

# The UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and its work on tailings safety

Claudia Kamke, Project Manager  
Secretary to the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
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**UNECE**

# UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- 41 Parties, incl. the European Union
- Negotiated after the 1986 Sandoz accident at Schweizerhalle and its transboundary effects
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents (with transboundary effects)
- Active international cooperation between Parties before, during and after an accident

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EUROPE  
ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

**Convention  
on the Transboundary Effects  
of Industrial Accidents**  
as amended on 19 March 2008

**Convention  
sur les effets transfrontières  
des accidents industriels**  
telle que modifiée le 19 mars 2008

**Конвенция  
о трансграничном воздействии  
промышленных аварий**  
с поправками от 19 марта 2008 года

# Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention

... as a map



# Key obligations

- **Identification and notification of hazardous activities**

- **Prevention of industrial accidents**

- Safety measures and inspections

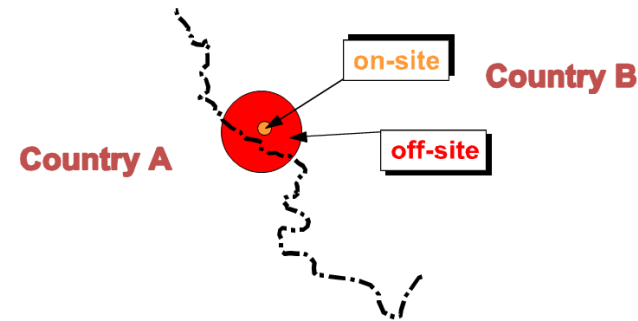
- **Emergency preparedness**

- On-site and off-site contingency plans

- **Emergency response and mutual assistance**

- UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System

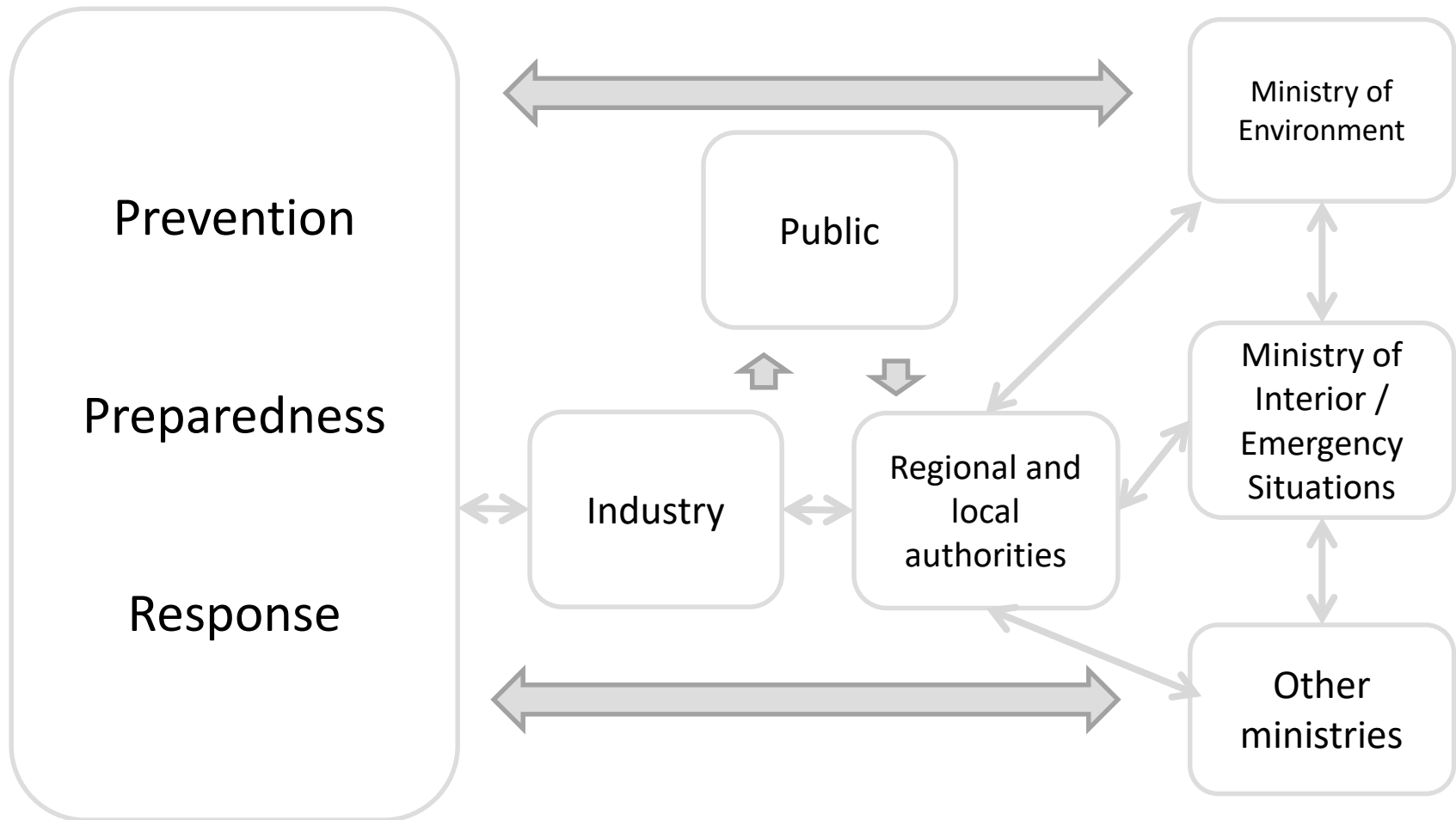
- **Public information and participation**



