



# Sub-regional workshop for Central Asia on Industrial Accident Prevention:

*Chemicals management,  
identification and notification of hazardous activities  
and  
accidental water pollution*

**Franziska Ilg-Hirsch**

Secretary to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects  
of Industrial Accidents

**Astana, 26-28 May 2015**





# Workshop: Background

- Part of the Industrial Accident Convention's workplan 2015-2016
- First in a series of sub-regional capacity building workshops to support countries in implementing an amended Annex I to the Convention, aligned with GHS
- Broader focus on the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, industrial accident prevention and chemicals management
- Accidental water pollution also covered





# Workshop Objectives

- Familiarize the countries in Central Asia with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention in order to enhance industrial safety and chemicals management, safeguard human health and the environment and enhance sub-regional cooperation
- Increase the expert and administrative capacity in the area of identification and notification of hazardous activities, in line with Annex I of the Convention, aligned with the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
- Increase the capacity of the countries in Central Asia in the area of prevention of accidental water pollution





# Organizers



- Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan, as host
- UN Economic Commission for Europe:
  - Secretariat of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, in the framework of its Assistance Programme
- In cooperation with
  - Secretariat of the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
  - Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
  - Water Initiatives Centre, Astana
  - UN Development Programme, Astana office







# Workshop: 5 sessions

- **Session 1: Setting the scene (26 May p.m.)**

*Introduction, Activities of international organizations, Identification of hazardous activities in Central Asia*

- **Session 2: Identification and Classification of hazardous substances (27 May a.m.)**

*Amended Annex I to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, GHS, International examples (UK, Belarus), National procedures in Central Asia*





# Workshop: 5 sessions

- **Session 3: Identification of hazardous activities with a potential transboundary impact (27 May p.m.)**

*Location criteria, International example (Switzerland), Industrial accidents and disaster risk management, Practical exercise*

- **Session 4: Notification to neighbouring countries (28 May a.m.)**

*Convention obligations; Next steps in Central Asia*

- **Session 5: Accidental Water Pollution (28 May a.m.)**

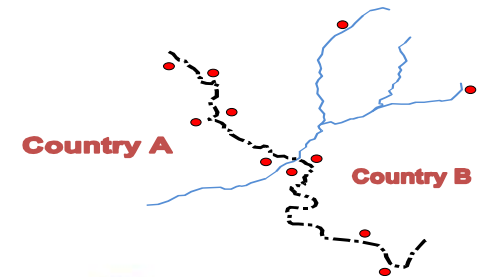
*Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, national approaches in Central Asia, the way forward*





# Background: Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- Negotiated by ECE member countries in response to several major industrial accidents and their transboundary effects (e.g. Sandoz spill at Schweizerhalle in 1986 effecting all downstream countries along the Rhine)
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur
- Focus on transboundary cooperation
- 41 Parties





# Application of the Convention

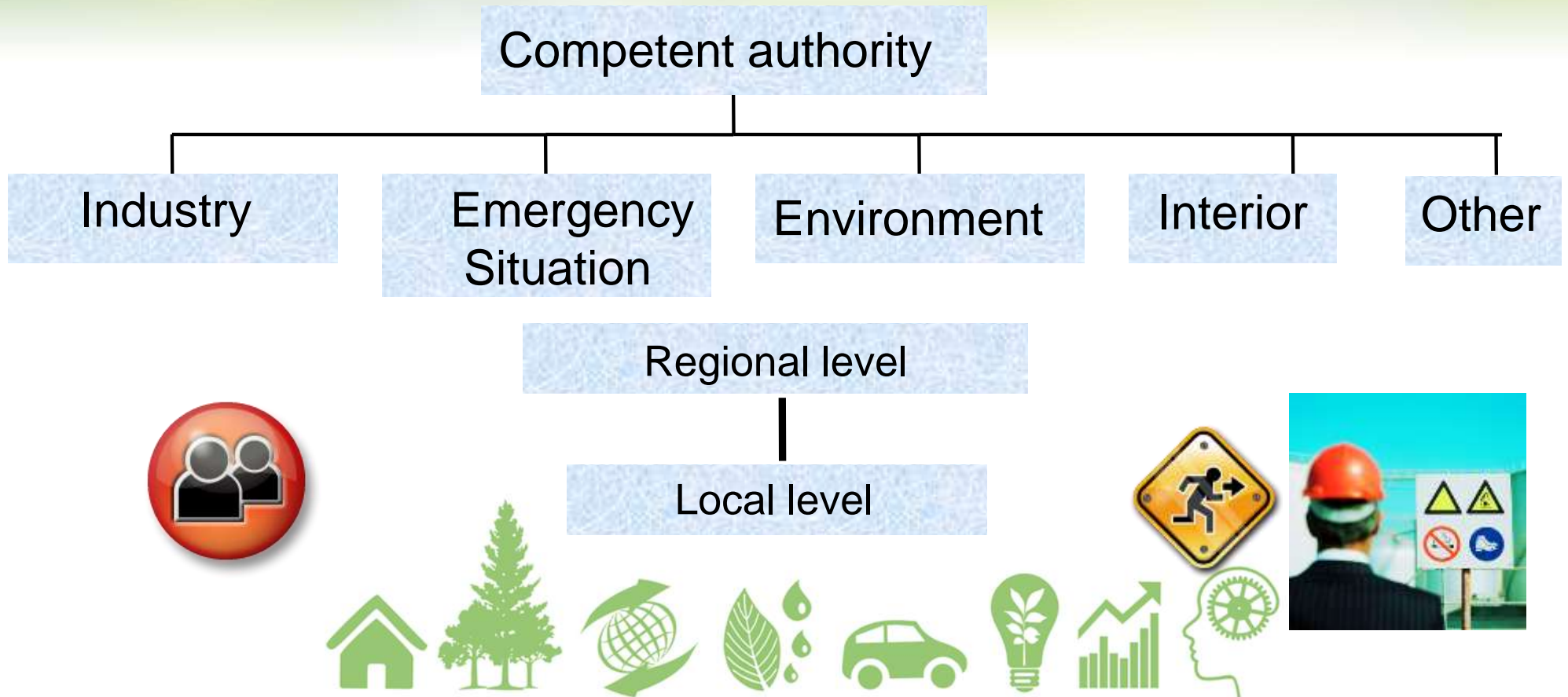
- Prevention, preparedness of and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects, including the effects of accidents caused by natural disasters
- International cooperation concerning mutual assistance, R&D, exchange of information & technology







