

		ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.5 20 April 2023 English only
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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

Twelfth meeting

Geneva, 13–15 June 2023

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties

Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Note by the Bureau

Summary

This document contains an initial, unedited, version of the provisional annotated agenda for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023) as agreed by the Bureau at its last meeting (Geneva, 22–23 February 2023). The numbering of the draft decisions and documents may be subject to changes.

The provisional agenda foresees a thematic event at the high-level segment focusing on the role of the Convention and the Protocol in promoting energy transition and circular economy, and covering also green financing, as a key component of these two topics. The Bureau decided not to include in the agenda a separate general segment thematic event on green financing, since no lead country or organization had volunteered to organize such an event, but also with a view to shortening the Meetings of the Parties' sessions by half-a-day. As a result, the sessions are scheduled to close at 1 p.m. – instead of 6 p.m. – on Friday, 15 December 2023, with the high-level segment starting in the afternoon of the day before, i.e. on Thursday, 14 December 2023 at 3 p.m.

The Working Group is expected to consider and agree on the provisional annotated agenda for the Meetings of the Parties' sessions.

Information and proposals regarding the preparations for the high-level event on energy transition, circular economy and green financing are available for consideration of the Working Group in a separate document (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.6)



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

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

Ninth session

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

Fifth session

Geneva, 12–15 December 2023

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 12 December 2023***

* Delegates attending the sessions are requested to register online by no later than [...] through the following link: [https://...]. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at... (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by email (maricar.delacruz@un.org; eia.conv@un.org) or telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

I. Provisional agenda

General segment

1. Opening of the sessions.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the Chair of the general segment;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Report on credentials;
 - (d) Status of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol.
3. Outstanding issues:
 - (a) Draft joint decisions:
 - (i) Draft decision on financial arrangements;
 - (ii) Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan;
 - (iii) Draft decision on the cooperation in marine regions.
 - (iv) Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol
 - (b) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention:
 - (i) Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention;
 - (ii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention
 - (c) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
 - (i) Draft decision on the review of compliance with the Protocol;
 - (ii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol;
 - (iii) Draft decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment
 - (d) Draft Geneva declaration;
 - (e) Nomination of officers for the next intersessional period;
 - (f) Tentative calendar of meetings.
4. Review of the workplan:
 - (a) Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol;
 - (b) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
 - (c) Exchange of good practices;
 - (d) Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol and the Convention.

High-level segment

5. Opening ceremony for the high-level segment:
 - (a) Election of the officers for the high-level segment;

- (b) Introductory speeches;
- 6. High-level event on the contribution of the Convention and the Protocol to energy transition, circular economy and green financing.
- 7. Statements by ministers and high-level representatives.
- 8. Adoption of decisions:
 - (a) Decisions to be taken jointly;
 - (b) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention;
 - (c) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
- 9. Adoption of the declaration.
- 10. Election of officers for the next intersessional period.
- 11. Date and venue of the next meetings.
- 12. Other business.
- 13. Conclusion of the session:
 - (a) Adoption of the outline report of the session;
 - (b) Closing of the session.

II. Proposed organization of the sessions: overview

1. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol) will meet in conjunction in a single meeting room within a sessional period from 12 to 15 December 2023:
 - (a) The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention for its ninth session;
 - (b) The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for its fifth session.
2. Delegates will be invited to be present throughout the sessional period.
3. After the opening of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the Meetings of the Parties will be invited to elect their chair[s] for the general segment.
4. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in joint and individual meetings, in sequence, until the high-level segment is convened.
5. The high-level segment will open at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 14 December, and continue the next day, on Friday, 15 December until 1 p.m. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in joint and individual meetings, in sequence, including for the adoption of decisions and a declaration, and for the holding of a panel discussion. Ministers and other heads of delegation will be invited to deliver statements to a joint meeting of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
6. All meeting documentation and practical information will be made available on a web page for the meeting on the Convention's and the Protocol's website.¹

¹ See <https://unece.org/info/events/event/364363>.

