

Decision IS/3

The Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions VI/3-II/3 and VII/3-III/3 on adoption of the workplans for the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment for the periods 2014–2017 and 2017–2020, respectively, its decision IV/5 on capacity-building in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and its decision VI/8 on general guidance on enhancing consistency between the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and environmental impact assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia,

Having considered the outcomes of the subregional workshops for the further development and update of the draft guidelines for transboundary environmental impact assessment in Central Asia,¹ and the needs expressed by the Central Asian countries for assistance to further develop their national legislation and capacity for its implementation,

Aware that the national legislation and systems in countries of the subregion share many commonalities, but also present distinctive features and represent various degrees of development and alignment with the Convention,

Welcoming the efforts of countries in Central Asia to develop their legislation and capacities as well as intergovernmental cooperation to implement transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures in accordance with the Convention within their specific subregional context,

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

Encouraging the Central Asian countries that are not yet Parties to the Convention to take steps towards joining it,

Acknowledging the further need to raise awareness of the benefits of the Convention and to assist countries in Central Asia in their efforts to align their legislation and to build capacities to effectively implement its provisions,

Wishing to assist Parties to the Convention in Central Asia in complying fully with their obligations under the Convention, and to promote the effective application of the procedures based on the Convention by the other countries in the subregion,

1. *Endorses* the Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries,² as finalized by the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, based on the comments made during and after the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment;

2. *Recommends* that the countries in Central Asia take into account the contents of the Revised Guidelines when implementing transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures;

3. *Calls on* these countries to distribute the Revised Guidelines to authorities and relevant stakeholders and to promote its application in practice;

¹ ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/6.

² ECE/MP.EIA/2019/12.

4. *Encourages* the Central Asian countries to further develop their national legislation with regard to transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures based on the Convention;

5. *Invites* the donor Governments and organizations to explore opportunities for funding further technical assistance and capacity-building;

6. *Welcomes* the plans to further complement the guidance with additional good practice, taking into account the outcomes of legislative reviews and capacity-building activities being carried out.
