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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

Fourth meeting
Bucharest, 19–21 May 2008
Items 2(d) and 8(g) of the provisional agenda

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

WORKPLAN

REVIEW OF THE WORK DONE BY THE WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

WORKPLAN

Draft decision IV/7 on adoption of the workplan up to the fifth meeting of the Parties

Draft decision proposed by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment

The following draft decision, which was discussed and revised by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment at its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 21–23 November 2007), is recommended for finalization and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling Article 11, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, stipulating that additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention shall be undertaken,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to meet fully their legal obligations arising under the Convention,

Recognizing also that Parties should take action to maximize the effectiveness of their application of the Convention so that the best possible practical results are achieved,

Recognizing with appreciation the valuable work carried out under the workplan adopted at the third meeting of the Parties (decision III/9), particularly:

- (a) The steps taken by Parties and non-Parties to ensure their environmental impact assessment systems are consistent with the provisions of the Convention and to report accordingly,
- (b) The valuable guidance on transboundary environmental impact assessment in Central Asia prepared by the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with assistance from the Government of Switzerland,
- (c) The subregional workshops organized by the Governments of Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Italy, [Morocco,] Serbia, Sweden and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- (d) The workshops for the exchange of good practices organized by the Governments of Bulgaria, Switzerland and Tajikistan, in cooperation with Kyrgyzstan,
- (e) The workshops for building capacity in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia organized by the Governments of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan [and Moldova], with assistance from the Government of Switzerland,

Noting with satisfaction that the activities in the workplan adopted at the third meeting of the Parties were approximately 85 per cent completed: specifically, close to 100 per cent of priority 1 activities were completed, approximately 85 per cent of priority 2 activities were completed, and approximately 60 per cent of priority 3 activities were completed,

1. *Adopts* the workplan for the period up to its fifth meeting, as annexed to this decision, including activities to assist the entry into force of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment;
2. *Suggests* that lead countries that carry out the relevant activities should consult each other in order to benefit from each other's experience and to avoid unnecessary overlap;
3. *Calls on* the Parties, and also invites non-Parties, to arrange, host and participate actively in seminars, workshops and meetings, to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

4. *Invites* every relevant body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, to participate actively in the activities included in the workplan;

5. *Welcomes* the Belgrade Initiative on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/18), of which the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” took note with interest.

Annex

**WORKPLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL
FOR THE PERIOD UP TO THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Activity	Objectives	Method of work (sub-activities)	Organizational arrangements	Expected outcome	Time schedule	Budget
Compliance with and implementation of the Convention	Enhance the implementation of and compliance with the Convention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration by the Implementation Committee of received compliance submissions 2. Report on the Committee's activities to the fifth meeting of the Parties 3. If necessary, review of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules 4. Examination of the outcome of the second review of implementation 5. Modification of the questionnaire for the report on implementation 6. Consideration by the Committee of received compliance submissions 7. Report on the Committee's activities to the fifth meeting of the Parties 	<p>1–5. Undertaken by the Implementation Committee (six meetings in 2008–2011), with the support of the secretariat.</p> <p>6–7. Carried out by the secretariat.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendations on compliance submissions 2. Reports of the Committee meetings and a synthesis report to fifth meeting of the Parties 3. Possible revision of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules 4. Summary on compliance issues from the second review of implementation 5–6. Modified questionnaire 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1–3. 2008–2011, presented to fifth meeting of the Parties 4. By the end of 2008 5. Presentation of draft modified questionnaire to Working Group by the end of 2009 6. Issue of questionnaire, early 2010. Return of questionnaires by mid-2010 7. Presentation of draft review to Working Group at the end of 2010 and to fifth meeting of the Parties in 2011 	<p>Most items included in Implementation Committee and secretariat costs. However:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requires budget for translation of submissions: US\$ 10,000. 7. Requires an external consultant, budget: \$ 20,000.

Activity	Objectives	Method of work (sub-activities)	Organizational arrangements	Expected outcome	Time schedule	Budget
Compliance with and implementation of the Convention (continued)		<p>8. If necessary, review of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules</p> <p>9. Examination of the outcome of the second review of implementation</p> <p>10. Modification of the questionnaire for the report on implementation</p> <p>11. Distribution of the questionnaire to the Parties to the Convention for them to complete and return</p> <p>12. Preparation of a draft review of implementation</p> <p>13. Country-specific performance reviews and technical assistance in drafting legislation, in agreement with Parties wishing to strengthen their implementation of and compliance with the Convention. Review would include a period in-country examining legislation, procedures and practice (case study)</p>	<p>8. Undertaken by external consultant(s) under supervision of members of the Committee, with support of the secretariat. One performance review would be in support of Ukraine. Technical assistance in drafting legislation would be provided to Armenia.</p>	<p>7. Draft third review of implementation for consideration by Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and fourth meeting of the Parties.</p> <p>8. Recommendations to the country on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements. Draft legislation for Armenia.</p>	<p>8. As decided by the Committee. Review in Ukraine to be completed by mid-2009. Technical assistance to Armenia to be completed by mid-2009.</p>	<p>8. \$ 90,000 (approx. \$ 30,000 per review), plus in-kind contributions from Parties providing experts and from target country providing interpretation, translation, etc.</p>

