the report on strategic environmental assessment, requirements to experts conducting strategic environmental assessment”) (hereafter – the Decree on EIA)

- (c) Decree of Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 14.06.2016 N 458 on “adoption of Decree on organization and conduction of public hearings on the drafts of important environmental decisions, environmental reports on strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment reports, and taking into account important environmental decisions”

- (d) Administrative (please indicate number/year/title/related articles/access links):

- (e) Other (please specify):

The technical code of common practice (TCP) of 17.02-08-2012 “Environmental protection and nature management. The rules of conduction of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and preparation of report”, adopted by Decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of 5 January 2012 N 1-T

Technical legal act (TCP) 17.12-03-2011 “Environmental protection and nature management. Territories. The order and rules for conducting environmental impact assessment for development of peat deposits” adopted by Decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of 28 December 2011 N 20-T

Please explain:

I.2.2. Is the list of activities referred to in appendix I to the Convention fully transposed into your country’s national legislation?

- (a) Yes. There is no difference, all activities referred to in appendix I are covered by national legislation

Please elaborate, as needed:

(b) No. Activities covered by national legislation differ slightly from the activities referred to in appendix I Please explain:

(c) No, there are gaps remaining in the list of activities in the national legislation

Please explain: Some types of planned activities, such as listed in paras 5, 6, 9, 17 of the Appendix I to the Convention, directly are not reflected in the list of activities for EIA (para 1, art. 7 of the Law on SEE,SEA and EIA). These types of planned activities relate to activities for EIA through criteria for the size of the sanitary protection zone and others

At the same time, para 2, art. 7 of the Law on SEE, SEA and EIA sets the requirement for conducting EIA and for other activities that are not listed in para 1, art. 7 of the Law but foreseen by international agreements by the Republic of Belarus

I.2.3. Indicate the competent authority/authorities responsible for carrying out the environmental impact assessment procedure in your country. Please specify:

(a) There are different authorities at the national, regional and local levels

(b) Authorities are different for domestic and transboundary procedures

(c) Authorities are the same for domestic and transboundary procedures

Please name the authority/authorities and its/their responsibilities:

- the Republican center of state environmental expert review – in relation to conduction of state environmental expert review for project documentation of the planned activity

- local Councils of Deputies, local executive and administrative bodies of administrative-territorial units, at the territory of which the implementation of planned activity is planned together with the client – in relation to organization and conduction of public hearings and meetings with the public

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus – in relation to conduction of transboundary EIA procedure as a Party of origin as well as an affected Party

I.2.4. Is there an authority in your country that collects information on all the transboundary environmental impact assessment cases? If so, please name it:

(a) No

(b) Yes

If “Yes”, please clarify the type of information collected and provide access link, if available: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus as a state body conducting transboundary EIA procedure has the list of documents (notifications containing the information about the proposed activity, EIA reports) in relation to transboundary EIA procedures that were already conducted

Your comments:

Article 3 Notification

I.3.1. Article 3 (1) states that: “The Party of origin shall notify any Party which it considers may be an affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity.” As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Parties?

(a) During scoping

(b) When the environmental impact assessment report has been prepared and the domestic procedure has started

- (c) After finishing the domestic procedure
- (d) At other times (please specify):

Your comments: At the stage of development of the Programme of conduction of environmental impact assessment, in case of determination of the likelihood of a significant adverse transboundary impact of the proposed activity, the decision is taken on the need of sending a notification to affected Parties (subpara 7.3, para 7 of the Decree on conduction of EIA)

I.3.2. Please define the format of notification used in your country:

- (a) Notification is carried out using the tabular form in table 1 of decision I/4 on the format for notification adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its first session (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 32 and table 1)
- (b) Notification is carried out in the form of a letter containing all information detailed in decision I/4 of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 34)
- (c) A combination of (a) and (b) above (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 35)
- (d) The country has its own format (please attach a copy) Kindly refer to Annex I
- (e) No official format used

Your comments:

I.3.3. As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification (art. 3 (2))? Please specify (more than one options may apply):

- (a) Information on the proposed activity, including any available information on its possible transboundary impact (art. 3 (2) (a))
- (b) The nature of the possible decision (art. 3 (2) (b))
- (c) An indication of a reasonable time within which a response is required, taking into account the nature of the proposed activity (art. 3 (2) (c))
- (d) Relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments (art. 3 (5) (a))
- (e) Relevant information on the proposed activity and its possible significant adverse transboundary impact (art. 3 (5) (b))
- (f) Other (please specify):

Your comments: Information according to para 5 art. 3 is provided in the Programme of conduction of EIA that is sent together with notification

I.3.4. Article 3 (3) requires that “The affected Party shall respond to the Party of origin within the time specified in the notification”. As a Party of origin, please indicate whether your country’s legislative or regulatory framework defines a time frame for response to the notification by the affected Party/ies and, if so, how:

- (a) No, the time frame is not specified in the national legislation
- (b) Yes, the time frame is specified in the national legislation

Please indicate the time frame or its range as per your national legislation, in weeks/days:

- (c) The time frame is determined and agreed with each affected Party on a case-by-case basis

Please indicate the average time frame set on a case-by-case basis, in weeks/days:

Your comments: the deadline for submitting the response can be indicated in the cover letter and normally is 30 calendar days, it depends on project complexity and other factors

I.3.5. Please specify the consequences should a notified affected Party not comply with the time frame for responding to the notification, as required by article 3 (3), and elaborate on the possibilities of extending the deadline:

Your comments: in case of justified request of the affected Party the deadline for submitting its official position regarding the participation in transboundary EIA procedure can be extended

