

		ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.1 9 May 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 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 **information by 15 May on: pledged financial contributions for 2024–2026, inputs to the workplan for 2024–2026; inputs to the high-level event and nominations for officers and by 23 May their comments.** Kindly send them to the secretariat (eia.conv@un.org; tea.aulavuo@un.org).

Meeting documentation is available on a dedicated web page for the meeting: [Working Group on EIA and SEA \(Espoo Convention\), 12th meeting | UNECE](#)

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.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Actions</i>
<b>Tuesday, 13 June</b>	10–10.15	<b>1. Adoption of the agenda</b>	<p>Provisional agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/1)</p> <p>(These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.1)</p> <p><i>Delegates may also wish to refer to:</i></p> <p>Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 22–23 February 2023</p> <p>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</p>	<b>The Working Group</b> is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting.
	10.15–11	<b>2. Status of ratification</b>	<p>Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.2)</p>	<p>As requested by the MOPs and the Working Group, 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 4 States that were Parties to the Convention at the time of adoption of the first amendment (27 February 2001): <b>Armenia, Belgium, North Macedonia and the UK.</b></li> <li>• For the second (2004) amendment: <b>Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and the UK.</b></li> <li>• Signatories of the Protocol (<b>Belgium, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland and the UK</b>) and other delegations, especially from countries beneficiaries of technical assistance and capacity-building in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</li> </ul>

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Tuesday, 13 June				<p>(Azerbaijan, Belarus and Central Asian Republics).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Georgia</b> regarding the Convention</li> <li>• <b>Romania</b>, as the depositary of the Bucharest Agreement, is invited to report on the status of the Agreement and its Signatory States (<b>Croatia</b> and <b>Greece</b>) are invited report on their preparations to ratify the Agreement, and <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> on its plans to accede thereto.</li> </ul> <p>The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to consider the information and, invite the concerned Parties to complete any pending ratifications of at least the first amendment, by the next sessions of the MOPs (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023), or failing that, to be prepared to announce their firm commitment, with clear timelines, for completing their ratifications as soon as possible in the next intersessional period.</p>
	10.45–12.30	<b>3. Financial arrangements</b>	<p>Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/3)</p> <p>Status of the trust fund (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.3)</p> <p>Information on Parties' pledges of funding for 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.12) [<i>As an additional document not referred to in the provisional agenda</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The secretariat</b> will report on the status of the Convention's and Protocol's trust fund. Subsequently, the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau, will prepare the financial report covering the period January 2020–December 2023.</li> <li>• <b>The secretariat</b> will also present information on the Parties' pledged contributions to the budget for the period 2024–2026, highlighting the additional funding that Parties mobilized to remedy the lack of secretariat resources for servicing the intergovernmental work under the Convention and the Protocol. <b>All Parties</b> are expected to have provided that information to ensure that the workplan for 2024–2026 to be agreed under item 4 (c) below will match the financial and staffing resources for its implementation. Those delegations yet to inform the secretariat of its pledge is invited to do so <b>by 15 May 2023</b></li> </ul>

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<b>Tuesday, 13 June</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Working Group</b> is invited to consider and agree on draft decision IX/1–V/1 on financial arrangements for the Convention and the Protocol in the period 2024–2026 to be forwarded to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties. It is expected to ensure that the draft decision addresses the general considerable shortage of contributions to the trust fund under the treaties and provides for a more sustainable, predictable and equitable funding during the next budget cycle and beyond.</li> </ul>
		<b>4. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties</b>		
	12.30–13	<b>(a) Practical arrangements</b>	Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.4)	<b>The secretariat</b> will provide an update on the practical preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023).
	15–16	<b>(b) Provisional agenda</b>	<p>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/WG.2/2023/INF.5)</p> <p>Preparations for the high-level event on energy transition, circular economy and green financing (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.6)</p>	<p><b>The Working Group</b> is expected to consider and agree on the provisional annotated agenda for the Meetings of the Parties' next sessions.</p> <p><b>The Working Group</b> will be invited to discuss and provide guidance on the organization of a thematic event focusing on energy transition, circular economy, and addressing also green financing, to be held during the sessions' high-level segment, with funding from Italy, and with contributions proposed to date by Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the EIB, IAIA, WHO and Nuclear Transparency Watch.</p> <p>It will be invited to consider a note containing initial outlines of a background document and a programme for the thematic event, prepared with support of a consultant funded by Italy considering recommendations from the Bureau and in</p>

