

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Thirty-ninth meeting

Geneva, 3 December 2018

10:00 – 13:00

Report the thirty-ninth meeting

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair opened the meeting and the Director the UNECE Environment Division welcomed Bureau members.
2. The following Bureau members were present: Jasmina Karba (Slovenia), Chair; Paweł Dadasiewicz (Poland), Vice-Chair; Michael Struckl (Austria); Pavel Forint (Czechia); Rolf-Jan Hoeve (European Union); Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany); Torill Tandberg (Norway) and Martin Merkofer (Switzerland). Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund (Finland), Vice-Chair, excused themselves for not being able to attend the meeting. Mr. Leo Iberl (Germany), Chair of the Working Group on Implementation (WGI), also attended the meeting. The meeting was serviced by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
3. The Bureau adopted the agenda as prepared by the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair.

2. Preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

4. The Bureau reviewed the final arrangements for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), held in the Palais des Nations (salle VII) in Geneva, 4-6 December 2018.

(a) Practical arrangements

5. The secretariat, provided an update on the practical arrangements for the CoP meeting, including regarding the organization of:
 - (a) two side events:
 - (i) by the EU Joint Research Centre on NATECH Risk Assessment and Mapping with RAPID-N; lunchtime on 4.12.
 - (i) by the Cefic/ICCA guidance for reporting on the ICCA globally harmonised process safety metrics, lunchtime on 5.12.; and
 - (b) two social events:
 - (i) a reception hosted by Slovenia, holding the chairmanship of the Convention, lunchtime on 4.12.
 - (ii) a reception hosted by Austria holding the EU presidency, to highlight CoP-10, JEG-20 and other major achievements during the biennium, evening of 5.12.2018.

6. The Chair then provided additional information on the reception organized by Slovenia, with the purpose to launch the Words into Action Guidelines on man-made/technological hazards. The reception would be opened by the Ambassador of Slovenia, followed by welcoming statements by Kirsi Madi, Director, UNISDR and Rudolph Müller, Chief, OCHA Emergency Service.

(b) Representation and credentials

7. The secretariat reported on the registration by Parties and others, indicating the number of participants at above 120. The secretariat also reported on the copies of credentials received, indicating that a sufficient number of advance copies were received, for the purposes of taking decisions at the CoP, pending the submission of the originals at the beginning of the meeting.

8. The Bureau agreed that the Vice-Chair from Poland would report on the credentials at the CoP.

(c) Election of officers and members of the Bureau

9. The secretariat recalled the nominations received for candidatures for membership of the Bureau and the Chair for the period 2019-2020, as outlined in informal document CP.TEIA/2018/INF.2. The Chair recalled the proposal by the Bureau for the election of Officers, namely the Chair and Vice-Chairs, namely that Ms. Torill Tandberg (Norway) be elected as Chair and Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia) and Mr. Michael Struckl (Austria) be elected as Vice-Chairs. She briefed the Bureau of her intended presentation of the proposal, so as to enable the election by the members of the Bureau and the Officers jointly at the Conference of the Parties. She also informed the Bureau of the envisaged replacement of the representative by Serbia in the Working Group on Implementation (thus far Ms. Suzana Milutinovic; in the future Ms. Sanja Stamenkovic).

(d) Provisional agenda

10. The Bureau reviewed the provisional agenda of the tenth CoP meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/36) and in particular, discussed the handling of items requiring particular attention, as proposed by the Chair:

(a) The discussion on the amendment to the Convention, and the handling of the preparatory meeting, arranged by the Chair, in the afternoon of 3 December 2018, involving representatives of the Russian Federation and the European Union, Switzerland and the Republic of Moldova (as Parties who proposed and supported the amendment),¹ with the objective of sharing positions, discussing a way forward towards finding consensus and considering the handling of the matter at the Conference;

(b) The roundtable discussion on financing: The future Chair, to be elected at CoP-10, reported on her proposed handling of the roundtable discussion and the grouping of countries into six categories, based on the review of their contributions in the past three bienniums, since the introduction of the sustainable financial mechanism, namely:

- (1.) Regular financial donors
- (2.) Project funding donors
- (3.) Recent or occasional financial donors
- (4.) Regular in-kind donors

¹ The representative of Serbia, a Party which had also supported the amendment, could not take part in this meeting.

