



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 September 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Ninth meeting

Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

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

Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2017–2018

Proposal by the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties

Summary

The present document sets out the proposed activities under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents for 2017–2018 (workplan) and the resource requirements to implement them, as proposed by the Bureau based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Further to the request by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/30, para. 88 (c)), the proposal is being submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and possible revision.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to review this proposal, make revisions as necessary, and to adopt the workplan for the biennium 2017–2018.



1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents developed the present document, setting out the proposed activities under the Convention for 2017–2018 (workplan) and the resource requirements to implement them, in cooperation with the Convention secretariat. The workplan was drafted based on the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (ECE/TEIA/22, annex I), the Assistance Programme's strategic approach, the current and previous periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention, the outcomes of events held and activities carried out under the Convention, proposals made by donors and beneficiaries to the Bureau and Working Group on Implementation, the priority needs identified by the Bureau and suggestions made by the secretariat and supported by the Bureau.

2. The workplan includes activities per the priority areas identified under the Long-term Strategy for the Convention and which the Bureau considers necessary in order to maintain the high relevance of the Convention for enhancing industrial safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. The workplan also includes elements intended to maximize synergies with other ECE multilateral environmental agreements — for example, the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters — as well as with other ECE activities, including on education for sustainable development and on housing and land management. Further synergies are foreseen with other organizations active in the field of industrial safety.

3. The implementation of the activities in the workplan requires extrabudgetary resources. Therefore, Parties, other ECE member countries and other stakeholders are invited to support the Convention's activities in 2017–2018 by contributing to the Convention's trust fund, by financing activities directly and by making available in-kind contributions. In accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I), prior to the adoption of the biennial workplan Parties are expected to pledge and indicate the level of their annual voluntary financial and in-kind contributions and to take an active part in ensuring additional contributions. Parties are also invited to take the lead in supporting the specific activities substantively. The final workplan will contain the names of leading and supporting countries. In this version, some potential lead parties are identified in square brackets. Further countries interested in leading activities are invited to contact the secretariat in advance of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. The workplan has been divided in two parts: the first including core activities, essential for the functioning of the Convention; and the second including non-core activities. The core activities are:

(a) Convening and preparing meetings of the Parties, including servicing the meetings of the Bureau and the subsidiary bodies and substantive input to meetings;

(b) Preparation of documents and other deliverables, also including the facilitation of participation (airplane tickets, travel and subsistence);

(c) Information, liaison and communication, including with Parties, member States, other ECE multilateral environmental agreements and committees and relevant international organizations;

(d) Facilitation of implementation through, for example, the development of implementation guidance, coordination, partnerships and the sharing of good practice;

(e) General programme management, including with regard to human resources and financial issues, and related reporting to member States within the United Nations framework.

5. Non-core activities include:
- (a) Capacity development on the ground and technical assistance, including within the Assistance Programme;
 - (b) Reporting to donors providing funding for assistance activities;
 - (c) Supporting the ECE Industrial Accidents Notification system;
 - (d) Awareness-raising in and outreach beyond the ECE region;
 - (e) Other functions determined by Parties.
6. Table 1 sets out the draft workplan and resources for 2017–2018. It includes activities for which financial resources are expected to be available during the biennium, based on expected pledges by Parties at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and further financial and in-kind contributions during the biennium. Table 2 sets out the total projected resources for the biennium, including expenditures for secretariat staff (not included in table 1).

Table 1
Workplan and resources for 2017–2018

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
I. Core activities, including activities to implement the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (other than assistance activities)				
Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders	Targeted communication (newsletters, press releases, leaflets, website, promotion of online training on industrial accidents and participation in forums)	15 000		
	Working visits and high-level missions to Parties	9 000		
	Working visits to other stakeholders	6 000		
Subtotal		30 000	5	2
Exchange of information	Exchange of experience and good practices among Parties, for example, regarding risk assessment methodologies ^a <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined]	30 000		
	Implementation guide for the Convention <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined]	45 000		
	Online system for national implementation reporting <i>Supporting body:</i> Working Group on Implementation	20 000		
	Follow-up to the development of guidance on safety and land-use planning: finalization of publication and a seminar for exchanging experiences, possibly based on case studies <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined, with support from or including Belgium (Flanders Region) (to be confirmed) and the European Union/European Investment Bank (to be confirmed) and possibly in cooperation with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management]	70 000		
	Development of safety guidelines and good practices for fire-water retention under the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents <i>Lead country:</i> Germany	40 000		
	Enhancing knowledge on industrial safety at universities (improving and increasing knowledge among students and teachers on tailings safety, and a legislative review, in Ukraine) (2017) <i>Lead country:</i> Germany	40 000		
	Multilateral activities to strengthen industrial accident preparedness and response, including a bilateral exercise between Armenia and Georgia <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined]	300 000 (estimate)		

