



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
16 February 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  
on Environmental Impact Assessment in  
a Transboundary Context serving as the  
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on  
Strategic Environmental Assessment

### Implementation Committee

#### Fifty-sixth session

Geneva, 2–5 May 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.  
on Tuesday, 2 May 2023\*

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.
3. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–c.
4. Submissions.
5. Committee initiatives.
6. Information gathering.
7. Review of implementation.
8. Structure, functions and operating rules.

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\* Members of the Committee are requested to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, i.e. by **17 April 2023**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002135/>. Should any difficulties be encountered when attempting to register, please email the secretariat ([eia.conv@un.org](mailto:eia.conv@un.org); [maricar.delacruz@un.org](mailto:maricar.delacruz@un.org)).



9. Other business.
10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

1. The present provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in agreement with the Implementation Committee Chair, in accordance with rule 9 of the Implementation Committee's operating rules.<sup>1</sup> The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt the present agenda.

### **2. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties**

2. In accordance with its structure and functions<sup>2</sup> and its operating rules, the Committee is expected to continue its preparations 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 (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023). In particular, the Committee is expected to prepare the draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol, with a view to finalizing them at its fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 29 August–1 September 2023).

3. Discussions under agenda item 2 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 (1) of the operating rules.

### **3. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–c<sup>3</sup>**

4. Discussions under agenda item 3 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

5. The Committee is expected to follow up on actions to be taken by the concerned Parties further to:

(a) Decision VIII/4a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(b) Decision VIII/4b on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(c) Decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets.

### **4. Submissions**

6. Discussions under agenda item 4 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

7. The Committee will continue its consideration of the submission received on 25 September 2019 from Montenegro of its concerns about compliance by Albania with its

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014\\_Structure\\_and\\_functions/Implementation\\_Committee\\_structure\\_functions\\_procedures\\_rules.e\\_2014.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014_Structure_and_functions/Implementation_Committee_structure_functions_procedures_rules.e_2014.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/decisions-taken-meetings-parties>.

obligations under the Convention regarding the planned construction of a number of small hydropower plants on the Cijevna/Cem River (EIA/IC/S/7).<sup>4</sup> It is expected to finalize its findings and recommendations, taking into account the comments and representations requested from the two Parties by 31 March 2023.

8. The Committee will also examine any submissions by Parties received since the Committee's previous session.

## 5. Committee initiatives

9. Discussions under agenda item 5 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

10. The Committee is expected to finalize its draft findings and recommendations on compliance by Belgium with its obligations under the Convention regarding the lifetime extension of unit 1 of Tihange nuclear power plant,<sup>5</sup> taking into account the comments and representations requested from the two Parties by 31 March 2023.

11. The Committee will also continue the consideration of its initiative concerning the lifetime extension of units 1–4 of Dukovany nuclear power plant by Czechia.<sup>6</sup> It is expected to finalize its draft findings and recommendations, taking into account the comments and representations requested from the Parties concerned by 31 March 2023.

## 6. Information gathering

12. Discussions under agenda item 6 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

13. Further to its deliberations at its fifty-fifth session (Geneva (online), 31 January–3 February 2023),<sup>7</sup> the Committee will continue its consideration of the information it has gathered regarding the legislation of Belarus concerning the implementation of the Convention.

14. The Committee will also continue its consideration of the information it has gathered concerning the lifetime extension of Borssele nuclear power plant (Netherlands) and 32 units of Blayais, Bugey, Chinon, Cruas, Dampierre, Gravelines, St. Laurent and Tricastin nuclear power plants (France).

## 7. Review of implementation

15. Time permitting, the Committee will continue its consideration of the specific compliance issues concerning:

(a) Kyrgyzstan, identified through the sixth review of the implementation of the Convention;<sup>8</sup>

(b) Serbia, identified during the second review of the implementation of the Protocol;<sup>9</sup>

(c) Armenia and North Macedonia, identified through the third review of the implementation of the Protocol.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/eiaics7-albania>.

<sup>5</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2023/2, para. 26.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 27.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 30–33.

<sup>8</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8, paras. 15–16.

<sup>9</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/9, paras. 37–39.

<sup>10</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/8, paras. 23, 25 and 56.

16. The Committee is also expected to continue its consideration of the specific issue regarding compliance by the European Union with the Protocol identified during the first review of the implementation of the Protocol.<sup>11</sup>

## **8. Structure, functions and operating rules**

17. Further to the Committee's deliberations at its fifty-fourth (Geneva, 4–7 October 2022) and fifty-fifth sessions, and in accordance with paragraph 18 of decision VIII/4<sup>12</sup> of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention, paragraph 14 of decision IV/4<sup>13</sup> of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol and subsection II.A.3 of the workplan for 2021–2023,<sup>14</sup> the Committee is expected to pursue its review of its structure and functions and its operating rules, with a view to preparing proposals for possible amendments for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth session.

## **9. Other business**

18. Further to the Committee's decision at its fifty-third session (Geneva, 10–13 May 2022) to postpone to its subsequent sessions the consideration of all compliance cases concerning Ukraine in the light of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation,<sup>15</sup> the Committee is expected to reassess its decision considering information to be provided by Ukraine.

19. Members of the Committee wishing to raise any other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session**

20. The Committee is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.

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<sup>11</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3, para. 5.

<sup>12</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2.

<sup>13</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3.

<sup>14</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex I.

<sup>15</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/4, para. 16 (a).