

6 September 2019
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Forty-second meeting

Oslo, 26-27 September 2019

Annotated provisional agenda of the forty-second meeting

To be held at the Norwegian directorate for Civil protection in Oslo Nydalen allé 37 A, 0484 Oslo, 7th floor

from 09:00 – 18:00 on 26 September and 09:00 – 14:00 on 27 September 2019

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Implementation of the 2019-2020 workplan
 - (a) Resources
 - (b) Activities
 - (i) Core activities
 - (ii) Non-core, including assistance activities
3. Follow-up to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
 - (a) Amendment of the Convention
 - (b) Long-term strategy and communication, outreach and engagement strategy
4. Preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
 - (a) Site visit
 - (b) Seminar theme and evaluation of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme
5. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
6. Other business
7. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in consultation with the Chair of the Bureau. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Implementation of the 2019-2020 workplan

(a) Resources

The Bureau will be informed by the secretariat of the resources made available and confirmed by Parties for the implementation of the 2019-2020 workplan. The secretariat will also provide information on the sending of official letters to Parties, in line with the sustainable financial mechanism. **Bureau members will be invited to provide information on the actions taken to secure additional resources for the workplan's implementation, beyond the pledges/indications made at CoP-10. The Bureau will be invited to discuss its further efforts and agree on next steps to attract the missing resources.**

(b) Activities

On the basis of the above, the Bureau will be presented with information on the implementation of and the planning for activities in 2019-2020. The secretariat and selected Bureau members will provide information on the implementation of the core and non-core activities, as outlined below. **The Bureau will be invited to endorse the planning for activities expected to be implemented, and to reflect in particular on the activities which are not (fully) funded and which will consequently not be implemented (or not in full scale) in the current biennium, and to provide advice.**

(i) Core activities

Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships:

The secretariat and members of the Bureau will provide information on:

- **targeted communication and participation in international and regional meetings and forums:**
 - o Conference on Raw Materials and Environment 2019 (Berlin, 19-20 February 2019), organized by the German Environment Agency, attended by the JEG Co-Chair
 - o [OECD Workshop on mining and green growth in the EECCA region](#) (Paris, 19 April 2019), attended by the secretariat
 - o [UNIDO Conference on Ensuring Industrial Safety: the role of government, regulations, standards and new technologies](#) (co-organized with Roztechnadzor, Russian Federation Vienna, 30-31 May 2019), attended by both Vice-Chairs and the secretariat
 - o [16th International Symposium on Loss Prevention and Safety Promotion in the Process Industries](#) (Delft, the Netherlands, 16-19 June 2019), attended by the JEG Co-Chair
 - o [Regional meeting with the Heads of Emergency authorities of Central Asia](#) (Bishkek, 11-12 July 2019), attended by the secretariat
- **working visits and high-level missions to Parties; donor meetings and bilateral visits:**
 - o Meeting with Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Chair and the secretariat

- **Meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities, incl. Inter-agency coordination meetings**
 - o EU Seveso Expert Group, back-to-back with seminar on the underground gas storage, biogas and LNG sites (Sibiu, Romania, 14-15 May 2019), attended by the secretariat, a Vice-Chair and Bureau members
 - o Meeting with UNIDO and Roztechnadzor (at the above UNIDO Conference) by the Vice-Chairs and the secretariat
 - o Meetings with UNEP and OECD during the informal meeting on the follow up UNEA4 resolutions on Sustainable Infrastructure and Mineral Resource Governance, organized by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (Neuchatel, 18 June 2019) by the secretariat
 - o XVII meeting of the CIS Inter-State Council for Industrial Safety (St. Petersburg, 12-13 September 2019)
 - o Inter-agency coordination meeting to be hosted by ILO in spring 2020 (tentatively May)
 - o Inter-agency coordination group on chemicals management

- **Follow-up to United Nations/OECD workshop on NATECH risk management: dissemination of outcome, good practice and information sharing on the Convention's role with respect to NATECH:** activity currently only implemented to a very limited degree through UNECE's membership in the OECD Steering Group on NATECH and the UNDRR Scientific and Technology Advisory Group (STAG) on NATECH, due to the absence of dedicated funding.