III. Annotations to the provisional agenda

General segment

1. Opening of the sessions

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 10–10.15

7. The ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be opened by [the Chair of the Bureau][the Chairs of the Bureau for the Convention and the Protocol matters, respectively].

2. Organizational matters

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 10.15–11

(a) Election of the Chair of the general segment

8. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to elect the Chair[s] of the general segment.

9. The Meetings of the Parties will then convene in a joint meeting to address the organizational matters set out below.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

10. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to adopt the agenda contained in the present document. The provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat, in agreement with the Bureau and the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023).

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/31–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/14)

Informal document

Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.1)

(c) Report on credentials

11. According to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex I), which applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Meeting of the Parties to Protocol, the credentials of representatives of Parties, and the names of alternate representatives and advisers, are to be submitted to the secretariat if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation must also be submitted to the secretariat. The credentials should be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the minister of foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Only Parties with valid credentials will be able to participate in the adoption of a decision or declaration. Parties are also invited to send the secretariat a copy of the credentials two weeks prior to the session, that is to say, by 28 November 2023.

12. The Chair will examine the credentials and report on them to the Meetings of the Parties (see rule 17 of the rules of procedure). The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to

take note of the report on credentials of the representatives of Parties attending the Meetings of the Parties. Representatives may participate provisionally, pending this action.

(d) Status of the Convention and its amendments and the Protocol

13. The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification of the Convention, its two amendments and the Protocol since the eighth session of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol (Vilnius, 8–11 December 2020).

14. The following delegations are expected to report on their completion by the present sessions of the pending ratifications of the two amendments to Convention and of the Protocol, or, failing that, announce their firm commitment, with clear timelines, for doing so as soon as possible in the next intersessional period:

(a) [Armenia, Belgium, North Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland] of the 2001 amendment to the Convention, to allow for the global opening of the Convention;

(b) [Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland] of the 2004 amendment to the Convention, to ensure unified application of the Convention by all its Parties;

(c) [Belgium, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland] of the Protocol, as signatory States to that instrument.

15. Other delegations will also be invited to report on their preparations for ratifications or accessions. In particular, the Chair will invite beneficiary countries of technical assistance and capacity-building in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to report on steps taken to accede to the Convention and/or the Protocol, as relevant.

16. Lastly, Romania, as the depository of the Multilateral Agreement among the Countries of South-Eastern Europe for Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Bucharest Agreement), will be expected to report on the status thereof. The signatory State[s Croatia and Greece] will be invited to report on their plans to ratify the Bucharest Agreement, and Bosnia and Herzegovina on its plans to accede thereto.

Documentation

Informal document

Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.2)

3. Outstanding issues

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.; Wednesday, 13 December, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.; and Thursday, 14 December, 10 a.m.–noon.

17. The Meetings of the Parties, convened in joint or individual meetings, are expected to review all draft decisions and related documents set out below. The draft documents were prepared taking into account comments made and decisions taken at the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023), and, as required, in consultation with the Bureau. The Meetings of the Parties are invited to discuss and agree on any outstanding issues in the

draft documents with a view to finalizing them and putting them forward for adoption in the high-level segment (under items 8 and 9 below).

(a) Draft joint decisions

(i) Draft decision on financial arrangements

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

18. The secretariat will present its draft report on the budget and financial arrangements in the period since the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Vilnius, 8–11 December 2020), as prepared in agreement with the Bureau.

19. The secretariat will also summarize information on the contributions that Parties have pledged to the budget for the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2024–2026. The Working Group will be informed about the additional funding that Parties mobilized and committed as a response to the call to them to remedy the lack of secretariat resources for servicing the intergovernmental work under the Convention and the Protocol. Any delegation that would not yet have confirmed their pledges to the secretariat is invited to do so ahead of the present sessions, by 6 November 2023, to allow the information on pledges to be compiled and presented at the sessions.

20. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to review and finalize draft decision IX/1–V/1 on financial arrangements. They are invited to keep their deliberations and the information on the Parties' pledged contributions in mind when discussing the workplan under item 3 (a) (ii) below with a view to ensuring that the workplan to be adopted matches the resources available for its implementation.

Documentation

Draft joint decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/1– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/1)

Report on the budget and financial arrangements 2021–2023 (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/2)

Informal documents

Status of contributions to the trust fund (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.3)

Information on pledged contributions for the period 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.4)

(ii) Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 12.30–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

21. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to review the draft workplan for the period 2024–2026. The Meetings of the Parties are expected to finalize the workplan, making sure that for each sub-activity full information is provided on the entities responsible for the implementation, expected outcome and financial and staffing resource requirements. If not done before, delegations will be invited to confirm their possibilities for leading and/or sponsoring activities and hosting events by submitting information to the secretariat by 6 November.

22. Considering the information on contributions for the next intersessional period pledged by Parties, the Meetings of the Parties are expected to ensure that the workplan matches the financial and staffing or in-kind resources available for its implementation.

[They will also be invited to review the activities with no confirmed funding listed in a waiting list in annex III to the draft workplan].

23. The Meetings of the Parties are then expected to discuss and finalize draft decision IX/2–V/2 on the adoption of the workplan.

Documentation

Draft joint decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/1– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/1)

Informal documents

Information on pledged contributions for the period 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.4)

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.5)

(iii) Draft decision on the cooperation in marine regions

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 4–4.30 p.m.

24. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to discuss and agree on any outstanding issues in the draft report on synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions. They are also invited to review and agree on the draft decision IX/3–V/3 on the cooperation in marine regions.

Documentation

Draft joint decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/1– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/1)

Report on synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/3)

Informal documents

[...]

(iv) Draft decisions on compliance with the Convention and the Protocol

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 4.30–5 p.m.

25. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present draft decisions on: compliance by Albania with its obligations under the Convention and the Protocol in respect of small hydropower plants on the Cijevna River (IX/4 a–V/4 a) and on compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention and the Protocol regarding the construction of Buk Bijela hydropower plant on the Drina River (IX/4 b–V/4 b), finalized by Committee at its fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 29 August–1 September 2023), considering, as appropriate, the comments made before, during [and after] the twelfth meeting of the Working Group. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is expected to discuss and agree on the draft decisions.

26. The Chair [or the Vice-Chair] of the Committee will also present for agreement of the Meeting of the Parties amendment proposals to the rules governing its mode of operation.

Documentation

Draft decisions on compliance with the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/4–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/4)

Proposed amendments to implementation Committee's operating rules/structure and functions) (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/5–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/5)

(b) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention

(i) *Draft decisions on compliance with the Convention*

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, 5–6 p.m. and Wednesday, 13 December 10 a.m.–noon.

27. The Chair (and the Vice-Chair) of the Implementation Committee will present draft decisions IX/4 and IX/4 c –[...] on the review of compliance with the Convention, finalized by Committee at its fifty-seventh session, considering, as appropriate, the comments made before, during [and after] the twelfth meeting of the Working Group. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is expected to discuss and agree on the draft decisions.

Documentation

Draft decision IX/4 on general issues of compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/6)

Draft decisions on compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/7)

(ii) *Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 December noon–1 p.m.

28. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is invited to review, and as needed, finalize draft decision IX/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention.

29. It is also invited to consider and note the reporting template prepared by the Implementation Committee, in consultation with the European Commission, to facilitate reporting of the European Union under article 14 bis of the Convention.

Documentation

Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/8)

Draft seventh review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/9)

Reporting templates for the European Union for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/10 – ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/6)

(c) Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

(i) *Draft decisions on compliance with the Protocol*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 December 3–4 p.m.

30. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present draft decisions V/4 and V/4 c on compliance with the Protocol, finalized by Committee at its fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 29 August–1 September 2023), considering, as appropriate, the comments made before, during [and after] the twelfth meeting of the Working Group. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is expected to discuss and agree on the draft decisions.

