



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
22 September 2025

Original: English

---

## 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

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

#### Thirteenth meeting

Geneva, 1–3 December 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XI, starting at 10  
a.m. on Monday, 1 December 2025\*

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Bureau update on activities since resumed Meetings of the Parties sessions.
3. Status of ratification.
4. Financial arrangements.
5. Compliance and implementation.
6. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol:

---

\* Delegates participating in the meeting are requested to register online by no later than **1 November 2025**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1012053/>. The meeting will be held in-person. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge to access the Palais des Nations. See map and other practical information available from United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>. Please collect your badge well in advance. For further guidance on registration, please see the meeting web page (<https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/398911>) and/or contact the secretariat by email ([maricar.delacruz@un.org](mailto:maricar.delacruz@un.org); [eia.conv@un.org](mailto:eia.conv@un.org)) for assistance. In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 91726 82.



- (a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
- (b) Capacity-building;
- (c) Exchange of good practices:
  - (i) Seminar on application of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in spatial planning, with particular emphasis on energy-related plans, programmes and projects, biodiversity assessments and climate change;
  - (ii) Round table on application of artificial intelligence products, including open-source tools, during environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures.
- 7. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities.
- 8. 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 2027–2029;
  - (e) Chairs of the sessions;
  - (f) Officers for the next intersessional period.
- 9. Related events and international processes.
- 10. Other business.
- 11. Presentation of the main decisions made and closing of the meeting.

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

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

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, 10–10.10 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 thirteenth 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.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/1)

*Informal document*

Informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.1)

---

<sup>1</sup> 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:  
<https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/398911>.  
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. Bureau update on activities since resumed Meetings of the Parties sessions

*Tentative timing: Monday 1 December, 10.10–10.25 a.m.*

2. The secretariat will be invited to present extracts from the Meetings of the Parties decisions outlining the Bureau's tasks for the 2024–2026 intersessional period. The Chair of the Working Group will invite the Chair of the Bureau to provide an overview of the Bureau's key activities and developments since the resumed sessions of the Meetings of the Parties. This update will include follow-up actions on the decisions, including regarding financial arrangements. The Chair of the Bureau may also highlight any strategic or procedural matters addressed since the resumed sessions.

*Informal document*

Tasks of the Bureau in the period 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.2)

## 3. Status of ratification

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, 10.25–11 a.m.*

3. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention, its two amendments and the Protocol.

4. The Chair will then invite Greece to present its recent experience with the ratification of the Protocol, followed by an invitation to North Macedonia to present its experience regarding the ratification of the amendments to the Convention.

5. The Chair will next invite each Party to the Convention that has not yet ratified its first amendment to report on progress and current preparations for ratification. In particular, the delegations of Armenia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – whose ratifications are essential for the entry into force of the first amendment opening accession to the Convention to all States Members of the United Nations – will be invited to provide detailed updates on steps taken and to indicate whether any assistance is needed to facilitate completion of the ratification process. The secretariat will be invited to 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 foreign affairs of the two remaining Parties, encouraging finalization of their ratifications.

6. Subsequently, the representatives of the eight Parties that have not yet ratified the second (2004) amendment – Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – will be invited to report on their progress towards that end and indicate needs for possible assistance. The completion of those ratifications is important to ensure unified application of the Convention by all of its Parties.

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

8. 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.

9. The Working Group is expected to consider echoing and following up on the Bureau's recommendation 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, 1–4 December 2026).

