

16 January 2015

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Twenty-ninth meeting

Working Group on Implementation

Twenty-sixth meeting

Geneva, 28 and 29 (a.m.) January 2015

Annotated provisional agenda of the joint meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, room XV
from 10 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on 28 January and from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on 29 January 2015

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Follow-up to the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - a) Representation and credentials
 - b) Membership of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation
 - c) Membership of the Working Group on Implementation
 - d) Chair of the Working Group on Development
 - e) Activities of the Bureau
3. Financing and overall implementation of the workplan
4. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders
5. Exchange of Information
6. Strategic Partnerships
7. Development of the Convention
 - a) Activities by the Working Group on Development to prepare draft amendments and CoP guidance
 - b) Terms of Reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies
8. Assistance Programme
9. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
10. Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
11. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2015

12. Other business
13. 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 in consultation with the Chair of the Bureau. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document. It is proposed that the meeting be co-chaired by the Chair of the Bureau and the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation.

2. Follow-up to the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- The Bureau will be invited to consider selected issues meriting attention in follow-up to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

a) Representation and credentials

- The Bureau is invited to discuss the representation at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (37 out of 41) and the submission of credentials (by 27 Parties out of 41 by the time of the opening of the Conference). The Bureau is invited to discuss the submission of and reporting on the credentials at future CoPs, in order to encourage a maximum number of Parties to submit credentials and in light of the practice of other ECE MEAs where officers report on credentials. The Bureau is invited to reflect on future actions to ensure adequate representation and the submission of credentials by an increasing number of Parties.

b) Membership of the Bureau

- Following the initial meeting of the Bureau in the margins of CoP-8, Azerbaijan decided to nominate another member of the Bureau in light of the English language skills needed for effectively taking part in the deliberations and discussions of the Bureau. The Bureau is invited to take note of the re-nomination of the Bureau member by Azerbaijan.

c) Membership of the Working Group on Implementation

- The Russian Federation indicated during the CoP that it would nominate a member of the Working Group on Implementation. Following this decision and a follow-up discussion with the Head of Delegation of the Russian Federation, the secretariat sent a formal letter to the Russian Federation in December 2014, requesting that the new member be nominated as soon as possible.

d) Election of the Chair of the Working Group on Development

- The Bureau will be invited, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Development (Decision 2004/4 adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties) to elect a Chair of the Working. The Bureau will be invited to consider the re-election of Mr. C. Dijkens as Chair following the indication of his availability.

e) Activities of the Bureau 2015-2016

- The Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation, is invited to reflect on the challenges outlined in the report of the former Bureau to the CoP and to discuss how to address these in the coming biennium, in particular:

- Increased efforts needed to ensure sustainable financing of the Convention's activities;

- Need to further identify synergies with strategic partners to raise the level of industrial safety in the ECE region;
 - Further enhancement of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Approach, in particular by beneficiary countries to the Assistance Programme;
 - Need for continued identification, application and exchange of good practices / experiences to raise the level of implementation of the Convention;
 - Need to further increase the number of Parties.
- Meeting participants, in particular Bureau members, are invited to consider their roles and the possible distribution of responsibilities for addressing these challenges. They are invited to reflect on addressing the challenges in their discussions of the implementation of the workplan (items 3 – 9).

3. Financing and overall implementation of the workplan

- It is proposed that the item be discussed during a separate meeting of the Bureau (to be held after lunch, e.g. from 13h30 – 14h30). The WGI could then meet separately, as well, including to elect its Chair and Co-Chair(s).

- The secretariat will report on the pledges indicated by Parties at, in the lead up or follow up to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. On the basis of the financing, as available and expected in line with the indications by Parties, the Bureau will be invited to decide on the next steps it is planning to carry out to ensure the mobilization of additional funds for the implementation of the 2015-2016 workplan activities with the required secretariat staff as well as the building of a necessary financial reserve. In this context, as decided during its meeting in June 2013, the Bureau will be invited to review the workload of the secretariat and to decide on necessary actions to ensure that the staffing required to implement the 2015-2016 workplan is ensured. The Bureau will also be invited to consider the prioritization of workplan activities.

- Furthermore, the Bureau will be invited to discuss future activities and meetings of the small group on financing. It is also invited to decide on the future membership of the small group on financing in light of the retirement of one of its members, Mr. Gunnar Hem, Norway. For the constitution of the small group on financing, the Bureau is invited to consider geographical representation and the balance between donor and beneficiary countries.

- Moreover, the Bureau will be invited to share its views on the first draft of the note “Secretariats to ECE MEAs – the way forward” elaborated by the management of ECE and shared for comments with the Bureaux of the ECE MEAs. The Bureau will be invited to reflect how this may impact the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism.

4. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders

- The meeting is expected to discuss whether, and if so how, to implement activities on this priority area and the priorities accorded to them. In light of the emphasis in the last biennium in the production of targeted communication activities (online training, cartoons and film on the Convention), activities in the 2015-16 biennium could focus on:

- The promotion of existing communication materials, including their translation into Russian (ongoing for the film) and use in particular for capacity building activities (e.g. online training as an encouragement/prerequisite for assistance activities, usage of cartoons to explain the Convention, showing of the film to raise awareness).

- In terms of working visits to other stakeholders, the following opportunities present themselves in 2015:
 - Sendai Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Japan: ECE will be represented through the Executive Secretary and the Focal Point for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Bureau is invited to consider its presence, as well as opportunities to highlight the Convention and its contribution to technological disaster risk reduction through its national delegation.
 - Environmental Emergencies Forum organized by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, 1-3 June 2014, Oslo
 - IMPEL (EU Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law) 11th Seminar on Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents Lille, France, 2 – 3 June 2015
 - GCE Forum of the Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2-5 June 2015 including a specific segment on the Convention, as proposed by GCE.

