|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.1  English only 15 November 2022 |

**Economic Commission for Europe**

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

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

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

**Eleventh meeting**

Geneva, 19–21 December 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda**

Informal notes on the agenda

Note by the secretariat

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| This paper presents an overview of agenda items (in chronological order), associated documentation (official, informal “INF” and other) and actions that the delegates are invited to take.  Timing of the items is indicative and subject to changes depending on the deliberations during the meeting.  The delegations are invited to send their **statements and/ or comments** to the documents to the secretariat (eia.conv@un.org; tea.aulavuo@un.org) three weeks in advance of the meeting, i.e. **by 28 November 2022**  Meeting documentation is available on a dedicated web page for the meeting**:** [unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-eia-and-sea-espoo-convention-11th-meeting](https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-eia-and-sea-espoo-convention-11th-meeting)  For information on practical matters, please see the above web page: and <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates> and/or contact the secretariat by email (maricar.delacruz@un.org; eia.conv@un.org) for assistance. |
|  |

| *Day* | *Time* | *Agenda item* | *Documents* | *Actions* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday, 19 December**  **Monday, 19 December**  **Monday, 19 December**  **Monday, 19 December**  **Monday, 19 December**  **Tuesday, 20 December**  **Tuesday, 20 December** | 10–10.15 | **1. Adoption of the agenda** | Provisional agenda  (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/1)  (These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.1)  *Delegates may also wish to refer to:*  Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 9–10 June 2022  Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on its eight session and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on its fourth session, and the decisions taken ECE/MP.EIA/30−ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13; and Add.1–3 | The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting. |
| 10.15–11 | **2. Status of ratification** | Status of ratification (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.2) | As requested by the MOPs, all concerned delegations will be invited to report on progress towards ratification of the Convention and/or its two amendments and/or the Protocol, including:   * The 5 States that were Parties to the Convention at the time of adoption of the first amendment (27 February 2001): **Armenia, Belgium, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the UK** * For the second (2004) amendment: **Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the UK.** * Signatories of the Protocol (**Belgium, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland** and **the UK**) and other delegations, especially from beneficiary countries of technical assistance (**Azerbaijan, Belarus and Central Asian Republics)** * **Georgia** regarding the Convention   **Romania**, as the depositary of the Bucharest Agreement, is invited to report on the status of the Agreement and its Signatory States **(Croatia and Greece)** are invited report on their preparations to ratify the Agreement, and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** on its plans to accede thereto.   * The **Working Group** is expected to assess the progress made and to consider echoing and following up on the recommendation of the Bureau that the concerned Parties be invited to complete their pending ratifications of at least the first amendment, by the next sessions of the MOPs (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023). |
| 11-13 | **3. Financial arrangements** | Status of the trust fund (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.3)  Bureau’s proposals on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.4)  Consideration of in-kind contributions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.5) | The secretariat will provide an update on the status of the Convention’s and Protocol’s trust fund. It will also report on its resource constraints and their impact on the workplan implementation and the organization of meetings.  **The Chair and/or the Bureau Chair** will report on the Bureau’s calls on Parties and the Executive Secretary of ECE to increase the secretariat’s resources (high-level letters to all Parties to be sent out shortly)  **The Working Group** will be invited to:   * Consider the resource situation * Assess the implementation and effectiveness thus far of decision VIII/1–IV/1 para. 1 (that all Parties had “a duty to take part in the sharing of the costs”). * Note which Parties have not contributed to the trust fund and agree on actions to be taken to enforce the decision of the Meetings of the Parties.   **The Chair** will report on Bureau’s proposals to improve the insufficiency, uneven distribution and unpredictability of contributions  **The Working Group** is expected to consider inviting the national focal points to mobilize further funding for the core secretariat functions (and/or to engage in considerably reducing demands for workplan activities and services in the period 2024–2026)  **The Working Group** is invited to consider the Bureau’s document on the development of a system “to recognize in-kind contributions in a proper manner within the financial scheme”, and to provide the necessary clarifications and guidance for the finalization of the document by the Bureau. |