I.3.6. Article 3 (8) states that: “The concerned Parties shall ensure that the public of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected be informed of ... the proposed activity”. Which of the following approaches do you use to achieve this goal? Please specify:

(a) Informing the point of contact for the Convention listed on the Convention website²

(b) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.3.7. On what basis does your country, as an affected Party, make the decision to participate (or not) in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure? Please specify:

(a) Notified ministry/authority of the affected Party responsible for environmental impact assessment decides on its own based on the documentation provided by the Party of origin

(b) Based on the opinion of the competent authorities of the affected Party

(c) Based on the opinion of the competent authorities and of the public of the affected Party

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments: the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus from the moment of receiving a notification from a foreign state about the planned activity on its territory, takes a decision within 30 days regarding the participation (or non-participation) of the Republic of Belarus in the transboundary EIA procedure and sends its response to a foreign state through a diplomatic channel

I.3.8. Article 3 (5) (a) states that the Party of origin must provide affected Parties with “relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments”.

How does your country, as a Party of origin, determine the time schedule referred to in article 3 (5) (a)? Please specify:

(a) Following the rules and procedures of the Party of origin

(b) Following the rules and procedures of the affected Party/ies

(c) A combination of (a) and (b) above. Please specify the rules and procedures of the Party of origin and the affected Party/ies that are applied in the combination:

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments: During the transboundary EIA procedure the procedural features of each affected Party are taken into account

The national legislation does not set any concrete deadline for conducting consultations and no any deadline for submitting comments

² List available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/points-contact-regarding-notification>.

Articles 2 (6), 3 (8) and 4 (2) Public participation

I.3.9. Article 2 (6) of the Convention states that: “The Party of origin shall provide an opportunity to the public in the areas likely to be affected to participate in relevant environmental impact assessment procedures and shall ensure that the opportunity provided to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to that provided to the public of the Party of origin.”

How does your country’s environmental impact assessment legislation ensure that equivalent opportunities and rights to participate in the procedure are provided for the public of the affected Party?

- (a) As an affected Party:
- (i) Not specified in the national legislation, but it is determined and agreed with the Party of origin on a case-by-case basis at the beginning of the transboundary procedure
 - (ii) Specified in the national legislation as follows:

Your comments:

- (b) As a Party of origin:
- (i) Not specified in the national legislation; such equivalent opportunities and rights cannot be ensured in the procedure

Please explain:

- (ii) Not specified in the national legislation, but it is determined and agreed with the affected Party on a case-by-case basis at the beginning of the transboundary procedure
- (iii) Specified in the national legislation as follows:

- para 7.5 of the Decree on EIA foresees the conduction of public hearings for the EIA report, including with participation of affected Parties in case of identification of likelihood of transboundary impact of the planned activity (if participation was confirmed)

- ensuring the access of the public (citizens and legal entities) to the EIA report (as set in accordance with chapter 5 of the Decree “on organization and conduction of public hearings on the drafts of important environmental decisions, environmental reports on strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment reports, and taking into account important environmental decisions” adopted by the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 14.06.2016 N 458

Your comments:

I.3.10. How can the public of your country, as an affected Party, express its opinion on the environmental impact assessment documentation of the proposed project further to articles 2 (6), 3 (8) and 4 (2)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By sending comments in writing directly to the competent authority of the Party of origin, or to the ministry responsible for environmental affairs/focal point in the affected Party
- (b) In a territory of the affected Party: by taking part in consultations [on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation] or a special event, where the opinions of the public are officially registered
- (c) In a territory of the Party of origin: by taking part in consultations or a special event, where the opinions of the public are officially registered
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 4

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.4.1. How do you determine the relevant information to be included in the environmental impact assessment documentation in accordance with article 4 (1)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By using appendix II
- (b) By using the comments received from the authorities concerned during the scoping phase, if applicable
- (c) By using the comments received from members of the public during the scoping phase, if applicable
- (d) As determined by the proponent based on its own expertise
- (e) By using other means (please specify):

Your comments:

The legislation of the Republic of Belarus sets the requirements for the composition of EIA report which fully complies with provisions of Appendix II to the Convention:

- Chapter 4 Provisions on conducting EIA
- The Decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of 31.12.2021 N 19-T “on adoption of ecological norms and rules” (Rules for conducting EIA)

I.4.2. Article 4 states that: “The environmental impact assessment documentation... shall contain, as a minimum, the information described in appendix II.” What quality control measures are provided for in the legislative or administrative framework of your country, as a Party of origin, to ensure sufficient quality of the documentation? Please specify:

- (a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures that it includes all information required under appendix II as a minimum before making it available for comments
- (b) By using quality checklists based on the requirements listed in appendix II
- (c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.4.3. How do you determine “reasonable alternatives” in accordance with appendix II (b)?

- (a) On a case-by-case basis
- (b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify):
- (c) Other (please specify):

The initiator of the planned activity together with developers of EIA foresees the consideration of reasonable deployment alternatives and (or) technological implementation of the planned activity, including a non-implementation alternative (zero alternative)

Your comments:

Article 5

Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.5. Does your national environmental impact assessment legislation provide for organizing transboundary consultations between the authorities of the Parties concerned?