Facilitation of implementation:

1. Risk assessment

Mr. Merkofer (Switzerland), Bureau member leading the work of the small group on risk assessment will, supported by the secretariat, provide information on progress made and next steps towards the contracting of the consultant to prepare a report on risk assessment methodologies.

2. SDGs/Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The secretariat will provide information on the activities carried out under this agenda item, notably its contribution to the UNDRR 2019 Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction, in particular [Chapter 3.1.8. on chemical/industrial hazards](#).

The Convention's Chair, Ms. Tandberg (Norway), supported by the secretariat, will be invited to provide information on her attendance of the [Global Platform for DRR](#) (Geneva, 13-17 May 2019). The Vice Chair, Ms. Karba (Slovenia) will provide information on her membership of the UNDRR Steering group of the Global Risk Assessment Framework, and envisaged activities.

3. Land-use planning and industrial safety

The secretariat will provide information on the development of an information repository of good practices on land-use planning and industrial safety through a consultancy, funded by the EU/EIB. In this context, it will highlight its contribution to the UNECE nexus on smart and sustainable cities for all ages.

4. Fire-fighting water and retention strategies

The secretariat will provide an update on the progress towards the publishing of the safety guidelines and good practices for fire-fighting water retention, and their envisaged promotion, thanks to funding made available by Germany.

5. Contingency planning

The secretariat and the JEG Co-Chair will provide information on the *Seminar on accidental transboundary water pollution prevention – contingency planning, early warning, mitigation* (Budapest, 4-5 November 2019) organized under Hungarian leadership, and highlight the implementation of the strategy on cooperation with river commissions, endorsed by the Bureau at its last meeting (Geneva, 13 February 2019).

Servicing of intergovernmental bodies:

The Chair of the WGI, supported by the secretariat, will be invited to share information on the current reporting round and the focus of the upcoming meeting of the WGI.

The German Co-Chair, supported by the secretariat, will also be invited to give a brief update on the next meeting of JEG (Budapest, 5 November 2019).

(ii) Non-core, including assistance activities

Assistance and Cooperation Programme:

The secretariat will give an overview of the activities carried out and planned under the Assistance and Cooperation programme. The Chair will be invited to share her impressions of the [sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety](#) for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Chisinau, 16-17 May 2019), which she attended and chaired.

Other assistance activities:

The German Bureau member will be invited to provide information on the activities implemented and planned under three UBA-lead Projects on Improving the Safety of TMFs in (1) the Caucasian region, (2) along the Danube, and (3) in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions:

The secretariat will provide information on its contacts with other international organizations, notably UNESCAP, to support awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions.

IAN system:

The secretariat will provide information on its regular maintenance of the IAN system and updates of its database of points of contact and its plans for the organization of an online consultation in fall 2020. It will inform the Bureau of the results of the last online consultation and the feedback received by the points of contact and reiterate the reminder for sub-regional tests for the IAN system.

3. Follow-up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau will be invited to consider selected issues meriting attention in follow-up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Documentation:

- Report from the Conference on the Parties of its tenth meeting and addendum (ECE/CP.TEIA/38 and Add.1)

(a) Amendment of the Convention

The secretariat will report on the actions taken, as requested by the Chair at the last Bureau meeting (Geneva, 13 February 2019). The Bureau was then briefed by the Chair of the envisaged next steps, following the failure to achieve consensus on the adoption of the

proposed amendment to the Convention during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau then agreed that it was important to proceed with the reaching out to the concerned Parties, with the objective of understanding whether there were any new developments. It was agreed that it was particularly important to reach out to the Russian Federation in this respect. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will provide further information on the envisaged next steps. **The Bureau will be invited to take note.**

(b) Long-term strategy and communication, outreach and engagement strategy

The secretariat will report on actions taken to make the [long-term strategy](#), the [communication, outreach and engagement strategy](#) as well as other CoP-10 decisions available as free-standing documents on the Convention's website, and to raise their awareness with focal points, as requested by the Bureau at its last meeting.

