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

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

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 19–21 December 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 19 December 2022*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification.

* Delegates participating at the meeting are requested to register online no later than by **15 November 2022**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000554/>. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge to access the Palais des Nations. Please note that, temporarily, this should be done from Villa Les Feuillantines (Avenue de la Paix 13, 2011 Geneva 10). In addition, remote connection will exceptionally be possible for delegates unable to travel. Interventions by participants connected remotely cannot exceed 30 minutes, in total, for each 3-hour session, to allow interpretation into the ECE official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations Office at Geneva. Hence, the possibility to deliver statements remotely cannot be guaranteed. Delegates are kindly requested to send their statements and/or comments to the secretariat three weeks in advance of the meeting, by 28 November 2022. For further information on practical matters, please see the following web pages: unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-eia-and-sea-espoo-convention-11th-meeting and www.ungeneva.org/en/practical-information/delegates and/or contact the secretariat by email (maricar.delacruz@un.org; eia.conv@un.org) for assistance. Other specific instructions will be disseminated to registered participants closer to the time of the meeting.



3. Financial arrangements.
4. Compliance and implementation.
5. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol:
 - (a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
 - (b) Exchange of good practices;
 - (c) Capacity-building.
6. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities.
7. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties:
 - (a) Practical arrangements;
 - (b) List of draft documents and decisions;
 - (c) Provisional programme;
 - (d) Possible activities for the draft workplan for 2024–2026;
 - (e) Chairs of the sessions;
 - (f) Officers for the next intersessional period.
8. Related events and international processes.
9. Other business.
10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 19 December, 10–10.15 a.m.

1. The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment will invite the Working Group to adopt the agenda for its eleventh meeting, as set out in the present document. The provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Bureau of the Meetings of the Parties to the two treaties.¹ The meeting will close half-a-day earlier than initially planned, since, in the absence of a volunteering lead country/organization, no thematic event is to be held.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/1)

Informal document

Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.1)

¹ All meeting documentation will be made available on a dedicated web page for the meeting on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-eia-and-sea-espoo-convention-11th-meeting). Please note that documents with symbols ending in “INF.” and a number are informal documents and can be located in the documents table by clicking on the “Informal Documents” tab.

2. Status of ratification

Tentative timing: Monday, 19 December, 10.15–11 a.m.

2. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention, its two amendments and the Protocol. It will also report on the letters that the Bureau requested the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to send to the ministers for environment and ministers for foreign affairs of the concerned Parties before the end of the year, to, among other things, prompt the completion of their pending ratifications.

3. The Chair will first invite each Party to the Convention that has not yet ratified the two amendments to report on its preparations for ratification. In particular, the delegations of Armenia, Belgium, North Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine will be invited to provide detailed information on steps taken towards the ratification of the first (2001) amendment to the Convention. The missing ratifications from these five countries are necessary for the first amendment to have effect, opening accession to the Convention to all States Members of the United Nations. Subsequently, the representatives of the nine Parties that have not yet ratified the second (2004) amendment – Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – will be invited to report on their progress towards that end. The completion of those ratifications is important to ensure unified application of the Convention by all its Parties.

4. The Chair will then invite each signatory State that has not completed its ratification process of the Protocol (Belgium, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) to report on its preparations for ratification. The Chair will also 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.

5. 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 States 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.

6. The Working Group is expected 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 Meetings of the Parties (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023).

Documentation

Informal document

Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.2)

3. Financial arrangements

Tentative timing: Monday, 19 December, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

7. The secretariat will report on contributions and expenditures with regard to the Convention's and Protocol's trust fund. The Working Group will also be informed about: the secretariat's severe staffing constraints, which were further exacerbated by the extended sick leaves of a staff member; their impact on the implementation of the treaties' workplan; and the Bureau's calls on Parties and the Executive Secretary of ECE to increase the secretariat's resources. The Working Group will be invited to consider the resource situation at hand and assess the implementation and effectiveness thus far of the decision of the Meetings of the

Parties that all Parties have “a duty to take part in the sharing of the [workplan] costs”.² It may wish to note those Parties yet to contribute to the trust fund despite the secretariat’s reminders and agree on actions to be taken to enforce the decision of the Meetings of the Parties.