- (a) Yes, it is obligatory
- (b) Yes, it is optional (please specify):
- (c) No, it does not have any provision on that

Your comments:

Article 6

Final decision

I.6.1. Please select from the list below the information that your country, as a Party of origin, in accordance with its legislative and administrative framework, should take due account of in the final decision on the proposed activity (art. 6 (1)):

- (a) Conclusions of the environmental impact assessment documentation
- (b) Comments received in accordance with articles 3 (8) and 4 (2)
- (c) Outcome of the consultations as referred to in article 5
- (d) Outcomes of the transboundary consultations
- (e) Comments received from the affected Party/ies
- (f) Mitigation measures
- (g) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.6.2. Are the comments of the authorities and the public of the affected Party and the outcome of the consultations taken into consideration in the same way as the comments from the authorities and the public in your country (art. 6 (1))?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No Please explain the differences

Your comments:

I.6.3. According to article 6 (3): If additional information on the significant transboundary impact of a proposed activity, which was not available at the time a decision was made with respect to that activity and which could have materially affected the decision, becomes available to a concerned Party before work on that activity commences, that Party shall immediately inform the other concerned Party or Parties. If one of the concerned Parties so requests, consultations shall be held as to whether the decision needs to be revised.

Is there any regulation in your country that ensures the implementation of the provisions of article 6 (3)?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes, by legislation (please specify):
- (c) Yes, by other means (please specify):

Your comments:

I.6.4. Do all activities listed in appendix I (items 1–22) and major changes thereto require a final decision to authorize or undertake such an activity in your legislative framework?

- (a) Yes
(b) No

If “No”, please list those activities listed in appendix I or major changes thereto for which there is no requirement for a final decision. Please explain why those activities/major changes do not require a final decision in your national legislation.

Article 7

Post-project analysis

I.7. Is there any provision regarding implementation of post-project analysis in your national environmental impact assessment legislation (art. 7 (1))?

- (a) No
(b) Yes Please specify:

According to the requirements of the Decree on order of conducting EIA, the EIA report should include the description of the post-project analysis of the activity

Your comments:

Article 8

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

I.8.1. According to article 8: “The Parties may continue existing or enter into new bilateral or multilateral agreements or other arrangements in order to implement their obligations under this Convention and under any of its protocols to which they are a Party. Such agreements or other arrangements may be based on the elements listed in appendix VI.”

Has your country established any bilateral or multilateral agreements to implement the Convention?

- (a) No
(b) Yes Please specify with which countries:

If publicly available, please also attach the texts of any such bilateral and multilateral agreements, preferably in English, French or Russian.

Your comments:

At the moment the Republic of Belarus doesn't have any concluded bilateral agreements on the implementation of the Convention. The work on drafts bilateral agreements on implementation of the Convention continues with the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Lithuania and Ukraine

I.8.2. What issues do these bilateral agreements cover (appendix VI)? (More than one option may apply):

- (a) Specific conditions of the subregion concerned
(b) Institutional, administrative and other arrangements
(c) Harmonization of the Parties' policies and measures
(d) Developing, improving and/or harmonizing methods for the identification, measurement, prediction and assessment of impacts, and for post-project analysis

(e) Developing and/or improving methods and programmes for the collection, analysis, storage and timely dissemination of comparable data regarding environmental quality in order to provide input into the environmental impact assessment

(f) Establishment of threshold levels and more specified criteria for defining the significance of transboundary impacts related to the location, nature or size of proposed activities

(g) Undertaking joint environmental impact assessment, development of joint monitoring programmes, intercalibration of monitoring devices and harmonization of methodologies

(h) Other, please specify:

Your comments:

Complimentary information related to legal implementation of the Convention

I.9.1. Please describe how the steps required under your national legislation for carrying out a transboundary procedure are interlinked with a domestic environmental impact assessment procedure in the lead-up to the final decision.

In doing so, please also describe differences between the steps (i.e. screening/scoping, preparation of the environmental impact assessment, consultation, public participation, making a final decision) of a domestic procedure and a transboundary procedure, if any:

Alternatively, this question can be answered or supported by a schematic flow chart showing these steps.

Your comments:

Transboundary EIA procedure is a part of internal (local) EIA procedure

Environmental impact assessment procedure includes the following steps:

- development and adoption of the Programme of conduction of EIA
- initiation of transboundary procedures in case of identification of likelihood of adversary environmental impact of the proposed activity (sending notification, programmes of conduction of EIA, requesting the information about the affected Party)
- preparation of the EIA report
- conducting consultations with the public on the EIA report on the territory of Belarus and in case of likelihood of adversary environmental impact of the proposed activity – on the territory of the affected Parties)
- in case of likelihood of adversary environmental impact of the proposed activity, conducting consultations with affected Parties based on the comments and suggestions received from them in relation to EIA report
- finalisation of EIA report, including taking into consideration of comments and suggestions received during public hearings on EIA report and received from the affected Parties, in the following cases:
 - detection of one of the following conditions, not included in EIA report:
 - it is planned to increase the amount of gross emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere by more than five percent of the amount originally envisaged in the EIA report
 - it is planned to increase the volume of wastewater by more than five percent of the amount originally envisaged in the EIA report
 - it is planned to provide additional land plot
 - it is planned to change the purpose of the project

- making changes to the approved project documentation in one of the following conditions:

- it is planned to increase the amount of gross emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere by more than five percent of the amount originally envisaged in the EIA report

- it is planned to increase the volume of wastewater by more than five percent of the amount originally envisaged in the EIA report

- it is planned to provide additional land plot

- it is planned to change the purpose of the project

- conducting public hearings on the revised EIA report

- approval of EIA report by client with conditions for ensuring environmental safety of the planned activity

- conducting state environmental expert review of the project documentation, including EIA report on the planned activity

- making the decision regarding conformity or non-conformity of project documentation vis-à-vis the legal framework on environmental protection and rational use of natural resources contained in the conclusion of state environmental expert review available through the internet at the website of the Republican center of state environmental expert review

- submission of the conclusion of state environmental expert review and the decision on implementation of the planned activity to the affected Parties

I.9.2. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures for joint cross-border projects, the construction of nuclear power plants and/or their lifetime extension?

