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English only

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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Bureau**

##### **Thirty-first meeting**

Geneva, 3 and 4 December 2015

### **Annotated provisional agenda of the meeting**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, room S1  
from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on 3 December and from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 4 December 2015

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Long-term goals, future strategy and 2017–18 workplan
3. Development of the Convention
  - 3.1 Activities of the Working Group on Development
  - 3.2 Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Bureau and the Convention's subsidiary bodies and the Rules of Procedure
  - 3.3 Accession by United Nations Member States from outside the UNECE region
4. Assistance Activities
  - 4.1 Assistance Programme: Challenges and future development
  - 4.2 Review of the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme
  - 4.3 Implementation of activities under the Assistance Programme
5. Financing and implementation of the 2015–16 workplan
6. Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and joint UNECE/OECD seminar
7. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2016
8. Other business
9. Closure of 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 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents 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. Long-term goals, future strategy and 2017–2018 workplan

The Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting in 2010 adopted the long-term strategy of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/22, annex I) to give direction for further work under the Convention. The biennial workplans have since then been structured along the strategy's five priority areas.

*Looking ahead, the Bureau is invited to engage in a brainstorming exercise:*

- a) *to discuss the long-term goals and future strategy of the Convention, the Bureau's role in this regard, and the need to revise the 2010 long-term strategy;*
- b) *to consider the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction, their relevance and related opportunities for the Industrial Accidents Convention, noting also the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets;*
- c) *to consider synergies with other UNECE Conventions and programmes and other international organizations;*
- d) *to identify strategic and pertinent policy issues which merit being addressed in the workplan for the period 2017–2018;*
- e) *to discuss the structure of the future 2017–2018 workplan, including a differentiation between core and non-core activities, and the necessary actions to bring about better sustainability and predictability of financing.*

#### Documentation:

- Background note on long-term goals, future strategy and 2017–18 workplan (CP.TEIA/2015/B.3/DOC.1)
- Long-term strategy of the Industrial Accidents Convention (see report of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2010/22, Annex I), available at: [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2010/teia/ece.cp.teia.22.e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2010/teia/ece.cp.teia.22.e.pdf))
- Background note on linkages between the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Sendai commitments, Sustainable Development Goals and Green Economy (CP.TEIA/2015/B.3/DOC.2)
- Chair's Summary of the seventh informal meeting between representatives of the governing bodies of the UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Committee of Environmental Policy, 26 October 2015
- Secretariats for ECE MEAs – the way forward. Enhancing sustainability and predictability of secretariat functions, available at: [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/TEIA/WGD/2015\\_MEA\\_Financing.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/TEIA/WGD/2015_MEA_Financing.pdf)
- Background note on core and non-core activities (CP.TEIA/2015/B.3/DOC.3)

### 3. Development of the Convention

#### 3.1 Activities by the Working Group on Development

The Co-Chairs of the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Development will brief the Bureau on the meeting outcome and the plans for the preparation of the seventh meeting of the Working Group. *The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the next steps to ensure the desired progress in the conclusion of amendments and preparation of guidance in time for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in line with the mandate provided by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.*

#### 3.2 Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Bureau and the Convention's subsidiary bodies and Rules of Procedure

The Bureau agreed on amendments to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Bureau and the Convention's subsidiary bodies (Working Group on Implementation and Working Group on Development), as well as the rules of procedure, at its thirtieth meeting (Geneva, 8–9 July 2015) and entrusted the secretariat with the further review of these documents for editing and consistency. The updated version of the ToR and rules of procedure was circulated by the secretariat to the Bureau on 23 September 2015. Thereafter, as agreed during the last Bureau meeting, the secretariat sent the draft amended ToR and rules of procedure for their legal review to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs.

*Bureau members will be invited to agree on modalities for the finalization of the proposed amended ToR and Rules of Procedure to allow for presentation to and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.*

*In reviewing the ToR of the Working Group on Development, the Bureau is invited to take account of the comments by the Working Group at its preceding sixth meeting. The Bureau will also be invited to consider the proposal by the secretariat to formally change the name of the Working Group from "Working Group on the Development of the Convention" to "Working Group on Development."*

##### Documentation:

- Proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Bureau, the Working Group on Implementation and the Working Group on Development and Rules of Procedure

#### 3.3 Accession by United Nations Member States from outside the UNECE region

Following the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Development and the email communication between Bureau members following the Bureau's thirtieth meeting, the secretariat prepared a background note to outline possible approaches to address the budgetary implications of opening the Convention, for consideration by the Working Group at its sixth meeting. Following the Working Group's deliberations, the Bureau will be invited to discuss the next steps with regard to a decision by the Conference of the Parties on the Convention's opening.

