

## Decision VII/7–III/6

### **Development of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol**

*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 of the Parties to the Protocol), meeting in joint session,*

*Recognizing* the important contribution of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to improving international cooperation, the integration of environment and health concerns into development activities, environmental governance and transparency in planning and decision-making,

*Convinced* that the Convention and the Protocol continue to be effective instruments for fostering environmentally sound and sustainable development, and believing in their potential to contribute to the implementation by countries of a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Conscious* that, despite progress in implementing the Convention and the Protocol, challenges remain, and that new important environmental and health problems have emerged since the adoption of the treaties,

*Recalling* decision VI/5–II/5 on accession by Member States of the United Nations not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the 2014 Geneva Declaration (Part B) on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol,

*Wishing* to be able to respond both to the remaining and the new challenges and to adapt to the changing environment, focusing on the key priority activities and building and enhancing partnerships and cooperation with relevant international treaties and processes,

1. *Decide* to include in the Convention and the Protocol workplan for the next intersessional period, resources permitting, the elaboration, with the assistance of a consultant, as appropriate, of a long-term strategy with an action plan that will:

(a) Set a vision for the coming years to address priorities and to meet challenges, including with respect to climate change, biodiversity, energy, land-use and urban planning, agriculture, waste management and transport;

(b) Set priorities on the strategic and operational level to ensure that the best use is made of the limited resources of the Parties and the secretariat;

(c) Identify future activities, partnerships and funding mechanisms, including with a view to:

(i) Promoting the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol globally, raising awareness on these instruments, their achievements and benefits, and promoting cooperation and exchange of experience with countries outside the ECE region;

(ii) Contributing to the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(iii) Ensuring coordination with other international conventions and processes within and beyond the ECE region;

2. *Agree* that the long-term strategy and the action plan should build, inter alia, on the outcomes of the brainstorming session on the future of the Convention

and the Protocol and the workshop on the global application of the two treaties held at the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, the reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol and the external evaluation of ECE activities;

3. *Invite* Parties, non-Parties, and other stakeholders to lead and to contribute to work under this activity, and also invite the secretariat to support the work;

4. *Decide* that the draft long-term strategy and the action plan will be submitted for adoption to the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their eighth and fourth sessions, respectively, and that they will be implemented through actions and decisions agreed by Meetings of the Parties;

5. *Further decide* to assess progress in the implementation of the strategy and the action plan at sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.