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

Sixth session

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

Second session

Geneva, 2–5 June 2014

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on its sixth session and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on its second session

Addendum

Decisions and the Declaration adopted jointly by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

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Decision VI/3–II/3

Adoption of the workplan

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, meeting in joint session,

Recalling article 11, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, stipulating that the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention shall undertake additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention,

Recalling also article 14, paragraph 4 (f), of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, stipulating that the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall take additional action, including action to be carried out jointly under the Protocol and the Convention, that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Protocol,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to meet fully their legal obligations arising under these treaties,

Recognizing also that Parties to the Convention and the Protocol should take action to maximize the effectiveness of their application of the Convention and the Protocol, respectively, so that the best possible practical results are achieved,

Recognizing with appreciation the valuable work carried out under the workplan adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (decision V/9–I/9), particularly:

(a) The steps taken by Parties and non-Parties to ensure their environmental impact assessment systems are consistent with the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol to report accordingly;

(b) The workshops and pilot projects for subregional cooperation and capacity-building on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) organized by the Governments of Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Poland and Ukraine;

(c) The seminars for the exchange of good practices organized by the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Finland, Poland and Sweden; and by the European Commission, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the Chair of the Implementation Committee,

Also recognizing with appreciation the substantial funding raised by the secretariat to allow implementation of the workplan activities, in particular in countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus,

Acknowledging that several workplan activities for subregional cooperation and capacity-building were no longer requested or were postponed to the next intersessional period by the countries that had proposed them,

Noting with satisfaction that the activities in the workplan adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, excluding those that had been cancelled, were approximately 68 per cent completed, with

100 per cent of priority 1 activities completed and approximately 94 per cent of priority 2 activities and 48 per cent of priority 3 activities completed,¹

Also noting with satisfaction that the implementation of approximately 92 per cent of the remaining workplan activities were ongoing or being planned and would be completed in the next intersessional period,

Noting with concern the relatively limited funding available to support the implementation of the workplan activities in the countries of Central Asia,

Wishing to establish realistic intersessional workplans under the Convention and the Protocol by ensuring in advance the funding of the workplan activities,

1. *Decide* that activities for which no funding is identified should not be included in the workplan, but included on a waiting list until appropriate funding is made available;

2. *Adopt* the workplan and the waiting list of activities for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as set out in the table annexed to the present decision;

3. *Suggest* that lead countries that carry out the relevant activities might consult each other in order to benefit from each other's experience and to avoid unnecessary overlap;

4. *Call on* the Parties, and also invite non-Parties, to arrange, host and participate actively in seminars, workshops and meetings to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

5. *Invite* every relevant body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental and, as appropriate, researchers, commercial firms, developers, consultants or other commercial entities to participate actively in the activities included in the workplan;

6. *Invite* the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Secretary to continue supporting the work under the Convention and the Protocol by promoting the activities planned in the workplan, providing formal documentation for and ensuring publication of the outcomes of these activities in the three official languages of ECE, as appropriate. Publications subject to global outreach should be processed and translated by the United Nations conference services and made available in the six United Nations languages;

7. *Decide* that during the intersessional period the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment should meet in spring 2015, spring 2016 and late 2016 and that the Implementation Committee should hold in total eight sessions, meeting two to three times a year — in spring, autumn and winter;

8. *Request* the secretariat to prepare the provisional agendas and other formal documentation for and reports on the meetings mentioned in paragraph 7 above and to issue these documents in the three official languages of ECE.

¹ Activities included in the budget adopted by the Convention and the Protocol for the period up to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol contained in annex I of decision V/10-I/10 were assigned priorities 1 and 2. Other workplan activities that were financed to the extent possible through earmarked contributions by Parties or through project funding are referred to as priority 3 activities.

Annex I

Workplan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<p>Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</p> <p>Enhance the implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol</p>	1. Consideration by the Implementation Committee of compliance submissions.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Recommendations on compliance submissions.	2014–2017, presented to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3	Most items included in Implementation Committee and secretariat costs. Exceptions are identified below. May require funding for translation of submissions (\$10,000 is budgeted). ^a
	2. Report on the Committee’s activities to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Reports of the Committee meetings and a synthesis report to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	2014–2017, presented to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3	—
	3. If necessary, review of the Committee’s structure and functions and operating rules.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Possible revision of the Committee’s structure and functions and operating rules.	2014–2017, presented to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3	—

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	4. Examination of the outcome of the fourth review of implementation of the Convention and the first review of implementation of the Protocol.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	Summary of compliance issues from the fourth review of implementation of the Convention and the first review of implementation of the Protocol.	By the end of 2014	—
	5. Modification of the questionnaires for the report on implementation of the Convention and, as appropriate, the Protocol, in 2013–2015.	Undertaken by the Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, of WHO.	Modified questionnaires	Presentation of draft modified questionnaires to the Working Group in 2015	—
	6. Distribution of the questionnaire to the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol for them to complete and return.	Carried out by the secretariat	Completed questionnaires.	Issue of questionnaires, one by end of October 2015 and the other by end of December 2015 Return of questionnaires, one by end of February 2016 and the other by end of April 2016	—