## **Documentation**

### *Informal document*

Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.3)

## **4. Financial arrangements**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, 11 a.m.–noon*

10. The secretariat will report on the status of contributions to, and expenditures from, the trust fund established to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol. The Working Group will also be informed that, pursuant to the mandate provided by the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol at their resumed sessions on 10 December 2024,<sup>2</sup> the Bureau has reviewed the secretariat's report on fund availability. Based on this review, the Bureau has agreed on revised resource requirements for the workplan for 2024–2026<sup>3</sup> and endorsed a proposal aimed at ensuring efficient staffing of the secretariat.<sup>4</sup>

11. The secretariat will further inform the Working Group that a structural gap persists between the budgetary requirements agreed for the current period and the contributions pledged by Parties. The Working Group will be invited to take note of – and to comment on – the number of Parties to the Convention and/or the Protocol that have not yet committed to contributing to the costs of implementing the workplan, notwithstanding the decision of the Meetings of the Parties that all Parties should do so. It will also be brought to the attention of the Working Group that, unless addressed, a similar funding gap could recur in the 2027–2029 intersessional period, with potential implications for the capacity of the secretariat to effectively support implementation of the work under the treaties.

12. The Working Group will be invited to consider the broader context of the liquidity challenges currently faced by the United Nations system, and to take note of the UN80 Initiative launched by the Secretary-General on right servicing and right sizing. The Initiative seeks to promote efficiencies, assess the implementation of all mandates given by Member States, and explore opportunities for structural change and programme realignment across the United Nations system. The Working Group may wish to consider the possible implications of these developments for the Economic Commission for Europe and for the work of the secretariat.

13. The Chair will report on the Bureau's reflections regarding possible solutions to the anticipated insufficiency of funds for the 2027–2029 period, should current financial arrangements remain unchanged.

## **Documentation**

### *Informal documents*

Draft financial report in the intersessional period 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.4)

Informal notes of Bureau meeting of 7 April 2025, including annex with revised resource requirements (ECE/MP.EIA/B1/2025/2)<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/35–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/17, para. 32.

<sup>3</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/34/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/15/Add.1, decision IX/2–V/2, annex I.

<sup>4</sup> See ECE/MP.EIA/B1/2025/2, paras. 14–16 and annex, available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/ECE\\_MP.EIA\\_B1\\_2025\\_2\\_report\\_as\\_approved.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/ECE_MP.EIA_B1_2025_2_report_as_approved.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/ECE\\_MP.EIA\\_B1\\_2025\\_2\\_report\\_as\\_approved.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/ECE_MP.EIA_B1_2025_2_report_as_approved.pdf).

Informal notes of Bureau meeting of 18–19 June 2025 (ECE/MP.EIA/B2/2025/2)<sup>6</sup>

## 5. Compliance and implementation

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, noon–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.*

14. The Working Group is invited to consider progress with compliance- and implementation-related activities in the workplan for 2024–2026.

15. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee is expected to present the main outcomes of the Committee's fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth, sixtieth, sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions (respectively: Geneva (online), 27 February–1 March 2024; Geneva, 18–21 June 2024; Geneva, 14–17 October 2024; Geneva (online), 11–14 February 2025; Geneva, 13–15 May 2025; and Geneva 30 September–3 October 2025)<sup>7</sup> and the main objectives for the Committee's sixty-fourth session (Geneva, 3–6 February 2026). The Working Group will also be briefed on the Committee's plans for the preparatory work for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in December 2026. The Working Group may wish to comment on the information.

16. The secretariat will present the draft eighth review of implementation of the Convention and the draft fifth 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 2025. It will also brief the Working Group on the timeliness and status of Parties' reporting on their implementation of the treaties in the period 2022–2024. 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 on-screen presentation of Parties' comments during the meeting, delegations are invited to provide any such comments to the secretariat in advance of the meeting, by 10 November 2025.

17. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will inform the Working Group that the Committee acknowledged the ongoing challenges related to the quality and completeness of questionnaire responses and agreed to adopt a gradual and structured approach to their improvement. Since a number of compliance issues had been closed during the period January 2023–March 2025, the Committee decided to establish a small working group and initiated the revision process at its sixty-third session. The Working Group will be invited to note that the Bureau approved a budget of \$10,000 to assist the Committee in improving the questionnaires.<sup>8</sup> The Working Group may wish to consider any proposals put forward in this context and provide guidance on the enhancement of the reporting process, including improvements to the questionnaires and the format and content of the review reports, in preparation for the next reporting round (2025–2027).