8. The Chair will then report on the Bureau’s reflections on possible solutions to the persistent issue of the insufficiency, uneven distribution and unpredictability of contributions, considering also experiences of the other ECE multilateral environmental agreements.³ The Bureau estimated that, as in the past, Parties would be unlikely to reach a consensus on the Bureau proposals for a mandatory scheme of contributions and the use of the adjusted United Nations scale of assessment. It concluded that, although, in its view, the protracted resource constraints strongly contrasted with the treaties’ proven benefits and the multiplication of their Parties, meetings and activities, they reflected above all national funding priorities. Consequently, it would be up to the national focal points to the Convention and the Protocol to play the primary role in influencing the choices of their respective Governments. As recommended by the Bureau, the Working Group is expected to consider inviting the national focal points to raise awareness of the two treaties and their benefits within their Governments with a view to mobilizing further funding. Moreover, under item 7 (d) below, the Working Group will be invited to initiate a process of reflection on a realistic and implementable workplan for the period 2024–2026 that will correspond to expected future funding, in order to ensure that the Parties’ demand for activities and services matches their offer of resources.

9. As agreed at its last meeting, the Working Group is expected to revert to questions that the Bureau had tabled at that meeting on the development of a system “to recognize in-kind contributions in a proper manner within the financial scheme”.⁴ In the meantime, the Bureau reviewed and slightly adjusted its informal document to the Working Group for added clarity, including to further emphasize that, in its view, a systematic monetarization of all in-kind contributions would not be advisable as it would be overly complex and would not add value. The Working Group is invited to consider the information, and to provide the necessary clarifications and guidance for the finalization of the document by the Bureau.

Documentation

Informal documents

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)

4. Compliance and implementation

Tentative timing: Monday, 19 December, 3–4.30 p.m.

10. The Working Group is invited to consider progress with compliance- and implementation-related activities in the workplan for 2021–2023 since its last meeting.

11. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee is expected to present the main outcomes of the Committee’s fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions (Geneva (online), 29–31 March and 10–13 May 2022, and Geneva, 4–7 October 2022, respectively)⁵ and the main objectives for the Committee’s fifty-fifth session (Geneva, 31 January–3 February 2023). The Working Group will also be briefed on the Committee’s plans for the

² ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/1–IV/1, para. 1.

³ *Ibid.*, para. 13.

⁴ See ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.11, para. 1; ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/2, para. 55; and ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2, para. 12.

⁵ The reports on the Implementation Committee’s fifty-second and fifty-third sessions (respectively, ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/2 and ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/4 (advance edited version)) are available at <https://unece.org/sessions-3>.

preparatory work for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, in December 2023. The Working Group may wish to comment on the information.

12. The secretariat will present the draft seventh review of implementation of the Convention and the draft fourth review of implementation of the Protocol, which it prepared with the assistance of consultants based on the completed questionnaires submitted by Parties (and non-Parties) to those treaties by 30 June 2022. It will also brief the Working Group on the timeliness and status of Parties' reporting on their implementation of the treaties in the period 2019–2021. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the outcomes of the reporting round, as well as to consider and reach an agreement on the main findings of the draft reports. As needed, delegations are also expected to present possible comments on or corrections to the drafts concerning their own countries with a view to their finalization. To facilitate the presentation of Parties' comments on-screen during the meeting, delegations are invited to provide them to the secretariat in advance of the meeting, by 28 November 2022. The Working Group may also wish to consider any proposals and provide guidance for improving the reporting, the questionnaires and the review reports for the next reporting round 2022–2024.

13. The delegations 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 two instruments further to technical advice they have received. The delegations of Romania and Ukraine are invited to report on progress in finalizing a draft bilateral agreement. The secretariat will be invited to complement the information, as needed.

Documentation

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)

Informal documents

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6)

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)

Suggested improvements to the questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.9)

5. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol

(a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Tentative timing: Monday, 19 December, 4.30–6 p.m.

