

# Opening the Industrial Accidents Convention:

*Possible approaches to address  
budgetary implications*

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6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Development  
30 November 2015



**UNECE**

# Background

At its eighth meeting, the **Conference of the Parties:**

- Considered the opening with due regard to the benefits and challenges and the experiences by the other ECE MEAs
- Requested the Working Group on Development to continue to thoroughly consider all related aspects
- Requested the secretariat to prepare relevant information on budgetary implications, and to maintain contacts with other UN regional commissions and international organizations to promote awareness

At its fifth meeting, the **Working Group on Development:**

- Expressed support, in principle, for the opening of the Convention
- Stressed the need to carefully consider the implementation of the Convention in the UNECE region and related budgetary questions
- Requested the secretariat to outline possible approaches on how to address budgetary implications

# Recap: Benefits

- Enhanced levels of industrial safety in a transboundary context
- Improved institutional, administrative, legal frameworks
- International sustainable development and disaster risk reduction commitments → Implementing the 2030 development agenda
- Enriched exchange of experiences and good practices
- Awareness, Outreach, partnerships



Organizational and budgetary implications

- Potential new global financing opportunities

## Recap: Benefits

- Increased awareness at political level
- Increased visibility among other communities, and public
- Potential new strategic partnerships
- Potential new funding opportunities e.g. from Ministries of foreign affairs, Development cooperation agencies




Experience of other ECE MEAs demonstrates increased interest by Foreign Affairs, and increased visibility at the global level

# Expectations and timelines

## Experience of other UNECE MEAs

- UNECE MEAs provide for accession to United Nations MS outside the UNECE region either since their adoption or subsequently, upon decision of governing bodies
- Aarhus Convention → Open since adoption. Entered into force in 2001, no accession from outside the UNECE
- Water Convention → Adopted amendment on opening the Convention in 2003 which entered into force in 2013, operational only with last ratification in 2015
- Espoo Convention → Adopted an amendment on opening the Convention in 2001 which entered into force in 2014, not yet operational

 At least 10 years passed between adopting an amendment on opening and its entry into force.

# Opening - gradual approach

## Short, medium and long term considerations

Short term (before entry into force, e.g. 5-8 years after adoption of amendment)

- Promotion and awareness-raising (e.g. dedicated brochures, promotion materials)
- Establishment of network of contacts
- In partnership with other UN regional commissions, international and regional organizations and lead countries

Medium term (e.g. 5-15 years, following entry into force of the amendment)

- Gradual increase of interest of countries from outside the UNECE → possible initial request for capacity-building → to be carried out with dedicated XB resources made available

Long term (e.g. 15+ years from adoption of amendment)

- Budgetary implications difficult to quantify
- Possible enhanced interest and request for support
- Ability of Convention to respond will depend on availability of resources

# Possible costs

- Brochures, promotion materials and their translation
- Capacity-building/assistance:
  - Costs dependent on length and venue of activity, number of participants
  - Experiences from other UNECE MEAs shows that often costs for missions outside the UNECE are paid by organizers or partners
- Participation of countries from outside the UNECE region as observers in CoP or technical meetings and seminars
  - CoP to determine budget for participation of representatives from developing countries
  - Representatives of other countries may bear own costs
  - Possible costs for interpretation into other languages in medium to longer term

# Possible approaches to address budgetary implications

## Partnership with other UN regional commissions, international and regional organizations, countries:

- UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP):
  - Remote participation in 3rd Meeting of ESCAP Sustainable Business Network Task Force on Disaster Risk Reduction (Bangkok, Thailand, 27 Oct. 2015) and Bangladesh Resilience Dialogue (Dhaka, 8 Oct. 2015)
- Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit:
  - Participation in Environmental Emergencies Forum (Oslo, 1-3.6. 2015)
  - Joint Side Event at UNEP SAICM ICCM-4 (Geneva, 2 Oct. 2015)
- International Workshop of Industrial Safety Regulation Bodies of BRICS countries "Effective Regulation of Industrial Safety as an Element of Stability of National Economy" (Moscow, 11 - 12 November 2015)
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)



# Possible approaches to address budgetary implications

## New financing sources

- Experience of other UNECE MEAs:
  - Parties, partner organizations or multilateral financing mechanisms provided dedicated financing for promotion and opening
  - GEF supported financing of participation of developing countries in meetings under Water Convention and Protocol on PRTRs
  - The Water Convention actively promoting its work beyond the region particularly benefitted from new funds
- Promoting the Convention, including its links with post 2015 disaster risk reduction and sustainable development goals, could support awareness at political level and attract new financing

# Possible safeguards with regard to the use of human and financial resources

- Implementation of activities related to the opening will **depend on the decisions by the Conference of the Parties:**
  - Approach to and budget for the opening
  - Eligibility of countries to receive funds to attend activities
  - Organization of activities
- **Capacity-building** activities related to the opening would **depend on requests and extra budgetary funds available**
- Related activities beyond the UNECE region could be regarded as a “**non-core**” activity and depend on extra budgetary funds available
- **Strategic focus on neighbouring countries/regions**

# Conclusions

- Cost implications mainly expected in medium to longer-term (10+ years), following the entry into force of the amendment and depending on the interest by countries
- Cost is to depend largely on guidance by the Conference of the Parties
- Strategy for opening could focus on neighbouring countries and be based on gradual approach, starting with promotion in the shorter term
- Partnerships with other organizations is a cost-efficient means to raise awareness of the Convention in other regions
- Capacity-building in the medium- to longer-term would depend on requests and availability of extra budgetary funds
- Opening would provide access to new global funds which could support activities related to the opening, or the workplan in general