18. The delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Serbia, 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 those two instruments further to any technical advice received.

### Documentation

Draft eighth review of the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/3)

Draft fifth review of the implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/4)

<sup>6</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/ece\\_mp\\_eia\\_b2\\_2025\\_2\\_report\\_draft1\\_as\\_formatted\\_25.08.2025\\_ADOPTED.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/ece_mp_eia_b2_2025_2_report_draft1_as_formatted_25.08.2025_ADOPTED.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Implementation Committee session reports are available at <https://unece.org/sessions-3>.

<sup>8</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2025/4, paras. 69 and 71.

Findings and recommendations on compliance by Poland with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the construction of a barrier on the territory of the transboundary United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site “Bialowieza Forest” (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2025/7)

Findings and recommendations on compliance by France with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the lifetime extension of unit 1 of Tricastin nuclear power plant and 31 further reactors (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2026/4, forthcoming)

Findings and recommendations on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the activity related to mining at the Muzhiyevo goldmine – advance version (English only) (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2026/3, forthcoming)

#### *Informal documents*

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.5)

Additional information on Parties’ practical application of the Convention 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.6)

Additional information on Parties’ practical application of the Protocol 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.7)

Suggested improvements to the questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.8)

Elements of the draft decisions on compliance (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.9)

## **6. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, 4–6 p.m.*

### **(a) Subregional cooperation and capacity-building**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, 4–5 p.m.*

19. Delegations from the countries concerned, as well as the secretariat, will be invited to report on the outcomes of subregional cooperation and capacity-building activities undertaken in the subregions identified in the workplan for 2021–2023, as follows:

(a) Baltic Sea subregion – the thirteenth and fourteenth subregional meetings under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, organized, respectively, by Lithuania (online, 8 May 2024) and Poland (Gdansk, 4–6 June 2025);

(b) Mediterranean Sea subregion – the first and second subregional meetings on environmental assessment in a transboundary context, organized by Italy (Rome, 28–29 May 2024) and Slovenia (Portorož, 28–30 May 2025), respectively, as well as the planned third meeting in Greece (April, 2026). Presentations may include video materials, a summary of needs assessments, and reflections from participating countries, including from Egypt, Israel, Libya, Morocco and Türkiye. The secretariat will provide an update on the development of guidelines under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and the Mediterranean Action Plan, including a planned presentation of the revision of the draft guidelines in Greece;

(c) Central Asia subregion – ongoing joint Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)/ECE joint project “Strengthening national and regional capacities and cooperation on strategic environmental assessment in Central Asia, including as a response to climate change”, primarily funded by Germany with co-funding from OSCE and the German International Cooperation Agency;

(d) South-Eastern Europe – OSCE workshop on the implementation of the Espoo and Aarhus Conventions in South-Eastern Europe, to be organized from 8 to 9 September 2025 in Vienna, with financial support from Italy, and the outcomes of the 2025 Croatian

Association of Experts in Nature and Environmental Protection Conference on “[European Union] taxonomy and impact assessment: From policy to practice” (Opatija, Croatia, 8–10 October, 2025).

20. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information presented and, as appropriate, to provide guidance and agree on possible follow-up measures to support the implementation of the above-mentioned activities.

## **Documentation**

### *Informal documents*

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.5).

## **(b) Capacity-building**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, 5–5.30 p.m.*

21. The delegations from the countries concerned and a representative of OSCE will report on capacity-building activities carried out in Central Asia, in particular under the related project “Strengthening national and regional capacities and cooperation on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in Central Asia – Phase II”, with funding from Germany (2023–2025), and the plans for 2026.<sup>9</sup>

22. 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.<sup>10</sup>

23. The Working Group will be invited to take note of the needs assessment report for capacity-building and technical assistance for certain Mediterranean subregion countries and of the request by Morocco for the translation into Arabic and French of existing awareness-raising materials – including the video developed by Italy.

24. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information and, as relevant, provide advice for the implementation of the capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, including with regard to raising funding for possibly addressing the request by Morocco and finalization of the translation of the video on the application of the Protocol for the Central Asian countries.<sup>11</sup>

## **Documentation**

### *Informal document*

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.5)

Needs-assessment report for capacity-building and technical assistance for certain Mediterranean subregion countries (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.10)

## **(c) Exchange of good practices**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 1 December, 5.30–6 p.m.*

25. The secretariat and lead countries – Switzerland, Italy and Greece – will present plans for thematic seminars and workshops to be held during the 2026 meetings of the Working Group and the Meetings of the Parties, as foreseen by the workplan for 2024–2026.<sup>12</sup> Italy

<sup>9</sup> See [unece.org/project-strengthening-national-and-regional-capacities-and-cooperation-strategic-environmental](https://unece.org/project-strengthening-national-and-regional-capacities-and-cooperation-strategic-environmental).

<sup>10</sup> Available at [www.iaia.org/fasttips.php](http://www.iaia.org/fasttips.php).

<sup>11</sup> Activity III.C.2 under the 2024–2026 workplan.

<sup>12</sup> Topics referred to in the 2024–2026 workplan include: III.B.1(b) Mining, mining waste/tailings and critical raw materials; III.B.1(c) Climate assessment/proofing; III.B.1(d) Consideration of alternatives

and Greece propose holding a seminar on identifying and assessing alternatives in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, including climate proofing, at the Working Group meeting in June 2026. Switzerland proposes to moderate a seminar on mining and waste during the Meetings of the Parties in December 2026. The Chair or Bureau Chair may report on related guidance from the Bureau. The Working Group will be invited to provide guidance on the organization, scope and modalities of these events. Delegations will be invited to express interest in contributing to the planning, content and implementation.

26. Delegations are invited to put forward proposals for the preparation of fact sheets on the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol as identified in the reviews of implementation, to be presented during the meetings of the Working Group and posted on the ECE website. The secretariat will present the draft elements of promotional materials highlighting the benefits of and lessons learned from the application of the Convention and the Protocol in marine regions based on the updated fact sheets prepared by Parties in the 2021–2023 intersessional period and since the resumed sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

27. Delegations may wish to propose funding for an online database of Parties' good practice, or for the collection and compilation of good practices, which is foreseen in the workplan, subject to the identification of additional resources and funding for consultants.

28. Information will be gathered on knowledge exchange, if any, with the United Nations Development Programme on its strategic environmental and social assessments in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

## **Documentation**

### *Informal documents*

Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.5)

Draft promotional material: Benefits and lessons learned for application of the Convention and the Protocol in marine regions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.11)

**(i) Seminar on application of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in spatial planning, with particular emphasis on energy-related plans, programmes and projects, biodiversity assessments and climate change**

*Tuesday, 2 December, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.*

29. The delegations of Italy and Slovenia will be invited to chair a seminar on application of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in spatial planning, with particular emphasis on energy-related plans, programmes and projects, biodiversity assessment and climate change, that they have co-organized together with the secretariat. The seminar aims to provide a platform for the exchange of good practice and sharing of challenges and lessons learned in the application of the Protocol and the Convention to spatial planning, including maritime spatial planning, and to raise awareness on the treaties' role and benefits in this field. The event will focus thematically on energy-related plans, programmes and projects, biodiversity assessments and climate change. A dedicated session will explore synergies between the environmental and social safeguards of international financial institutions and the provisions of the Convention and its Protocol. Representatives of institutions such as the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank will be invited to share experiences in promoting awareness and capacity-building for environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessments, particularly in spatial planning and energy-related programmes and projects in the Southern and Western Mediterranean.

---

to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation (lead countries: Switzerland (2025/2026) and Italy, in cooperation with Greece (to be confirmed)).



30. Detailed information on the seminar will be made available in advance.

31. Delegations may wish to actively take part in the seminar. The Working Group will be invited to note the Chair's conclusions on the seminar to be presented and to agree on possible follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.

