

28 May 2014
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Twenty-seventh meeting

The Hague, Netherlands, 16 and 17 June 2014

Annotated provisional agenda of the twenty-seventh meeting

**To be held at the premises of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and
the Environment*, from 9 am – 6 pm on 16 and 17 June 2014 ****

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Financing and overall implementation of the workplan
3. Preparations for the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
4. Opening of the Convention to United Nations member States outside of the ECE region
5. Terms of Reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies
6. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
7. Outstanding action items from the last Bureau meeting
8. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2014/15
9. Capacity building activities
10. Other business
11. Closing of the meeting

* Koningskade 4, 2596 AA, The Hague, Meeting room B00.41.

** Members of the Bureau are requested to confirm their participation to Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

- This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Bureau. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Financing and overall implementation of the workplan

- The secretariat will report on contributions to and expenditure from the Convention's trust fund, and it will present a draft paper on the use of financial resources in the format agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifth meeting. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the document, also in light of the sustainable financial mechanism that was adopted at the last COP.

- The Chair will report on the outcome of the deliberations of the small group on financing.

- The Bureau is expected to examine how to ensure additional funding in order to build a financial reserve for implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan.

- The secretariat will report on problems occurring due to the current arrangements for financial support, including the lack of participation of some EECCA / SEE countries in meetings as well as the administrative burden of booking trips for other countries. The secretariat will propose an amended, simplified system to the provision of financial support to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia for the Bureau's consideration and possible recommendation for endorsement by the COP at its eighth meeting.

3. Preparations for the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- The secretariat will inform about venue and dates of the next COP as well as the proposed programme.

- The secretariat will present an overview of the expected official documentation for consideration by the COP which the meeting might wish to discuss, comprising:

a) Annotated provisional agenda

- The meeting will be invited to discuss the agenda, including side events and/or special sessions, presented by the secretariat.

b) Activities of the Bureau since the seventh meeting of the COP

- The Bureau is expected to discuss the elements to include in its report to the COP on the Bureau's work during the biennium 2013–2014, as well as the key messages to convey. The Bureau is also expected to decide on whether to continue its previous practice of backing up its written report to the COP with a presentation by the Chair.

c) Seventh report on the Implementation of the Convention (2012–2013)

- The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation (WGI) will inform the Bureau on the status of reporting within the 2012–2013 reporting round on the implementation of the Convention, and on the progress made with the preparation of the seventh report on implementation to the COP. She will also present the report's conclusions and recommendations.

- The Bureau might discuss further actions to take to ensure full compliance with the Convention's requirement to report.

- The Bureau might wish to advise on the presentation to the COP of the report on implementation, and on conclusions and recommendations that should be emphasized. The Bureau is then expected to identify possible decisions regarding the implementation of the Convention as well as possible related workplan activities. Such activities could comprise the development of an implementation guide to the Convention.

d) Use of financial resources in 2013–2014

- The document on the use of financial resources will have been addressed under agenda item 2.

e) Progress report on the Assistance Programme

- The Bureau is expected to decide on how to report progress under the Assistance Programme in the biennium 2013–2014, including whether to continue the previous practice of a presentation by the secretariat of the report highlights, and to identify key messages to convey. The Bureau might also examine what progress has been made under the Programme since its inception, given its 10 years anniversary in 2014, and discuss the possible organization of a special session on the 10 year anniversary at the COP. Bureau members representing beneficiary countries might be invited to present their perspective on the Assistance Programme activities, including their progress in strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

f) Priorities, workplan and resources under the Convention for 2015-2016

- The secretariat will present an outline for the next workplan, structured according to the long-term strategy. The Bureau will be invited to elaborate a draft workplan, indicating priorities and resources, taking into account:

- Information provided by the secretariat on financial and staff resources;
- On-going and planned activities;
- Recommendations in the seventh report on implementation;
- Action plans of beneficiary countries;
- Needs by the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- Options to address pertinent and emerging policy issues such as disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness with respect to future climate impacts; and
- Possible synergies with workplans of other ECE multilateral environmental agreements and strategic partners.

g) Draft decision, including the revised annex I, for adoption at the COP

- The Chair of the Working Group on Development (WGD) will be invited to inform the meeting about the decisions taken at the last WGD meeting regarding the revision of Annex I to the Convention.

- The Bureau will be invited to review the draft decision by the COP for adoption of the revised Annex I.

h) Proposal for prioritization of possible amendments of the Convention and COP guidance, including recommendations of the subsidiary body(ies) in charge

- The WGD Chair, supported by the secretariat, will inform the meeting about the decisions taken regarding the other possible amendments to the Convention as well as recommendations to the COP to develop or provide guidance.

