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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 5 of the provisional agenda

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

Draft amended terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation

Prepared by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

Summary

At its eighth meeting (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents requested its Bureau to review the terms of reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies, and to prepare revised terms of reference for review and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting. The draft terms of reference were to reflect the current practice and roles of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation, as set out in documents previously adopted by the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/30, para. 48).

The draft amended terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation contained in the present document were prepared by the Bureau in cooperation with the Working Group and with the support of the secretariat. In an annex, the amendments to the terms of reference previously adopted by the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex III, appendix) are presented for information, showing the proposed additions in bold and deletions in strikethrough text.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft amended terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation contained in the present document.



1. The Working Group on Implementation under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents shall be composed of not more than 10 members representing and nominated by Parties, with due consideration to the need for a balanced representation of the different geographical subregions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and gender. They shall serve as members of the Working Group for one term of office and be eligible for re-election. A term of office commences at the end of an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and runs until its second ordinary meeting thereafter. In case a representative of a Party is unable to complete his or her term of office or to perform his or her functions, the Party may appoint another representative. In this case the Party shall notify the Chair and the secretariat without undue delay and at least 14 days before the next meeting.
2. The Working Group shall meet at least annually.
3. Depending on the agenda, the Chair of the Working Group may invite observers to the meetings of the Working Group in accordance with rules 6, 7 and 8 of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties — which apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to its subsidiary bodies — including the chairs of other subsidiary bodies. The Chair may also invite other individuals or organizations as observers if they have special qualifications with regard to matters on the agenda.
4. The Working Group shall:
 - (a) Monitor the implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) Prepare the report on the implementation of the Convention, including conclusions, on the basis of the individual country reports, in line with article 23 of the Convention;
 - (c) Make draft recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the basis of the above report and submit these, through the Bureau, to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;
 - (d) Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries where the Working Group becomes aware of possible difficulties in the implementation of the Convention, to understand the situation in these countries more accurately and to provide advice and make recommendations on the implementation of the Convention, share good practices and draw attention to existing guidance and tools;
 - (e) Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries, based on the review of the national implementation reports, to gather information about innovations, good practices, national guidelines and other materials of interest;
 - (f) Identify good practices and facilitate the exchange of information among Parties and other countries;
 - (g) Monitor the Convention's Assistance Programme, including the application of the Strategic Approach, and review national self-assessments and action plans;
 - (h) Review the substance and eligibility of project proposals submitted within the framework of the Assistance Programme and its Strategic Approach;
 - (i) Monitor the progress of assistance activities within the programme of work under the Convention and, if no progress is made in the implementation of the Convention, request the countries benefitting from such activities to provide an explanation;
 - (j) Carry out other tasks entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (k) Shall conduct its business in English.

Annex

Proposed amendments

The text below presents the amendments proposed by the Bureau to the terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex III, appendix). Text in strikethrough indicates proposed deletions and text in bold indicates proposed additions to the terms of reference previously adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

1. The Working Group on Implementation **under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents** shall be composed of not more than 10 ~~ten~~ members representing and nominated by Parties, **with due consideration to the need for a balanced representation of the different geographical subregions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and gender**. They shall serve as members of the Working Group **for one term of office** ~~until the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties~~ and be eligible for re-election. **A term of office commences at the end of an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and runs until its second ordinary meeting thereafter. In case a representative of a Party is unable to complete his or her term of office or to perform his or her functions, the Party may appoint another representative. In this case the Party shall notify the Chair and the secretariat without undue delay and at least 14 days before the next meeting.**
2. The Working Group shall meet at least **annually** ~~once before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties~~.
3. Depending on the agenda, the ~~Chairperson~~ **of the Working Group** may invite ~~representatives of UN/ECE member countries other than those represented by its members as observers to meetings of the Working Group in accordance with rules 6, 7 and 8 of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties — which apply, mutatis mutandis to its subsidiary bodies — including the chairs of other subsidiary bodies, to meetings of the Working Group.~~ **The Chair may also invite other individuals or organizations as observers if they have special qualifications with regard to matters on the agenda.**
4. The Working Group shall:
 - (a) ~~Monitor the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the tasks mentioned in decision 2000/3 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2000/2, annex IV, para. 4);~~
 - (b) Prepare the report on the implementation of the Convention, **including conclusions**, on the basis of the individual country reports, in line with article 23 of the Convention;
 - (c) ~~Draw conclusions and make~~ **Make** draft recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the basis of the above report and submit these, **through the Bureau**, to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;
 - (d) ~~Submit these conclusions and draft recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;~~
 - (d) **Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries where the Working Group becomes aware of possible difficulties in the implementation of the Convention, to understand the situation in these countries more accurately and to provide advice and make recommendations on the implementation of the Convention, share good practices and draw attention to existing guidance and tools;**

~~(e) Assist the Bureau in facilitating the assistance to UN/ECE member countries facing difficulties in implementing the Convention and/or in ratifying it, for instance, through workshops or seminars~~

(e) Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries, based on the review of the national implementation reports, to gather information about innovations, good practices, national guidelines and other materials of interest;

(f) Identify good practices and facilitate the exchange of information amongst Parties and other countries;

(g) Monitor the Convention's Assistance Programme, including the application of the Strategic Approach, and review national self-assessments and action plans;

(h) Review the substance and eligibility of project proposals submitted within the framework of the Assistance Programme and its Strategic Approach;

(i) Monitor the progress of assistance activities within the programme of work under the Convention and, if no progress is made in the implementation of the Convention, request the countries benefitting from such activities to provide an explanation;

~~(j)~~ **(j)** Carry out other tasks entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties;

(k) Conduct its business in English.