<i>Joint cross-border projects</i>	<i>Construction of nuclear power plants</i>	<i>Lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</i>
(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
(i) Special provisions:	(i) Special provisions:	(i) Special provisions:
(ii) Informal arrangements:	(ii) Informal arrangements:	(ii) Informal arrangements:
Please explain:	Please explain:	Please explain:

Your comments:

Part two

Practical application during the period 2019–2021³

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Convention (not your country's procedures, as described in part one), whether 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. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Please therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Convention 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)^a and issues that have been identified as priorities by Parties in the 2021–2023 workplan.^b 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, in particular, “to maximize their usefulness as a source of information, highlight progress achieved, draw attention to areas that need improvement, disseminate best practice ...”.^c

^a United Nations publication, ECE/MP.EIA/32.

^b ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2.

^c ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex, item II.A.9.

A. List of transboundary procedures initiated during the period 2019–2021

II.1. Please indicate, in the table provided in annex I to the present questionnaire, the total number of transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures initiated in the reporting period in relation to activities listed in appendix I to the Convention and in which your country was a Party of origin or affected Party. Please also indicate the number and types of transboundary procedures related to activities not listed in appendix I that your country implemented in the reporting period as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, if any.

Your comments: See the Annex I to this questionnaire

II.2. Please list transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures referred to in question II.1. above using table 1 of annex II to the present questionnaire for procedures in which your country was a Party of origin and table (2) for procedures in which your country was an affected Party.

Your comments: See the Annex II to this questionnaire

II.3. According to paragraph 10 of decision VIII/5 of the Meeting of the Parties the project lists referred to in question II.2 above and annex II to the present questionnaire are to be posted on the ECE website. Should your country object to this, however, please indicate “Yes” and explain, as relevant:

- (a) Yes (my country has an objection the compilation and posting of this information)

Please explain:

³ Part II of this questionnaire is not considered to be a reporting obligation according to the Convention. Parties are encouraged to share examples of good practice, subject to their capabilities and the availability of relevant data.

- (b) No (no objection)

Your comments:

B. Experience in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure during the period 2019–2021

Please share with other Parties your country's experience of using the Convention in practice. When responding to each of the questions below, please provide one or two practical examples and/or describe your country's general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others.

II.4. Please provide at least one example of the implementation of the Convention for an activity listed in appendix I to the Convention based on the template contained in annex III to the present questionnaire.

Your comments: See the Annex III to this questionnaire

II.5. The Convention does not refer to the translation of environmental impact assessment documentation and to other language-related issues as important prerequisites for providing effective public participation of potentially affected Parties in a transboundary procedure. As an affected Party, please specify in which language(s) the environmental impact assessment documentation is made available for your own public to ensure effective public participation in transboundary procedures. (You may select several options, as needed):

- (a) In the official language(s) of the country Please specify: There are two official languages in the Republic of Belarus: Belorussian and Russian
- (b) Information in English is acceptable
- (c) Please list other languages that fulfil the requirements of effective public participation in your country, if applicable:

Your comments

II.6. What difficulties has your country experienced with regard to translation of environmental impact assessment documentation and interpretation during consultation meetings with authorities, or during events organized within the public participation procedure, if applicable, and what solutions has it found?

- (a) Experience with regard to translation of the environmental impact assessment documentation
- (i) As a Party of origin: There are requirements in the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus for translation of relevant documentation on EIA into English or any other language based on the agreement in between Parties
- (ii) As an affected Party: The Party of origin is not always ready to provide the full EIA report translated into national language for further dissemination to public, providing only certain part of the EIA report, which does not support the constructive dialogue in between Parties and does not ensure efficient public participation in decision making
- (b) Experience with regard to interpretation during consultation meetings with authorities
- (i) As a Party of origin:
- (ii) As an affected Party: The legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan does not foresee the funding allocation from the Republic budget for interpretation services during the participation of the Republic of Belarus in transboundary procedures. Only in case of reaching agreement between affected Parties to ensure effective dialogue, in some cases the quality of provided interpretation services is significantly decreased

- (c) Experience with regard to interpretation during public participation-related events
 - (i) As a Party of origin: the initiator of planned activity not always has efficient financial resources to ensure interpretation, such interpretation is additional burden for the organization
 - (ii) As an affected Party: The legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan does not foresee the funding allocation from the Republic budget for interpretation services during the events related to the public participation. Only in case of reaching agreement between affected Parties is possible to ensure effective dialogue, in some cases the quality of provided interpretation services is significantly decreased

Your comments:

II.7. Which Party covers the cost of translation of environmental impact assessment documentation?

- (a) As a Party of origin: Initiator of the planned activity is covering cost for translation of documentation. The translation of correspondence between the environmental institutions of concerned Parties is covered from the Republic budget
- (b) As an affected Party: based on the agreement between Parties, normally, the initiator of the planned activity ensures the translation of required documentation, while the translation of correspondence between the environmental institutions of concerned Parties is covered from the Republic budget
- (c) Other, please specify:

Your comments:

II.8. What parts of the environmental impact assessment documentation does your country usually translate/require to be translated?

- (a) As a Party of origin: the full EIA report
- (b) As an affected Party: correspondence between the environmental institutions of concerned Parties

Your comments:

II.9. Has the issue of translation been addressed in bilateral agreements between your country and other Parties?

- (a) Yes Please explain how it has been addressed: the questions related to the translation are mandatory reflected in bilateral agreements
- (b) No

Your comments:

II.10. As a Party of origin, how and in which language do you usually provide environmental impact assessment documentation to the affected Party?