| 15-16.30  15-16.30 | **4. Compliance and implementation**  **4. Compliance and implementation**  **(cont’d)** | Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6)  Provisional agenda for the 55th session (31 January–3 February 2023) (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2023/1)  Report of the Implementation Committee on its 54th session (Geneva, 4–7 October 2022) (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/7)  Report of the Implementation Committee on its 53rd session (Geneva, 10 - 13 May 2022) (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/4)  Report of the Implementation Committee on its 52nd session (Geneva (online), 29 - 31 March 2022, ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/2) | * **The Working Group** is invited to consider progress with compliance- and implementation-related activities in the workplan for 2021–2023 since its last meeting. * The **Chair of the Implementation Committee** will report on the Committee’s 52nd, 53rd and 54th sessions; the main objectives for the 55th session; and the Committee’s plans for the preparatory work for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, in December 2023. * The **Working Group** will be invited to comment and take note of the report. |
| Draft seventh review of the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/3)  Draft fourth review of implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/4)  Suggested improvements to the questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.9)  Additional information on Parties’ practical application of the Convention 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.7)  Additional information on Parties’ practical application of the Protocol 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.8) | * The **Working Group** is invited to consider the draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2019-2021, to comment on the outcomes of the reporting round, and to reach an agreement on the main findings of the draft reports. * **Delegations** are expected to provide the secretariat with any comments or corrections to the drafts concerning their own countries (including in writing **by 28 November 2022**). * The **Working Group** is invited to consider any proposals and provide guidance for improving the reporting, the questionnaires and the review reports for the next reporting round 2022–2024. * **The Working Group** is invited to consider and comment the information provided by Parties on their practical application of the Convention and the Protocol; identify the most relevant of them, and to propose ways to present and to further substantiate them with a view to maximizing the usefulness of the information for Parties and future Parties. |
| Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6) | Representatives of **Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** will be invited to report on progress in establishing compliant legislation to implement the Convention and the Protocol, and, as appropriate, in ratifying or acceding to the treaties further to technical advice received.  The delegations of **Ukraine and Romania** are invited to report on progress in finalizing a draft bilateral agreement.  **The secretariat** will be invited to complement the information, as needed. |
| 16.30–18  16.30-18 | **5. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol**  **(a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building**  **5 (a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building (*cont’d*)** | Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6)  Draft assessment report on identification of synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.10)  See: the report on and presentations made at [the 12th Baltic Sea subregional meeting (Warsaw, 14–15 June 2022)](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/368973)  See: the report on and presentations made at [the 2nd subregional workshop on the practical application of SEA and transboundary EIA for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Online, 29 June 2022),](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/367411) - (including on health in SEA) | **The secretariat and its consultant(s)** will present progress in implementing activities funded by Italy in marine regions:   1. A draft assessment report on identifying synergies and possible future cooperation activities in marine regions; 2. The second joint technical meeting: (Geneva (online), 16 June 2022); 3. Collection of good practice case studies   **The Working Group** will be invited to comment on the draft assessment report and provide advice on its further development, focusing in particular on the proposed possible cooperation activities in 2024–2026 and beyond (in section IV), indicating priorities, proposing further activities and volunteering to contribute to and/or fund their implementation.  **Delegations of Estonia, Poland and Slovenia** may wish to briefly (5 min) present their good practice case studies on the application of the Convention and the Protocol in marine regions.  **Delegations** will be invited to indicate further relevant experience of their countries that could be included in the collection of case studies with drafting support from the consultants. |
| **A representative of Poland** will be invited to report on the 12th Baltic Sea subregional meeting (Warsaw, 14–15 June 2022)  **The Working Group** may wish to note and comment the information |
| **The secretariat** will report on the 2nd subregional workshop on the practical application of SEA and transboundary EIA for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Online, 29 June 2022), funded by EU4Environment programme. **The concerned countries** may wish to comment or complement the information.  **The Working Group** may wish to note and comment the information |
| 10-10.30 | **5 (b) Exchange of good practice** | Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6) | **Countries or organizations** will be invited to volunteer to organize, in total, up to three thematic workshops/seminars during the remainder of the intersessional period, i.e. at the Working Group’s meeting in June 2023 and the MOP sessions in 2023 for the exchange of good practices on the selected topics in the workplan:   * Smart and sustainable cities; Circular economy; Biodiversity; Energy transition; [Promoting the application of SEA in development cooperation (the topic initially proposed by Italy was later withdrawn)]; Consideration of alternatives to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the EIA documentation (EU4Environment funding not available).   **The Chair/Bureau Chair** will report on the Bureau’s related recommendations for the priority themes for MOP sessions:   * **Energy transition, combined with circular economy**, covering elements such as: renewable energy, transboundary cooperation, small modular reactors and mineral resource extraction; or * **Green financing (**links between environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment; “Do No Significant Harm” principle/taxonomies; phasing out of harmful subsidies).   **The Working Group** is invited to:   * Agree on a thematic event for the Working Group’s next meeting (13–15 June 2023) and identify volunteering countries/organizations and funding for its organization. * Initially agree on the events to be organized during the next sessions of the MOPs; provide guidance on and identify resources for the organization of the events. |
