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|  |  | ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.11 October 2022 English only |

**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   
on Environmental Impact Assessment in   
a Transboundary Context serving as the   
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on   
Strategic Environmental Assessment

**Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment**

**and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Eleventh meeting**

Geneva, 19–21 December 2022

**Item 7 of the provisional agenda**

**Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties**

**Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties**

Note by the Bureau

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| *Summary*  The present note contains an initial schedule for the preparations of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 12–15 June 2023). It also presents an initial list of draft decisions and documents for the sessions. Lastly, it contains a Bureau proposal for the provisional programme for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.  The Working Group is expected to consider and comment the document. It is invited to:  (a) Note the schedule for the preparation of the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties;  (b) Agree on an initial list of draft decisions and documents to be prepared for consideration of the Meetings of the Parties; provide guidance on and offer support for their development in advance of its next meeting (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023) (– with the exception of the documents to be drafted by the Implementation Committee).  (c) Agree on the provisional programme for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and provide guidance for the preparation of a provisional annotated agenda for the sessions. |
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**I. Indicative schedule for the preparatory work**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Responsible** | **Deadline/Date** |
| **2022** |  |  |
| **Bureau** initiated the MOP preparations | Bureau and the secretariat | **9–10 June** |
| **Implementation Committee** (54th session) | Implementation Committee | **4–7 October** |
| **Circular letters on resources + ratifications** | Secretariat | November |
| **Working Group on EIA and SEA** (11th meeting) | All delegations | **19–21 December** |
| **2023** | | |
| **Implementation Committee** (55th session) | Implementation Committee | **31 January–3 February** |
| Initial information on pledged financial contributions for 2024–2026 | Parties + other delegations | By 15 February |
| **Bureau** Agreement on the draft MOP agenda and documents for Working Group’s consideration | Bureau | **22–23 February** |
| **Implementation Committee** (56th session)  Agreement on draft compliance decisions for info to WG12 (as informal docs) | Implementation Committee | **2–5 May** |
| Information on pledged financial contributions for 2024–2026 | Parties + other delegations | By 15 May |
| Input and speakers for the MOP high-level event & general segment’s panel | All delegations | By 15 May |
| Nominations for chairing the general and high-level segments | Parties | By 15 May |
| Initial nominations for officers to be elected for the treaty bodies 2024–2026 | Parties | By 15 May |
| **Working Group on EIA and SEA** (12th meeting) Agreement on the draft MOP agenda and documents; comments on draft compliance decisions. | Working Group | **13–15 June**  *(Official docs for editing 21 March; available in English 5 April)* |
| **Implementation Committee** (57thsession) Finalization of all draft MOP (compliance) decisions and documents | Implementation Committee | **5–8 September** |
| **Official draft MOP agenda and documents** (as finalized based on comments by WG12) | Secretariat and the Bureau (consulted electronically, as needed) | ***For editing by 19 September;  Available in English by 4 October*** |
| Mailing of MOP invitation letters | Secretariat | By mid-September |
| Applications for financial travel support | Delegations eligible for financial support | By 20 October |
| On-line registration | All delegations | By 30 October |
| Confirmed information on pledged financial contributions 2024–2026 | All Parties and other delegations | By 6 November  (5 weeks before the MOPs) |
| Confirmed information on officers to be elected for the treaty bodies | All Parties and other delegations | By 6 November |
| Comments to official documents | All delegations | By 21 November  (3 weeks before the MOPs) |
| Submission of credentials (full powers) to UNECE | All delegations | Copies to the secretariat by 28 November; original to be presented before opening of the MOP sessions |
| **Bureau meeting** | Bureau | Geneva, ½-1 day, 11 December 2023 |
| **Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol** | **MOP9 and MOP/MOP5** | **Geneva, 12–15 December 2023** |

**II. Indicative list of possible draft decisions to be considered by the MOPs**

| ***Title*** | ***MOP9*** | ***MOP/MOP5*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial arrangements for 2024–2026** | IX/1 | V/1 |
| **Adoption of the workplan for 2024–2026** | IX/2 | V/2 |
| **Cooperation in marine regions** | IX/3 | V/3 |
| ***Initial list of possible draft decisions on compliance with the Convention****–* ***(still subject to changes)*** |  |  |
| General issues of compliance with the Convention (+ in annex: proposed amendments to operating rules/structure and functions) | IX/4 |  |
| Compliance by Albania with its obligations under the Convention in respect of small hydropower plants on the Cijevna River | IX/4 a |  |
| Compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation | IX/4 b |  |
| Compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation | IX/4 c |  |
| Compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets | IX/4 d |  |
| Compliance by Belgium with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of the Tihange nuclear power plant | IX/4 e |  |
| Compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention regarding the construction of Buk Bijela hydropower plant on the Drina River | IX/4 f |  |
| Compliance by Bulgaria with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of the Kozloduy nuclear power plant | IX/4 g |  |
| Compliance by Czechia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of the Dukovany nuclear power plant | IX/4… |  |
| Compliance by France with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of 32 units of 8 nuclear power plants | IX/4… |  |
| Compliance by the Netherlands with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of the Borssele nuclear power plant | IX/4.. |  |
| Compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of several mining activities | IX/4… |  |
| Compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta | IX/4.. |  |
| Compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of extension of the lifetime of the Rivne nuclear power plant | IX/4.. |  |
| Compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the construction of a large tourism complex in Svydovets mountains | IX/4… |  |
| Reporting and review of implementation of the Convention | IX/5 |  |
| ***Initial list of possible draft decisions on compliance with the Protocol****–* ***(still subject to changes)*** |  |  |
| General issues of compliance with the Protocol |  | V/4 |
| Compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Protocol in respect of its energy sector development strategy |  | V/4 a |
| Reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol |  | V/5 |
| Assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment |  | V/6 |
| [Application of strategic environmental assessment to development cooperation (topic tbc by Italy) |  | V/7] |

