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Seventh meeting

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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Plan of action under the Convention

Priorities, workplan and resources under the Convention for 2013–2014

Proposal by the Bureau

Summary

The present document sets out the proposed activities under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents for 2013–2014 and the resource requirements to implement them.

The proposal is being submitted by the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, for its consideration, revision and subsequent adoption, per the request of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/22, para. 76 (c)).

1. The process by which the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents developed the present document, setting out the proposed activities under the Convention for 2013–2014 and the resource requirements to implement them, is described in the Bureau’s report on its activities since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2012/2).
2. The workplan includes activities per the priority areas identified under the Convention’s Long-term Strategy and which the Bureau considers necessary in order to maintain the high relevance of the Convention for enhancing industrial safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. The workplan also includes elements intended to maximize synergies with other ECE multilateral environmental agreements (for example, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes), as well as with other ECE activities (for example, on housing and land management and, possibly, on sustainable energy and on trade with respect to work on pipeline and oil terminal safety). Further synergies are foreseen with other organizations active in the field of industrial safety.
3. The workplan foresees that the Conference of the Parties would maintain or adjust the “Guiding principles for financial assistance to support the participation of experts and representatives from countries with economies in transition in meetings organized within the framework of the Conference of the Parties and in the activities under the Assistance Programme”, as adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/22, annex III).
4. The implementation of the activities in the workplan requires not only regular budget (RB) but also extrabudgetary (XB) resources. Therefore, Parties, other ECE member countries and other stakeholders are invited to support the Convention’s activities in 2013–2014 by contributing to the Convention’s trust fund, by financing activities directly and by making in-kind contributions. Parties are also invited to take the lead in supporting the specific activities substantially. The final workplan will contain the names of leading and supporting countries.

Table 1
Workplan and resources for 2013–2014

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>XB financial resources (cash and in kind)</i>	<i>RB/XB human resources in work-months of Professional (P) and General Service (G) secretariat staff to support the planned activities</i>	
			<i>US\$</i>	<i>P</i>
I. Core activities of the Convention				
Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders	Targeted communication (newsletters, press releases, leaflets, website, participation in forums)	15 000		
	Working visits and high-level meetings to Parties	9 000		
	Working visits to other stakeholders	6 000		
Subtotal		30 000	5.0	2.0

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	XB financial resources (cash and in kind)	RB/XB human resources in work-months of Professional (P) and General Service (G) secretariat staff to support the planned activities	
			US\$	P
Exchange of information	Exchange of experience and good practices among Parties and to promote the continuous organization of bilateral exercises for preparedness <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	30 000		
	Raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities (follow-up to pilot project in Armenia) <i>Lead country:</i> Germany	25 000 (in kind by Germany)		
	Sharing good practices for increasing public involvement in national work on industrial safety (possibly in cooperation with Aarhus Convention) <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	30 000		
	Subtotal	85 000	6.0	3.0
Strategic partnerships	Development of a guide on methodology for hazard rating, with partners <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	30 000		
	Development by a group of safety and land-use planning experts, and with partners, of criteria or standards for safety and land-use planning, incorporating long-term trends <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> [] ^a	40 000		
	Activities (to be defined) to raise awareness of the risk of complacency, to ensure prevention and to maintain a high level of safety, with partners <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	50 000		
	Development with partners of guidelines on transboundary risk assessment, possibly including the characterization of exposure risks <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> [Netherlands,]	60 000		
	Development of a checklist on the safety of tailings management facilities <i>Lead country:</i> Germany	(in kind) ^b		
	Meeting of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents for the elaboration of a checklist or methodology for harmonized contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary waters ^c	20 000		
	Carrying out steps identified to assist countries in the ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (second and third steps) <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	50 000		