| **Delegations** are invited to put forward proposals for the preparation of **fact sheets** on the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol, to be presented during the meetings of the Working Group and posted on the ECE website. |
| Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6) | **Delegations** may wish to propose funding for an online database of Parties’ good practice or for the collection and compilation of good practice, subject to the identification of additional resources and funding for consultants. |
| **Tuesday, 20 December** | 10.30–12.30 | **5 (c)** **Capacity-building** | Revised draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.13) | **The Working Group** is expected to assess the progress in and provide guidance for the finalization the draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment.  **The delegations** are invited to provide possible textual revisions to the Bureau’s informal document **by 28 November 2022** for the Working Group to consider at its meeting.  **The Working Group** is expected to agree on a revised draft document and on the steps ahead for its finalization at its next meeting, prior to its submission to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for approval/endorsement. |
| **Tuesday, 20 December** | 10.30–12.30 | **5 (c)** **Capacity-building  *(cont’d)*** | Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6)  For more information, see: <https://unece.org/environment-policyenvironmental-assessment/eu4environment>  For more information, see: <https://unece.org/project-strengthening-national-and-regional-capacities-and-cooperation-strategic-environmental> | **The secretariat and delegations** from the concerned countries will be invited to report on capacity-building activities, funded through EU4Environment to promote the practical application of the Protocol and the Convention:  (a) Pilot projects (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine);  (b) Training workshops on treaty application (a second workshop on the Convention’s implementation for Ukraine in 2022 (to be confirmed));  (c) National awareness-raising events (Azerbaijan in 2022 (to be confirmed));  (d) National awareness-raising materials (Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova);  (e) National issue- or sector-specific guidelines (Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine);  (f) A model database on strategic environmental assessment;  (g) Translating the video on the application of the Convention (all six national language versions completed: see <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment>) |
| **The delegations from the countries concerned, a representative of the OSCE and/or the secretariat** will report on any follow-up activities to the capacity-building activities carried out in Central Asia, in particular under the joint ECE/Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe project (2019–2021) |
| **The Working Group** is expected to take note of the information and, as relevant, provide advice for the implementation or follow-up of the capacity-building activities. |
| **Tuesday, 20 December** | 12.30–13 | **6. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities** | Informal note on “[Procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation due to extraordinary circumstances](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Note_on_procedural_issues_MOP8-MOPMOP4_FINAL_by_Bureau_revNov2020.pdf)” of November 2020 | **The Chair/Bureau Chair** will report on its conclusion not to revisit the 2020 informal note on “procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation due to extraordinary circumstances”;  **The Working Group** is invited to note and comment the Bureau’s conclusion. |
| **Tuesday, 20 December** | 15–18 | **7. Preparations for MOP9 and MOP/MOP5**  **7 (a) Practical arrangements** |  | **The secretariat** will report on the schedule for the preparations of MOP9 and MOP/MOP5 (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023). **Any delegations** wishing to host the sessions are invited to indicate their commitment to do so. (In the absence of a firm commitment from a host country by the present (eleventh) meeting of the Working Group, the sessions will be held in Geneva.) |
| **Tuesday, 20 December**  **Tuesday, 20 December** | 15–18  15–18 | **7 (b) List of draft documents and decisions**  **7 (c) Provisional programme**  **7 (d) Possible activities for the draft workplan for 2024–2026**  **7 (e) Chairs of the sessions**  **7 (f) Officers for the next intersessional period** | **The Working Group** is invited to agree on an initial list of draft decisions and documents to be prepared for the 2023 MOP sessions and provide guidance on their development for the Working Group to consider at its next meeting (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023) prior to their submission to the MOPs. (The Bureau will meet on 22–23 February 2023 to agree on initial draft documents).  It may wish to contribute to the preparation of draft documents and decisions by establishing a drafting group of volunteering Parties that would consult with the Bureau and the secretariat, except for the documents to be drafted by the Implementation Committee.  **The Working Group** will be invited to agree on the main messages or key focus areas of a draft declaration to be prepared, considering the Bureau’s suggestions (importance of the Convention and the Protocol as tools to boost energy transition and to ensure circular economy, low carbon economy and climate neutrality).  **Delegations** are invited to provide their proposals in writing by 28 November 2022. |