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	7. Preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.	Carried out by the secretariat	Draft fifth review of implementation of the Convention and draft second review of implementation of the Protocol for consideration by the Implementation Committee, the Working Group on EIA and SEA, MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	Presentation of the draft reviews to the Committee and the Working Group in autumn 2016 and to MOP7 and MOP/MOP3	Requires external consultants and translation of national reports (\$25,000 is budgeted). ^a
	8. Reviews of legislation, procedures and practice, and technical assistance in drafting legislation, to strengthen Parties' implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol. Prompted by the Implementation Committee or requested by Parties themselves, as follows: (a) Country-specific reviews, including a period in-country examining national legislation and based on earlier reviews further to decision IV/2. Parties experiencing similar problems might be assisted jointly: (i) Technical advice to Armenia on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments and legislation;	Undertaken by external consultant(s), with the support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, WHO. Supervised by members of the Committee (if further to a Committee initiative).	Recommendations on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.	As decided by the Implementation Committee and the Party concerned	Costs: approximately \$25,000 per review, plus in-kind contributions from Parties providing experts and from target country for interpretation.
				2014–2015	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	(ii) Technical advice and support to Kyrgyzstan on improving legislation as well as the institutional framework to implement the Convention;	Undertaken by external consultant and the national expert group on EIA.	Draft law on EIA.	2014	Funding (approximately \$25,000) from Switzerland.
	(iii) Technical advice to Azerbaijan on improving legislation to implement the Convention;	Undertaken by external consultant.	Draft implementing regulations.	2015	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
	(b) Subregional overview based on legislative reviews on EIA and SEA combined with information gathered when developing general guidance on enhancing consistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Undertaken by external consultant(s), with the support of the secretariat.	Subregional overview of SEA and EIA systems prepared and disseminated.	2015	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
	9. Pre-accession legislative assistance:	Undertaken by external consultant(s), with the support of the secretariat.	Recommendations to the country on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.		
	(a) Technical advice to Azerbaijan on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments;			2014	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	(b) Technical assistance to Belarus in drafting legislation to implement the Protocol (building on the existing legislative review);			2014–2015	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
	(c) Technical assistance to Georgia in drafting legislation to implement the Convention and the Protocol (building on the existing legislative review);			2014–2015	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
	(d) Technical advice to Kazakhstan on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments;			2015–2017	EU funding for Kazakhstan. ^c
	(e) Technical advice to the Russian Federation;	To be specified by the Russian Federation.		2015	Funding (approximately \$28,000) from Sweden (carried forward).
	10. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol, posted on website.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Online collection of the Committee's findings and opinions.	Annual updates	—
	11. Alignment of the authentic language versions of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention:	Secretariat to organize a review by the United Nations editors, the ad hoc task force and the Working Group to review inconsistencies identified and to prepare proposals.	Proposals for aligning the text of the Protocol.	2015	—
	(a) Identification and review of inconsistencies;				
	(b) Preparation of proposals for addressing the inconsistencies (through correction or amendment procedures).				

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	12. Preparation of guidance on the implementation of the Convention (drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee).	Undertaken by external consultant(s), with the support of the secretariat and, as needed, the Implementation Committee and the Working Group on EIA and SEA.	Guidance document.	2015–2016	Funding for a consultant (\$10,000) from EIB
	13. Further development and update of the Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries.	Lead country: Kyrgyzstan Regional workshops to discuss and update the Guidelines.	Guidelines on EIA for Central Asian Countries.	2015–2016	Funding from Switzerland in 2015 (\$25,000) and 2016 (\$10,000) for external and national consultants and organization of up to two workshops.
	14. Preparation of a video to promote the benefits of the Convention and the Protocol in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus	Secretariat to prepare a draft script, Bureau/the Working Group to review it and external contractor to produce the video clip.	1–3 minute video clip	2015–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
			For all subregions: (a) Possible evaluation of relevant guidance; (b) Possible guidance on subregional issues such as public participation and the role of NGOs; (c) Common understanding of elements of		Participants cover their own travel and accommodation costs to the extent possible, while host countries cover organizational and venue costs in kind (approximately \$5,000–\$20,000 per workshop).
	Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the ECE region				
	Improved and developed application of the Convention and its				

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Protocol within the subregions.			application and possible multilateral agreements.		
Promotion of cooperation in all subregions.	South-Eastern Europe subregion	Lead country: Romania	Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues.	2015	Donor/in-kind.
Increased professional skills of officials and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs, as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA and transboundary EIA and to the application of the Convention and its Protocol.	1. Workshop(s) on implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Bucharest Agreement in the subregion: workshop to prepare for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement. Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea	Lead country: Morocco, with support from other interested countries.	Workshop report.	2015	Funding largely available (\$20,000).
Increased coordination between environmental treaties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	Baltic Sea subregion	Lead countries: Germany, Latvia and Lithuania.	Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues.	(a) 2014 in Germany (b) 2015 in Lithuania (c) 2016 in Latvia	In kind.
	3. Holding of three meetings on: (a) SEA for programmes of measures under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (art. 13) and the experience of large-scale transboundary projects;				

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	<p>(b) (i) Assessment and reduction of transboundary impacts on transboundary watercourses and international lakes in the context of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Helsinki Convention;</p> <p>(ii) Effective public participation in SEA/EIA in the context of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Aarhus Convention;</p> <p>(c) (topics to be identified by the lead country).</p> <p>Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</p>				Require donor and/or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries
	<p>4. Subregional coordination and experience-sharing events to share successes, challenges, solutions and experiences as well as the results of capacity-building activities on SEA and EIA, followed by the dissemination of seminar results in all countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, including to the public and NGOs. The events can focus one or several challenges in SEA or EIA implementation (e.g., public participation; monitoring;</p>	<p>Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine</p>	<p>Dissemination of seminar results: All countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.</p>		

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	interministerial cooperation/consultations) or on a sector (energy, mining, etc.) Countries to propose themes/ topics for the events:				
	(a) Practical experience in application of SEA to various plans and programmes in the EU countries, comparison of legal, institutional and procedural frameworks;	Czech Republic.		Autumn 2014	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
	(b) Lessons learned from national and subregional reviews of legal and institutional frameworks for application of EIA and SEA;	Georgia.		2015	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
	(c) Lessons learned from the SEA pilot projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.	Ukraine.		2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). ^b
	5. Joint capacity-building activities with the Aarhus Convention for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on public participation in decision-making, including to strengthen the capacities of national Aarhus Centres and the regional Aarhus Centres Network in the EIA and SEA processes. Use the Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation on SEA and the general guidance on enhancing systemic consistency.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, involving Aarhus Centres in these countries, with support from OSCE and inputs from Aarhus Convention and Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) secretariats.	Capacity-building and training materials.	2015–2016 (tbc)	Funding from the Environment and Security Initiative.