- (a) A full set of environmental impact assessment documentation is translated into English
- (b) Selected parts of the documentation are translated in English
Please specify which parts are translated and how they are selected
- (c) A full set of environmental impact assessment documentation is translated into the affected Party's language
- (d) Selected parts of environmental impact assessment documentation are translated into the language of the affected Party
Please specify which parts are translated and how they are selected: based on the agreement between Parties there are some parts of EIA report should be translated
- (e) Other (please specify)

Your comments:

II. 11. Please indicate how the costs of interpretation during the events organized within the public participation procedure are covered:

- (a) By the developer: Please explain:
- (b) By the Party of origin alone: Please explain
- (c) By the affected Party alone: Please explain
- (d) Shared by both Parties concerned upon an agreement:
- (e) Please provide details of related agreements and considerations based on which the Parties concerned agreed to share the translation costs:
- (f) Other (please specify)

Your comments:

II.12. Please describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during public participation procedures and consultations referred to in articles 2 (5), 3 (8), 4 (2) and 5 with regard to issues not covered above; for example, with regard to time frames for the duration of public participation and the consultation period and the need for additional information:

- (a) As a Party of origin:
 - (i) Experience with public participation
 - (ii) Experience with consultations under article 5
- (b) As an affected Party:
 - (i) Experience with public participation

Due to submission of EIA report by the Party of origin in English language, the efficient public participation is not ensured in line with environmental impact assesment procedures

- (ii) Experience with consultations under article 5

EIA report can be submitted in English language and in language of the Party of origin. Normally, submission of additional infromation and clarifications is required based on the results of consultations

Your comments:

II.13. Has your country carried out post-project analyses in the period 2019–2021:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes

Please list the projects for which post-project analysis was carried out, describing challenges and lessons learned, if any:

As part of the post-project analysis of the Ignalina NPP, the following materials were considered:

- Report on the implementation of post-project analysis programme for new nuclear facilities – “Report on the evaluation of conclusions of environmental monitoring results for the first year of commercial operation of the intermediate reprocessed nuclear fuel storage facility”
- Report on the implementation of the post-project analysis programme for new nuclear installations – “Report on the evaluation of conclusions of environmental monitoring results of the industrial operation of the spent nuclear fuel intermediate storage facility and solid waste recovery complex for 2020”.

- Report on the implementation of the post-project analysis of the new nuclear installations of Ignalina NPP – “Report on the evaluation of conclusions of environmental monitoring results of the industrial operation of the spent nuclear fuel intermediate storage facility and solid waste recovery complex for 2021”

The problematic issues in the post-project analysis of the Ignalina NPP relate to the quality of the translation of the materials provided and the consideration of comments aimed at fulfilling the objectives of such analysis by the affected Party

II.14. Does your country have successful examples of organizing transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures in any of the categories of projects indicated below?

<i>Joint cross-border projects</i>	<i>Construction of nuclear power plants</i>	<i>Lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</i>
(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

If “Yes”, please describe what, in your opinion, made it successful, for example, means of cooperation (for example, contact points, joint bodies, bilateral agreements, special and common provisions, etc.), institutional arrangements, and how practical matters are dealt with (for example, translation, interpretation, transmission of documents, etc.):

- (a) For joint cross-border projects:
- (b) For construction of nuclear power plants:
- (c) For lifetime extension of nuclear power plants:

You may also wish to describe the example using annex III to the present questionnaire.

Your comments:

II.15. Please provide examples from your experience during the reporting period (either complete cases or elements such as notification, consultation and public participation) for the information of Parties that, in your view, constitute good practice or lessons learned on various topics:

Your comments: See the Annex III to this questionnaire

II.16. The Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol⁴ recommends enhancing the use of the networks of national focal points for administrative matters⁵ and points of contact for notification⁶ published on the website of the Convention. Does your country use the networks for contacting the affected Parties’ authorities?

- (a) Yes, my country makes use of the networks
- (b) My country is aware of the networks but is not using them

Please explain why, and describe the alternative ways used by your country to identify which competent authority of the affected Party to contact:

Your comments:

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3, item II.A.7.

⁵ List of Focal Points for Administrative Matters, available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/focal-points-administrative-matters>.

⁶ List of Points of Contact regarding Notification, available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/points-contact-regarding-notification>.

II.17. Please specify what quality control measures your country, as a Party of origin, applies to ensure sufficient quality of environmental impact assessment documentation and, in particular, that said documentation contains, as a minimum, information described in appendix II to the Convention.

Your comments:

EIA report as a part of the project documentation is a subject to state environmental expert review in line with requirements of the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus

II.18. Please specify whether alternatives are assessed in the environmental impact assessment documentation and, if so, how. If possible, provide at least one example of such assessment, either as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, or both

Your comments:

EIA reports includes assessment of alternatives of the planned activity on a number of parameters (in particular, studying the characteristics of location of the activity from ecological, social-economical security points of view), as well as zero alternative (non-implementation).

For example, during the implementation of the project "Production of ammonium thiosulfate" in the district city area of Grodno based on the results of the assessment the location was chosen for this project on the free economic zone territory of the city of Grodno, despite other more economically advantageous alternatives.

II.19. Please specify whether the following issues are considered in the environmental impact assessment documentation:

- (a) Biodiversity
- (b) Climate change
- (c) Circular economy
- (d) Sustainable Development Goal implementation
- (e) Smart and sustainable cities
- (f) Sustainable infrastructure
- (g) Renewables
- (h) Other issues not listed above (please specify):

Please provide at least one example of how one of the above-mentioned issues is addressed in the environmental impact assessment documentation:

You may wish to use the template in annex III to the questionnaire.

