

29 January 2019
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Fortieth meeting

Working Group on Implementation

Thirty-eighth meeting

Geneva, 12 February 2019

Annotated provisional agenda of the joint meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, room S-4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 12 February.

The joint meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Working Group on Implementation and followed by a meeting of the Bureau.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the joint meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Introductions
3. Follow-up activities to the seminar on risk assessment methodologies
4. Assistance activities
 - (a) Improving the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme
 - (b) Implementation of assistance activities, including under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme
 - (c) Other assistance activities
5. Other business
6. Closure of the joint meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the joint 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 and the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation. The Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

The meeting will be chaired jointly by the Chair of the Bureau and the Chair of the Working Group.

2. Introductions

The members of the Bureau and Working Group on Implementation will introduce themselves briefly.

The Chair of the Bureau will briefly summarize the key decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4–6 December 2018).

Documentation:

- List of decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting
- Report from the Conference on the Parties of its tenth meeting, including addendum

3. Follow-up activities to the seminar on risk assessment methodologies

The Conference of the Parties, at its tenth meeting, welcomed the holding of a seminar on risk assessment methodologies and mandated the Bureau to determine specific follow-up activities, based on the discussions held at the seminar, the detailed seminar report and the evaluation forms. A member of the small group on risk assessment, in cooperation with the secretariat, will present the key findings, results from the evaluation forms and proposals for follow-up activities, as contained in the detailed seminar report prepared by the secretariat. The meeting will be invited to discuss the implementation of follow-up activities in the biennium 2019–2020, including with regard to a possible review of the location criteria in view of the various risk assessment methodologies.

Documentation:

- Summary report of the seminar on risk assessment methodologies
- Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention, as amended by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting

4. Assistance activities

The joint meeting will be invited to discuss assistance activities, including under the Assistance Programme and related to accidental water pollution.

(a) Improving the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme

The Conference of the Parties, at its ninth meeting (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016), endorsed three steps to improve the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme:

(i) Step 1: The Working Group on Implementation should pursue in its next term (2017–2020) a more rigorous approach to monitoring the Assistance Programme, in accordance with its updated terms of reference, to collect further information on and improve the implementation of the Convention by beneficiary countries;

(ii) Step 2: The Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, should request high-level feedback from beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme with regard to their progress made and specific needs for future assistance. Based on this feedback and the conclusions and observations set out in the note on the effectiveness, results and options for the further development of the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/15), the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, should consider the further development of the Assistance Programme with regard to its design and appeal for both beneficiary countries and donors, including the possibility to organize a high-level meeting in the framework of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(iii) Step 3: Following the implementation of steps 1 and 2, the Conference of the Parties could revisit the issue at its eleventh meeting in autumn 2020.

The secretariat will present the background and progress made in implementing the step-wise approach. The Chair of the Working Group will present the feedback received from beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme and the findings the Working Group drew from it, as also contained in the Working Group's report on its activities.

The meeting will be invited to discuss and agree on the further implementation of steps 2 and 3, notably the next steps to take based on the responses to the high-level letters and to consider the possible organization of a high-level meeting in the framework of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or another meeting/assistance activity.

(b) Implementation of assistance activities, including under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme

The secretariat will provide an update on on-going and planned assistance activities under the current workplan. The meeting will be invited to consider these and to provide advice. It will be invited to consider how to foster implementation of the Convention by Parties and accession by non-Parties. It will also be invited to consider how to pursue the implementation of the Convention's long-term strategy, including with respect to the fostering of enhanced cooperation among beneficiary countries under the re-named Assistance and Cooperation Programme, and the establishment of national policy dialogues for industrial safety.

(c) Other assistance activities

The co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and German Bureau member will provide an update on the implementation of assistance activities relating to improving tailings safety and preventing accidental water pollution included in the workplan which are ongoing and planned to be implemented in-kind with financing by the German Environment Agency.

In accordance with the request expressed by the Bureau at its previous meeting (Geneva, 3 December 2018), the secretariat and the German Bureau member will present information on the linkages between the various projects on tailings safety implemented under the Convention's workplan, including (i) the ongoing and new Project funded by Switzerland, focused on Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, respectively, and (ii) 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.

Documentation:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on Implementation in 2017–2018

- Report on the effectiveness, results and options for the further development of the Assistance Programme
- Background information on the linkages between the projects on tailings safety implemented under the Convention's workplan

5. Other business

Members of the Bureau or the Working Group on Implementation wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

6. Closure of the joint meeting

The Chairs of the two bodies are expected to close the meeting on 12 February at 6 p.m.