(5.) Recent or occasional in-kind donors

(6.) Parties that have not yet had a chance to contribute financially or in-kind.

She reiterated her intention to call on every Party listed under categories 1-5, while leaving it open for Parties to speak under category 6.

(c) The draft workplan, resource requirements and pledges for 2019-2020:

The secretary to the Convention provided information on the lead Parties identified for leading or contributing to workplan activities for the future biennium, highlighting gaps and uncertainties. She also provided information on the pledges for 2019 and 2020, highlighting in particular substantial additional pledges received from:

- (1) France, for the implementation of activities on land-use planning and industrial safety and those under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme (EUR 200,000);
- (2) Switzerland, for the implementation of new Project focused on tailings safety in Tajikistan, and beyond in Central Asia (CHF 100,000); and
- (3) Italy, returning as a regular donor, with pledges of EUR 50,000 annually for the biennium.

11. Overall, with the pledges expected to be provided for 2019-2020, 48 % of the workplan budget was being financed. Considering these pledges and possible additional contributions, drawing on the experience during past bienniums, this share could raise to 54 %. This implied that further financing was necessary in order to fully implement the workplan, as proposed to be adopted by the CoP.

12. Several Bureau members indicated the intention to possibly lead or contribute to workplan activities, such as the Bureau members of Switzerland and Austria for the follow-up to risk assessment. Germany informed the Bureau of its intention to support financially and substantively lead another assistance activity in-kind, announcing a new Project on the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, to be implemented as 2020, and proposing its addition to the draft workplan.

13. The Bureau asked the German Bureau member to prepare background information on the proposed new project, preferably in writing, for presentation to the upcoming CoP, in view of its decision on inclusion in the workplan. It also asked the German Bureau member and the secretariat to cooperate in preparing information for the upcoming Bureau meeting on the linkages between the various projects on TMF safety implemented under the Convention's workplan, including the ongoing and new Project funded by Switzerland, focused on Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, respectively, and the ongoing and envisaged future projects funded by Germany and implemented in-kind under the Convention's workplan, focused on the Caucasus, the Danube region and Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

3. Future reporting on the use of financial resources

14. The secretary to the Convention presented information with respect to the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources in 2017-2018. She provided updates to the information contained in the report (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/14), and on the additional financial and in-kind contributions received since the 38th meeting of the Bureau (Bern, 26-27 June 2018), highlighting in particular a pledge by Italy of EUR 50,000 for 2018.

15. She indicated that overall, 55 % of the 2017-2018 workplan budget was financed, considering the financial and in-kind contributions received. Consequently, not all activities envisaged could be implemented. Noting that the share of activities implemented appeared to represent more than 55 %, the Chair thanked the Bureau members leading and supporting activities and the secretariat team for their exceptional efforts to foster the implementation of the workplan in this biennium. The secretary highlighted that further to the regular budget

staff (secretariat and 50% programme assistant) and two extrabudgetary staff, the Convention had benefited from the additional support by a consultant to the secretariat in 2018. The funding provided was not sufficient to create an additional position of a part-time programme assistant, which was required and envisaged as per the 2017-2018 workplan.

16. The secretary also highlighted that the expenditures to support the participation of representatives from South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia had exceeded the earmarked contributions received for that purpose, requiring the use of unearmarked funds. She highlighted that earmarked contributions for the participation of representatives with economies in transition continued to be crucial to enable their presence.

17. Furthermore, the secretary provided information on the future reporting on the use of financial resources, as retrievable by the United Nations administrative system UMOJA which is more aggregate and simplified in line with the standardized UMOJA object classes of expenditures. The Bureau took note of this information and agreed with the proposed approach for the future reporting on the use of financial resources under the Industrial Accidents Convention.

4. Other business

18. No other business was discussed.

5. Date and venue for the next meeting of the Bureau

19. Following the meeting, the Bureau elected at the CoP for the period 2019-2020, was invited to its initial meetings, based on a proposal by the secretariat, agreed with the Chair, and the Vice-Chairs elected at CoP-10:

- the joint meeting of the Bureau with the Working Group on Implementation in Geneva on 12 February 2019
- the separate meeting of the Bureau alone on 13 February 2019.