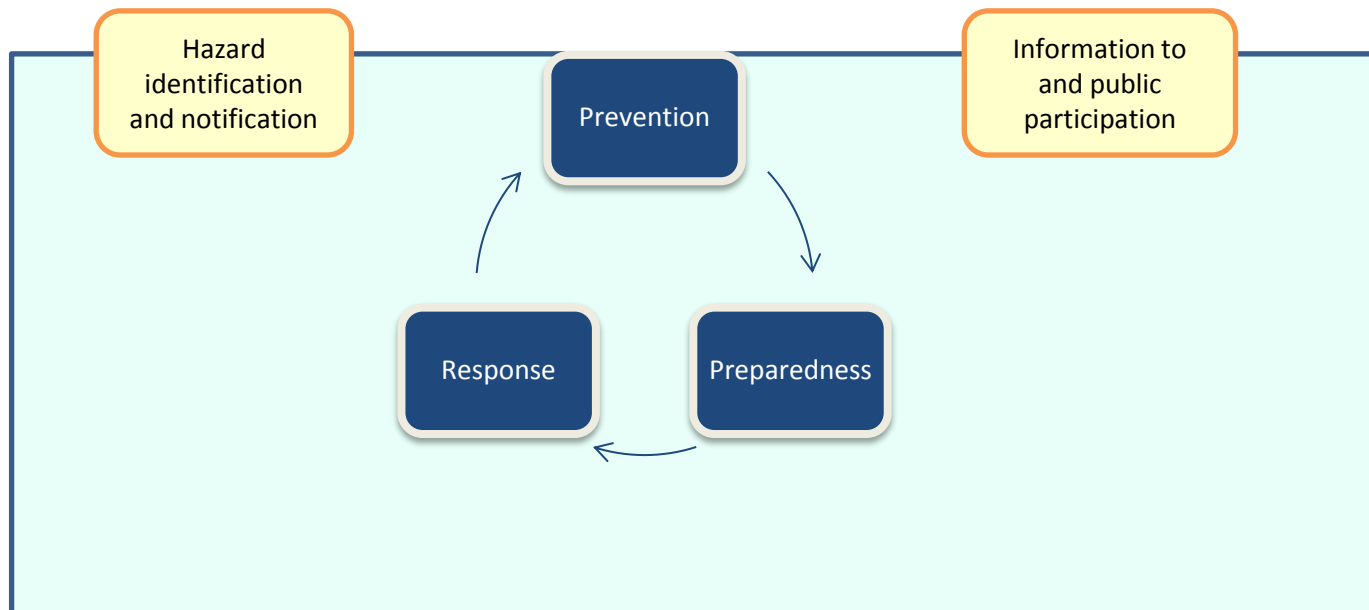
# Focus on governance and institutional structures: Cooperation and coordination between authorities, industry & the public





# Key obligations

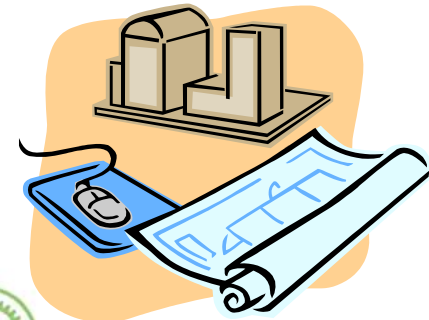
- **Identification and notification** of hazardous activities
- Development and implementation of policies, strategies and measures for:
- **Prevention** of industrial accidents
- Emergency **preparedness**
- Emergency **response** incl. industrial accidents notification & mutual assistance
- Information to and participation of the public