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	XB financial resources (cash and in kind)	RB/XB human resources in work-months of Professional (P) and General Service (G) secretariat staff to support the planned activities	
			US\$	P
	Online training on industrial accidents, with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Joint UNEP/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit (continued)	15 000		
	<i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []			
	Meeting with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities	30 000		
	<i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []			
	Subtotal	295 000	18.0	4.5
Financing	Donor meetings	5 000		
	<i>Support</i> []			
	Bilateral visits	10 000		
	<i>Support</i> []			
	Subtotal	15 000	1.0	0.5
Other activities	Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	80 000		
	<i>Support</i> []			
	Meetings of the Bureau, or jointly with the Working Group on Implementation	75 000		
	<i>Support</i> []			
	Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation	30 000		
	<i>Support</i> []			
	Meetings of the Working Group on Development ^d	25 000		
	<i>Support</i> []			
	Consultation for Points of Contact to review the effectiveness of the ECE Industrial Accidents Notification System	40 000		
	<i>Support</i> []			
	Subtotal	260 000	18.0	9.0
	Subtotal Section I	675 000	45.0	19.0
II. Assistance activities of the Convention				
Assistance Programme	Activities under the preparatory phase (e.g., in Montenegro, Turkmenistan)	15 000		
	<i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []			
	Activities under the implementation phase further to an action plan approved by the Bureau (e.g., Serbia) ^e	100 000		
	<i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	(indicative)		

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	XB financial resources (cash and in kind) US\$	RB/XB human resources in work-months of Professional (P) and General Service (G) secretariat staff to support the planned activities	
			P	G
	Activities under the implementation phase further to an action plan approved by the Bureau (e.g., the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) ^f <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	100 000 (indicative)		
	Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation reviewing self-assessments and action plans developed by the beneficiary countries, backed up by teleconferences <i>Support</i> []	20 000		
	Subregional workshops or meetings for feedback and training on the self-assessments and action plans developed by the beneficiary countries <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	90 000		
	Danube Delta project involving the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania — hazard management (continued) <i>Lead country</i> : Germany	100 000 (estimate)		
	Danube Delta project involving the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania — crisis management (continued) <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> []	100 000 (estimate)		
	Other projects submitted by countries through action plans under the Assistance Programme, in accordance with the cyclic mechanism	150 000		
	Two advisory missions	20 000		
	Administrative assistance to project implementation (General Service staff, 15 per cent)	105 000		
	Subtotal Section II	800 000	32.0	12.0
	III. Other secretariat activities	–	4.0	2.0
	Total activities (Sections I + II + III)	1 475 000	81.0^g	33.0

^a Co-funding might be sought through the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

^b An indicative budget is to be provided by Germany during the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties; Germany is expected to fund fully the activity in kind.

^c Associated consultancy costs have already been allotted.

^d Including financial support for representatives of Parties in up to two open-ended meetings, in accordance with 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.

^e Serbia has indicated a need for external assistance in terms of international experts to support the review of training materials and the organization of training activities for the authorities or operators on a number of topics, as well as to provide advice to operators on the preparation of safety reports and emergency plans.

^f The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has indicated a need for a broader range of technical assistance, including the development of legislation, regulations and guidance materials, the delivery of training, the creation of inventories and databases, the definition and implementation of contingency plans, the carrying out of a public information campaign and the setting up of an industry help desk.

⁸ One post (P or G) translates into 21 work-months per biennium. Therefore, in terms of human resources, the implementation of the workplan, apart from one P-4 RB post and one associate expert, requires two additional professional posts financed from XB resources. The estimated financial requirements for the two posts amount to US\$ 750,000 per biennium, as indicated in table 2 below.

Table 2
Total resources for 2011–2012

<i>Items/activities</i>	<i>Amount in US\$</i>
Core activities of the Convention	675 000
Assistance activities of the Convention	800 000
Staff:	
RB, Professional	(provided by United Nations RB)
RB, General Service	(provided by United Nations RB)
XB, Professional (Assistance Programme Manager)	420 000
XB, Professional (Programme Support Officer)	330 000
XB, Professional (Associate Expert)	(currently provided by Germany, but see note)
Total	2 225 000

Note: The Programme Support Officer is currently at the P-2 level; the secretariat envisages raising this position to the P-3 level (the same as the Assistance Programme Manager), with an associated increase in cost. The associate expert is funded by Germany until 30 October 2013. Germany might decide to extend the post, in which case equal co-funding from the trust fund (i.e., by donors) would be required. To extend the post by two years would require funding of US\$325,000, half of which would be payable from the trust fund; a one-year extension might also be possible, under similar conditions.