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	(a) Development and compilation of capacity-building materials; (b) Regional and national training workshops.				
Exchange of good practices Shared knowledge and experience in appropriate legislation for implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, leading to better national legislation and application. Improved implementation and application of the Convention and the Protocol by learning from Parties' experiences. Awareness-raising on the Convention, its amendments and its ratification.	1. Workshops or half-day seminars within meetings of the Working Group on: (a) Post-project analysis; (b) Global application of the Convention and the Protocol: focus on non-ECE countries and IFIs.	Lead countries: Belarus, in cooperation with Ukraine. Lead organization: EIB.	From each workshop or seminar, a brief, clear document presenting advice on the most important problems identified for the theme in question.	2015 2016	Costs (e.g., costs for speakers, provision and translation of materials) to be covered in kind by lead countries, to the extent possible (approximately \$10,000 per seminar). In kind and some funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN) to cover costs for speakers. In kind. (Travel costs for non-ECE countries should be covered from the budget.)

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	2. Development of good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities.	Undertaken by external consultant(s), in line with agreed terms of reference, under the supervision of an editorial group including Austria, Belarus, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, the European Commission and European ECO Forum, and with support from the secretariat.	Good practice recommendations for adoption by MOP7 and MOP/MOP3.	2015–2016	In kind. Requires consultant(s) for drafting (\$10,000–\$20,000). Co-funding from Austria (\$5,000) and the EU (EaP GREEN). ^b
Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA		Lead: secretariat in cooperation with the concerned countries.	Ratifications and other outcomes specified below.	2014–2017	
Ratification, full legal implementation and practical application of the Protocol. Increased professional skills of officials, and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs, as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA and to the application of the Protocol.	1. Preparation of fact-sheets on application of SEA, e.g., on industrial reconversion and investment plans or sustainable agricultural practices.	Lead: All Parties, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, as well as the secretariat in cooperation with UNEP. (The Party preparing the fact-sheet will be responsible for its layout.)	Fact-sheets	2014–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN) for translation and publication.

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Increased exchange of information and experience in the application of the Protocol.	2. Preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice (e.g., on ...).	Lead organization: IAIA, with the support of WHO, SEA and health experts and the secretariat.	Informal pamphlets on key issues	Ongoing	In kind.
	3. Workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol for countries in the ECE region and other Parties to the Protocol, in particular countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia:	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.	Workshop and training reports.	Countries to specify the timing	
	(a) One national training event, one local training events;	Armenia.		2015–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN).
	(b) Two national training events, two local training events;	Azerbaijan.		2014–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN).
	(c) One national training events;	Belarus.		2015–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN).
	(d) One national training event;	Georgia.		2014–2015	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN).
	(e) Two national training events, two local training events;	Republic of Moldova.		2014–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN).
(f) One national training event, one local training event;	Kazakhstan.		2015–2017	EU funding for Kazakhstan. ^c	

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
	(g) One national training event, two local training events.	Ukraine		2015–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN).
	4. National guidance documents on SEA.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.	One published guidance document per country.	2015–2016	Funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN).; and from the EU for Kazakhstan. ^c
	5. Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine, in collaboration with UNEP and WHO, where relevant.	Project reports.		(a)–(e) funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN). (f) EU funding for Kazakhstan. ^c
		(a) Armenia;		(a) 2014–2015	
		(b) Azerbaijan;		(b) 2014–2015	
		(c) Georgia;		(c) 2014–2015	
		(d) Republic of Moldova;		(d) 2014–2015	
		(e) Ukraine;		(e) 2015–2016	
		(f) Kazakhstan.		(f) 2016–2017	

Abbreviations: ECE = United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; EIA = environmental impact assessment; EIB = European Investment Bank; EU = European Union; IAIA = International Association for Impact Assessment; MOP7 = the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session; MOP/MOP3 = the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its third session; NGOs = non-governmental organizations; OSCE = Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; SEA = strategic environmental assessment; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; WHO = World Health Organization.

^a The financing of the activities foreseen in the budget of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as set out in annex I to decision VI/4–II/4, will be contingent on sufficient funds being made available by Parties through their voluntary contributions to the Convention trust fund.

^b “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Partnership” (EaP-GREEN), a European Union-funded regional multi-stakeholder project. Funding subject to applicable procedures under the project.

^c “Supporting Kazakhstan’s transition to a Green Economy Model” a European Union-funded multi-stakeholder project foreseen for 2015–2018 (tbc).

Annex II
List of activities awaiting funding for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<p>Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol</p> <p>Enhance the implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol</p>	<p>1. Reviews of legislation, procedures and practice and technical assistance in drafting legislation to strengthen Parties' implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol. Prompted by the Implementation Committee or requested by Parties themselves, as follows:</p> <p>(a) Country-specific reviews, including a period in-country examining national legislation and based on earlier reviews further to decision IV/2. Parties experiencing similar problems might be assisted jointly;</p> <p>(b) Technical advice further to possible Committee initiatives (as decided by the Implementation Committee).</p> <p>2. Pre-accession legislative assistance: technical advice to Uzbekistan to review its national legislation for implementation of the Protocol and to propose amendments.</p>	<p>Undertaken by external consultant(s), with the support of the secretariat.</p>	<p>Recommendations to the country on strengthening capacity, including amendments to legislation, procedures and institutional arrangements.</p>	<p>2016–2017</p>	<p>Funding for up to two reviews is budgeted.^a</p>