## 2 cross-cutting areas:

- Legislation (i.e. primary and secondary legislation)
- Institutional capacity (at national, regional, local levels)

## Cooperation between stakeholders



# Scope of the Convention

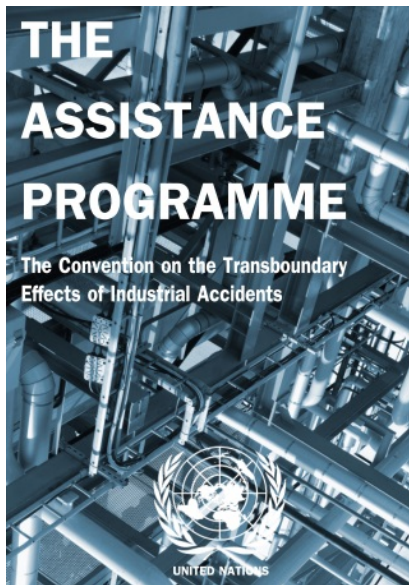
Which activities are covered under the Convention?

- Hazardous activities. i.e. those activities that:
  - Involve hazardous substances at or above the thresholds listed in Annex I to the Convention; and
  - Are capable of causing transboundary effects
- A list of substances and categories is included in Annex I to the Convention, aligned with the GHS
- Examples of hazardous activities:
  - Tailings management facilities
  - Fertilizers plants
  - Chemical plants
  - Oil storage facilities etc.



# Support to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention

- Assistance Programme established in 2004
- Aims to support countries with economies in transition to improve industrial safety
- Kazakhstan is a beneficiary country to the Programme since 2004
- 2005 – Commitment Declaration at High-level Commitment Meeting adopted by Kaz.



## Past assistance projects / activities for Kazakhstan:

- Project to strengthen implementation of and accession to the Convention in Central Asia
  - Final subregional project workshop (Almaty, Kazakhstan, Sep 2018)
  - National Expert Group Meeting (Borovoe, Kazakhstan, Jun 2017)
- Past assistance activities for Kazakhstan:
  - Subregional training workshop on chemicals management, identification and notification of hazardous activities in Central Asia (Astana, 2015)
  - Workshop on the use of indicators and criteria for the implementation of the Strategic Approach (Bratislava, 2011)
  - Training session on integrated approaches to major hazard prevention (Prague, 2009)
  - Hands-on training session on identification of hazardous activities (Minsk, 2008)
  - Fact-finding mission to Kazakhstan (Astana, 2007)

# Preventing transboundary water pollution



- Industrial accidents, incl. from **tailings facilities**, can cause transboundary water pollution
  - Even small amounts of hazardous substances can cause severe environmental damage → far-reaching and often transboundary
- **Cooperation with the UNECE Water Convention\* on preventing accidental water pollution**

\*UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

# UNECE Water Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 1996
- Since 1 Mar 2016 open for accession of all United Nations Member States
- Objective: to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation

## Convention is based on 3 main pillars:

- Principle of prevention
- Principle of reasonable and equitable utilization
- Principle of cooperation
- Overarching objective: sustainability of resources



# Status of ratification of the UNECE Water Convention



# Key obligations – General

- Prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts
- Ensure that transboundary waters are used in a reasonable and equitable way
- Obligation for riparian to cooperate through the establishment of agreements and joint bodies
- Other provisions:
  - Art. 4. Monitoring: programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters
  - Art. 5. Research and development: effective techniques for prevention, control and reduction of impact
  - Art. 6. Exchange of information: the widest exchange of information, as early as possible