**III. Indicative list of documents**

*(Document titles and their symbols are still subject to changes)*

**A. Official (pre-session) documents**

**1. Joint MOP9 and MOP/MOP5 documents**

1. **Provisional agenda**   
   ECE/MP.EIA/31 - ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/14
2. **Draft joint decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol**ECE/MP.EIA/2023/1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/1
3. **Report on the budget and financial arrangements 2021-2023**  
   ECE/MP.EIA/2023/2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/2
4. **Draft Geneva declaration**

ECE/MP.EIA/2023/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/3

1. **Report on the activities of the Implementation Committee**  
   ECE/MP.EIA/2023/4–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/4
2. **Summary report on technical assistance and capacity building activities**ECE/MP.EIA/2023/5–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/5
3. **Report on synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions**   
   ECE/MP.EIA/2023/6–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/6
4. **Draft reporting templates for the European Union for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol**

ECE/MP.EIA/2023/7 –ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/7

**2. MOP 9 documents**

1. **Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention**
2. **Seventh review of implementation of the Convention**

Decisions on compliance   
*(to be presented separately or compiled to some extent - for technical reasons)*

1. **Draft decision IX/4 on the general issues of compliance with the Convention + annex: Amendments of the operating rules/structure and functions**
2. **Draft decision IX/4a on compliance by Albania with its obligations under the Convention in respect of small hydropower plants on the Cijevna River**
3. **Draft decision IX/4b on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation**
4. **Draft decision IX/4c on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation**
5. **Draft decision IX/4d on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets**
6. **Draft decision IX/4e on compliance by Belgium with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of the Tihange nuclear power plant**
7. **Draft decision IX/4f on compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the construction of Buk Bijela hydropower plant on the Drina River**
8. **Draft decision IX/4g on compliance by Bulgaria with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of the Kozloduy nuclear power plant**
9. **Draft decision IX/4.. on compliance by Czechia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of the Dukovany nuclear power plant**
10. **Draft decision IX/4… on compliance by France with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of 32 units of 8 nuclear power plants**
11. **Draft decision IX/4.. on compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of several mining activities**
12. **Draft decision IX/4… on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta**
13. **Draft decision IX/4… on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of extension of the lifetime of the Rivne nuclear power plant**
14. **Draft decision IX/4.. on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the construction of a large tourism complex in Svydovets mountains**

**3. MOP/MOP 5 documents**

1. **Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol**
2. **Fourth review of implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**
3. **Draft decision V/ on the general issues of compliance with the Protocol**
4. **Draft decision V/…a on compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Protocol in respect of its energy sector development strategy**
5. **Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment**
6. **[Application of strategic environmental assessment to development cooperation (tbc)]**

**B. Indicative list of informal documents**

* **Informal notes on the agenda**
* **Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol**
* **Workplan implementation status**
* **Status of contributions to the trust fund**
* **Information on pledged contributions for the period 2024–2026**
* **Informal list of nominations**
* **Provisional schedule of meetings**
* **Information on the panel discussion/seminar on [….]**
* **Information on the high-level panel discussion on […]**

**IV. Initial draft programme of the MOP9 and MOP/MOP5 sessions**

| *Date and time* | *Item No.* | *Agenda item* |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| **General segment** |  |  |
| ***Tuesday, 12 December*** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–6 p.m. | 1 | Opening of the sessions |
|  | 2 (a)–(e) | Organizational matters |
|  | 3 | Outstanding issues |
|  | 3 (a)–(c) | Draft decisions |
|  | 3 (d) | Draft declaration |
|  | 3 (e) | Nomination of officers and tentative calendar of meetings |
| ***Wed., 13 December*** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | 3 | Outstanding issues (continued) |
| 3–6 p.m. | 4 | Panel discussion on one of the below topics:  (a) Smart and sustainable cities;  (b) Circular economy;  (c) Biodiversity;  (e) Energy transition;  (f) Promoting the application of strategic environmental assessment in development cooperation;  (g) Consideration of alternatives to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the environmental impact assessment documentation. |
| ***Thursday, 14 December*** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | 3 | Outstanding issues (continued, as needed) |
|  | 5 | Review of the workplan |
| 3–6 p.m. | 5 | Review of the workplan (continued, as needed) |
|  | 6 | Review of compliance, implementation and activities of the Implementation Committee |
| **High-level segment** |  |  |
| ***Friday, 15 December*** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | 7 | Opening ceremony for the high-level segment |
|  | 7 (a) | Election of officers for the high-level segment |
|  | 7 (b) | Introductory speeches |
|  | 7 (c) | Report on the general segment panel discussion |
|  | 8 | High-level panel discussion on one of the below topics:  (a) Smart and sustainable cities;  (b) Circular economy;  (c) Biodiversity;  (e) Energy transition;  (f) Promoting the application of strategic environmental assessment in development cooperation;  (g) Consideration of alternatives to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the environmental impact assessment documentation. |
| 3–6 p.m. | 9 | Statements by ministers and high-level representatives |
|  | 10 | Adoption of decisions |
|  | 10 (a) | Decisions to be taken jointly |
|  | 10 (b) | Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention |
|  | 10 (c) | Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol |
|  | 11 | Adoption of the declaration |
|  | 12 | Election of officers for the next intersessional period |
|  | 13 | Date and venue of the next meetings |
|  | 14 | Other business |
|  | 15 | Conclusion of the session |
|  | 15 (a) | Adoption of the outline report of the session |
|  | 15 (b) | Closing of the session |

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