

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents

Working Group on Implementation

Thirty-first meeting

Geneva, 16 and 17 June 2016

Annotated provisional agenda of the thirty-first meeting

**To be held in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations,* on 16 June, starting at 9.30 a.m.
and ending on 17 June at 5 p.m.**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Reporting on the implementation of the Convention.
3. Draft decision clarifying the reporting requirements under the Convention.
4. Draft terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation.
5. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme.
6. Input by the Working Group to upcoming meetings.
7. Composition of the next Working Group on Implementation.
8. Other business.
9. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe secretariat in agreement with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will open the meeting and invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

* The meeting will be held in room S1.

2. Reporting on the implementation of the Convention

The secretariat will report on the progress made with the preparation of the eighth report on the implementation of the Convention, including on the official letters sent to Parties and committed countries that failed to submit an implementation report.

The Working Group may wish to provide further comments on the draft eighth report on the implementation of the Convention and decide how to include these into the report for its finalization, bearing in mind that the report be shared with the Bureau in advance of its meeting on 29–30 June 2016.

The Working Group might wish to discuss further issues resulting from the discussions on the review of the national implementation reports, such as:

(a) Areas for follow-up from the seventh and eighth reports on implementation

In the seventh report on the implementation of the Convention, the Working Group recommended to the Conference of the Parties to consider producing common emergency plan guidelines to improve cooperation between neighbouring countries. The Conference of the Parties decided to review that topic at its ninth meeting, taking stock of the application of the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters elaborated by the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents. The Working Group may discuss whether it still sees a need to produce such guidelines and its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group may wish to discuss how to present the areas for follow-up identified in the eighth report on the implementation of the Convention to the Bureau, for its consideration in the drafting of the workplan for 2017–2018.

(b) Draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties at the eighth meeting (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014) adopted a decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention (Decision 2014/1),¹ prepared by the Working Group on Implementation in accordance with its terms of reference. The Working Group may wish to consider submitting such a decision also to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The secretariat will present a draft decision for discussion by the Working Group.

(c) Review of the reporting format and guidelines before the next reporting round

The secretariat will provide an overview of the recommendations from members of the Working Group regarding improvements of the reporting format and guidelines. The Working Group may wish to agree on these recommendations and request the secretariat to forward them to the next Working Group for its update of the reporting format and guidelines for the next reporting round.

3. Draft decision clarifying the reporting requirements under the Convention

The Working Group on Implementation was requested by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting to prepare a draft decision clarifying the reporting requirements under the Convention. At its previous meetings, the Working Group agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties a change in the reporting cycle from two to four years, discussed additional elements for inclusion into the decision and requested the secretariat to prepare

¹ Available from: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/TEIA/COP__Gva__3-5_Dec_14/ECE_CP.TEIA_30_add1_E.pdf.

the text of the draft decision. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the draft decision prepared by the secretariat as well as the next steps for its possible implementation.

4. Draft terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation

The Working Group on Development at its sixth meeting finalized its exchange of views on the possible introduction of a compliance mechanism, agreeing that the Working Group on Implementation should continue monitoring and identifying deficiencies in the implementation of the Convention and that it should engage in providing support to Parties and committed countries, for instance, through recommendations for strengthening the implementation of the Convention, within the framework of its mandate. In that regard, it recommended that the terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation be updated to ensure that it could support Parties and committed countries in strengthening their implementation of the Convention most effectively. The Working Group on Development observed that that could be achieved within the current review of the terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.²

The Working Group discussed additions to the terms of reference at its previous meeting and requested the secretariat to prepare an updated version for final comments at its next meeting. The Working Group on Implementation might wish to discuss the next steps for the finalization of its draft terms of reference, bearing in mind that these should be shared with the Bureau in advance of its meeting on 29–30 June 2016.

The Working Group might also start discussing its organization of work in the next term to ensure that it could support Parties and committed countries most effectively in strengthening their implementation of the Convention, in line with its updated terms of reference. In this regard, the Working Group might consider organizing regular video- or teleconferences with individual focal points in each of its meetings. The Working Group might also consider assigning subregions to some members for their subregional review of the implementation of the Convention.

5. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme

The Working Group will be invited to monitor and discuss the progress made towards the implementation of action items from its previous meetings related to the Assistance Programme, including on the following:

(a) Feedback on self-assessments, action plans and project proposals

The responsible members of the Working Group will be invited to present their findings from the review of the self-assessments and action plans of Armenia and Serbia. The secretariat will provide an update on its communication with Albania, Montenegro and Uzbekistan, including on the progress made by Georgia with the submission of a project proposal. The secretariat will also provide an overview of activities identified by countries in their action plans. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the information presented, prioritize activities for implementation and agree on the next steps, including on how to bring this information to the attention of the Bureau for its possible inclusion of needs-driven assistance activities in the

² The Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting requested the Bureau to review the terms of reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies, and to prepare revised terms of reference for review and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/30, para. 48).

workplan 2017–2018. To support its deliberations, the Working Group may wish to invite focal points from the above countries to join via teleconference.

(b) Implementation of assistance activities in this and the next biennium

The secretariat will provide an update about implemented and planned assistance activities in this and the next bienniums, based on the Assistance Programme tracking table that will be made available before the meeting. The Working Group will be invited to consider the information presented and to provide substantive guidance on the implementation of activities, in view of its role in monitoring the Strategic Approach.

(c) Effectiveness of the Assistance Programme

The secretariat will present a draft official document, for eventual submission to the Conference of the Parties, on the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme, containing deliberations by the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation. Participants will be invited to discuss the findings and recommendations from the Working Group on Implementation, prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chair and Mr. Iberl. The Working Group may also wish to provide further comments and agree on the next steps for the finalization of the document, bearing in mind that the report should be shared with the Bureau in advance of its meeting on 29–30 June 2016.

The Working Group may wish to discuss further issues related to monitoring the Assistance Programme and agree on the next steps and responsibilities.

6. Input by the Working Group to upcoming meetings

The Chair will inform the members of the Working Group about her planned attendance and the main issues to be raised at the upcoming meetings of the Bureau (Ljubljana, 29–30 June 2016) and the informal network of the Chairs of compliance/implementation bodies under the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (Geneva, 20 June 2016). The Working Group may wish to highlight or add issues for discussion at these meetings.

The Working Group may wish to task its Chair with presenting the draft eighth report on the implementation of the Convention, the draft decisions on strengthening the implementation of the Convention and clarifying the reporting obligations and other related issues to the Bureau at its next meeting and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016).

Members of the Working Group will be invited to inform about their planned attendance at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Composition of the next Working Group on Implementation

The next term of the Working Group on implementation is expected to last four years. Members of the Working Group might wish to indicate or confirm, if possible, their availability to serve as a member for the next term.

8. Other business

Members of the Working Group wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Closing of the meeting

The Chair will close the meeting at about 5 p.m. on 17 June 2016.