Documentation

Draft decisions on compliance with the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/5)

(ii) *Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol*

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 December 4–5 p.m.

31. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is invited to review, and as needed, finalize draft decision V/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol.

32. It is also invited to consider and note the reporting template prepared by the Implementation Committee, in consultation with the European Commission, to facilitate reporting of the European Union under articles 14(7) and 13(4) of the Protocol.

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/7)

Fourth review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/8)

Draft reporting templates for the European Union for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/10 – ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/6)

(iii) Draft decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 December 5–6 p.m.

33. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be invited to discuss and agree on the draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment based on the comments made during the twelfth meeting of the Working Group. The Meeting of the Parties is also invited to discuss and agree on the related draft decision V[6] prepared by the Bureau based on the comments by the Working Group.

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/7)

Guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/9)

(d) Draft Geneva declaration

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December 10–11 a.m.

34. Delegations will be invited to review and finalize the draft Geneva declaration. They are expected to take into account the earlier deliberations on draft decisions under item 3 a–c above.

Documentation

Draft Geneva declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/11– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/10)

(e) Nomination of officers for the next intersessional period

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December 11–11.30 a.m.

35. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to consider nominations of officers to be elected for the next intersessional period put forward by Parties. Any Party that would not yet have informed the secretariat of their nominations, is invited to do so ahead of the present sessions, by 6 November 2023. The Meetings will consider nominations of a chair and members/vice-chairs of the Bureau. In accordance with past practice, the Chair[s] of the general segment will suggest that the Bureau include the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, and also the Chair and the first Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee – once elected by the Committee.

36. Following each nomination, the Chair will ask the secretariat to inform the Meetings of the Parties of whether the State nominated is a Party to both the Convention and the

Protocol, or whether the nomination of an alternate member is needed to ensure an equal representation of the two treaties in the Bureau. Once sufficient nominations have been made, the Chair will invite the Meetings of the Parties to consider the endorsement of the nominations in turn. Formal election of the Bureau members will take place in the high-level segment (item 10 below).

37. The above procedure will be repeated for the five permanent and the five alternate members of the Implementation Committee to be formally elected during the high-level segment.

38. Lastly, the Chair will invite the delegations to nominate a chair and one or more vice-chairs for the Working Group. As in the past, the Chair of the Working Group should be a representative of a State or a regional economic integration organization that is a Party to both the Convention and the Protocol.

Documentation

Informal documents

Informal list of nominations for officers for 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.6)

(f) Tentative calendar of meetings

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December 11.30–noon.

39. The Meetings of the Parties may agree a tentative calendar of meetings of their subsidiary bodies in the intersessional period 2024–2026. Delegations may also wish to put forward proposals for hosting such meetings.

Documentation

Informal documents

Provisional schedule of meetings (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.7)

4. Review of the workplan

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December, noon–1 p.m.

40. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to review progress in the implementation of the current workplan (see ECE/MP.EIA/30.Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13.Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2), since the twelfth meeting of the Working Group, focusing on activities not yet addressed under item 3 above.

Documentation

Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/12– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/11)

Informal document

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.5)

(a) Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol

41. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the Committee's activities in the period since the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

42. Delegations will be invited to report on progress in developing and adopting legislation for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol further to technical assistance facilitated by the secretariat since the twelfth meeting of the Working Group.

Documentation

Report on the activities of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/13–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/12)

(b) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

43. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in organizing subregional cooperation and capacity-building events since the twelfth meeting of the Working Group.

(c) Exchange of good practices

44. Delegations will be invited to report on progress in organizing possible events or the preparation of fact sheets for the exchange of good practices since the twelfth meeting of the Working Group.

(d) Promoting practical application of the Protocol and the Convention

45. Delegations and the secretariat will be invited to report on progress in organizing training and awareness raising events, implementing pilot projects, preparing guidelines and developing a model database on strategic environmental assessment, as well as the preparation of “FasTips”, since the twelfth meeting of the Working Group.