Your comments:

II.20. Please indicate whether, in your country's practice, cumulative impacts are taken into account during the assessment under the Convention and, if so, how:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes

If "Yes", please provide at least one example of how cumulative impacts are considered.

Your comments:

II.21. Please indicate whether health issues are taken into account in your country during the assessment under the Convention in practice and, if so, how:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes

If “Yes”, please provide at least one example of how health issues are taken into account

EIA report, among others, includes list of events and (or) foresees the application of the best available technical methods for implementation of planned activity, including those aimed at preserving public healths

Your comments:

II.22. Please indicate whether environmental impact assessments implemented in your country can be considered to have contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and their specific targets:

(a) No, there is no evidence that environmental impact assessments contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

(b) Yes, (certain) environmental impact assessments significantly contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

(c) Yes, (certain) environmental impact assessments contributed somewhat to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

If “Yes”, please list the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals⁷ (and their targets) and provide [at least one] example[s] of how environmental impact assessment has contributed to their attainment.

Your comments:

⁷ In 2017, the Meetings of the Parties acknowledged that the Convention and, in particular the Protocol, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para. 7). Selected examples of Sustainable Development Goal targets that strategic environmental assessment could help to implement include the following (see informal document to the fifth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016):

(a) Sustainable Development Goal 3– Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);

(b) Sustainable Development Goal 6–Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);

(c) Sustainable Development Goal 7– Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);

(d) Sustainable Development Goal 8– Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4);

(e) Sustainable Development Goal 9– Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);

(f) Sustainable Development Goal 11– Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);

(g) Sustainable Development Goal 12– Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);

(h) Sustainable Development Goal 13– Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);

(i) Sustainable Development Goal 14– Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);

(j) Sustainable Development Goal 15– Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);

(k) Sustainable Development Goal 16– Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);

(l) Sustainable Development Goal 17– Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).

For more details, see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at

http://staging2.unece.org.net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16__Sustainable_Development_Goal_Mapping.pdf.

In the framework of transboundary EIA procedure for planned activity on the territory of the Republic of Belarus of the project "Construction of an electric transmission line with transformer substations to the border posts "Mutwitz" and "Khinichev" on the territory of Pinsky border" after conducting consultations with the affected Part (Ukraine) there were additionally foreseen some activities facilitating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal N15: Construction of support pillars for high-voltage line were foreseen along the existing roads and on the territory of the border posts – in line with principle of rational environmental management aimed at preserving biological biodiversity – on the support pillars installation of additional artificial nesting was foreseen, installation of power line safety handles was foreseen.

C. Experience in using the available guidance documents in 2019–2021

II.23. Have you used in practice the following guidance, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and available online?

<i>Title of guidance document</i>	<i>Use of guidance</i>	<i>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance</i>
Guidance on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/7)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on subregional cooperation (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex V, appendix)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/8)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	

Title of guidance document	Use of guidance	Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance
Guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/9)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Good Practice Recommendations on the Application of the Convention to Nuclear Energy-related Activities (ECE/MP.EIA/24)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The document is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The document is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/28)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The document is not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (iii) The document is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on Notification according to the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/12)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	

Your comments:

D. Clarity of the Convention

II.24. Has your country had difficulties implementing the procedures defined in the Convention, either as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, because of a lack of clarity of the provisions?

No

Yes Please indicate which provisions and how they are unclear:

Your comments:

At the same time, in practice, in the framework of implementation of procedures established by the Convention, the Republic of Belarus faced the situation when, in reality, the Convention does not include the description of approaches for identification of reasonable alternatives and choosing the acceptable location. The para b) Appendix II only specifies that EIA documentation should include the description and if required, reasonable alternatives of the planned activity (for instance, in terms of geographical nature). The Convention and other documents developed to support its implementation do not include the definition of “reasonable alternatives” and criteria for choosing the alternatives (do not provide methods).

Recommendations on relevant practice of application of the Convention in relation to nuclear activity, that were adopted by the Meetings of the Parties in 2017, acknowledge that in various countries, including inside of the EU, there are different practices and approaches exist in relation to submission of the information about EIA documentation.

In order to make the application of the Convention more efficient, to ensure clear understanding from the legal point of view and to ensure effective application of the Convention as well as to support practical application of the Convention by countries it is suggested to develop:

- Guidelines (criteria) in relation to amount of sufficient information about the choice of location for further inclusion in EIA report
- Guidelines on public participation in post-project analysis

E. Contributions to the funding of the workplans

II.25. Please indicate whether the information regarding contributions to the trust fund was already provided by your country in the responses to the questionnaire concerning the Protocol and covered both the Convention and the Protocol:

(i) Yes

(ii) No

If “No”, please provide the information regarding the contributions to the trust fund below.

Your comments:

Kindly note, that the information regarding contributions was provided by the representative of Belarus delegation at the 8th session of the Meetings of the Parties (February 2021)

II.26. Through paragraph 4 of decision VII/4–III/4, applicable for the period 2017–2020, the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol jointly “urge[d] all Parties to contribute to ensuring sustainable funding of activities and an equitable and proportionate sharing of the financial burden among the Parties”.⁸ For the period 2021–2023, by paragraph 1 of decision VIII/1–IV/1, regarding funding of the adopted workplans, the Meeting of the Parties decided that “all the Parties have a duty to contribute to the sharing of the costs that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget”.⁹

(a) Please indicate whether your Government contributed to the funding of the workplans during the reporting period, indicating also the currency and the amount of the contribution:

(i) My Government made a multi-year contribution for the period 2017–2020

Please indicate when the contribution was provided (year), amount and currency:

(ii) Individual contribution in 2019

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason: no opportunity to provide funding

(iii) Individual contribution in 2020:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason: no opportunity to provide funding

(iv) Individual contribution in 2021:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason: no opportunity to provide funding

(v) Please indicate any plans of your country to contribute for the period 2021–2023

At the 8th session of the Meetings of the Parties the Republic of Belarus reported about its plans regarding provision of funding for 2021-2023

(b) Did your country make in-kind contributions in the reporting period?