#### **Documentation**

Draft programme on application of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in spatial planning, with particular emphasis on energy-related projects, biodiversity assessment and climate change (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.12)

Draft elements of the assessment report on identification of synergies and possible cooperation activities with international financial institutions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.13)

#### **(ii) Round table on application of artificial intelligence products, including open-source tools, during environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 2 December, 4–6 p.m.*

32. In the light of the rapid advancement and expanded use of artificial intelligence, including open-source tools and large language and mathematical models, across various sectors, the Bureau has proposed the organization of a dedicated round table or seminar during the Working Group session. The delegations will be invited to present their experiences and perspectives on the application of artificial intelligence technologies in the context of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures.

33. The Working Group will be invited to initiate exploration of the potential benefits, challenges and risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence in the above-mentioned procedures. It will also consider the relevance of artificial intelligence tools for screening, scoping, assessment, impact prediction and decision support, as well as their role in enhancing efficiency and consistency in assessments. It will also be invited to discuss the need for guidance, capacity-building or regulatory responses to ensure the responsible and effective use of artificial intelligence in the framework of the objectives of the Convention and the Protocol. Lastly, it will be invited to propose possible next steps, including organization of follow-up events at the next session of the Working Group in June 2026, and, at the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, preparation of a thematic report(s) or development of good practice.

34. Detailed information on the seminar will be made available in advance. The Working Group will be invited to note the Chair's conclusions on the seminar to be presented and agree on possible follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.

#### **Documentation**

Draft programme for the round table on the application of artificial intelligence products, including open-source tools, during environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.14)

## **7. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 3 December, 10–10.30 a.m.*

35. The Working Group will be informed of developments under the UN80 Initiative on right sizing, leading to the reduction of the number of regular budget posts, and right servicing, involving reductions in meeting duration, document volume and word count for the biennium 2025–2026. In addition, the Working Group will be informed that the United Nations Office at Geneva no longer provides support for hybrid or online meetings, including interpretation and document processing services, citing legislative constraints and mandate limitations. The Working Group will be invited to consider possible actions to address the

reduction in services and staffing and implications for the implementation of the 2024–2026 workplan.

### **Documents**

Informal notes of Bureau meeting of 18–19 June 2025 (ECE/MP.EIA/B2/2025/2).

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

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 3 December, 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.*

### **(a) Practical arrangements**

36. The secretariat will report on the schedule for the preparations of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 1–4 December 2026). 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**

37. 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 2026. 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, 16–18 June 2026). It may wish to contribute to their preparation by establishing a drafting group of volunteer 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.

38. 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 address biodiversity loss, climate change, unsustainable resource consumption, pollution and land degradation, as well as their interlinkages with other related multilateral environmental agreements. The Bureau also suggested that the declaration should: emphasize the importance of strategic environmental assessment under the Protocol in spatial planning on land and in marine environments and for assessment of cumulative impacts from the proposed activities; highlight opportunities and recent developments in green financing and taxonomy, and the cooperation with international environmental institutions and other organizations in promoting the Convention beyond the ECE region, taking into account the expected global opening of the Convention; and reflect on the development of artificial intelligence and ongoing digital transformation in the context of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, if any. Delegations are invited to provide any further proposals regarding the draft declaration by 10 November 2025, 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**

39. 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 by the Bureau during its two sessions in 2026, with support from the secretariat, for the Working Group to agree on at its next meeting in June 2026.

40. 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.

**(d) Possible activities for the draft workplan for 2027–2029**

41. Delegations will be invited to submit proposals for elements of the workplan for the next intersessional period (2027–2029). In addition, they will be invited to participate in several small group discussions aimed at brainstorming potential components of the next workplan, as well as possible sources of funding.

42. The work of the small groups will be guided by the priority objectives outlined in the long-term strategy.<sup>13</sup> Discussions will also take into account ongoing cooperation activities in marine regions, opportunities for collaboration with international financial institutions, and recent developments in the application of artificial intelligence in environmental impact assessment, including associated risks and regulatory responses. Furthermore, the groups will consider weaknesses or shortcomings identified in the draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, requests for capacity-building activities – particularly in view of the anticipated global opening of the Convention pending two additional ratifications – and any suggestions put forward by the Implementation Committee and the Bureau.