The Bureau is invited to consider and advise on the participation of the Convention in these activities.

5. Exchange of information

- The meeting is expected to discuss whether, and if so how, to implement activities and accord priorities on this work area, considering those that are financed through the trust fund (Guidance on the implementation of the Convention on Annex I) or in-kind (Raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities, by Germany).
- The meeting might examine the possibility of identifying lead countries or organizations, particularly those willing to organize activities in-kind.
- With regard to “Exchange of experience and good practices among Parties and to promote the continuous organization of bilateral exercises for preparedness”, the meeting is invited to consider the organization of another seminar on enhancing industrial safety in the ECE region at a future CoP, with due consideration to the experience at CoP-8 and its evaluation, or alternative modes of implementation (not financed at present). The meeting is also invited to consider the organization of bilateral exercises of preparedness, with due regard to activities planned in the framework of Danube Delta project (financed) and beyond.

6. Strategic partnerships

- The meeting is expected to discuss whether, and if so how, to implement activities on this work area, and how to accord priority, in light of their financing. In particular, the meeting might examine the implementation of the following workplan activities:
 - Sharing of good practices for safety and land-use planning; development of guidance on safety and land use planning, in cooperation with ECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (financed in-kind by EU/EIB, to prepare CoP guidance for review by WGD and presentation to the CoP).
 - Activities to raise awareness of the risk of complacency, to ensure prevention and maintain a high level of safety, with partners (elements planned to be addressed through the crisis management component of the Danube Delta project, financed by Finland; no separate activities financed/planned).

- Publishing and promoting the checklist for harmonized contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary waters and its application (financed in-kind by Sweden).

- Furthermore, the meeting is invited to discuss the implementation of the decision by the CoP to encourage the maintenance and strengthening of strategic partnerships with other international organisations, NGOs, industry associations as well as other ECE MEAs and programmes.

7. Development of the Convention

a) Activities by the Working Group on Development to prepare draft amendments and CoP guidance

- The Chair of the Working Group on Development may wish to brief the Bureau on key elements concerning the planned organization of work of the Working Group to develop amendments and CoP guidance, in light of the “fast track” process agreed by the CoP.

b) Terms of Reference of the Convention’s subsidiary bodies

- The Bureau and the WGI are invited to consider the timing and organization of work to review the Terms of Reference of subsidiary bodies, as requested by CoP:

- Review of ToR of the Bureau - by the Bureau
 - Review of the ToR of the WGI - by the Bureau, in cooperation with the WGI, and considering the views of WGD with regard to compliance elements
 - Review of the ToR of the WGD - by the Bureau, in cooperation with the WGD.
- It is thus proposed that the Bureau and the WGI consider and agree on an initial draft update of the ToR at their meetings in summer 2015 and that WGD-6 in November/December 2015 be presented with
- a draft update of the ToR for the WGI, following preparation of an initial draft by the WGI at its meeting in summer 2015
 - a draft update of the ToR of the WGD following preparation of a draft by the Bureau in summer 2015.

8. Assistance Programme activities

- The WGI and the Bureau are invited to reflect on the decisions by the CoP with regard to the Assistance Programme and the continued implementation of its Strategic Approach, in particular to:

- Enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices among Assistance Programme beneficiary countries.
 - Call on beneficiary countries to ensure ownership and to encourage beneficiary countries to prepare and submit self-assessments and action plans.
- The secretariat will provide information of envisaged assistance activities in 2015. With regard to the organization of future Assistance Programme activities, it is proposed that this be discussed by the WGI for its substantive guidance at its separate meeting. The Bureau, in cooperation with the WGI, is invited to reflect on the overall financing of assistance activities and the priorities accorded to those that are financed through the trust fund and in-kind (activities to address risk management at TMF financed by Germany).

9. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

- At its last meeting, the Bureau had approved the workplan of the JEG for the period 2015-2016. CoP-8 took note of the future JEG activities as per its workplan which has been incorporated in the 2015-2016 workplan to implement the Convention. Furthermore, the CoP took note of the checklist for contingency planning and invited its application as a tool for harmonized contingency planning between neighbouring states. Furthermore, it invited the secretariat to publish the checklist for contingency planning in the three official UNECE languages following its review by the 7th meeting of the Parties of the ECE Water Convention and the testing of its application in the framework of the Danube Delta project.

- The Bureau is invited to take note of planning future activities of the JEG, based on a briefing by the secretariat. Furthermore, the Bureau is invited to appoint the Co-Chair of the JEG for the Industrial Accidents Convention, in line with the JEG Strategy (2010) during the first Bureau meeting following the CoP. Germany has nominated Mr. Gerd Winkelmann-Oei as a candidate as JEG Co-Chair.

10. Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- The meeting is expected to discuss possible practical arrangements for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in particular the location. The Conference could be located in Slovenia, country of origin of the Chair, in another country of the ECE region, possibly also in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, or alternatively, in Geneva.

11. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2015

- The secretariat will provide an overview of provisionally scheduled meetings in 2015-2016 for planning purposes as well as other relevant activities organized by partner organizations. All provisional and announced relevant meeting dates are included in the calendar of meetings on the Convention website.¹ The Bureau is invited to confirm the date and location of its next session, expected to be held in Geneva in June 2015.

12. Other business

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

13. Closure of the meeting

- The Chairs are expected to close the meeting on 29 January at 12h30.

¹ Available from: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=3025>