High-level segment

5. Opening ceremony for the high-level segment

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December, 3–3.30 p.m.

(a) Election of officers for the high-level segment

46. The Meetings of the Parties, convened in a joint meeting, will be invited to elect their chair for the high-level segment.

(b) Introductory speeches

47. The high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties will begin with opening remarks by the Chair and the Executive Secretary of ECE.

6. High-level event on the contribution of the Convention and/or the Protocol to energy transition, circular economy and green financing

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December, 3.30–5.30 p.m.

48. A panel comprising ministers and other high-level representatives of Parties as well as a NGO representative will be invited to discuss the role of the Protocol and the Convention for energy transition, including to meet the Paris Agreement objectives and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 7 on sustainable energy, and for promoting circular economy in related planning and projects, such as regarding waste, with the aim to keep products and materials in continual use and to eliminate waste and pollution. The panel will also touch upon green financing, as a key component for energy transition and circular economy.

49. During the moderated panel discussion, the panellists are expected to address key questions related to the topic as outlined in the background paper for the event, to share good practice examples and to explore ways to expand the awareness and the application of the treaty/treaties in that context. Other high-level representatives and heads of delegation may deliver brief statements from the floor regarding the topics of the event, with a recommended time limit of 3 minutes. Delegations are requested to register such statements and to provide the full texts of the statements to the secretariat in advance of the session.

Documentation

Energy transition, circular economy and green financing: Role of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/14–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/13)

Informal document

Draft programme of the high-level event on energy transition, circular economy and green financing (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.8)

7. Statements by ministers and high-level representatives

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December, 5.30–6 p.m.

50. Statements by delegates will be heard in a joint meeting of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol.

51. Ministers, other heads of delegation, and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs may make statements, with a recommended time limit of 3 minutes. Delegations are requested to register statements and to provide the full texts of the official statements to the secretariat in advance of the session.

8. Adoption of decisions

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 December, 10–11 a.m.

52. The Chairs for the high-level segments will introduce the decisions, indicating their title and number, the symbol of the document containing the draft text for consideration and which Parties are invited to consider and adopt the decision: Parties to the Convention; Parties to the Protocol; or Parties to either instrument. Members of the Bureau will provide additional information on each decision, as appropriate. The decisions will be introduced in the sequence indicated below.

(a) Decisions to be taken jointly

53. Meeting jointly, the Meetings of the Parties will be invited to consider adoption of the following joint decisions and documents, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment:

- (a) Decision on the financial arrangements for 2024–2026 (decision IX/1–V/1);
- (b) Decision on the adoption of the workplan for 2024–2026 (decision IX/2–V/2);
- (c) Decision on cooperation in marine regions (decision IX/3–V/3);
- (d) Decisions on compliance with the Convention and the Protocol (decisions IX/4 a–V/4 a and IX/4 b–V/4 b).

Documentation

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)

Report on the budget and financial arrangements in the period since the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/2– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/2)

Report on synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/3)

Draft decisions on compliance with the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/4– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/4)

(b) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention

54. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will be invited to consider adoption of the following decisions and related documents, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment:

- (a) Decisions on compliance with the Convention (decision IX/4 and IX/4 c-[...]);
- (b) Decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention (decision IX/5).

Documentation

Draft decision IX/4 on general issues of compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/6)

Draft decisions on compliance with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/7)

Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/8)

Draft seventh review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/9)

(c) Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

55. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be invited to consider adoption of the following decisions and related documents, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment:

- (a) Decisions on the review of compliance with the Protocol (decision V/4 and V/4 c);
- (b) Decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol (decision V/5);
- (b) Decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (decision V/6).

Documentation

Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/7)

Draft fourth review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/8)

Guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment
(ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/9)

9. Adoption of the declaration

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 December, 11–11.15 a.m.

