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

Ninth meeting

Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the Convention: activities of the Working Group on Implementation and eighth report on the implementation of the Convention

Draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention

Submitted by the Working Group on Implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 18 and 23 of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Recognizing that 32 out of 41 Parties reported on the implementation of the Convention within the deadline set for the eighth (2014–2015) reporting round,

Also recognizing that only one out of five committed countries¹ not yet Parties to the Convention reported on the implementation of the Convention within the deadline set for the eighth reporting round,

Recalling that the Working Group on Implementation, in accordance with its terms of reference, should draw conclusions and make draft recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the Convention based on its report on the implementation of the Convention and should submit these for adoption to the Conference of the Parties,

¹ Through the adoption of the commitment declaration at the High-level Commitment Meeting (Geneva, 14–15 December 2005), countries from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia committed to enhance industrial safety through their participation in the Assistance Programme and the implementation of the Convention, as well as to submit national implementation reports (CP.TEIA/2005/10).

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Taking into account and recognizing with appreciation the work done by the Working Group on Implementation to analyse and evaluate the national implementation reports and to compile the eighth report on the implementation of the Convention,

Also recognizing with appreciation the valuable work carried out by the Working Group on Implementation in monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Approach and the support provided by the Bureau to ensure the availability of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Assistance Programme,

Welcoming the activities conducted under the Assistance Programme in the period 2015–2016, as outlined in the progress report on the implementation of assistance activities (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/14),

1. *Adopts* the eighth report on the implementation of the Convention (2014–2015) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/10), as prepared and submitted by the Working Group on Implementation;

2. *Calls on* those Parties and committed countries that have not yet submitted their national implementation reports to do so without further delay, and invites other non-Parties to submit such reports on a voluntary basis;

3. *Further encourages*, in view of article 2, paragraph 1, and article 15 of the Convention, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to share through their national implementation reports information about innovations, good practices, guidelines and other materials of interest, including weblinks, on the different working areas of the Convention, even if not specifically related to the transboundary aspects of the Convention. It would also be useful for learning purposes to share reports or summaries of lessons learned from accidents and the conclusions of joint exercises and joint bodies with other Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries;

4. *Requests* the Working Group on Implementation, in cooperation with the secretariat, to continue making widely available the information referred to in paragraph 3 above, with the aim to facilitate the exchange of information and raise awareness of how Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries could make use of the information that is available;

5. *Also requests* the Working Group on Implementation to update the reporting format and guidelines before initiating the ninth reporting round to ensure alignment with the expected entry into force of the amendment to the Convention and to enable Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to better describe progress achieved in the reporting period. In carrying out this task, the Working Group should strive not to increase the burden for reporting on Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries;

6. *Encourages* Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to intensify their efforts to implement the Convention's provisions on notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries, public participation in a transboundary context and land-use planning or decision-making on siting with regard to hazardous activities, which were identified by the Working Group on Implementation as areas needing further attention;

7. *Invites* Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to provide further information about the nature and location of their hazardous activities, on a voluntary basis, to the secretariat in order to improve the understanding of the specific

disaster risks and to prepare for them, in accordance with priorities one and three of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;²

8. *Highlights* the importance of establishing off-site contingency plans and regularly testing, reviewing and updating them, in cooperation with neighbouring countries, and encourages Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to strengthen joint exercises on preparedness and response, including through practising their procedures for notification of affected countries, mutual assistance and command and control structures;

9. *Recommends* that Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries that have not done so to increase efforts to establish bilateral and multilateral agreements, as appropriate, especially between neighbouring countries and among different regional economic integration organizations, as a basis for rapid and successful interventions in the event of an industrial accident with transboundary effects;

10. *Urges* all Parties that have not done so, and also invites committed and other reporting countries, to nominate competent authorities in accordance with article 17 of the Convention;

11. *Also urges* all Parties that have not done so, and also invites committed and other reporting countries, to nominate points of contact in accordance with article 17 of the Convention for notification of industrial accidents as well as for mutual assistance;

12. *Calls on* countries that have not done so to nominate a focal point for communication among themselves and with the Convention secretariat, and to make the focal points aware of their roles and responsibilities;³

13. *Reminds* committed countries to use the Strategic Approach for the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/5) and its tools, the self-assessment and action plans, and to take advantage of the more user-friendly version of the indicators and criteria reviewed and presented at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;⁴

14. *Invites* Parties and other reporting countries to use the indicators and criteria to report on the implementation of the Convention in the next reporting round;

15. *Calls on* Parties and other donors to make available financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Assistance Programme and mandates the Bureau to make all efforts to ensure the availability of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Programme.

² General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II. Available from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/283.

³ Further information on the role and tasks of national focal points can be found in the document on “Guidance on the role and tasks of national focal points to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents” available from <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/contact.html>.

⁴ Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/ap/tools.html>.