Activity	Objectives	Method of work (sub-activities)	Organizational arrangements	Expected outcome	Time schedule	Budget
Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the UNECE region	Improved and developed application of the Convention within subregions			For each event: Possible evaluation of relevant Convention guidance	<i>[To be specified by lead countries]</i>	Participants cover their own travel and accommodation costs, while host countries cover organizational and venue costs in kind (approx. \$20,000 per workshop). Donor in-kind (e.g. project) funding might be applicable.
	Promotion of subregional cooperation	Eastern Europe subregion Capacity-building workshops/pilot projects? (Convention/Protocol)	Lead country: [Belarus] with support from the secretariat	
	Increased awareness and professional skills of officials and of the public in relation to trans-boundary EIA and to the application of the Convention	Central Asia subregion (a) Holding of meetings, including preparation of multilateral agreement (b) Capacity-building workshops/pilot projects? (Convention/Protocol)	(a) Lead countries: ... (b) Lead countries: ... with support from the secretariat	(a) Draft multilateral agreement (b)	
		Caucasus subregion (a) Holding of meetings, including preparation of bilateral or multilateral agreement (b) Capacity-building workshops and pilot project(s) (Convention/Protocol)	(a) Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (b) Lead country: ... with support from the secretariat	(a) Draft bilateral or multilateral agreement (b)	

Activity	Objectives	Method of work (sub-activities)	Organizational arrangements	Expected outcome	Time schedule	Budget
Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the UNECE region (continued)		Black Sea subregion ...	Lead country:	
		South-Eastern Europe subregion Holding meetings, including on the relationship between EIA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Lead country: Bulgaria, ...	Short awareness-raising paper on the topic	Autumn 2008	
		Mediterranean subregion ...	Lead country:	
		Baltic Sea subregion Holding two meetings, including on climate change in EIA and SEA, biodiversity, cumulative impacts, marine ecosystems, marine protected areas, marine spatial planning, transboundary EIAs, public participation, post-project analysis, access to justice, application of transboundary SEA	Lead countries: [Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, Germany]	[Three-page awareness paper on climate change in EIA and SEA, reports from meetings]	Early 2009, 2010	

Activity	Objectives	Method of work (sub-activities)	Organizational arrangements	Expected outcome	Time schedule	Budget
Exchange of good practices	<p>Shared knowledge and experience in appropriate legislation for implementation of the Convention, leading to better national legislation and application</p> <p>Improved implementation and application of the Convention by learning from Parties' experiences</p>	<p>One-day seminars, possibly back-to-back with other meetings under the Convention, on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislation and procedures for implementation of the Convention 2. The reported recommendations of the Implementation Committee, sharing knowledge and experience, and building on existing guidance, with a focus on notification and EIA documentation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead country: ... 2. Lead country: ... <p>1–2. With support of the Implementation Committee and the secretariat</p>	<p>Seminar reports</p> <p>Possible evaluation of relevant Convention guidance</p> <p>1. Translated legislation implementing the Convention, reflecting good practices in different subregions of UNECE</p>	2009–2010	<p>\$ 20,000 for informal translations</p> <p>[Lead country to specify further]</p>

Activity	Objectives	Method of work (sub-activities)	Organizational arrangements	Expected outcome	Time schedule	Budget
Exchange of good practices (continued)		Half-day seminars, back-to-back with meetings of the Working Group, on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Projects with long-range transboundary impacts / risk of accidents 4. Climate change in EIA and SEA 5. International Association for Impact Assessment study on the effectiveness of environmental assessment 6. Biodiversity [linked with climate change] 7. Desertification [linked with climate change] 8. Other topics proposed by lead countries <i>[Selection based on willingness of lead countries too]</i>	3–8. Lead countries: ... 4. With support from United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (secretariat)	3–8. One-page summary from each seminar, posted on the website and presented to the next meetings of the Parties		

Activity	Objectives	Method of work (sub-activities)	Organizational arrangements	Expected outcome	Time schedule	Budget
Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA	<p>Early ratification and entry into force</p> <p>Full legal implementation and practical application of the Protocol</p> <p>Greater awareness and use of the Resource Manual to support application of the Protocol</p> <p>Increased awareness and professional skills of officials and of the public in relation to SEA and to the application of the Protocol</p>	<p>1. National awareness workshops, training using the Resource Manual and pilot projects to provide assistance to countries in ratification</p> <p>2. Maintenance of the Manual</p> <p>3. Coordination with the Belgrade SEA Initiative</p>	<p>1. Lead countries: [including a Central Asian country] With support of outside experts</p> <p>2. Secretariat</p> <p>3. Secretariat in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme and Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe</p>	<p>Ratifications</p> <p>Workshop and training reports</p>		
