

Item 12 (a): Activities of the Working Group on Implementation in 2017-2018

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Implementation

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on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

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UNECE

Outline of the Presentation



- WGI composition and activities
- Effectiveness of Assistance Programme, request of high-level feedback from beneficiary countries
- Template for the ninth round of implementation reporting
- Modus operandi for the WGI
- Notification template

WGI composition and activities

Main activities undertaken by WGI in 2017-2018

- 10 members from Belarus (Vice-Chair), Croatia, Germany (Chair), Latvia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland (Vice-Chair), and the United Kingdom
- Held 5 meetings in 2017-2018, incl. 1 joint meeting with the Bureau
- Undertook a more rigorous approach to monitoring implementation of the Assistance Programme
- Strengthened its efforts to engage more closely with beneficiary, committed and other reporting countries
- To this end WGI
 - divided the 4 ECE subregions (the Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe) among its members
 - prepared country dossiers, which contain comprehensive data on implementation of the Convention and relevant assistance projects
 - developed and agreed on a modus operandi
 - conducted teleconferences with the focal points for Albania, Armenia and the Republic of Moldova

Effectiveness of Assistance Programme, request of high-level feedback from beneficiary countries (1)

- Secretariat had sent official letters in May 2017 and subsequent reminders to high-level representatives of 16 countries
- 10 replies were received before mid June 2018 (36th WGI meeting): Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan
- Replies were of different level of detail:
 - Detailed descriptions on successful use of tools provided (i.e. Benchmarks, Strategic Approach) and capacity-building events (e.g. seminars, workshops, training sessions)
 - Reporting only on obligations under the Convention not yet fulfilled

Effectiveness of Assistance Programme, request of high-level feedback from beneficiary countries (2)

- Important other findings:
 - Cross-border and multilateral cooperation are particularly important
 - Implementing European Union legislation (e.g. Directive 2012/18/EU (“Seveso III”) can be beneficial
 - Need to strengthen regional cooperation and the exchange of information and knowledge
 - Usefulness of bi- or multilateral projects on hazard and crisis management and further enhancement of transboundary cooperation
- Specific needs:
 - Training of trainers, subregional seminars, establishment of national policy dialogues

Template for the ninth round of implementation reporting

- Parties must report on the implementation of the Convention (Art. 23)
- 9th reporting round will cover the years 2016-2018
- To further facilitate reporting WGI explored various options to develop an online reporting system
- Analyses and tests of some options were done with the support of the secretariat
- For several reasons WGI concluded that it would be impossible to develop an online reporting system in time for the 9th reporting round
- Distribution of report forms by secretariat by email: presumably early 2019
- Submission deadline: 31 October 2019

Modus operandi for the WGI

- Why?
 - New terms of reference for WGI since 9th CoP (Ljubljana, 28-30 Nov 2016; Decision 2016/3; ECE/CP.TEIA/32/Add.1)
- Important amendments:
 - Term of office for WGI members prolonged from 2 to 4 years, beginning with the term 2017-2020
 - Several provisions to ensure most effective support to Parties and committed countries in strengthening their implementation of the Convention, i.e. engagement with these countries *inter alia*
 - if WGI becomes aware of possible difficulties
 - to provide advice and make recommendations
 - to share good practices
 - to gather information about innovations, national guidelines and other materials of interest
- Living document owned by the WGI

Modus operandi – overview (1 / 2)



I. Introduction and mandate

- Revised terms of reference for the WGI

II. Objectives and nature



- No compliance mechanism
- Focus to assist countries in implementation of Convention
- Simple, facilitative, cooperative and rather informal

III. Criteria for the WGI's engagement with countries



1. Implementation of the Convention
2. Pace of progress following the provision of assistance
3. Availability of information on countries' implementation of the Convention under Strategic Approach or NIRs
4. Compilation of good practices
5. Request for assistance
6. Other important criteria

Modus operandi – overview (2 / 2)

IV. Modalities for engaging with countries

- Video-/teleconference, email, telephone or others by WGI members
- Focus on reporting countries in biennium when NIR are reviewed and on Strategic Approach in the other biennium

V. Advice and recommendations

- Share information on experience by Parties, relevant upcoming activities and facilitate contacts with Focal Points
- Recommend, support and/or take part in working/high-level visits
- Provide advice on policymaking, institutional coordination, assistance
- Prepare overall report on implementation of Convention and decision on strengthening implementation of the Convention

VI. Conflict of interest

- No review of self-assessments, action plans, project proposals, etc. by the country who submitted these documents

VII. Final Provisions

- Working language of correspondence normally English



Notification template

- Prepared in light of the needs expressed by beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme
- Developed jointly by the Working Group, international experts of the Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, and the secretariat
- The Working Group endorsed draft template for the notification of hazardous activities to potentially affected Parties and included it in the annex of its report to the Conference of the Parties (Annex III, ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/11)
- Available in English and Russian
- The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of the draft template and to consider recommending its use by Parties and other countries.

Notification template

NOTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES

Done in accordance with Article 4 and Annex III of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Sender:

Receiver:

Date:

1. Please see below notification of hazardous activities (proposed or existing)

NOTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES					
No	Hazardous activity	Full name and address of the operator of the hazardous activity (proposed or existing)	Location (address) of hazardous production facilities and distance from the border of the potentially affected country (air path/water path, as relevant)	Name of hazardous substances / categories of substances and mixtures in quantities equal or exceeding threshold quantities of Annex I of the Convention	Possible transboundary effect in the event of an industrial accident as per annex III 3(a)
1		1.1	1.1.1	A)	
				B)	

2. Please send response to this notification within [1/2/3/] months of receipt of this notification to its sender, acknowledging receipt of the notification and indicating whether you intend to enter into consultation, in accordance with Annex III of the Convention, in particular its item 4.

Thank you for your attention