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<b>Tuesday, 13 June</b>				<p>consultation with representatives of volunteering Parties and stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Delegations</b> are expected to consider key questions to be addressed, including with a view to attracting high-level participation and to suggest further panellists for the event as well as high-level representatives to deliver brief statements from the floor, with a recommended time limit of 3 minutes. Related proposals should be submitted to the secretariat by 15 May 2023.</p>
	16-18	<b>(c) Draft workplan for 2024-2026</b>	Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/3)	<p><b>The Working Group</b> will be invited to consider draft decision IX/2–V/2 on the adoption of the workplan for 2024-2026 and its annexes I–II.</p> <p><b>Delegations</b> will be invited to propose that they lead or sponsor activities and host events, and to submit their proposals to the secretariat by 15 May 2023.</p> <p><b>The Working Group</b> is invited to verify that, for each workplan activity, information is provided on the entities responsible for implementation, the expected outcome and financial and staffing or in-kind resource requirements and to ensure that the workplan matches the resources available for its implementation and the information on the Parties' pledged contributions in 2024–2026. It is invited to agree on activities to be suspended or cut should the required additional resources not be secured.</p> <p>As relevant, <b>the Working Group</b> is expected to decide whether some activities should be placed on a waiting list pending identification of possible future funding and included in annex III to the above-mentioned draft decision.</p> <p><b>The Working Group</b> is expected to agree on the text of the draft decision and its annexes to be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties.</p>

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<b>Wednesday, 14 June</b>	10–11	<b>4. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (cont'd)</b>  <b>(d) Draft declaration</b>	Draft Geneva declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/4)	<b>The Working Group</b> will be invited to review and agree on the text of the draft Geneva declaration to be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties.
	11–11.30	<b>(e) Chairs of the sessions</b>		<b>The Working Group</b> may wish to welcome the proposed nomination of the Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of <b>Spain</b> , as a candidate for chairing the high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties' sessions, and of the Bureau Chair, Mr. George Kremlis ( <b>Greece</b> ), as a candidate for chairing the general segment of the sessions. It may also wish to welcome the availability of the Alternate Chair of the Bureau for Protocol matters, Ms. Vesna Kolar-Planinšič ( <b>Slovenia</b> ) to serve as a general segment co-Chair, should Greece not have ratified the Protocol in advance of the sessions.
	11.30–11.45	<b>(f) Officers for the next intersessional period</b>	A list of vacancies in the treaty bodies for 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.7)	<b>The delegations</b> , that had not yet done so, will be invited to submit or to confirm to the secretariat <b>by 15 May 2023</b> nominations for officers to be elected for the next intersessional period, that is, 1 or more Vice-Chairs of the Working Group and 1 or more members of the Bureau and 4 - permanent and alternate - members of the Implementation Committee. Additional new Committee members may need to be nominated depending on whether Committee members are Parties to the Protocol.  Parties that have never or not recently been represented in the treaty bodies will be encouraged to consider taking on that role.
	11.45–noon	<b>(g) Provisional schedule of</b>	Provisional schedule of meetings 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.8)	<b>The Working Group</b> is invited to consider a provisional schedule of meetings of the treaty bodies

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<b>Wednesday, 14 June</b>		<b>meetings 2024–2026</b>		in the next intersessional period, which is expected to extend from January 2024 to December 2026.
		<b>5. Compliance and implementation</b>		
	12–13 and 15–16	<b>(a) Review of compliance and related draft decisions</b>	<p>Initial draft decisions on the review of compliance of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.10)</p> <p>Including as an addendum –the Implementation Committee’s Initial amendment proposals to the Committee’s structure and functions and its operating rules</p> <p>ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.10.Add.1</p>	<p><b>The Chair of the Implementation Committee</b> will present the main outcomes of the Committee’s 56th session (Geneva, 2–5 May 2023) and the main objectives of its 57th session (Geneva, 29 August–1 September 2023), including the available initial draft decisions on compliance with the Convention and the Protocol, and amendment proposals to the Committee’s structure and functions and operating rules.</p> <p><b>Delegations</b> are invited to comment on the draft decisions both orally during the session, and in writing, before, during and shortly after the meeting of the Working Group. (The <b>Committee</b> will finalize the draft decisions at its 57th session considering, as relevant, the comments and any other information received, prior to forwarding the draft decisions to the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions.</p>
	16-17	<b>(b) Reporting and review of implementation</b>	<p>Draft decision on reporting and review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/5)</p> <p>Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/6)</p>	<p><b>The Working Group</b> will be invited to consider and agree on draft decisions IX/5 and V/5 on reporting and the review of implementation of, respectively, the Convention and the Protocol, to be submitted to the MOPs.</p> <p><b>The Working Group</b> will also be invited to consider additional amendment proposals by the EU and its member States to section II on methodology of the draft seventh review of the implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/3) and section I on methodology of the draft fourth review of the implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/4), as agreed by the Working Group at its eleventh session.</p>