Yes Please describe how:

- Preparation of curator report regarding the project on coal plant “Uglevik-3”
- Participation of Belarusian experts in the development of Guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants

No Please explain the reason

F. Suggested improvements to the report

II.27. Please provide further suggestions (preferably specific drafting proposals including wording suggestions) for how this report could be improved.

⁸ ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1.

⁹ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1.

Annex I

Number of transboundary procedures initiated by your country, as a Party of origin, and participated in, as an affected Party, in the reporting period

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>		<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
1.	Crude oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 metric tons or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.		
2. (a)	Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more;		
2. (b)	Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors, including the dismantling or decommissioning of such power stations or reactors 1/ (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).		4
3. (a)	Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel;		
3. (b)	Installations designed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel; - For the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste; - For the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel; - Solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste; or - Solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site. 		
4.	Major installations for the initial smelting of cast iron and steel and for the production of non-ferrous metals.		
5.	Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20,000 metric tons finished product; for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 metric tons finished product; and for other asbestos utilization of more than 200 metric tons per year.		
6.	Integrated chemical installations.	1	

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>	<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
7. (a) Construction of motorways, express roads 2/ and lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports 3/ with a basic runway length of 2,100 metres or more;		
7. (b) Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road, would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.		
8. Large-diameter pipelines for the transport of oil, gas or chemicals.		
9. Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1,350 metric tons.		
10.(a) Waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of toxic and dangerous wastes;		
10.(b) Waste-disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 metric tons per day.		
11. Large dams and reservoirs.		
12. Groundwater abstraction activities or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water to be abstracted or recharged amounts to 10 million cubic metres or more.		
13. Pulp, paper and board manufacturing of 200 air-dried metric tons or more per day.		
14. Major quarries, mining, on-site extraction and processing of metal ores or coal.		
15. Offshore hydrocarbon production. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 metric tons/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 cubic metres/day in the case of gas.		
16. Major storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.		
17. Deforestation of large areas.		
18.(a) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year (transfers of piped drinking water are excluded);		
18.(b) In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5 per cent of this flow (transfers of piped drinking water are excluded).		
19. Wastewater treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent.		

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>		<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
20.	Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than: - 85 000 places for broilers; - 60 000 places for hens; - 3 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); - 900 places for sows.		
21.	Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.	1	
22.	Major installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms).		

Activities not listed in appendix I for which your country implemented a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure in the reporting period

1. [add the activity]
2. ...

^a Party of origin.

^b Affected Party.

Annex II

A detailed list of the transboundary procedures in which your party participated as a Party of origin (table 1) and as an affected Party (table 2) in the reporting period

Table 1

Transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures as a Party of origin

Please find below an example of expected types of answers in each column and feel free to add additional rows as needed

				<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date, if available</i>			
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (date of the notification sent)</i>	<i>Affected Party/ Parties</i>	<i>Timing of the notification</i>	<i>Submission of the environmental report</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any</i>	<i>Public participation, (please also indicate the means, for example, written comments, events organized, etc.) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date of issue, if information is available)</i>
1. Construction of an electric transmission line with transformer substations to the border posts "Mutwitz" and "Khinichev" on the territory of Pinsky border"	Date 19.06.2019	Ukraine	State of the procedure (select as appropriate) screening/scoping/reviewing the environmental impact assessment documentation: Consideration of the environmental impact assessment documentation Date 16.01.2020	Date 15.12.2019	Date from: 5.12.2019 to: 16.06.2020	-	-
2. Production of ammonium thiosulfate in the district city	29.03.2021 (request of information in	Republic of Lithuania	As soon as possible (the information is provided	23.04.2021	From 11.10.2021 To: ongoing	-	-

Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date, if available

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (date of the notification sent)</i>	<i>Affected Party/ Parties</i>	<i>Timing of the notification</i>	<i>Submission of the environmental report</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any</i>	<i>Public participation, (please also indicate the means, for example, written comments, events organized, etc.) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date of issue, if information is available)</i>
area of Grodno	line with art. 3.7		21.06.2021)				
3.							
4.							
...							

Table 2

Transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures as an affected Party

Please find below an example of expected types of answers in each column, and feel free to add additional rows as needed

Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>
1. Lifetime extension of energy blocks N1 and N2 of the Rivne NPP	Notification received: 9.01.2018	Ukraine	Date -	Date -	Time from: 22.07.2019 to: ongoing (resumed during	No	Date -

					<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available</i>			
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>	
	Response sent: 15.02.2018				the reporting period)			
	Consideration of EIA documentation							
2. Lifetime extension of energy blocks of the Zaporozhny NPP	Notification received: 30.03.2017 Response sent: 19.07.2017 Consideration of EIA documentation	Ukraine	-	-	From 23.11.2017 To 7.09.2021	No	-	
3. Lifetime extension of energy blocks of Sount-Ukrainian NPP	Notification received: 30.03.2017 Response sent: 20.07.2017 Consideration of EIA documentation	Ukraine	-	-	From 24.11.2017 To 7.09.2021	No	-	

					<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available</i>			
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>	
	procedure							
4. Construction and operation of the first NPP in Poland with electric power up to 3750 MW on the territory of the commune (volosts) Choczevo or Gniewino and Krowka in Pomorskaya Voivodeship	Notification received: 5.01.2016 Response sent: 6.01.2016 Consideration of EIA documentation	Republic of Poland	-	-	From 8.02.2022 (resumed the proposal to conduct transboundary consultations)	No	--	
...								