# Key obligations – Riparian Parties

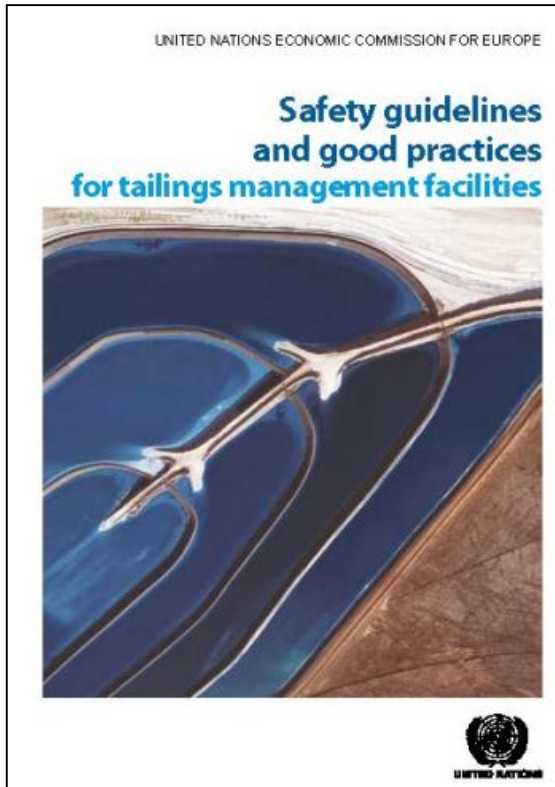
- Specific obligations for transboundary cooperation
- Not obligations of conduct, but obligations of result
- Obligation to conclude specific agreements and establish joint bodies
- Joint monitoring and assessment
- Consultation
- Exchange of information
- Warning and alarm systems
- Mutual assistance



# Cooperation between UNECE Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions

- UNECE Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions provide a legal framework for addressing the risk of transboundary water pollution
  - Kazakhstan acceded to both Conventions in 2001
- UNECE Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG), established in 1998 as a joint group by both Conventions
  - Co-chaired by Hungary (Water Convention) and Germany (Industrial Accidents Convention); Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan also members
  - Focus on supporting countries in improving tailings management / safety
- Joint workshops and guidance on tailings management facilities, pipelines, oil terminals, transboundary contingency planning, etc.
- National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resource Management (NPDs) in Kazakhstan since 2013, with regular meetings
  - 2015 Steering Committee meeting – discussion on preventing accidental water pollution and linkages with the Ind. Acc. Convention
  - 2017 (renewed) Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and Kazakhstan (Ministry of Agriculture) on the above NPDs

# UNECE's work on tailings safety



2008/2009 – Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for TMFs developed by JEG (published in 2014)

2013-15 – Development of TMF methodology within a project on improving tailings safety in Ukraine, financed by Germany

2016-17 – Follow-up project on improving tailings safety in Ukraine, fin. by Germany

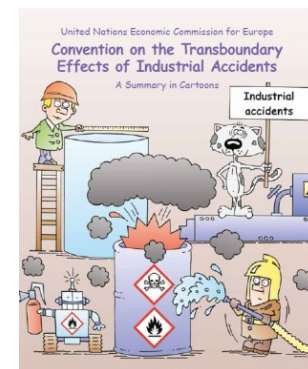
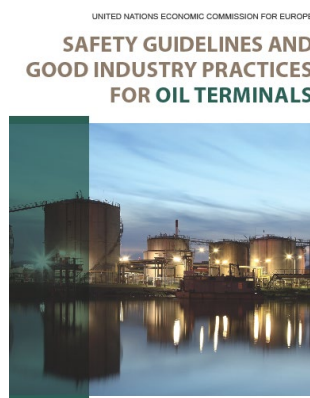
2018-19 – UNECE Project on improving tailings safety in Kazakhstan and beyond, financed by Switzerland

2018-19 – Project on improving tailings safety in Armenia and Georgia, financed by Germany

2019 – Planned work in Serbia and Romania

# Other materials of interest

- **UNECE online training on industrial safety** in Eng, Fre, Rus and Chinese:  
[www.unece.org/index.php?id=32240](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32240)
- **Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Facilities** in Eng and Rus:  
[www.unece.org/index.php?id=36132](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36132)
- **Cartoons on the Industrial Accidents Convention** in Eng, Fre and Rus:  
[www.unece.org/index.php?id=36970](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36970)
- **Film on the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention** in Eng and Rus:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ph8jKOOaS0&index=1&list=PL4iZR0KyjSQ9VxjaqLHPk0yeXQYssy-Tz](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ph8jKOOaS0&index=1&list=PL4iZR0KyjSQ9VxjaqLHPk0yeXQYssy-Tz)



# Thank you for your attention!

For more information please visit:

- [www.unece.org/env/teia](http://www.unece.org/env/teia),
- [www.unece.org/env/water](http://www.unece.org/env/water),
- [www.unece.org/env/teia/jeg.html](http://www.unece.org/env/teia/jeg.html)

Or contact:

Ms. Claudia Kamke

Environmental Affairs Officer

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of  
Industrial Accidents

[claudia.kamke@un.org](mailto:claudia.kamke@un.org)