# Prevention: Transboundary cooperation

- Identification of hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary effects, incl. with Parties concerned
- Notification of existing or proposed hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary effects
- Establishment of policies on the siting of new hazardous activities and on significant modifications to such existing activities





# Information to, and participation of the public

- Adequate information to be given to the public in areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident arising out of a hazardous activity
- Public to be provided with opportunity to participate in relevant procedures on prevention and preparedness
- Opportunity to be given to the public of affected Party to be equivalent to the public of the Party of origin
- Access to justice



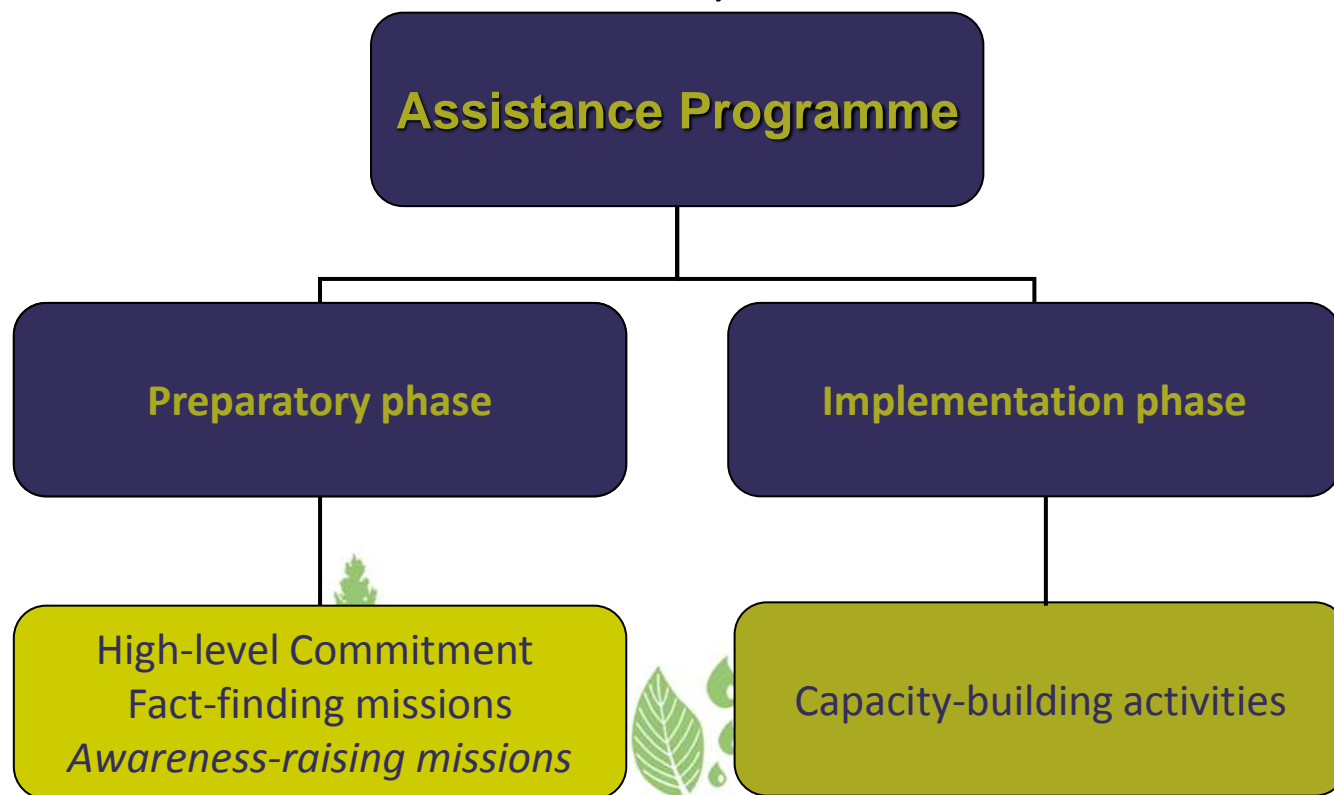




# The Assistance Programme

**Aim:** To assist countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to address the challenges in implementing the Convention.

High-level commitment declaration signed by Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan in 2005. Turkmenistan invited by Conference of the Parties in 2012 to join.





# Assistance Programme

## Cyclic / Strategic Approach



## Benchmarks on the Implementation of the Convention / Indicators & Criteria

**Step 1 – Self-Assessment** of national mechanisms, identification of gaps

**Step 2 – Action plan** to eliminate gaps and improve mechanisms

→ Project proposals

**Step 3 – Evaluation** of results achieved through the undertaken actions





# The Assistance Programme

## 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (December 2014):

- Recognized the progress achieved during the 10 years of the Assistance Programme and the continuous need to provide further assistance to the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
- Highlighted the need to enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices among beneficiary countries
- Encouraged beneficiary countries to increase their ownership of the Programme, among others, through the submission of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals





**Thank you for your attention.**

**For more information please visit:**

**[www.unece.org/env/teia](http://www.unece.org/env/teia)**

