

Review of decisions

- Decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting

- *This record is subject to language editing*

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

- Adopted the agenda of the meeting as presented in document ECE/CP.TEIA/31 and the corrigendum

Agenda item 2:

Fostering implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

- Welcomed the holding of the seminar in cooperation with OECD and asked for an informal summary to be included in annex to the meeting report
- Asked the Bureau to take into consideration the matters raised in the seminar when reviewing the long-term strategy of the Convention and consider those matters also when drafting the workplan for 2019–2020

Agenda item 3: Representation and credentials

- Took note of the status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocol on Civil Liability and requested the secretariat to report in a similar manner at the next meeting
- Accepted the report on credentials and noted that the number of Parties with credentials, 36, was sufficient to take decisions at the meeting

Agenda item 4:

Report of the Bureau on its activities since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- Took note with appreciation of the report of the Bureau and the activities described therein
- Requested the in-coming Bureau to report to the next meeting in a similar way on the activities of the Bureau to be carried out in the coming biennium (2017–2018)

Agenda item 5:

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Bureau and the Convention's subsidiary bodies and the rules of procedure

- Adopted the amended terms of reference of the Bureau, with revisions agreed in the meeting
 - Corrected the amended terms of reference to make clear that they referred to the attendance of observers in meetings of the Bureau
- Adopted the amended terms of reference of the Working Group on Development, with revisions agreed in the meeting
 - Removed reference to relevant legislation adopted by EU and other Parties
- Adopted the amendments to the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

Agenda item 6:

Election of officers and other members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

- Expressed its thanks to the outgoing Bureau for its work
- Elected Jasmina Karba (Slovenia) as Chair
- Elected Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund (Finland) and Pawel Dadasiewicz (Poland) as Vice-Chairs
- Elected or re-elected as the other Bureau members
 - Michael Struckl (Austria)
 - Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 - Pavel Forint (Czechia)
 - Aléxandros Kiriazis (European Union)
 - Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany)
 - Torill Tandberg (Norway)
 - Martin Merkofer (Switzerland)

Agenda item 7: Development of the Convention

- Took note of the activities of the Working Group on Development in the biennium 2015–2016
- Was not able reach consensus on the proposed amendment at this meeting and will re-visit the matter at its next meeting

Agenda item 7: Development of the Convention

- Took note of the deliberations of the Working Group on Development and agreed that the scope of mutual assistance applied only to accidents with potential transboundary effects

Agenda item 7: Development of the Convention

- Took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the making of comments on the guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects by the Working Group on EIA and SEA
- Took note of the guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects as presented
- Entrusted the Bureau with its finalization on the basis of the points raised by this Conference of the Parties and by the Working Group on EIA and SEA
- Requested the secretariat to publish the guidance in print and electronic forms in the three official languages of UNECE, taking into account the relevant deliberations of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Invited UNECE member States and other interested United Nations Member States to use it

Agenda item 8: Implementation of the Convention

- Took note of the activities of the Working Group on Implementation in the biennium 2015–2016
- Adopted the eighth report on implementation of the Convention
- Recommended specifically, in line with the report, continuing the collection of good practice examples through the national implementation reports
- Called on Parties and committed countries to highlight good practices and guidelines, including by providing weblinks, in their national implementation reports for the next reporting round, to help disseminate such good practices
- Adopted the decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention and requested the Working Group on Implementation to prepare a further decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention for the next meeting

Agenda item 8: Implementation of the Convention

- Adopted the decision on reporting requirements under the Convention
- Requested the Working Group on Implementation to prepare a ninth report on implementation on the basis of national implementation report for the eleventh meeting, in 2020
- Adopted the amended terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, as revised in the meeting (Parties engage on a voluntary basis under 4(d) and (e))
- Expressed its thanks to the outgoing members of the Working Group for their work, and especially the Chair, Ms. Sandra Ashcroft, for her excellent performance as Chair in the past four years

Agenda item 8: Implementation of the Convention

- Elected or re-elected as members of the Working Group on Implementation:
 - Pavel Chukharev (Belarus)
 - Hrvoje Buljan (Croatia)
 - Leo Iberl (Germany)
 - Laura Vizbule (Latvia)
 - Peter Westerbeek (Netherlands)
 - Anna Tsarina (Russian Federation)
 - Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia)
 - Helena Fridh (Sweden)
 - Raphael Gonzalez (Switzerland)
 - Rachel McCann (United Kingdom)

Agenda item 9:

Assistance to countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

- Endorsed the progress report on the assistance activities carried out during the biennium 2015–2016 and requested the secretariat to prepare a similar report for the next meeting
- Took note of the information presented on the assessment of the Assistance Programme's effectiveness, endorsed the proposed next steps, which will be recorded in the report of the meeting, and decided to revert to this matter at its next meeting
- Tasked the Bureau and secretariat, when reviewing activities, with making proposals on how the project management, including the procurement and management of funds, could be improved
- Took note of the information provided on the project in Central Asia

Agenda item 10:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System

- Took note of the outcome of the connectivity test of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System and the outcome of the consultation of the Points of Contact
- Called upon all Parties and invited other States to keep the contact details of their Points of Contact, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, up to date and to carry out and participate in tests of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System

Agenda item 11:

Prevention of accidental water pollution

- Took note of the information provided by the co-Chair of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and the activities carried out by the Joint Expert Group
- Took note of the workplan for the Joint Expert Group for the biennium 2017–2018 and included the Joint Expert Group activities in the Convention’s workplan for that period
- To ensure that the necessary regular budget resources are made available, requested the secretariat, in due course and subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties, to publish the expected safety guidelines or good practices for fire-water retention and other guidelines or good practices on addressing industrial accidents, disasters and water pollution, in print and electronic forms and in the three official languages of UNECE
- Welcomed the publication of the checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters
- Took note of the information provided on the steps to be taken to support the entry into force of the Protocol on Civil Liability

Agenda item 12: Priority areas of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention

- Took note of the information provided the involvement of Parties and other stakeholders and on the exchange of information
- Took note of the information provided on the educational training materials developed under the Convention
- Took note of the information provided on strategic partnerships

Agenda item 13:

Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2015–2016

- Endorsed the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources and asked the secretariat to prepare a similar report, to the extent possible, for the next meeting
- Welcomed the increase in the number of Parties contributing financially and encouraged an even wider participation by the Parties
- Welcomed also the sustained financial contributions by a number of countries to support the work under the Convention through financial contributions, while also recognizing the in-kind contributions provided by Parties
- Particularly welcomed the contribution by those countries having contributed financially for the first time during the current biennium and encouraged them to maintain their engagement.
- Also encouraged Parties not yet contributing financially in line with their economic strength, or higher, to consider such contributions, including for ensuring adequate human resources in the secretariat

Agenda item 14: Financing

- Took note of the information provided on financing
- Requested the Bureau to keep under review the sustainable financial mechanism
- Mandated the Bureau to develop a targeted communications strategy to facilitate ensuring robust and sustainable financing of the Convention's activities

Agenda item 15: Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2017–2018

- Pledges made by Parties *[wording to be confirmed individually]*

Agenda item 15:

Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2017–2018

- Adopted the workplan for 2017–2018 and its corresponding budget as amended
- Requested Parties, and invite other UNECE member States, to participate actively in the implementation of the workplan for 2017–2018, including through taking the lead in specific projects and activities contained in the workplan
- Welcomed the contributions to the budget pledged at the meeting by Parties and strategic partners to the Convention, and at the same time urged other Parties and UNECE member States to provide voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the budget of the Convention, including for ensuring adequate human resources in the secretariat

Agenda item 15:

Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2017–2018

- Mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to monitor the implementation of the workplan for 2017–2018, including raising the remaining funds necessary for its full implementation
- Further mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to raise additional funds, in particular for the activities under the Assistance Programme
- Requested Parties to make every effort to provide financial contributions in accordance with their economic strength, in line with the sustainable financial mechanism, in order to share the burden of financing the implementation of the programme of work equally
- Requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions and, at the next meeting, to report on the use of resources
- Requested the Bureau to draw up, with the support of the secretariat, a workplan and budget for 2019–2020 for adoption at the next meeting

Agenda item 15:

Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2017–2018

- To ensure that the necessary regular budget resources are made available, requested the secretariat to service and to provide the necessary meeting rooms, equipment, interpretation in the three official languages of UNECE, official documents and other resources for the holding of meetings and other events as listed in the adopted workplan.
 - Specifically, the official documents to be prepared, edited and translated in the three official languages of UNECE include the agendas and reports of the Conference of the Parties and, should it meet, the Working Group on Development.
 - In addition, approximately 15–20 other official documents in the three official languages of UNECE should be foreseen in the biennium, in accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties.
 - The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is expected to be held over three days, with other meetings of bodies lasting between one and two days. Further, a regional workshop may be held in Geneva

Agenda item 15: Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2017–2018

- Adopted the decision on guiding principles for financial assistance, depending on the availability of funds

Agenda item 16:

Date and venue of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- Agreed to meeting next in autumn 2018
- Entrusted the Bureau with the possible identification of a host country, failing which the meeting will be held in Geneva

Agenda item 17: Other business

- (none)

Agenda item 18: Review of decisions

- Entrusted the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of its ninth meeting