

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Implementation

Thirty-sixth meeting

Munich, 13–14 June 2018

Annotated provisional agenda of the thirty-sixth meeting

To be held in Munich, at the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, Rosenkavalierplatz 2, 81925 München, room K4, starting at 9.30 a.m. on 13 June, and ending at 4.30 p.m. on 14 June

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Engaging with countries on implementation issues.
3. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme and other assistance activities.
4. Implementation of the Convention, including reporting.
5. Collection of good practices and exchange of information.
6. Inputs for the 38th meeting of the Bureau of the Convention.
7. Inputs for the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
8. Meetings scheduled for 2019.
9. Other business.
10. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair will open the meeting and invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document. The Chair will provide an update on the new member of the Working Group from the Netherlands.

2. Engaging with countries on implementation issues

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

(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.

According to paragraph 5, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries will respond to requests by the Working Group further to item 4 (d) on a voluntary basis.

The Working Group on Implementation at its last meeting discussed the draft modus operandi for the engagement with countries on implementation issues, prepared by the small group, comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Ms. McCann, and agreed on it, with additional changes to be integrated in advance of the present meeting. The small group will be invited to present the updated modus operandi to ensure that it is in line with the Working Group's procedures, responsibilities and tasks. The Working Group will be invited to endorse the updated modus operandi and consider it as final and for its presentation to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting as an annex to the WGI report.

At its last meeting after the teleconference with Albania, the Working Group took into consideration the report of Ms. Karalliu and agreed that the subregional group for South-Eastern Europe would engage with Ms. Karalliu in sharing the information and further exchanges. The subregional group may wish to report back on updates.

At its last meeting, the Working Group agreed to invite Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova to a teleconference. The secretariat will provide further information on its contacts with the countries and the schedule for the teleconferences at the meeting. The Working Group on Implementation, in particular, the members of respective subregional groups may wish to present the agenda of the teleconference and proposed questions/issues for discussion.

The Working Group agreed at its last meeting that the Kyrgyzstan country dossier, prepared based on the Assistance Programme tracking table, should be used as a template by all members for preparing their country dossiers. The members of the Working Group responsible for Central Asia have subsequently shared the updated template which is now considered as final. The members of the Working Group will be invited to present the updated country dossiers. Ms Tsarina may wish to share further information on the possibility to make the table used for the country dossiers more user-friendly. The Working Group may wish to discuss the information provided and agree on the next steps for engaging with countries on implementation issues.

Documentation:

- Finalized modus operandi for the Working Group's engagement with Assistance Programme beneficiary countries, committed countries and other reporting countries
- Country dossiers per subregion (Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South Eastern-Europe), prepared by the members of the Working Group

3. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme and other assistance activities

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

- (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;

(a) Monitoring of the Strategic Approach

The members of the Working Group will be invited to present their feedback on the below documents and to make recommendations for how to proceed:

- i. Specific Recommendations for Central Asian countries based on the final self-assessments and action plans submitted in 2017-2018, as a result of the Central Asia Project
(Members of subregional group for Central Asia)
- ii. Engagement Strategies for other Assistance Programme countries
(Members of all remaining subregional groups)
- iii. Pre-designed form (based on the Benchmarks document) that could be used to complete the self-assessments
(Ms Tsarina)

The Working Group may wish to discuss and agree on the feedback and recommendations for the next steps on monitoring the Strategic Approach.

Documentation:

- Engagement Strategy as included in country dossiers
- Self-assessments and action plans of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, (Tajikistan), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

(b) Effectiveness of the Assistance Programme

The secretariat will report on the reminders sent to those countries which have not yet replied to high-level letters. The Chair will present a written summary of the analyses and conclusions drawn from the formal and informal responses of the countries on the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme which will become an integral part of the WGI report to the Conference of the Parties. The Working Group may wish to discuss and agree on next steps.

The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group will be invited to further discuss ideas for reaching out to Assistance Programme beneficiary countries in the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018), in order to strengthen contacts and engagement and to gather feedback on the proposal arising from the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ljubljana, 28-30 November 2016) to organize a high-level meeting on the Assistance Programme in the framework of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties – or alternatively, in the context of a capacity-building event.

Documentation:

- Summary of the analyses and conclusions drawn from the responses of the countries on the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme

(c) Implemented and planned activities under the Assistance Programme

The secretariat will provide an update on the progress made in the implementation of the Central Asian project (2016–2019), including with regard to the development of an implementation guide and template for the notification of hazardous activities, responding to recommendations arising from national meetings in Central Asia and the sub-regional workshops held in 2017. The Working Group will be invited to endorse the notification template prepared by the small group (composed of Mr. Chukharev, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Milutinovic and Ms. Tsarina) for its further inclusion to the report of the Working Group and presentation at the next Conference of the Parties. The Working Group, in particular, its Russian-speaking members (Ms. Tsarina and Mr. Chukharev) will be invited to provide brief comments on the draft Implementation Guide for Central Asian countries which they had reviewed. The Working Group members will be invited to propose any possible contributions to the Guide, including information on progress made and good practices which can be drawn from the national self-assessments and action plans from Central Asian countries.