- The Bureau will be invited to prioritize those issues for which the WGD recommended that COP guidance would be needed e.g. through decisions, mentions in the COP report, guidelines or other guidance materials. The Bureau may also wish to discuss the form and nature of such guidance to be developed. It may also wish to consider and recommend to COP-8 which subsidiary bodies, groups or processes might be most appropriate for further considering the development of guidance on the different items and a timeframe for such considerations, in view of the possible adoption of such guidance by COP-9. In this context, the Bureau will also be invited to review and confirm the timeframe envisaged by COP-7 with regard to the drafting of amendments, following COP-8, for their adoption at COP-9.

i) Background paper on the opening of the Convention

- The secretariat will present an outline of a background document on the possible opening up of the Convention, prepared on the basis of the request by WGD-4. The background document should, as requested by the WGD also include information on the possible financial implications.

j) Document on the ratification status

- The secretariat will provide an update on the status of ratifications.

k) Elections

- The Bureau is expected to discuss the composition of the Bureau and the WGI during the next biennium.

4. Opening of the Convention to United Nations member States outside of the ECE region

- This agenda item has been included on the basis of the request of the Bureau at its last meeting held jointly with the WGI in November 2013. The item will also be addressed when discussing the document on the opening of the Convention under agenda item 2 (i).

5. Terms of Reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies

- As requested by the Bureau at its last meeting, the secretariat will make a presentation concerning the mandates of the Bureau, WGD and WGI, on the basis of their Terms of Reference (ToR) adopted by the COP and the evolution of roles and mandates. To ensure clarity with regard to the roles of the different subsidiary bodies, the Bureau may wish to consider preparing a proposal for amendments to the ToR of the above-mentioned bodies for presentation and possible adoption at COP-8. Such an approach would follow the decision taken at WGD-4 with regard to the need to revise existing ToR and provide clarity through COP decision(s).

6. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

- The JEG Co-Chair, supported by the secretariat, will be invited to report on next steps and progress made with regard to the development of a checklist/methodology for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters. He will also inform the meeting of the offer from Hungary to host the next meeting, envisaged to take place in October 2014. The meeting will also be informed about the outcome of the teleconference held between the Chairs of the Industrial Accidents and Water Convention with the JEG Co-Chairs.

- The Bureau is expected to discuss the role of the JEG in the review of the checklist/methodology, its upcoming meeting and workplan for the next biennium. In this

context, the Bureau is invited to consider cooperation between the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions.

7. Outstanding action items from the last Bureau meeting

- The Bureau is invited to discuss outstanding action items arising from the last meeting, such as:

- Industrial Accident Notification System and the organization of a consultation of the Points of contacts;
- Cartoons on the Convention;
- Re-engagement of the Russian Federation;
- Publications;
- Implementation of the Assistance Programme on the basis of the Assistance Programme tracking table, prepared by the secretariat;
- Cooperation with partners: Inter-agency meeting held on 27 May 2014 and a table reflecting crosscutting activities;
- E-MARS: the Conference of the Parties encouraged all Parties and other ECE member States to report on major accidents using the European Union's major accident reporting system (eMARS), and requested the European Commission and the secretariat to facilitate reporting. The meeting is expected to review actions taken to facilitate reporting;
- Addition of new organizations to the list of strategic partners: European Environmental Bureau, Green Cross International and the UN ISDR.

8. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2014/15

- The secretariat will provide an overview of provisionally scheduled meetings in 2014/15 for planning purposes.

9. Capacity building activities

(a) Assistance Programme activities

- The WGI Chair will be invited to report on the evaluation of the self-assessments provided by beneficiary countries under the Assistance Programme in particular, regarding the number and quality of self-assessments and action plans received.
- The secretariat, WGI Chair and Bureau members will be invited to report briefly on the developments with regard to the on-going or upcoming assistance activities, including: the Danube Delta project; the review of the benchmarks document and others.

(b) Other capacity building activities

- The meeting will examine the implementation of the following work plan activities:
 - (i) Progress made on the development of a guide on methodology for hazard rating, in collaboration with partners.
 - (ii) The delivery of the workshop on the development of guidelines on transboundary risk assessment (RIECO), possibly including the characterization of exposure risks (lead country: Republic of Moldova).

(iii) Risk management at tailings management facilities: development of a checklist and practical exercises – report on the first steering committee meeting.

10. Other business

- Members of the Bureau wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

11. Closing of the meeting

- The Bureau is invited to confirm the date and location of its next session, expected to be held in Geneva on 2 December 2014, before the Chair formally closes the session.