The Conference of the Parties had, at its eighth meeting, also invited the secretariat to maintain its contacts with the other United Nations regional commissions and other international organizations to promote awareness of the Convention. The secretariat will brief the Bureau of such contacts. In this context, *the Bureau will be invited to consider the Convention's presentation in other regions and the invitation of representatives from outside the UNECE region to participate in activities under the Convention, including the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the joint UNECE/OECD seminar.*

## **4. Assistance Activities**

### **4.1 Assistance Programme: Challenges and future development**

The Bureau is invited to engage in a broader reflection on the Assistance Programme, considering the challenges encountered with the implementation of activities, including with regard to country ownership and the lack of financing. On this basis, *Bureau members are invited to reflect on the future development of the Programme, in order to prepare for a discussion at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Documentation:

- Background note on the Assistance Programme (CP.TEIA/2015/B.3/DOC.4)

### **4.2 Review of the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme**

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will be invited to brief the Bureau on the initiation by the Working Group on Implementation of its analytical review, to be conducted with the support of the Bureau and the secretariat, to determine whether the information available was sufficient to document and assess the Programme's effectiveness and to recommend, on this basis, an independent external evaluation of the Programme would be useful.

### **4.3 Implementation of activities under the Assistance Programme**

The secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of Assistance Programme activities since the thirtieth meeting of the Bureau. It will highlight the implementation of activities in cooperation with other UNECE Conventions and organizations and the completion of the Danube Delta project and its evaluation. *Bureau members will be invited to share their views on the assistance activities implemented, in particular the Danube Delta project, its results achieved and their sustainability.*

Documentation:

- Information on the activities and results of UNECE Danube Delta project, available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/ap/ddp.html>
- Background note on the evaluation of the UNECE Danube Delta project (CP.TEIA/2015/B.3/DOC.5)

### **4.4 Other assistance activities**

The Bureau member from Germany as lead Party representative will be invited to brief the Bureau on the progress made with regard to the planning for and carrying out of activities to address risk management at tailings management facilities (e.g., in Armenia and Ukraine), including at the subregional level.

Documentation:

- Final report of the project "Improving the safety of industrial tailings management facilities based on the example of Ukrainian facilities" including recommended follow-up activities (Chapter 9)

## **5. Financing and implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan**

The secretariat will report on the overall financial situation of the trust fund, considering pledges indicated by Parties at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and additional contributions received since then and expected for 2016. *Bureau members will*

*be invited to report on efforts to mobilize additional financing sources within national government structures, including development cooperation.*

*The Bureau will be invited to consider, in line with the sustainable financial mechanism, further actions to encourage Parties to provide support at least at a level reflecting their economic strength. It may also wish to consider ways to encourage Parties to provide financing early, to the extent possible, prior to the commencement of the workplan.*

The Co-Chairs of the small group on financing will report on the Group's follow-up to the meeting held on 7 July 2015 and the envisaged next steps to ensure sustainable and predictable financing for this workplan period and beyond. *The Bureau will be invited to consider the proposal by the small group on financing to develop a "marketing strategy" to promote the Convention. Bureau members not part of the small group on financing are invited to consider how they could support the Group's efforts.*

The secretariat will report on the use of financial resources and the implementation of the 2015–16 workplan, considering the availability of funds and the human resources. *The Bureau will be invited to discuss pertinent issues related to the workplan and to take a decision on the carrying out of future activities in 2016, considering the available funds.*

Documentation:

- Implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan and resources (CP.TEIA/2015/B.3/DOC.6)
- Project idea by German Environment Agency "Raising knowledge on tailings safety among teachers and students using TMF checklist methodology"

## **6. Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and Joint UNECE/OECD seminar**

The Chair of the Bureau will share information on the offer of holding of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 28–30 November 2015. She will also share information on the holding of the joint UNECE/OECD seminar "Going global with industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response" in the framework of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the related discussion at the meeting of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents, 27–29 October 2015. *The Bureau will be invited to decide on the venue for holding the Conference of the Parties and the date for the joint UNECE/OECD seminar (28 or 30 November 2015). It will also be invited to review the outline and content of the seminar and provide comments and guidance to the secretariat in its further preparation.*

Documentation:

- Outline for the Joint UNECE/OECD seminar "Going global with industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response", as presented to the OECD Working Group on 27–29 October 2015

## **7. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2016**

The Bureau will be invited to confirm the date and location of its next meeting. The meeting could be held in June 2016, in time to enable to review the key documents for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

All other meeting dates for 2016 are included in the calendar of meetings on the Convention website.<sup>1</sup> The seventh meeting of the Working Group on Development has been confirmed to be held 11–14 (a.m.) April 2016, including a workshop on safety and land-use planning on 13 April 2016. The workshop will be held jointly with the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

## **8. Other business**

The Conference of the Parties entrusted the Bureau with monitoring the application of the guiding principles for financial support (ECE/CP.TEIA/30, para. 86, and decision 2014/3, ECE/CP.TEIA/30/Add.1). Against this background, the secretariat will inform the Bureau of the application of the financial support system in 2015.

Members of the Bureau wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **9. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 4 December at 4.00 p.m.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/meetings-and-events.html#/>