|  | **The Working Group** is expected to agree on the provisional programme for the MOP sessions and provide guidance for the preparation of a provisional annotated agenda.  **Delegations are invited** to make proposals for attracting high-level participation to the next sessions of the MOPs and for enriching the programme of the sessions. Considering the Bureau’s recommendations from the Bureau, the Working Group is invited to initially agree on topics for a thematic seminar and/or a panel, to be organized during the sessions’ general and/or high-level segment(s) (see item 5(b) above). Aside from proposing to lead the organization of the events, delegations are expected to suggest speakers and moderators and to specify the contents of the thematic events**.** |
| Workplan for 2021–2022 (Decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex I)  [Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol (decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex)](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Decision_VIII-3_IV-3_Long-term_strategy_action_plan_Convention_Protocol.pdf)  Draft assessment report on identification of synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.10)  Draft seventh review of the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/3)  Draft fourth review of implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/4)  A list of vacancies (chairs and members) in the treaty bodies for 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.12) | **Delegations** will be invited to put forward proposals for workplan elements for the next intersessional period (2024–2026), considering the previous workplan for 2021–2023, as well as the priority objectives identified in the long-term strategy, the proposed possible future cooperation activities in marine regions, any weaknesses or shortcomings identified in the draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, requests for capacity-building activities, as well as any suggestions from the Implementation Committee and the Bureau.  **The Working Group** is expected to comment on the proposals and (recalling its discussions under item 3 on financial arrangements) to initially ensure that, for each activity in the workplan, financial and staffing resource requirements are specified, and that a corresponding lead country or organization and a source of funding are identified. **Delegations** will be invited to consider their possibilities for leading or sponsoring activities, and for hosting capacity-building or subregional cooperation events within the UNECE region or beyond**. The Working Group** is also invited to consider which activities could be placed on a waiting list in the absence of funding at the current time.  **The Working Group** is expected to initially discuss the chairing of the general and high-level segments of the 2023 MOP sessions and put forward proposals. It is invited to note that, at its meeting in June 2022, the Bureau welcomed the availability of the current Bureau for the Convention matters, representing Greece, to chair the relevant parts of the general segment of the sessions, as needed. A Chair for the Protocol matters would need to be nominated and elected, unless Greece ratifies the Protocol in advance of the next sessions.  **The Chair** will ask delegations to come forward with nominations for officers to be elected for the next intersessional period, that is, a Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group; a Chair and members of the Bureau; and four permanent and four alternate members of the Implementation Committee. (Plus possible additional new Committee members depending on whether the nominated Committee members are Parties to the Protocol).  **The Working Group** is invited to comment on the outcomes of the Bureau’s related deliberations:  (a) Suggested to identify Parties that have never or not recently been represented in the treaty bodies  (b) Recommended that, if required, and on an exceptional basis, travel expenses of officers from such countries be funded from the trust fund, although not formally eligible for financial support;  (c) Welcomed the initial expression of interest by the current Chairs of the Bureau, the Implementation Committee and the Working Group to put forward their candidacy for continuing their respective mandates in the next period;  (d) Agreed that Parties should be mindful of possible conflicts of interest when electing members to the Implementation Committee. |
| **Wednesday, 21 December** | 10–10.30 a.m. | **8.** **Related events and international processes** | * [2022 UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](https://regionalforum.unece.org/events/regional-forum-2022)  <https://regionalforum.unece.org/> * [The Ninth "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference](https://unece.org/nicosia-conference)  <https://unece.org/nicosia-conference> * [The Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development](https://unece.org/unece-and-sdgs/working-group-transforming-extractive-industries-sustainable-development) https://unece.org/unece-and-sdgs/working-group-transforming-extractive-industries-sustainable-development | The **secretariat** will report on events of relevance to the Convention and its Protocol, including:  (a) Relevant outcomes of the meeting of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for UNECE Region (Geneva, 6–7 April 2022), and preparations for the 2023 Regional Forum (Geneva, 29–30 March 2023)  (b) Relevant outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022);  (c) The Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations regional commissions, including ECE.  **Delegations** will be invited to note and comment on the information provided. |
| **Wednesday 21 December** | 10.30–11 a.m. | **9. Other business** | (*none*) | Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting. |
| 11 a.m.–  1 p.m. | **10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting** |  | The **Working Group** is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting. |