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<p>Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the ECE region</p> <p>Improved and developed application of the Convention and its Protocol within the subregions.</p> <p>Promotion of cooperation in all subregions.</p>			<p>For all subregions:</p> <p>(a) Possible evaluation of relevant guidance;</p> <p>(b) Possible guidance on subregional issues such as public participation and the role of NGOs;</p> <p>(c) Common understanding of elements of application and possible multilateral agreements.</p>		<p>Participants cover their own travel and accommodation costs to the extent possible, while host countries cover organizational and venue costs in kind (approximately \$5,000–\$20 000 per workshop).</p>
<p>Increased professional skills of officials and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs, as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA and transboundary EIA and to the application of the Convention and its Protocol.</p>	<p>South-Eastern Europe subregion</p> <p>1. Workshop(s) on implementation of the Convention, the Protocol and the Bucharest Agreement in the subregion.</p> <p>(a) Workshop;</p> <p>(b) First Meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement.</p>	<p>Lead countries: Croatia, and Slovenia.</p> <p>(a) Croatia with Slovenia.</p> <p>(b) Romania.</p>	<p>Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues.</p>		<p>Donor/in-kind (e.g., project) funding required.</p> <p>(a) No funding confirmed yet.</p> <p>(b) No funding confirmed yet.</p>
<p>Increased coordination between environmental treaties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.</p>	<p>Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea</p> <p>2. <i>Carried forward</i> workshop on practical application of the Convention on the basis of the results in the previous workshops.</p>	<p>Lead country: Italy, to be confirmed.</p>	<p>Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues.</p>	<p>2014–2015</p>	<p>In kind.</p>

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<p>Exchange of good practices</p> <p>Shared knowledge and experience in appropriate legislation for implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, leading to better national legislation and application.</p> <p>Improved implementation and application of the Convention and the Protocol by learning from Parties' experiences.</p> <p>Awareness-raising on the Convention, its amendments and its ratification.</p>	<p>Workshops or half-day seminars within meetings of the Working Group on:</p> <p>A topic related to SEA (e.g., based on IAIA "FasTips").</p>	<p>Lead organization: IAIA.</p>	<p>From each workshop or seminar, a brief, clear document presenting advice on the most important identified problems for the theme in question.</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>Costs (e.g., costs for speakers, provision and translation of materials) to be covered in kind by lead countries, to the extent possible (approximately \$10,000 per seminar).</p> <p>(Participation of countries in transition, NGOs, Non-ECE countries.)</p> <p>In kind and some funding from the EU (EaP-GREEN) to cover costs for speakers.^b</p>
<p>Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA</p> <p>Ratification, full legal implementation and practical application of the Protocol.</p>	<p>Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors.</p>	<p>Requested by Tajikistan.</p>		<p>2015–2016</p>	<p>Requires funding (\$80,000–\$100,000).</p>

<i>Activity objectives</i>	<i>Method of work (sub-activities)</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements</i>	<i>Expected outcome</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Increased professional skills of officials and increased awareness of the public, including NGOs, as well as of officials at all relevant administrative levels in relation to SEA and to the application of the Protocol.					
Increased exchange of information and experience in the application of the Protocol.					

Abbreviations: ECE = United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; EIA = environmental impact assessment; EU = European Union; NGOs = non-governmental organizations; ; IAIA = International Association for Impact Assessment; SEA = strategic environmental assessment.

^a The financing of the activities foreseen in the budget of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as set out in annex I to decision VI/4–II/4, will be contingent on sufficient funds being made available by Parties through their voluntary contributions to the Convention trust fund.

^b “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Partnership” (EaP-GREEN), a European Union-funded regional multi-stakeholder project. Funding subject to applicable procedures under the project.

Decision VI/4–II/4

Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, meeting in joint session,

Recalling decision V/10–I/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance for the period up to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

Recognizing the wish of the Parties for a high degree of transparency and accountability,

Welcoming the biannual financial reports prepared by the secretariat since the fifth session of the Meeting of Parties to the Convention, with biannual reporting best addressing the schedule of the meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as well as national budgeting cycles,

Recognizing with appreciation the contributions made in cash and in kind to the budget in the period between the fifth and sixth sessions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention, and between the first and second sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

Seeking to facilitate the willingness of donor countries to make further contributions, as well as assisting financial and project management,

Believing that the Parties should be informed in a timely manner of the status of and developments in the financing of activities under the Convention and the Protocol,

Also believing that the financing of activities under the Convention and the Protocol should be distributed among as many Parties and non-Parties as possible,

Aware of the importance of wide participation by the Parties in activities under the Convention and the Protocol in order to ensure progress,

Aware also of the need to facilitate the participation of certain countries with economies in transition that may otherwise not be able to take part,

Recalling the amendment to the Convention (decision II/14 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention), which allows United Nations Member States not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to accede to the Convention, and recalling article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, which allows United Nations Member States not members of ECE to accede to the Protocol,

1. *Establish* a scheme of financial contributions whereby Parties and Signatories to the Convention and to the Protocol would contribute each year an amount that they may choose to pledge on a voluntary basis, and also invite international financial institutions, as well as other stakeholders, to contribute;

2. *Agree* that, in line with paragraph 19, work will continue during the intersessional period to ensure that the financial arrangements and the financial strategy foster the effective implementation of the workplan;

3. *Confirm* for State Parties the system of shares endorsed by decision III/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, whereby countries make contributions equivalent in value to a number of shares of the budget;²

4. *Recognize* the commitment by the European Union to contribute 2.5 per cent of the total amount not covered by the United Nations regular budget for priority 1 activities of the workplan of the Convention and its Protocol and its intention to maintain its annual pledge of €50,000 towards the combined costs of the 2014–2017 workplan until that amount becomes less than 2.5 per cent of the total, while noting that this is subject to annual endorsement by the budgetary authorities of the European Union and is without prejudice to paragraph 1;

5. *Adopt* the financial strategy for carrying out the work under the Convention and the Protocol, given the financial constraints, as contained in annex II to this decision;