14. The secretariat and two consultants to the secretariat will present progress in implementing the following activities funded by Italy in marine regions since the last meeting of the Working Group:

(a) A draft assessment report on identifying synergies and possible future cooperation activities in marine regions, prepared in consultation with representatives of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol; the Arctic Council and its Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment; the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention); the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) and

the Black Sea Commission; the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention); the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention); and the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention);

(b) The second joint technical meeting: identification of synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions (Geneva (online), 16 June 2022), with representatives of Parties and secretariats of the participating treaties/bodies⁶ and a stock-taking meeting with representatives of the secretariats (Geneva (hybrid), 17 June 2022);

(c) The collection of case studies illustrating good practice and lessons learned by Parties to the Convention and the Protocol in their application of strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment to plans, programmes and projects in marine regions.

15. 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 marine regions for the period 2024–2026 and beyond, indicating priorities, proposing further activities and volunteering to contribute to and/or fund their implementation. Delegations will be invited to indicate relevant experience of their countries that could be included in the collection of case studies with drafting support from the consultants.

16. Delegations from the countries concerned and the secretariat will be invited to report on the outcomes of subregional cooperation and capacity-building activities in the following subregions foreseen in the workplan for 2021–2023:

(a) Baltic Sea – twelfth Baltic Sea subregional meeting under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context organized by Poland (Warsaw (hybrid), 14–15 June 2022);⁷

(b) Eastern Europe and the Caucasus – second subregional workshop on the practical application of strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment (Eastern Europe and the Caucasus) (online, 29 June 2022), with funding from the European Union EU4Environment programme.⁸

17. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information and, as needed, to provide advice and agree on actions to ensure the implementation of or follow-up to these activities.

Documentation

Informal documents

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)

(b) Exchange of good practices

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 20 December, 10–10.30 a.m.

18. Countries or organizations will be invited to volunteer to organize in total up to three thematic half- or full-day workshops or seminars in 2023 – to be held during the twelfth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023) and the (general and high-level segments of the) next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties – that relate to the exchange of good practices on the selected topics in the workplan for 2021–2023.⁹ These topics included:

⁶ See unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/368518.

⁷ See unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/368973.

⁸ See unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/367411.

⁹ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex I, item III.B.1.

smart and sustainable cities, circular economy, biodiversity, energy transition, the consideration of alternatives to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the environmental impact assessment documentation, and promoting the application of strategic environmental assessment in development cooperation. Earmarked funding from Italy is expected to be available for the organization of one event, and the preparation of a background document, on a theme to be confirmed by Italy.

19. The Chair or the Chair of the Bureau will report on the Bureau's related recommendations, including on the following possible priority themes for discussion (during a panel/seminar) during the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties:

(a) Energy transition, combined with circular economy, covering elements such as: renewable energy, transboundary cooperation, small modular reactors and mineral resource extraction;

(b) Green financing (links between environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment; "Do No Significant Harm" principle/taxonomies; phasing out of harmful subsidies).

20. The Working Group is invited to agree on a thematic event to be held at the next meeting of the Working Group and to identify volunteering countries and/or organizations and funding for its organization. It is also invited to initially agree on the events to be organized during the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties. It is expected to provide guidance on and resources for the organization of the events.

21. 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.

22. Delegations 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,¹⁰ subject to the identification of additional resources and funding for consultants.

(c) Capacity-building

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 20 December, 10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

23. The Working Group is expected to assess the progress in and provide guidance for the finalization of one outstanding activity from the workplan for the period 2017–2020, namely, the draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment. At their last session, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol urged Parties and stakeholders to finalize the draft guidance during the present intersessional period, subject to the availability of resources, inviting Parties to contribute in-kind expertise for that purpose.¹¹ To fulfil that mandate, the Chair of the Bureau for the Protocol matters will present an informal draft revised guidance that she prepared with support from the Chair and other volunteering Bureau members, taking into account: the comments provided by the European Union and its member States at the tenth meeting of the Working Group¹² and the related proposals or recommendations from the Bureau. 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.