56. Meeting jointly, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will be invited to consider adoption of the Geneva declaration, proposed by the Bureau, as reviewed and finalized by delegations during the general segment.

Documentation

Draft Geneva declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/11– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/10)

10. Election of officers for the next intersessional period

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 December, 11.15–11.45 a.m.

57. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in a joint meeting and will be invited to elect officers for the next intersessional period, following the earlier agreement on nominations (item 3 (e) above).

58. The Meetings of the Parties will consider the election of States nominated as a Party to both instruments, that is, the Parties to either instrument will be invited to consider the nomination.

59. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will consider the election of States nominated as a Party to the Convention.

60. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will consider the election of States nominated as a Party to the Protocol.

61. The above procedure will be repeated for the new members of the Implementation Committee.

62. The Chair[s] will invite the Meetings of the Parties to express their gratitude to the outgoing members of the Bureau and the Implementation Committee.

Documentation

Informal list of nominations for officers for 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/INF.7)

11. Date and venue of the next meetings

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 December, 11.45 a.m.–12 p.m.

63. The Meetings of the Parties will convene in a joint meeting and will be expected, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, to decide on the date and venue of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention to be held in conjunction with the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

12. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 December, 12–12.15 p.m.

64. Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

13. Conclusion of the session

Tentative timing: Friday, 15 December, 12.15–1 p.m.

(a) Adoption of the outline report of the session

65. The Chair[s] for the high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties, with support from the secretariat, will present the main decisions taken during the sessional period.

66. The Meetings of the Parties will be invited to review and adopt the draft report and authorize the secretariat to complete the report after the session under the guidance of the outgoing Bureau.

(b) Closing of the session

67. The Chair[s] will close the session.

IV. Provisional programme of the sessions

<i>Date and indicative timing</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
General segment		
Tuesday, 12 December		
10–10.15 a.m.	1	Opening of the sessions
10.15–11 a.m.	2 (a)–(d)	Organizational matters
	3	Outstanding issues
	(a)	Draft joint decisions
11 a.m. –12.30 p.m.		(i) Draft decision on financial arrangements
12.30–1 and 3–4 p.m.		(ii) Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan
4–4.30 p.m.		(iii) Draft decision on the cooperation in marine regions
4.30–5 p.m.		(iv) Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol
	(b)	Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
5–6 p.m.		(i) Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention
Wednesday, 13 December		
	3	Outstanding issues (continued)
	(b)	Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
10 a.m.–noon.		(i) Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention (continued)
noon– 1 p.m.		(ii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention
	(c)	Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol
3–4 p.m.		(i) Draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Protocol
4–5 p.m.		(ii) Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol
5–6 p.m.		(iii) Draft decision on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment
Thursday, 14 December		
	3	Outstanding issues (continued)
10–11 a.m.	(d)	Draft Geneva declaration

<i>Date and indicative timing</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
11–11.30 a.m.	(e)	Nomination of officers for the next intersessional period
11.30–noon	(f)	Tentative calendar of meetings
noon–1 p.m.	4 (a)-(d)	Review of the workplan
High-level segment		
3– 3.30 p.m.	5	Opening ceremony for the high-level segment
	(a)	Election of officers for the high-level segment
	(b)	Introductory speeches
3.30–5.30 p.m.	6	High-level event on the contribution of the Convention and/or the Protocol to energy transition, circular economy and green financing
5.30–6 p.m.	7	Statements by ministers and high-level representatives
Friday, 15 December		
10–11 a.m.	8	Adoption of decisions
	(a)	Decisions to be taken jointly
	(b)	Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
	(c)	Decisions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol
11–11.15 a.m.	9	Adoption of the declaration
11.15–11.45 a.m.	10	Election of officers for the next intersessional period
11.45 a.m.–12 p.m.	11	Date and venue of the next meetings
12–12.15 p.m.	12	Other business
12.15–1 p.m.	13	Conclusion of the session
	(a)	Adoption of the outline report of the session
	(b)	Closing of the session