6. *Urge* all Parties to contribute to ensuring sustainable funding of activities and an equitable and proportionate sharing of the financial burden among the Parties and Signatories;

7. *Strongly urge* Parties that have so far only committed limited funds or in-kind contributions to raise their contributions during the current and future budget cycle;

8. *Adopt* the report prepared by the secretariat on the budget and financial arrangements in the period since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/2014/1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/1);

9. *Decide* that activities under the workplan for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which are included in the budget of the Convention and the Protocol for that same period, as set out in annex I to this decision, and which are not covered by the United Nations regular budget, should be covered by contributions of 1,100 shares of US\$ 1,000 each, of which 565 shares would cover the core (priority 1) requirements and 535 shares would cover the remaining non-core (priority 2) requirements;

10. *Agree* the budget of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as set out in annex I;

11. *Also agree* that contributions shall be allocated to the budgets of the individual items in the budget table contained in annex I, in the order of priority set for each item unless and to the extent that a contributor specifies that a contribution should be allocated to a particular item in the budget; where funds remain after the completion of such items, the surplus shall be transferred to the overall budget to be spent on the budget items in the order of priority set for each item;

12. *Request* that Parties seek to transfer their contributions to the ECE Trust Fund on Local Technical Cooperation under the Convention and the Protocol as early as possible

² Language to be modified based on the agreement of the “financial scheme”.

in their budget year and, insofar as possible, contributions for a given calendar year should be made by the end of the preceding year so as to provide greater certainty for future financial and project management;

13. *Request* the secretariat to continue to prepare and submit to the Bureau biannual reports with a view to assisting in the preparation of the report to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as requested in paragraph 17 below, and further request the Bureau to consider the biannual reports prepared by the secretariat and to agree their circulation to the Parties;

14. *Also request* the secretariat to include in the biannual reports information on the resources available (including in-kind contributions and United Nations programme support) and the expenditure on each item specified in the budget, as well as highlighting significant developments;

15. *Further request* the secretariat to provide Parties with timely reminders concerning outstanding pledges;

16. *Decide* that the Executive Secretary of ECE has authority, after consultations with the Bureau, to make adjustments to the budget, up to a maximum of 10 per cent, where such adjustments are necessary before the next meeting of Parties, and that Parties are promptly informed of such adjustments;

17. *Request* the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare a report for the next meeting of the Parties, based on the information contained in the biannual reports and giving a clear indication of the significant developments during the period in order that Parties can best meet future demands for resources under the Convention and its Protocol;

18. *Request* the Executive Secretary of the ECE to seek additional staff funded by the regular budget of the United Nations to provide long-term and stable secretariat functions;

19. *Decide* that the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment shall prepare a further draft decision on financial arrangements for adoption at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, based on experience gained in the meantime under the financial arrangements adopted by this meeting;

20. *Call upon* countries with economies in transition to finance to the extent possible their own participation in the activities under the Convention and its Protocol in order to ensure that the limited funds available are used efficiently;

21. *Urge* Parties and encourage non-Parties and relevant international organizations to contribute financial resources to enable countries with economies in transition and non-governmental organizations to participate in the meetings under the Convention and its Protocol;

22. *Decide* that securing proper staffing of the secretariat has priority above financial support to participants in formal meetings and that, among participants, priority should be given to representatives of Parties, then of non-Parties and then of non-governmental organizations;

23. *Recommend* that the Convention and its Protocol should apply the guiding criteria established and periodically updated by the Committee on Environmental Policy for financial assistance to support the participation of experts and representatives from

countries with economies in transition in meetings and workshops organized within the framework of the Convention and its Protocol and other relevant activities, depending upon the availability of funds for this purpose;

24. *Request* the secretariat to grant, subject to the availability of funds for this purpose, in accordance with the budget decided by the Meeting of the Parties, financial assistance to designated experts from non-governmental organizations identified by the Bureau for their participation in meetings under the Convention and under the Protocol, unless otherwise decided by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment;

25. *Decide* that the Bureau shall, depending on the availability of funding for this purpose, in accordance with the budget decided by the Meeting of the Parties, and subject to priority being given to funding the workplan, examine requests for possible financial assistance for the participation by representatives and experts from States outside the ECE region in meetings under the Convention and its Protocol.

Annex I

Budget for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the period up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, for activities to be funded from the Convention trust fund or by in-kind contributions

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Notes/sub-activities</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Cost per item per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Cost per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Number of units over three years</i>	<i>Total cost over three years (shares)</i>
Organizational activities (with most meetings taking place in Geneva)							
Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol	2	Participation of countries with economies in transition (CITs)	Meeting	30			
	2	Participation of non-governmental organizations		20			
	2	Invited speakers		15			
	2	Participation of non-ECE countries		15	80	1	80
Meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment	2	Participation of CITs	Meeting	20			
	2	Participation of non-governmental organizations		10			
	2	Participation of non-ECE countries		5	35	3	105
Bureau meetings (free standing)	2	Participation of CITs (Bureau members)	Meeting	—	5	4	20
Meetings of the Implementation Committee	2	Participation of CITs (Committee members)	Meeting	—	5	8	40
Informal translations of informal papers for meetings listed above	2		Meeting	—	5	6	30
Promotion of contacts with countries outside the ECE region (with reporting of results to Working Group)	2	Travel of secretariat and Chair	Mission	—	5	5	25
External expert to provide secretariat support for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol ^d	1	External expert (United Nations Standard Salary Cost, including net salary, taxes and common staff costs)	Year	—	180	3	540
Further secretariat support for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol	2	Consultants	Year	15			
	2	Promotional materials		5			
	2	Secretariat travel in relation to the workplan		20	40	3	120
Subtotal (organizational)							960

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Notes/sub-activities</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Cost per item per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Cost per unit (shares)</i>	<i>Number of units over three years</i>	<i>Total cost over three years (shares)</i>
Substantive activities (see corresponding workplan for details)							
Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol	2	Informal translations of submissions		—	—	—	10
	1	Drafting of reviews of implementation					25
	2	Drafting guidance related to nuclear energy	Consultant	—	—	—	15
	2	Country-specific performance reviews	Review	—	25	2	50
Exchange of good practices	2	Workshops or half-day seminars	Seminar	—	10	4	40
Subtotal (substantive activities)							165
Grand total (in shares, 1 share = \$1 000)							1 100

^a Full time staff member at the P-3 level to support the secretariat to fulfil its functions as required by the Convention and the Protocol, including notably regarding the review of implementation and compliance under the Convention and the Protocol, capacity-building and maintenance of the website. The external expert is required to supplement the secretariat staff funded through the United Nations regular budget, which currently comprises one staff member at the P-4 level and, as of April 2014, 40 per cent of a (support) staff member at the G-5 level.

Annex II

Financial strategy

I. Introduction

1. The financial strategy set out in the present document has been prepared further to decision V/10–I/10 on budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA), requesting “the Bureau, possibly with the support of a small group, to develop a strategy for carrying out the work under the Convention and the Protocol given the financial constraints” (ECE/MP.EIA/15, para. 16).
2. The draft strategy was agreed by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, on the basis of a proposal prepared by the Bureau and with support from the secretariat.
3. The strategy draws also on the experience of the other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) environmental conventions in developing sustainable extrabudgetary financial arrangements.

II. Objectives

4. The objectives of the financial strategy are:
 - (a) To establish the basis for preparing realistic intersessional workplans with defined resource requirements under the Convention and the Protocol;
 - (b) To ensure sufficient resources for covering the costs of activities that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget;³
 - (c) To improve the stability and predictability of the sources of funding;
 - (d) To maintain a funding scheme based on voluntary contributions that is transparent and open to all Parties and Signatories, and in addition invite international financial institutions and other stakeholders to contribute;
 - (e) To encourage all Parties and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the workplans.

³ Regular budget (RB) resources of the ECE secretariat are made available to cover its core mandate, that is, to ensure the servicing of meetings of the governing bodies and key subsidiary groups. The level of the RB resources is determined by United Nations Member States through relevant decisions in the Fifth Committee (with responsibilities for administration and budgetary matters) and later in the General Assembly. The RB staff resources have remained constant in spite of the increase in the functions of the secretariat, e.g., with the entry into force of the Protocol on SEA, and the greater use of the compliance mechanism (Implementation Committee). Moreover, the RB resources are insufficient for activities that go beyond the core mandate (e.g., capacity-building), which, therefore, must be financed through extrabudgetary funds.

III. Elements of the financial strategy

A. Planning

5. The following elements should be taken into account when planning future activities and drafting budgets:

(a) The Meetings of the Parties, when deciding on the next intersessional workplan, should at the same time agree on the budget and ensure that sources of appropriate additional extrabudgetary resources are identified;

(b) The primary responsibility for securing the necessary resources to implement the workplan should lie with the Parties;

(c) Activities relevant for the implementation of the Convention for which no funding or no lead countries can be identified should not be included in the workplan upon its adoption but should be included on a separate waiting list until appropriate funding and lead countries are made available. The funding of the “wait-listed” activities should, however, be subject to reassessment by the Bureau based on possibly changed priorities, unless the donor contribution was earmarked for a specific activity on the waiting list;

(d) The draft workplans should indicate funding requirements/estimated costs (in United States dollars) for all the proposed activities;

(e) Extrabudgetary funds must be appropriate to cover not only the activities but also the staff — both professional staff and programme assistants — needed to implement them;

(f) The allocation of resources for the budget and intersessional workplan items should be based on agreed priorities.

B. Contributions to the trust fund

6. To ensure sustainable funding of the activities and an equitable and proportionate distribution of the financial burden among the Parties and the Signatories, the system of voluntary financial contributions, based upon a system of shares, established by decision III/10 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, is maintained, whereby Parties to the Convention and the Protocol as well as Signatory States, other countries, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may choose to make contributions equivalent in value to a number of shares of the budget.

7. To improve the sustainable availability and predictability of the extrabudgetary funding for the activities under the Convention and the Protocol:

(a) Insofar as possible, and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, contributions for a given calendar year should be made by the end of the preceding year, so as to secure staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the activities;

(b) Financial contributions should preferably be made towards the overall implementation of the workplan, but could also be earmarked for a particular activity;

(c) To the extent possible, the financial contributions to the trust fund under the Convention should be “unconditional”, that is, they should be provided without signed agreements or other exchange of written communication, other than written requests for

payment, and requiring no specific financial or substantive reporting by the secretariat on their use other than that provided in the biannual financial reports produced by the secretariat;

(d) The secretariat should write to Parties to encourage further pledges and timely financial contributions. The letters should be sent out not later than 90 days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties and at the end of each subsequent calendar year of the intersessional period. The letters should also make reference to the available information on ongoing activities under the Convention and its Protocol and the status of the paid contributions.

C. In-kind contributions

8. In addition to extrabudgetary financial contributions to the trust fund under the Convention, Parties as well as Signatories, other ECE and non-ECE countries, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions and NGOs should be encouraged to make in-kind contributions. These could include:

(a) Covering the cost of services linked to workplan activities (provision of expertise, organization of a meeting, publication of results, etc.);

(b) Funding directly the participation of representatives of countries with economies in transition and the secretariat, rather than through contributions to the trust fund;

(c) Providing financial support for representatives of States outside the ECE region that they wished to participate in activities or meetings;

(d) Provision of leadership and expertise within the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Protocol.

9. Parties should also be encouraged to provide human resources for the implementation of the activities by the Convention secretariat, for example through providing a junior or associate expert.⁴

D. Expenditure from the trust fund

10. The contributions should continue to be allocated to the budgets of the individual items of expenditure in the order of priority set for each item, as decided on by the Meeting of the Parties. In addition to this:

(a) Subject to the availability of financial resources, support to representatives of States outside the ECE region can be provided only if such representatives would draw clear benefits from their participation, such as attendance at a workshop and contribution to relevant discussions;

(b) Financial support for States neighbouring the ECE region should be prioritized over other States outside the ECE region;

⁴ Parties that have a junior professional officer programme may wish to consider providing an associate expert. These are typically young professionals with a university degree in an appropriate discipline and a few years of professional experience that are made available to a receiving international organization for a period of two to three years.

(c) Savings could be made by reducing the number of printed items and moving to electronic publications, as well as by reducing the length of printed documents.

E. Expenditure from the regular budget

11. Savings from the regular budget should be made, including through:

- (a) Continued reduction in the number of documents, their length and their translation;
- (b) Continued reduction in printing, with a move to electronic publications;
- (c) More even distribution of the meetings throughout the year.

Decision VI/5–II/5

Accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, meeting in joint session,

Recalling their decision V/8–I/8 on accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Also recalling decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on interpretation of article 14 of the Convention, and the desire expressed therein to bring about an early entry into force of the amendments adopted through its decisions II/14 and III/7,

Further recalling article 17, paragraph 3, of the Convention, as adopted by decision II/14 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, which concerns the accession upon approval of a State that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),

Additionally recalling article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, which concerns the accession upon approval of a State that is a Member of the United Nations but that is not a member of ECE,

Convinced that the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment are effective instruments for fostering environmentally sound and sustainable development, and for supporting cooperation also beyond the ECE region,

Wishing to share the knowledge, practices and experience gained in the ECE region and, at the same time, to benefit from the knowledge, practices and experience in other regions of the world,

Recognizing the increased interest in the Convention and the Protocol and the involvement of many non-ECE countries in activities within their framework,

Acknowledging the need for a procedure for accession by non-ECE countries not differing from the procedure for accession by ECE-countries,

Expressing the unanimous desire to allow countries outside the ECE region to become Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol as soon as possible,

1. *Express satisfaction* that article 17, paragraph 3, adopted by decision II/4 will enter into force on 26 August 2014, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, and taking into account decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the interpretation of article 14 of the Convention, for those States that have ratified, approved or accepted the amendment;

2. *Urge* all the States that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001 that have not yet done so to ratify the amendment to article 17 as soon as possible, for it to have effect;

3. *Decide* that, for the purposes of the amendment to article 17 of the Convention, adopted by decision II/14, any future request for accession to the Convention by any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is welcome and, therefore, shall be considered as approved by the Meeting of the Parties;

4. *Acknowledge* that the present approval of future requests for accession to the Convention will take effect upon entry into force of the amendment to article 17 in accordance with article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, and taking into account decision V/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on interpretation of article 14 of the Convention;

5. *Invite* any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and which submits an instrument of accession in accordance with paragraph 3 above to unilaterally accept the provisional application of the Convention until the amendment to article 17 of the Convention has entered into force for all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001;

6. *Decide* that, for the purposes of article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, any future request for accession to the Protocol by any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is welcome and, therefore, shall be considered as approved by the Meeting of the Parties;

7. *Also decide*, that the provision of article 24, paragraph 3, of the Protocol shall be interpreted as applying, *mutatis mutandis*, to the case of accession pursuant to article 23, paragraph 3, and that the Protocol shall therefore enter into force for any State referred to in article 23, paragraph 3, on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by the State of its instrument of accession;

8. *Request* the secretariat to inform the United Nations Treaty Section and the interested Members of the United Nations which are not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe about the present decision;

9. *Invite* interested Members of the United Nations that are not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to take steps to implement the two treaties with a view to a future accession to the Convention and the Protocol in accordance with article 17, paragraph 3, of the Convention, and article 23, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, respectively.

Declaration

We, the high-level representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States and the European Union gathered in Geneva from 2 to 5 June 2014 on the occasion of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

A. On the application of the Convention and the Protocol to nuclear energy issues

Mindful of the growing energy needs that call for diversification of energy sources, including the exploration of renewable energy sources,

Respecting the sovereign right of each Party to the Convention and the Protocol to make decisions upon its national energy mix, while protecting the environment and human health,

Aware that nuclear energy-related activities are being carried out or planned in the region and beyond,

Conscious that nuclear energy-related activities due to their nature can lead to significant transboundary and long-range adverse environmental impacts and imply special challenges due to great public concern and national interests,

Acknowledging that the Convention is a key instrument establishing rules for domestic action and international cooperation for preventing, reducing and controlling significant adverse transboundary environment impact from proposed activities that include nuclear energy-related activities,

Acknowledging also that the Protocol is an essential instrument to ensure the assessment of the environmental, including health, effects of plans and programmes, and possibly also policies and legislation, that set the framework for future development consent for projects, including in the field of nuclear energy,

Recognizing that other international treaties and relevant international organizations play an important role in ensuring nuclear safety and security worldwide,

A1. *Emphasize that Parties to the Convention and the Protocol that carry out nuclear energy-related activities should do so in accordance with the Convention and the Protocol, in a sustainable manner, taking into consideration the precautionary and polluter pays principles, and respecting international nuclear safety standards and relevant environmental legislation;*

A2. *Invite all Parties to apply the Convention and the Protocol in the nuclear energy-related field in a consistent, cooperative and transparent manner, following all the procedural steps, and ensuring that a transboundary environmental impact assessment of planned activities and a strategic environmental assessment of relevant plans and programmes are undertaken before the decision to authorize or undertake the activities is taken or the plan or programme is adopted;*

A3. *Also invite all Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to ensure early, timely and effective consultations and public participation — when all options are open;*

A4. *Recommend* that the environmental impact assessment documentation should describe reasonable locational and technological alternatives, and identify and assess all the impacts of a nuclear energy activity throughout the whole life cycle taking also into consideration its impacts on climate and risks;

A5. *Invite* all Parties to the Convention to take due account of the outcomes of the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure in the final decision on the proposed activity, including the environmental impact assessment documentation and the comments made by the authorities and public of the potentially affected Parties;

A6. *Consider* that if an activity needs upgrade works during its life cycle that might have significant adverse environmental impacts, this should be considered as a major change to the activity in question and be subject to the provisions of the Convention;

A7. *Encourage* civil society and all stakeholders to actively and constructively participate in the environmental impact assessment and the strategic environmental assessment procedures and share best practices in this regard;

A8. *Recognize* the need to assist countries in the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol in the field of nuclear energy, and welcome the decision to elaborate good practice recommendations to support the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (decision VI/7);

A9. *Emphasize* that close cooperation and improved mutual understanding of other Parties' practices and needs in the field of nuclear energy will facilitate the application of transboundary environmental procedures in full compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

A10. *Encourage* effective cooperation between Parties and secretariats with all relevant international treaties as well as international organizations to maximize synergies and strengthen capacities with a view to ensuring the highest possible quality of environmental assessment and level of safety in the nuclear energy field, especially stressing the importance of the treaties under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including in particular the 1994 Convention on Nuclear Safety;

A11. *Encourage* Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol to explore the IAEA Site and External Events Design (SEED) Review Service, in order to ensure that the best available option is selected for nuclear energy development.

B. On the global application of the Convention and the Protocol

Convinced that the Convention and the Protocol are effective instruments for fostering environmentally sound and sustainable development, and for supporting closer international cooperation also beyond the ECE region,

Recognizing the important contribution of both treaties to improving environmental governance and transparency in planning and decision-making, promoting public participation pursuant to principles 10, 17 and 19 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁵ and convinced that they bring benefits also worldwide,

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), available from <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>.

Emphasizing that the Convention is the only international legal instrument requiring countries to notify and consult each other on activities under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across borders,

Emphasizing also that strategic environmental assessment, in particular, is a key tool for integrating environment and health considerations into planning, policymaking and legislation, including related to greening the economy and climate change mitigation, for all the United Nations Member States alike,

Recognizing that strategic environmental assessment can help all countries achieve the Millennium Development Goal of integrating the principles of sustainable development into their plans, programmes and policies to ensure environmental sustainability,

Welcoming the increased interest in the Convention and the Protocol and the involvement of many non-ECE countries in activities within their framework,

Wishing to share the knowledge, practices and experience gained in the ECE region and, at the same time, to benefit from the knowledge, practices and experience in other regions of the world,

Recalling that the Protocol provides for the accession of all United Nations Member States,

Recalling also decision II/14 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention of 27 February 2001 to amend the Convention's article 17 to allow for States outside the ECE region to become Parties to the Convention,

Aware that the 2001 amendment to the Convention must enter into force for all the Parties that were Party to the Convention at the time of the amendment's adoption for it to have effect,

Wishing to allow countries outside the ECE region to become Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol as soon as possible following a procedure for accession not differing from the procedure for accession by ECE member countries,

B1. *Urge* all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001 that have not yet done so to ratify the amendment to article 17 as soon as possible;

B2. *Call upon* all member States of ECE that have not yet done so to ratify and accede to the Convention, its amendments and the Protocol;

B3. *Invite* other interested States that are Members of the United Nations to take steps to implement the two treaties with a view to a future accession;

B4. *Emphasize* that, in order to reap the full benefit of the Convention and the Protocol, States must not only become Parties, but must also introduce all the necessary national measures, both legal and practical, to meet their obligations fully;

B5. *Encourage* the Parties and Signatories to the Convention and the Protocol, as well as other United Nations Member States wishing to accede to the two treaties, to develop sufficient capacity for the Convention's and the Protocol's successful implementation;

B6. *Recognize* that the successful implementation of the Convention and the Protocol depends in part on the relevant authorities having adequate administrative and financial capacity to comply fully with their requirements;

B7. *Acknowledge* the need to raise awareness of the benefits of the Convention and the Protocol as well as to assist countries within and beyond the ECE region in their efforts to build capacities to effectively implement them,

B8. *Call* for strengthening of cooperation with non-ECE countries interested in acceding to the Convention and the Protocol with a view to promoting mutual exchange of experience as well as the application of the two treaties beyond the ECE region;

B9. *Call upon* Parties and encourage Signatories, other States as well as partner organizations and international financial institutions to coordinate their efforts in providing the appropriate technical assistance, as needed, notably for the development of legislation, and for building sufficient institutional capacity for the application of the Convention and the Protocol, in particular in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as developing countries beyond the ECE region;

B10. *Also invite* the secretariats of other relevant treaties, as well as international organizations, including other United Nations Economic and Social Council Regional Commissions and non-governmental organizations, to participate in and support the relevant activities under the Convention and the Protocol and to promote the application of the two treaties within their fields of competence;

B11. *Further invite* civil society and all stakeholders to continue to assist with and contribute to the implementation and application of the Convention and the Protocol, noting that the meetings under the two treaties provide a platform for an exchange of views and information;

B12. *Acknowledge* the role that international financial institutions and bilateral aid agencies play in mainstreaming environmental considerations into economic development throughout the world;

B13. *Encourage* international financial institutions and bilateral aid agencies to ensure that their environmental assessment procedures are consistent with the Convention and the Protocol, notably in relation to their strategic planning and to investment projects with national and transboundary effects;

B14. *Acknowledge* the importance of coordinated international cooperation among countries, governmental organizations and international financial institutions within and beyond the ECE region in assessing environmental, including health, effects, in particular in a transboundary context;

B15. *Invite* the ECE Executive Secretary to continue to provide adequate secretariat support for the Convention and the Protocol and request the allocation of sufficient regular United Nations budget funds to ensure the stable and effective provision of secretariat functions, including to promote the implementation of the two treaties within and beyond the ECE region.