24. The secretariat and delegations from the countries concerned will be invited to report on the following capacity-building activities, funded through the European Union EU4Environment programme, undertaken, in progress or planned since its last meeting in accordance with the workplan for 2021–2023 to promote the practical application of the Protocol and the Convention:

¹⁰ Ibid., decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex I, item III.B.3.

¹¹ Ibid., Vilnius Declaration, para. 13; and ECE/MP.EIA/30–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13, para. 33.

¹² ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2.2021/2, para. 32.

- (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 – development delayed until the second half of 2022;
- (g) Translating the video on the application of the Convention (all six national language versions completed for the countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus).

25. The delegations from the countries concerned, a representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe 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).¹³

26. A representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment will be invited to provide an update on the preparation by the International Association of two-page informal pamphlets, or “FasTips”, on key issues in strategic environmental assessment practice.¹⁴

27. 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.

Documentation

Informal document

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.6)

6. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 20 December, 12.30–1 p.m.

28. The Chair or the Chair of the Bureau will report on the Bureau's deliberations regarding the possible need for further clarifications to the informal note on procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation due to extraordinary circumstances, which the Bureau prepared for the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in 2020 with the secretariat's support, in consultation with the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs.¹⁵ As requested by the Working Group at its last meeting,¹⁶ the Bureau reviewed its note considering also similar notes prepared under three other ECE multilateral environmental agreements and information on their subsequent meetings. The Bureau observed that the notes of the other ECE agreements applied only to the specific sessions of their respective governing bodies held under the extraordinary circumstances of the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 and 2021 and were not being reused or modified for the subsequent meetings of the treaty bodies. It also noted that the United Nations Office at Geneva had reverted to hosting fully in-person meetings and that, as of

¹³ See unece.org/project-strengthening-national-and-regional-capacities-and-cooperation-strategic-environmental.

¹⁴ Available at www.iaia.org/fasttips.php.

¹⁵ See the note of 10 November 2020, as revised on 27 November 2020, available at: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/meeting-parties-espoo-convention-8th-session-and-meeting-parties> (under the tab “informal documents” “item 2”).

¹⁶ ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2.2021/2, paras. 59–60.

January 2023, the costs and the staff for the technical servicing of any meetings with remote simultaneous interpretation should be covered by the substantive programmes themselves.

29. The Bureau concluded that, with in-person meetings again being the norm, and since the Bureau's note had applied only to the 2020 sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and to any similar future exceptional case of pandemic or other extraordinary circumstances, there was no longer a need to revisit that note. It noted, however, that, should such extraordinary circumstances arise in the future, it would look into the matter again and adjust the note, as required. The Bureau member representing the European Commission reserved the right of the European Union and its member States to come back to the note with comments.

30. The Working Group is invited to consider and comment on the Bureau's conclusions regarding the note from 2020.

7. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties

Tentative timing Tuesday, 20 December, 3–6 p.m.

(a) Practical arrangements

31. The secretariat will report on the schedule for the preparations 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 (Geneva (to be confirmed), 13–15 December 2023). Any delegations wishing to host the sessions should confirm their commitment to do so at the latest at the current meeting of the Working Group, to allow for the timely conclusion of a host country agreement with ECE. In the absence of a host country, the sessions will be held in Geneva.

(b) List of draft documents and decisions

32. Based on a proposal by the Bureau, the Working Group is invited to agree on an initial list of draft decisions and documents to be prepared for consideration by the Meetings of the Parties at their sessions in December 2023. It will also be expected to provide guidance on the development of draft documents and draft decisions for the Working Group to consider and agree at its next meeting (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023). It may wish to contribute to their preparation by establishing a drafting group of volunteering Parties that would consult with the Bureau and the secretariat, with the exception of the documents to be drafted by the Implementation Committee, such as draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol and the report on the activities of the Implementation Committee.