As agreed then, a dedicated item on the implementation of both strategies – along with the decision fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism – will be scheduled at the next meeting of the Bureau (Bonn, June 2020), in advance of the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This future discussion will be combined with the substantive considerations on the implementation of the long-term strategy with regard to new and emerging risks, following the discussion of this matter at the last Bureau meeting (Geneva, 13 February). **The Bureau will be invited to take note of the actions taken, to consider how to further raise awareness of both strategies and how to best prepare for its further discussions on their implementation at the next meeting.**

4. Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau will be invited to discuss the arrangements for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be hosted by Germany in Bonn, 1–3 December 2020.

(a) Site visit

At the joint meeting of the Bureau and the WGI (Geneva, 13 February 2019), Mr. Winkelmann-Oei (Germany) provided information that Germany was in the process of organizing a site visit as part of CoP-11. The lead German competent authority, the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, has asked industry associations for proposals for such a site visit, and decided on a proposed site visit, on this basis. The proposal will be presented by Mr. Winkelmann-Oei, German Bureau member. **The Bureau will be invited to take note of and endorse the organization of a site visit at CoP-11.**

Background document:

- Proposals by Germany on a site visit at CoP-11

(b) Theme of CoP-11 seminar and evaluation of Assistance and Cooperation Programme

The joint meeting of the Bureau and the WGI (Geneva, 12 February 2019) reflected on different options for the organization of a specific substantive meeting/seminar as part of CoP-11. It remained open as to whether a high-level or technical meeting be organized, seeing advantages in both possibilities, and it suggested that a more thorough discussion on the objectives, format and possible topics of the meeting be held at this meeting of the Bureau, based on further background information. Possible themes discussed that might be of interest to all Parties were those of tailings safety (a key focus of assistance activities in this biennium), progress made by beneficiary countries towards graduating from the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, or exchanging experience on transboundary cooperation on specific topics, such as on NATECH accident prevention.

On the basis of the enclosed background paper, the Bureau is invited to discuss and agree on:

- (1) a theme for a ½ day seminar at CoP-11, considering the secretariat’s proposal that this theme be on tailings safety;
- (2) the approach to the addressing the recommendation by CoP-9, to reconsider the issue of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Assistance and Cooperation programme (Step 3 of 3-step approach) through the formal CoP-11 session, based on the secretariat proposal.

Background document:

- CoP seminar themes and evaluation of effectiveness of Assistance and Cooperation Programme
- [Independent external evaluation of Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia and UNECE management response](#)

5. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

At the last Bureau meeting, the co-chair of the Joint Expert Group for the Industrial Accidents Convention informed the Bureau about difficulties in ensuring a stable and longer-term composition of the Joint Expert Group, expressing his disappointment with frequent changes of the country representatives. The Bureau acknowledged that this was an important issue and suggested that a more detailed discussion be held at this meeting, on the basis of further background information, including the JEG Strategy, and proposals by the Co-Chair and the secretariat for how to overcome the difficulties. **The Bureau will be invited to review the challenges, to discuss and agree on the proposed solutions, taking into account the elements outlined in the background paper, prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the JEG Co-Chairs.** The outcome of the discussion would then be presented to the Bureau of the Water Convention for its discussion of the paper during its Bureau meeting in October 2019.

Background documents:

- Background paper on challenges and possible solutions related to the JEG work
- [JEG Strategy](#)

6. Other business

The Bureau will be invited to review and provide comments a draft survey on Convention guidance materials, prepared by the secretariat, in order to raise awareness and gather feedback on their use, and to advise on the timing for its circulation and the different addresses.

Members of the Bureau wishing to raise any other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

- Draft survey on Convention guidance materials

7. Closure of the meeting

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 27 September 2019 at 2 p.m.