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
	Two transboundary response exercises overseen by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents: between Poland and Germany on the Oder River (4–5 September 2017); between Hungary and neighbours (first half of 2018) <i>Lead countries:</i> Germany and Hungary, together with the respective river commissions	200 000 (estimate)		
Subtotal		745 000	26.5	3
Strategic partnerships	Cooperation with OECD on reducing the risk of natural-hazard triggered technological disasters (NATECH) (OECD workshop in Germany in 2018 in the framework of the Environmental Emergencies Forum; sharing of good practices) <i>Supporting body:</i> Bureau	5 000		
	Meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities, including inter-agency coordination meetings	10 000		
Subtotal		15 000	4	1
Financing	Donor meetings and bilateral visits <i>Supporting body:</i> Bureau	15 000		
Subtotal		15 000	1	0.5
Review of the Long-term Strategy	Development of a long-term strategy to 2030, including on communication and the opening of the Convention to countries outside the ECE region <i>Supporting body:</i> Bureau	10 000		
Subtotal		10 000	2	0
Servicing intergovernmental bodies and expert groups	Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	80 000		
	Meetings of the Bureau (estimated 4)	20 000		
	Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation (estimated 4)	20 000		
	Meetings of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention (none foreseen in this period)	-		
	Meetings of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (estimated 4)	20 000		
Subtotal		140 000	20	5
General programme management	Other secretariat activities, including human resources, financial and other management-related functions, administrative actions needed to ensure the functioning of the ECE industrial safety unit and reporting on substantive and administrative issues as part of the ECE secretariat.	-		
Subtotal		-	4	1
Subtotal section I		955 000	62.5	12.5

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
II. Non-core activities, including assistance activities to support countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe				
Assistance Programme ^b	Activities to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach through national and subregional expert and high-level meetings and support to the development of self-assessments and action plans (to be determined) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined, but possibly in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe]	100 000 (estimate)		
	Project on strengthening implementation of and accession to the Convention in Central Asia, including national seminars in 2017–2018 (5 countries), assistance with drafting self-assessments and action plan and a subregional workshop (Kyrgyzstan, 2018), with finalization envisaged in 2019 <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Russian Federation, [with possible support from others for national expert meetings]	215 000		
	Follow-up to Danube Delta project to complete joint contingency plan and support the drafting of a protocol among the three concerned countries <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined]	200 000 (estimate)		
	Two advisory missions	20 000		
	Activity to build capacity for the implementation of amended annex I in countries of South-Eastern Europe through a subregional workshop on chemicals management and the identification and notification of hazardous activities, in cooperation with partners, including the ECE Transport Division, as the custodian of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (February 2017, Belgrade) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Serbia, [possibly with financial support from the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Union (TAIEX) and in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe]	100 000		

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
	Activity to build capacity for the implementation of amended annex I in countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, through a subregional workshop on chemicals management and the identification and notification of hazardous activities, in cooperation with partners, including the ECE Transport Division, as the custodian of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (Minsk, April–May 2017, to be confirmed) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be confirmed], with financial support from Germany and Norway]	100 000		
Other assistance activities	Activities to address risk management at tailings management facilities in Georgia (2017) <i>Lead country:</i> Germany	200 000		
	Activities to address risk management at tailings management facilities in specific countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia or Eastern Europe <i>Lead country:</i> [to be determined]	200 000 (estimate)		
Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions	Promotion and raising awareness of the Convention including beyond the ECE region (production of information materials and establishment of a network of contacts) <i>Supporting bodies/organizations:</i> ECE and possibly other regional commissions, UNEP and lead countries	10 000		
ECE Industrial Accident Notification System	Consultation for Points of Contact to review the effectiveness of the ECE Industrial Accident Notification System and discuss preparedness and response for disaster risk reduction [(possibly face to face, which would imply higher costs, of approximately US\$ 40,000)] <i>Lead country/organization:</i> [to be determined]	10 000		
Subtotal section II		1 155 000	32.5	8
Total activities (sections I+II)		2 110 000	95.0	20.5

Abbreviations: G= General Service staff; OECD = Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; P = Professional staff; RB = regular budget; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; XB = extrabudgetary.

^a Should the exchange of experiences and good practices be carried out in the framework of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, cost implications would be minimized.

^b Activities under the Assistance Programme are demand-driven. Implementation depends on the submission of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals by beneficiary countries as well as the availability of financial resources for their implementation. The Working Group on Implementation evaluates the substance of assistance requests and the Bureau takes decisions on approving activities vis-à-vis the available funds.

Table 2
Total resources for 2017–2018

(in United States dollars)

<i>Items/activities</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Non-core</i>	<i>Total</i>
Activities	955 000	1 155 000	2 110 000
Staff:			
RB, Professional (core: 21 work months)	^a	—	—
RB, General Service (core: 10.5 work months)	^a	—	—
XB, Professional (core: 41.5 work months)	664 000	—	664 000
XB, General Service (core: 2 work months)	25 500	—	25 500
XB, Professional (non-core: 32.5 work months)	—	520 000	520 000
XB, General Service (non-core: 8 work months)	—	102 000	102 000
Total	1 644 500	1 777 000	3 421 500

Abbreviations: RB = regular budget; XB = extrabudgetary.

Note: One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 21 work-months per biennium. Staff resource estimates as indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates. In terms of human resources, the implementation of the workplan requires additional financing from XB resources for two Professional posts, which might rise to three Professional posts and a short-term programme assistant post (General Service) depending on the non-core workplan activities that receive funding.

^a Provided by United Nations regular budget.