Annex III

Template to describe an example of application of a transboundary procedure in accordance with the Convention in the reporting period

Please provide at least one example of application of a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure in accordance with the Convention in the reporting period using the template and reflecting on the priorities of the 2021–2023 workplan and the long-term strategy. Should you wish to share more examples, please copy the template, as needed.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Please provide the following general information about the selected example:

1. Title of the transboundary procedure: “Construction of an electric transmission line with transformer substations to the border posts "Mutwitz" and "Khinichev" on the territory of Pinsky border”

2. Party’s role in the procedure and a list and roles of other Parties involved

Party of origin: Republic of Belarus	Affected Party: Ukraine
Affected Party/ies: (please list)	Party/ies of origin: (please list)

3. Duration and period of implementation: from 19.06.2019 to 16.06.2020

4. Stage(s)/step(s) of the procedure presented in this example:

The entire procedure

Notification (art. 3):

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 4):

Consultations of the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 5 (a)–(c))

Final decision (art. 6):

Post-project analysis (art. 7, if applicable)

Other , please specify:

II. BACKGROUND

Please provide a short description of the activity, the context of its development and general information about the environmental impact assessment procedure

The facilities are being designed are intended for the production and transmission of electricity to consumers. The transmission of electricity is a comparatively environmentally safer type of activity compared to other types of energy. Emissions, discharges and waste are not the result of the technological process of electricity transmission. There are following types of adverse impact for the period of construction of electricity transmission facilities: removal of the vegetation layer during the installation of overhead line support facilities and the construction of the 35 kV Khinchev with TS, cutting down trees and shrubs. Also, the physical impact (electromagnetic radiation, acoustic impact from substation equipment) is typical for electric power transmission facilities.

The implementation of the proposed activity affects specially protected natural areas, such as the local hydrological reserve "Topilovskoye" (along the route of the existing 10 kV line) and the republican landscape reserve "Olmanskies swamps".

In this regard, the EIA report considers adverse effect on the environment of the proposed activity and provides a plan of events aimed at reducing and preventing adverse impact of the proposed activity on the environment and specially protected natural areas.

The environmental impact assessment procedure was subject to pre-project documentation for the facility "Construction of a power line with transformer substations to the border bridges" Mutvitsa "and" Khinichev "on the site of the Pinsk border", which made possible in advance (before the preparation of project documentation) to fully foresee a number of measures that contribute, among others, to the goals of sustainable development, in terms of rational use and rational forest management, as well as the conservation of biological diversity.

III. PROCEDURE UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ELEMENTS OF GOOD PRACTICE

Please describe, in more detail, using the subsections below, the procedural step(s) considered to represent good practice and then explain why that is.

1. **Notification** (art. 3): included the information about planned activity, including the information about possible transboundary effect, reasonable deadline for submission of reply and the required information in relation to EIA procedure
2. **Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation** (art. 4):

In addition to the description above regarding the preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation, please indicate the following:

- (a) What alternatives were assessed and presented in the environmental impact assessment documentation?
There are 4 alternatives of implementation of the planned activity, including "zero alternative" were presented at the EIA report.
 - (i) At what level of detail were the alternatives described? Proposed alternatives were presented enough detailed.
 - (ii) What methods and/or assessment grids were used for the selection of the most reasonable alternative? All the alternatives were evaluated based on the list of criteria (lengths of the constructed line, impact on specially protected natural areas and others).
- (b) Whether the following issues were covered in the environmental impact assessment documentation and, if so, how:
 - (i) Biodiversity Yes
 - (ii) Climate change
 - (iii) Circular economy
 - (iv) Sustainable Development Goal implementation Yes
 - (v) Smart and sustainable cities
 - (vi) Sustainable infrastructure Yes
 - (vii) Renewables
 - (viii) Other issues not listed above:

3. **Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation** (art. 5 (a)–(c)):

In the framework of consultations conducted by the Parties the principal decisions were achieved, about including to the EIA report the list of events that will help to reduce possible adverse transboundary environmental impact of the planned activity, and the best option for the alternative implementation of the proposed activity was chosen.

4. **Final decision** (art. 6): the final decision will be taken after development of project documentation and conduction of transboundary procedure.

5. **Post-project analysis** (art. 7, if applicable):

IV. LESSONS LEARNED AND ADVICE TO OTHER PARTIES:

1. Please indicate:

Challenges in carrying out the procedure, if any, and how they were tackled

Lessons learned and advice to other Parties:

If the information requested by affected Party is provided efficiently and to full extent it helps to conduct consultations in a constructive and effective way.

2. As relevant, please also refer to the contribution of the above application of environmental impact assessment procedure towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals¹ or climate objectives: see para 4 of the chapter “reference information”

¹ In 2017, the Meetings of the Parties acknowledged that the Convention and in particular the Protocol contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para. 7). Selected examples of Sustainable Development Goal targets that strategic environmental assessment could help to implement include the following (see informal document to the fifth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016):

- (a) Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);
- (b) Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);
- (c) Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);
- (d) Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4);
- (e) Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);
- (f) Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);
- (g) Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);
- (h) Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);
- (i) Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);
- (j) Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);
- (k) Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);
- (l) Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).

For more details, see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at http://staging2.unece.org.net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16_Sustainable_Development_Goal_Mapping.pdf.

**V. ANY OTHER INFORMATION NOT INCLUDED ABOVE
THAT YOU MAY WISH TO SHARE:**