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<b>Wednesday, 14 June</b>			Templates for the reports of the European Union on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/7)	<b>The delegations</b> may also wish to consider the templates that the Implementation Committee finalized in consultation with the European Commission, to facilitate reporting of the EU under the Convention and the Protocol.
	17-17.30	<b>(c) Legislative assistance</b>	Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.9)	<b>Representatives of the concerned countries</b> including, <b>the Republic of Moldova</b> will be invited to report on progress since the last meeting of the Working Group in establishing compliant legislation to implement the Convention and the Protocol further to technical advice received. Updates from any <b>Central Asian countries</b> are also welcome.
	17.30-18	<b>6. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol</b>  <b>(a) Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment</b>	Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/8)	<b>The Working Group</b> is expected to finalize the draft guidance on assessing health impacts in SEA, as requested by the MOP to the Protocol at its last session. It is expected to consider a draft, as last revised by the EU and its member States, and subsequently agreed by the Bureau, and to agree on the text of the draft guidance to be submitted to the MOP to the Protocol at its next session.
<b>Thursday, 15 June</b>	10-11	<b>6 (a) Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (cont'd)</b>	Draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/6)	<b>The Working Group</b> is also invited to review and agree on draft decision V/6 on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment and to forward it together with the draft guidance to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
	11-11.30	<b>(b) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building</b>		<b>The Working Group</b> will be invited to review progress in and provide guidance for the



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<b>Thursday, 15 June</b>			<p>Draft report on synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/9)</p> <p>Draft joint decisions by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/3)</p>	<p>implementation of the activities funded by Italy in marine regions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) A draft report identifying synergies and possible future cooperation activities in marine regions;</li> <li>(b) A third joint technical meeting scheduled to be held on 16 May 2023;</li> <li>(c) Case studies illustrating good practice and lessons learned by Parties to the Convention and the Protocol in their application of SEA and transboundary EIA to plans, programmes and projects in marine regions.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Working Group</b> will be expected to review and comment on the draft report prior to forwarding it to the MOPs at their next sessions. <b>Delegations</b> will be invited to volunteer to contribute to the implementation of the proposed cooperation activities and/or to propose other activities, as well as to present relevant good practice, notifying the secretariat by 15 May 2023.</p> <p><b>The Working Group</b> will be invited to review and agree on draft decision IX/3–V/3 on cooperation in marine regions.</p>
	11.30-noon	<b>(c) Exchange of good practices</b>		<p><b>Delegations</b> will be 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.</p> <p><b>Delegations</b> may wish to propose funding for an online database of Parties' good practice or for the collection and compilation of good practice, which is foreseen in the workplan, subject to the identification of additional resources and funding for consultants.</p>

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<b>Thursday, 15 June</b>	Noon– 12.30	<b>(d) Capacity- building activities</b>	Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.9)	<p><b>The secretariat and delegations from the countries or organizations concerned</b> will be invited to provide any updates on capacity-building activities undertaken or planned for since the last meeting of the Working Group to promote ratification and application of the Convention and the Protocol, including:</p> <p>(a) Activities funded through the EU4Environment Programme, undertaken, in progress or planned since the last meeting in accordance with the workplan for 2021–2023 to promote the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (<b>Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine</b>);</p> <p>(b) Any capacity-building activities in Central Asia building on the outcomes of the joint UNECE/OSCE project;</p> <p>(c) Preparation of the draft informal pamphlets, or “FasTips” by the <b>International Association for Impact Assessment</b>.</p> <p><b>The Working Group</b> is expected to take note of the information and, as relevant, provide advice for the implementation or follow-up of the activities.</p>
	12.30– 13	<b>7. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities</b>	Procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation due to extraordinary circumstances (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/INF.11)	<p><b>The Working Group</b> may wish to consider and comment on the revision proposals from the EU and its member States regarding the informal note on procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation due to extraordinary circumstances, which the Bureau had prepared in 2020, with the secretariat’s support, in consultation with the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs and any related recommendations from the Bureau. At the request of the Bureau the document is presented in a track-changes mode.</p>

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<b>Thursday, 15 June</b>				<b>The Working Group</b> is invited to agree on a revised version of the note and recommend to the MOPs that said version be applied, and, as needed, further adapted, should the extraordinary circumstances arise again.
	15– 15.30	<b>8. Related events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://regionalforum.unece.org/events/regional-forum-2023">2023 UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development</a> https://regionalforum.unece.org/events/regional-forum-2023</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/events/item/2023/07/05/default-calendar/seventh-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health">The Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health</a> https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/events/item/2023/07/05/default-calendar/seventh-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health</li> </ul>	<p><b>The secretariat or delegations, including WHO</b> will report on outcomes or preparation of related events, including:</p> <p>(a) The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region (Geneva, 29–30 March 2023);</p> <p>(b) The Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, 5–7 July 2023).</p> <p><b>The Working Group</b> will be invited to note and comment on the information provided.</p>
	15.30– 16	<b>9. Other business</b>	(none)	<b>Delegations</b> wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.
	16–18	<b>10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting</b>		The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting.