

Review of the UNECE activities under the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
Progress report as at 31 December 2018

#	Recommendation	Action agreed	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	To the extent possible, increase financing of and in-kind contributions to the UNECE activities under the treaties. e.g. via encouraging stronger financial commitment of the Parties and further contributions to the Trust Fund; attracting new partnerships and funding opportunities via extending the treaties beyond the UNECE region, establishing joint activities with international financial institutions.	To present the evaluation's recommendations for the Bureau and the Working Group on EIA and SEA to address within the draft decision on budget and financial issues 2017-2020 (to be adopted by the Meetings of the Parties in June 2017)	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August-November 2016	Recommendations were disseminated by e-mail on 26 August 2016 and posted on the web. They subsequently presented for discussion at the Working Group's meeting (Geneva, 7-10 November 2016) and made use of in the development of the 2017-2020 workplan for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol adopted in June 2017 (decision VII/3-III/3, in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/23/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45098#).
		To send out letters to encourage further pledges and timely financial contributions from Parties and signatory States, and encourage Parties to tap into development funding opportunities for financing capacity building activities	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	Bi-annual basis (yearly reports possible in the future if decided by Parties)	Letters to encourage further pledges were sent to the foreign ministers and environment ministers of Parties and Signatories in early 2017 and again in late 2018. The draft financial report until June 2016 was prepared. As of June 2017, the Meetings of the Parties decided to request the secretariat to prepare annual reports (decision VIII/4-III/4 in document in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/23/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45098#). The first annual financial report covers 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (it is available at: http://www.unece.org/env/eia/budget.html).
		To present financial reports to Parties on income and expenditure based on the data from the Executive Office.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	End of each calendar year	The most recent report include that prepared for the June 2017 meeting, and the subsequent one covers the period 1 July 2017- to 30 June 2018. (see above)
		To explore Parties' possibilities for sponsoring a junior professional officer to reinforce the secretariat staffing	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	By the Meetings of the Parties 2017	Informal consultations with Governments were undertaken, the invitation to sponsor a JPO was raised and continues to be regularly raised at the meetings of the treaty bodies.
		To co-organize a workshop with the European Investment Bank to discuss how the international financial institutions could increasingly contribute to promoting the implementation of the two Treaties outside the UNECE region, and invite the IFIs to consider contributing to the implementation of the workplan activities.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	November 2016	The workshop took place on 9 November 2016. See report of the Working Group on EIA and SEA at its 6th meeting (7-10 November 2016, ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/4, annex II, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42745#)
		To negotiate with the European Commission for further funding opportunities for capacity building activities (further to the 2 million Euro project funding obtained for 2013-2016)	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2016-2018	A follow-up EU funded EU4Environment project will start in early 2018 for the next 4 years (it will fund capacity building activities with a budget of some \$2.7 Mio (2,4 Mio Euros). (The project was approved by EXCOM in July 2018)

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2	Continuing and enhancing awareness raising activities regarding the Convention and the Protocol and improving implementation within and beyond the UNECE region, specifically through promotional videos, brief overviews (fact sheets, pamphlets), and thematic round tables and study tours for relevant stakeholders to acquire and share best practices in EIA and SEA implementation. Implementation of pilot projects is also recommended as a cost effective tool for capacity building, awareness raising, information sharing, training and practical experience.	To disseminate a promotional video prepared by the secretariat to enhance awareness of the Protocol and its benefits in English, Russian and Georgian; and subject to funding, facilitate the preparation of videos in the other national languages of the Parties	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2016 for English, Russian and Georgian versions; Continuous for the other languages	Available on-line in English, Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Romanian and Ukrainian (http://www.unece.org/env/eia/about/eap_green.html).
To co-organize a workshop with EIB on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol with participation of IFIs and countries from outside the UNECE region		UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	November 2016	The workshop was held on 9 November 2016 (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/4, annex II, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42745#/)	
To organize thematic seminars/round tables focusing on climate change; and on the contribution of the treaties to the achievement of sustainable development goals		UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	June 2017 (next session of the Meetings of the Parties)	A panel discussion on climate change was organized in June 2017. (See document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/23/-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/ paras. 53 to 62, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45098#/).	
To ensure the preparation of fact sheets and pamphlets, and finalization of pilot projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova; as well as national guidance documents for the implementation of the treaties in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; a sub-regional experience sharing event in Ukraine; and legislative assistance to Belarus and Kazakhstan		UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	mid/late 2017	Work was completed. (See outcomes on-line http://www.unece.org/env/eia/about/eap_green.html)	
To prepare a guidance for Central Asian countries for the implementation of the Espoo Convention		UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2017/2018	Guidance was prepared. See document ECE/MP.EIA/2019/12 available at http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50226	
To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendations, and facilitate the finalization of a draft workplan for 2017–2020 (based on Parties' priorities and the corresponding budget) to be adopted by Parties in June 2017		UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August 2016- June 2017	The Bureau and the Working Group were informed on 26 August 2016 about the recommendations; The draft workplan 2017-2020 was prepared for the Working Group to discuss and finalize in November 2017; and the workplan was adopted in June 2017 (decision VII/3-III/3, in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/23/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45098#/)	

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3	Improving the relevance of the Convention and the Protocol via enhanced cooperation with other Conventions, such as CBD and UNCLOS, (and not only the UNECE ones), awareness raising events, legislative support, preparation of national guidelines taking into account national legal and institutional circumstances, national trainings (training of trainers), exchange of information and joint public events.	To continue to look for opportunities to enhance synergies with other international treaties and processes:	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August 2016- June 2017 and beyond	The workplan 2017-2020 adopted in June 2017 include activities for enhancing synergies with the Bern Convention, CBD and UNCLOS, and for promoting SDG implementation, as well as preparation of a long-term strategy to redefine the future role and objectives of the treaties. A seminar on the synergies with UNCLOS is foreseen to be organized in 2019 or in 2020.
		To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendations, and facilitate the finalization of a draft workplan for 2017–2020 (based on Parties' priorities and the corresponding budget) to be adopted by Parties in June 2017;	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August 2016- June 2017 and beyond	The Bureau and the Working Group were informed on 26 August 2016 about the recommendations; A draft workplan 2017-2020 was made available for the Working Group to discuss 7-10 November (see above). The workplan was adopted in June 2017 (decision VII/3-III/3, in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/23/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45098#/). The secretariat assists Parties in the implementation of its activities
		To complete further legislative support to Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova; initiate legislative assistance to Kazakhstan; to ensure development of national guidance documents for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; and organize "training of trainers" workshops on SEA in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	By mid/end 2017	Legislative assistance and capacity building activities were completed in April 2018 (outcomes available http://www.unece.org/env/eia/about/eap_green.html), Further assistance will be provided under the new EU funded project in 2019-2022 in accordance with the workplan 2017-2020, and the subsequent workplan to build on and to enhance the achievements this far.
4	Improving the communication and interactions between the Secretariat and the Parties via an online forum of focal points that could help reduce the workload of the meetings, and allow commenting and sharing opinions on documents in advance of a meeting. (The Secretariat could specify the modalities and working methods for such forums.)	To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendation and seek their views. As needed, continue to organize on-line meetings (in English) to facilitate discussions of elected officials (e.g. work on the Implementation Committee documentation in between the Committee's sessions). If delegations request other type of portals for on-line working, to investigate with ISU and/or UNOG about the technical possibilities and the financial implications for establishing and hosting them.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	August-November 2016, and beyond	The Bureau and the Working Group received the recommendations on 26 August 2016, and are expected to provide feedback on 7-10 November; follow-up will be in accordance with the possible decisions to be taken.

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5	<p>Improving the communication and interactions between the Parties via the organization of further regional workshops, training, experience and information sharing events. The focal points should enhance, to the extent possible, their role in promoting the treaties at the national level. As focal points they serve as “the face of the treaties” in their countries, closer contact and coordination with them, and ensuring their active participation in each event of Espoo Convention is therefore very important.</p>	To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendation and seek their views about how to best address it	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	November 2016	The Bureau and the Working Group received the recommendations on 26 August 2016, and were incorporated into the workplan together with the feedback received in November.
		To facilitate the participation of Parties in the meetings, continue financial assistance to national focal points of countries that are eligible for financial support (according to the criteria adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy), in accordance with the budget adopted by Parties and within the limits of the resources available in the Trust Fund.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	Continuous, for official meetings held in Geneva	Delegations informed on 26 August about the availability of financial support to the next meeting of the Working Group (7-10 November), and continued to be supported for the subsequent meetings of the treaty bodies in accordance with the budget agreed by the Parties. (through decision VII/4-III/4 in document in document ECE/MP.EIA/2017/23/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45098#/). The first annual financial report covers 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (It is available at: http://www.unece.org/env/eia/budget.html).
		To organize another regional conference for the exchange of experience amongst countries in Eastern-Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and to contribute to an event to be organized amongst the Baltic Sea region countries	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	2017	A seminar for the Baltic Sea region took place in Riga in December 2016 (see http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45770) ; a regional conference was held in Kyiv in November 2017 (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47049).
		UNECE will continue to ensure that the database of nominated focal points is up to date (including by circulating the list to the delegates at the upcoming meetings in 2016 and 2017 for their review)	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	continuous	Ongoing
6	<p>The maintenance and the further improvement of gender equality in the work on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol could be done via regular monitoring and inclusion of gender issues in the surveys undertaken by the Secretariat. Currently the gender equality is well performed, but a more systematic approach to maintaining gender equality and prevention of any discrimination according to the UN rules would be desirable.</p>	To inform the Bureau and the Working Group about the recommendation and seek their views about how to best promote gender equality in a more systematic way under the treaties, e.g. when electing officers for the next intersessional period, or when carrying out questionnaire surveys.	UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	continuous	The Bureau and the Working Group received the recommendations on 26 August 2016, feedback provided at their meeting in 7-10 November.