43. Following the presentation of the outcomes of the small group discussions, the Working Group will be invited to comment on the proposals. Delegations will also be encouraged to consider their capacity to lead or fund specific activities, and to host capacity-building or subregional cooperation events within or beyond the ECE region.

44. In addition, the Working Group will be invited to identify activities that could be placed on a waiting list, should funding not be secured by the time of the adoption of the workplan at the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

**(e) Chairs of the sessions**

45. 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 for nominations, also taking into account any proposals from the Bureau.

**(f) Officers for the next intersessional period**

46. The Chair will ask delegations to come forward with nominations for officers to be elected for the next intersessional period, that is to say, 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) Agreed that Parties should be mindful of possible conflicts of interest when electing members to the Implementation Committee.

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

## Documentation

### *Informal documents*

Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.15)

A list of vacancies (chairs and members) in the treaty bodies for 2027–2029 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2025/INF.16)

## 9. Related events and international processes

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 3 December, 4–4.30 p.m.*

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

(a) 2025 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development organized by ECE (Geneva, 2–3 April 2025), which focused on “Advancing Sustainable, Inclusive, Science- and Evidence-based Solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its [Sustainable Development Goals] in the ECE region, Leaving No One Behind”;<sup>14</sup>

(b) Seventy-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 9–10 April 2025);<sup>15</sup>

(c) Thirtieth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy, including relevant outcomes of the work on emerging issues in the ECE region (Geneva, 26–28 November 2025).

## 10. Other business

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 3 December, 4.30–4.45 p.m.*

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

## 11. Presentation of the main decisions made and closing of the meeting

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 3 December, 4.45–6 p.m.*

49. The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions made 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 16 to 18 June 2026).

## III. Organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>Monday, 1 December 2025</b>		
10–10.10 a.m.	1	Adoption of the agenda
10.10–10.25 a.m.	2	Bureau update on activities since resumed Meetings of the Parties sessions
10.25–11 a.m.	3	Status of ratification

<sup>14</sup> See <https://regionalforum.unece.org/events/regional-forum-2025>.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://unece.org/info/Sessions-of-the-Commission/events/393881>.

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
11 a.m.–noon	4	Financial arrangements
noon–1 p.m.	5	Compliance and implementation
1–3 p.m.		Lunch
3–4 p.m.	5	Compliance and implementation (continued)
4–6 p.m.	6	Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol
	6 (a)	
	6 (b)	Subregional cooperation and capacity-building
	6 (c)	Capacity-building
		Exchange of good practices
<b>Tuesday, 2 December 2025</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	6 (c) (i)	Seminar on application of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in spatial planning, with particular emphasis on energy-related plans, programmes and projects, biodiversity assessments and climate change
1–3 p.m.		Lunch
3–4 p.m.	6 (c) (i)	Seminar on application of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in spatial planning (continued)
4 p.m.–6 p.m.	6 (c) (ii)	Round table on application of artificial intelligence products, including open-source tools, during environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures
<b>Wednesday, 3 December 2025</b>		
10–10.30 a.m.	7	Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities
10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.	8	Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties
10.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	8 (a)	
	8 (b)	Practical arrangements
	8 (c)	List of draft documents and decisions
	8 (d)	Provisional programme
1–3 p.m.		Possible activities for the draft workplan for 2027–2029
3–4 p.m.	8 (d)	Lunch
	8 (e)	Possible activities for the draft workplan for 2027–2029 (continued)
	8 (f)	Chairs of the sessions
		Officers for the next intersessional period
4–4.30 p.m.	9	Related events and international processes
4.30–4.45 p.m.	10	Other business

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
4.45–6 p.m.	11	Presentation of the main decisions made and closing of the meeting

---

---