

Ref.: 2020/OES/233/ENV

14 October 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the arrangements concerning the organization of the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter, the “Espoo Convention”) and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, and their associated preparatory meetings (hereinafter, the “Meeting”), organized by the United Nations, represented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter, the “ECE”) to be held, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter, the “Government”), in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Meeting is preliminarily scheduled to take place from 7 to 11 December 2020, with the dates to be confirmed jointly by the Executive Secretary of the ECE and the Government.

With the present letter, I would like to obtain your Government’s acceptance of the following arrangements:

1. Participants in the Meeting will be invited by the Executive Secretary of the ECE in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention and would include up to 250 participants, including:

(a) Delegations from the 56 ECE member States, the European Union and other Member States of the United Nations, comprising approximately 180 delegates;

(b) Up to 10 representatives from the United Nations Specialized Agencies and related organizations;

His Excellency
Mr. Andrius Krivas
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania
to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

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- (c) Up to 40 representatives of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
- (d) 8 officials of the United Nations (ECE);
- (e) Up to 10 other participants (academics, experts, individual members of the public etc.).

The names of all participants attending the Meeting in-person, shall be communicated to the Government by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the ECE via the permanent mission of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in advance, at least two weeks prior to the Meeting.

2. The Government will, at its own expense, provide adequate facilities for the Meeting including meeting and office space, personnel, office supplies and equipment, telephone services, interpretation and translation as described in Annex I, as well as transportation between airport and hotel and/or hotel and meeting facilities, if required. The Government will provide adequate medical facilities for first aid in emergencies, and, for serious emergencies, the Government will ensure immediate transportation and admission to a hospital.

3. In accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/202, Part A, paragraph 17, adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 1992, the Government will assume responsibility for any supplementary expenses arising directly or indirectly in holding the Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania. Such costs, the estimate of which is provided in Annex II, include, but are not restricted to:

- (a) The provision of prepaid return tickets to United Nations officials specified in subparagraph 1 (d) above who are required to plan for or service the Meeting in accordance with applicable United Nations regulations and rules and related administrative issuances regarding travel standard and baggage allowances;

- (b) The payment to the United Nations officials of daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses in accordance with the regulations and rules of the United Nations and its official daily subsistence allowance rate;

- (c) The cost of shipping any necessary equipment, supplies and documents, as required.

4. The costs of travel, accommodation, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses of participants specified in subparagraphs 1 (a), 1 (b), 1 (c) and 1 (e) will be the responsibility of such participants and/or their respective sending States or organizations.

5. The Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946 (the "General Convention") and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 November 1947

(the “Specialized Agencies Convention”), to which Lithuania is a party, shall be applicable in respect of the Meeting, in particular:

(a) Representatives of States shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided under Article IV of the General Convention;

(b) Officials of the United Nations participating in or performing functions in connection with the Meeting shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided under Articles V and VII of the General Convention;

(c) Other participants invited by the United Nations shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided under Article VI of the General Convention, including the immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and any act performed by them in their official capacity in connection with the Meeting, as experts on mission for the United Nations;

(d) Officials of the Specialized Agencies participating in the Meeting shall be accorded the privileges and immunities provided under articles VI and VIII of the Specialized Agencies Convention.

6. Without prejudice to the provisions of the General Convention, all participants and persons performing functions in connection with the Meeting, including the personnel provided by the Government, shall enjoy such privileges and immunities, facilities and courtesies as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Meeting.

7. All participants and all persons performing functions in connection with the Meeting shall have the right of unimpeded entry into and exit from Lithuania. This does not exclude the presentation by the Government of well-founded objections concerning a particular individual. Such objections, however, must relate to specific criminal or security related matters and not to nationality, religion, professional or political affiliation. Visas, where required, shall be granted free of charge and issued as speedily as possible, if applications are lodged directly at the Lithuanian visa authorities. When lodging through a visa centre of an external service provider, the visa will be issued free of charge, but there will be a service fee of the external service provider. The applications shall be lodged at least three weeks before the opening of the Meeting. Visas shall be granted as speedily as possible and not later than three days before the opening. Arrangements shall also be made to ensure that visas for the duration of the Meeting are issued at the airport of arrival in the exceptional cases to those who are unable to obtain them prior to their arrival. Entry and (or) exit permits, where required, shall be granted free of charge, as speedily as possible and in any case not later than three days before the opening and (or) closing of the Meeting.

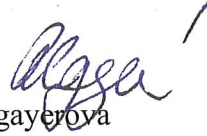
8. The rooms, offices and related localities and facilities put at the disposal of the Meeting by the Government shall be the Meeting Area which will constitute United Nations Premises within the meaning of Article II, Section 3, of the General Convention for the duration of the Meeting, including the preparation and winding-up stages.

9. In the event that circumstances and concerns arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic whereby: (i) the United Nations and the Government mutually agree that the Meeting is unable to proceed as scheduled; or (ii) either the United Nations or the Government, upon 30 days minimum advance notice in writing to the other, requests a cancellation of the Meeting; the United Nations and the Government shall consult and mutually agree on the settlement of any matters arising as a result of such cancellation of the Meeting. In the event of a cancellation of the Meeting, the United Nations shall not be liable to pay or compensate the Government for any goods, services or facilities procured, or costs incurred whatsoever, in relation to or resulting from the Meeting or pursuant to this Agreement.
10. The Government shall be responsible for dealing with any action, claim or other demand against the United Nations or its officials and arising out of (i) injury to persons or damage to or loss of property in conference or office premises provided for the Meeting; (ii) injury to persons or damage to or loss of property caused by, or incurred in using the transportation services provided by or under the control of the Government; (iii) the employment for the Meeting of personnel provided or arranged by the Government; and the Government shall indemnify and hold the United Nations and its personnel harmless in respect of any such action, claim or other demand; and (iv) cancellation of the Meeting pursuant to paragraph 9 above.
11. The Government shall notify the local authorities of the convening of the Meeting and request appropriate police protection. The Government shall, at its own expense, furnish such police protection as may be required to ensure the effective functioning of the conference in an atmosphere of security and tranquillity free from interference of any kind. While such police services shall be under the supervision and control of a senior officer provided by the Government, this officer shall work in close cooperation with a designated senior official of the United Nations.
12. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement, except for a dispute subject to Section 30 of the General Convention or to any other applicable agreement, shall, unless the parties otherwise agree, be resolved by negotiations or any other agreed mode of settlement. Any such dispute that is not settled by negotiations or any other agreed mode of settlement shall be submitted at the request of either party for a final decision to a tribunal of three arbitrators, one of whom will be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, one by the Government and the third, who will be the Chairperson, by the other two arbitrators. If either party does not appoint an arbitrator within three months of the other party having notified the name of its arbitrator or if the first two arbitrators do not within three months of the appointment or nomination of the second one of them, appoint the Chairperson, then such arbitrator will be nominated by the President of the International Court of Justice at the request of either party to the dispute. Except as otherwise agreed by the parties, the tribunal shall adopt its own rules of procedure, provide for the reimbursement of its members and the distribution of expenses between the parties, and take all decisions by a two-thirds majority. Its decisions on all questions of procedure

and substance shall be final and, even if rendered in default of one of the parties, be binding on both of them.

I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply letter on behalf of your Government accepting of the arrangements above shall constitute an Agreement between the United Nations, represented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania regarding the hosting of the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, which shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of your reply letter and shall remain in force for the duration of the Meeting and for such additional period as is reasonably necessary for all matters relating to any of its provisions to be settled.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
UNECE