The secretariat will report on a high-level mission to Ukraine (Kyiv, 18–19 April 2018) and assistance activities planned until the end of current biennium. The Working Group will be invited to take note of the information provided and to provide advice.

Documentation:

- Notification template prepared by the small group
- Draft Implementation Guide on the Convention for Central Asian countries (available in Russian only)

(d) Other assistance activities

At the request of the Working Group, the secretariat will share with it a list of existing proposals for future assistance projects, which was developed based on country needs. The Working Group on Implementation will be invited to take note of the information and to discuss how it could help with further developing, attracting donor support for and eventually implementing such project proposals.

Documentation:

- List of existing proposals and possible ideas for future assistance projects, developed based on country needs.

4. Implementation of the Convention, including reporting

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, 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;

The Working Group will be invited to discuss the most appropriate tool to be used for future reporting, based on the information provided by the members of the Working Group and the secretariat, in particular:

(a) Mr. Gonzalez will be invited to inform the Working Group whether support from Switzerland for the development of an online system for reporting, as originally intended and included in the Convention's workplan for 2017–2018, would be possible;

(b) Ms. McCann will be invited to present experience with using SurveyMonkey by OECD;

(c) The secretariat will be invited to present the updated reporting format and related changes in the reporting guidelines;

The members of the Working Group will be invited to discuss and agree on the updated reporting format and guidelines presented by the secretariat with possible additional questions. The Working Group will be invited to take a decision on the new reporting format and the next steps in this regard.

Documentation:

- Draft version of the reporting format and guidelines

5. Collection of good practices and exchange of information

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

(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.

According to paragraph 5, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries will respond to requests by the Working Group further to item 4 (e) on a voluntary basis.

The secretariat will provide an update about the implementation of activities included under the area of exchange of information in the Convention's workplan for 2017–2018, notably with regard to the seminar on land-use planning and industrial safety (Mechelen, Belgium, 16–17 May 2018). Mr. Gonzalez will provide an update on the preparation of the seminar on risk assessment methodologies (Geneva, 4 December 2018).

The Working Group will be invited to take note of the information provided and to discuss the further use and promotion of the good practices (to be) identified at these seminars in the framework of the Convention.

Documentation:

- Concept paper and draft agenda for the seminar on risk assessment
- Agenda for the seminar on land-use planning and industrial safety

6. Inputs for the 38th meeting of the Bureau of the Convention.

The Chair will provide an update on the key issues to be discussed at the 38th meeting of the Bureau (Bern, Switzerland, 26–27 June 2018) relevant for the work of the Working Group, in particular, with regard to the planned alignment of the location criteria by a small group comprised of the Chair of the Working Group, the Chair of the Joint Expert Group on

Water and Industrial Accidents and the Bureau member from the European Union as well as with regard to preparations to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Inputs for the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Working Group agreed at its last meeting to prepare a draft of the report by the Working Group on its activities in the biennium 2017–2018 comprising the following elements:

- (a) The Working Group's engagement strategy to increasingly reach out to Assistance Programme beneficiary countries, preparation of country dossiers, and modus operandi (included as an annex to the report), in line with its new terms of reference;
- (b) The Working Group's analysis of and conclusions drawn from the responses to the high-level letters sent by the secretariat, based on the request by the Bureau and the Working Group;
- (c) The draft template for notification of hazardous activities, as reviewed and endorsed by the Working Group (included as an annex to the report), which the Conference of the Parties could take note of and recommend countries to make use of;
- (d) The Working Group's deliberations on the way of reporting under the Convention (possibly through an improved, locked word or pdf document).

The Working Group will be invited to discuss the draft report and propose any changes before it is presented to the Bureau at its 38th meeting (26–27 June 2018), and subsequently finalized for presentation to the Conference of the Parties.

Documentation:

- Draft of the report by the Working Group on Implementation on its activities in the biennium 2017–2018 (prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chairs)

8. Meetings scheduled for 2019

The Working Group will discuss the schedule and venues of its meetings in 2019. The Members of the Working Group will be invited to host meetings in 2019.

9. Other business

Members of the Working Group wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

10. Closing of the meeting

The Chair will close the meeting at about 4.30 p.m. on 14 June 2018.