33. The Working Group will be invited to agree on the main messages or key focus areas of a possible draft declaration to be prepared ahead of the Working Group's next meeting. It is invited to consider the Bureau's suggestions that the declaration focus on the importance of the Convention and the Protocol as tools to boost energy transition and to ensure circular economy, low carbon economy and climate neutrality. The Bureau also suggested that the declaration link the treaties to key issues such as: the eradication of COVID-19, the energy crisis, the reconstruction of Ukraine, green financing and taxonomy. Delegations are invited to provide any further proposals regarding the draft declaration by 28 November 2022, to allow the other delegations to consider them ahead of the meeting and the Working Group to agree on them during the meeting.

(c) Provisional programme

34. The Chair will present a Bureau proposal for the provisional programme for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties. The Working Group is expected to agree on the provisional programme and provide guidance for the preparation of a provisional annotated agenda for the two sessions by the Bureau with support from the secretariat, for the Working Group to agree on at its next meeting in June 2023.

35. The Chair will invite delegations to make proposals for attracting high-level participation to the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and for enriching the programme of the sessions. Considering the 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). 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. Delegations may also wish to propose holding side events.

(d) Possible activities for the draft workplan for 2024–2026

36. Delegations will be invited to put forward proposals for workplan elements for the next intersessional period (2024–2026), considering also the priority objectives identified in the long-term strategy,¹⁷ 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.

37. The Working Group is expected to comment on the proposals. Keeping in mind its earlier discussions on financial matters, it is invited 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 ECE 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.

(e) Chairs of the sessions

38. The Working Group is also expected to initially discuss the chairing of the general and high-level segments of the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and put forward proposals, also taking into account any proposals from the Bureau. It is invited to note that, at its meeting in June 2022, the Bureau welcomed the availability of the current Chair of the Bureau for the Convention matters, representing Greece, to chair the relevant parts of the general segment of the sessions, as needed.¹⁸ A Chair for the Protocol matters will need to be nominated and elected, unless Greece ratifies the Protocol in advance of the next sessions.

(f) Officers for the next intersessional period

39. 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. Additional new members of the Implementation Committee may need to be nominated depending on whether Committee members are Parties to the Protocol. The Working Group is invited to consider commenting on the outcomes of the Bureau's related deliberations, including that it:

(a) Identified Parties that have never or not recently been represented in the treaty bodies, and recommended also 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;

(b) 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;

(c) Agreed that Parties should be mindful of possible conflicts of interest when electing members to the Implementation Committee.

¹⁷ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex.

¹⁸ See informal notes of meeting, para. 63, available at: <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/366918>.

Documentation

Informal documents

Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.11)

A list of vacancies (chairs and members) in the treaty bodies for 2021–2023 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2022/INF.12)

8. Related events and international processes

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 21 December, 10–10.30 p.m.

40. The secretariat and/or the Bureau will report on events and international processes of relevance to the Convention and its Protocol, including:

(a) Relevant outcomes of the meeting of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region (Geneva, 6–7 April 2022);¹⁹

(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);²⁰

(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.²¹

41. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the information provided and, as relevant, to advise on further actions to be taken.

9. Other business

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 21 December, 10.30–11 a.m.

42. Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.

10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 21 December, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

43. The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at its eleventh meeting, to authorize the secretariat to complete the report thereon after the meeting under the guidance of the Chairs, and to confirm the date and venue of its next meeting (preliminarily scheduled to take place in Geneva, from 13 to 15 June 2023).

¹⁹ See regionalforum.unece.org/.

²⁰ See unece.org/nicosia-conference.

²¹ See <https://unece.org/unece-and-sdgs/working-group-transforming-extractive-industries-sustainable-development>.

III. Organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Monday, 19 December		
10–10.15 a.m.	1	Adoption of the agenda
10.15–11 a.m.	2	Status of ratification
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	Financial arrangements
3–4.30 p.m.	4	Compliance and implementation
4.30–6 p.m.	5	Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol
	5 (a)	Subregional cooperation and capacity-building
Tuesday, 20 December		
10–10.30 a.m.	5 (b)	Exchange of good practices
10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	5 (c)	Capacity-building
12.30–1 p.m.	6	Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities
3–6 p.m.	7	Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties
	7 (a)	Practical arrangements
	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
Wednesday, 21 December		
10–10.30 a.m.	8	Related events and international processes
10.30–11 a.m.	9	Other business
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	10	Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting