



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 September 2020

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 7–9 December 2020

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2019–2020

Use of financial and in-kind resources to implement the workplan in 2019–2020*

Report by the secretariat

Summary

The present report was prepared by the secretariat in response to the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents at its tenth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/38, para. 51 (f)). It contains information on the use of financial and in-kind resources provided by Parties to the Convention for the period 2019–2020.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. At its tenth meeting (Geneva, 4–6 December 2018), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) accepted the budget for the 2019–2020 workplan. It requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions and to report on the use of financial and in-kind resources for the 2019–2020 biennium (ECE/CP.TEIA/38, para. 51 (f)).

2. The present report responds to the above request and presents information on the use of financial resources and in-kind contributions under the Convention. It also lists all those Parties, and international and other partner organizations that have provided financial or in-kind contributions for the implementation of the Convention's activities in the period 2019–2020 or communicated their intention yet to provide such contributions.

3. For the biennium 2019–2020 a total of \$1,523,785 in financial contributions was made to the main Convention trust fund by Parties. An investment income of \$32,767 for 2019 brings the total financial contributions received in the period 1 January 2019 to 15 September 2020 to \$1,565,552 (see table 1). This amount includes contributions totalling \$437,166, which were provided by Czechia, Norway, France and Switzerland at the end of 2018¹ for intended use in 2019–2020. An estimated additional amount of financial contributions by Parties of approximately \$157,180² is yet expected to be received before the end of 2020. The total amount of financial contributions to the Convention's main trust fund expected to be received for use in the biennium 2019–2020, and partially beyond (see para. 4 below), will thus amount to approximately \$1,722,732.

4. The financial contributions received to the main Convention trust fund include the following contributions for projects, whose implementation was initiated during the biennium 2019–2020, and will be pursued in the following biennium, with activities and related expenditures:

(a) A contribution from Switzerland (\$100,401) for the Project on strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia. The implementation period of the Project, initially envisaged for the biennium 2019–2020, was prolonged at no cost, as agreed with the donor, to end-2021, as the full implementation of activities in 2020 could not be pursued, due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Additional expenditures for the remaining activities are thus envisaged for 2021;

(b) A contribution from Switzerland (\$250,250) for the Project on supporting countries of Central Asia in strengthening the safety of mine tailings, with an envisaged implementation period for 2020–2021;

(c) A contribution from France (\$227,272) to support activities related to land-use planning, industrial safety and related assistance for the biennium 2019–2020. As the Sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe, planned to take place in 2020, had to be postponed to October 2021, the project's implementation period has thus been prolonged until end-2021, in agreement with the donor;

(d) A contribution from France (\$220,022) to support activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1). This contribution has been employed to enhance the Convention's engagement in the field of natural hazard triggered industrial accidents (Natech), to launch a National Policy Dialogue (NPD) for Industrial Safety in Serbia and to strengthen cooperation with other international and regional organizations. Similarly, to the above-mentioned contribution from France (see para. 4 c), owing to the fact that not all

¹ Contributions received between 1 October 2018–1 December 2018, for intended use in 2019–2020, notably from Czechia (\$13,000), France (\$227,272), Norway (\$96,492) and Switzerland (\$100,401).

² Including pledged and committed contributions from Croatia (\$3,000), France (€40,000), Italy (€50,000), Serbia (\$2,000), Slovakia (€5,000) and Poland (\$10,000), as well as an envisaged contribution from Germany (up to €25,000) to support the organization of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Geneva, not yet received at the time of finalizing this report. The USD amount of the respective contributions was calculated using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 15 September 2020 (0.844). A financial contribution from Slovenia remains yet to be confirmed.

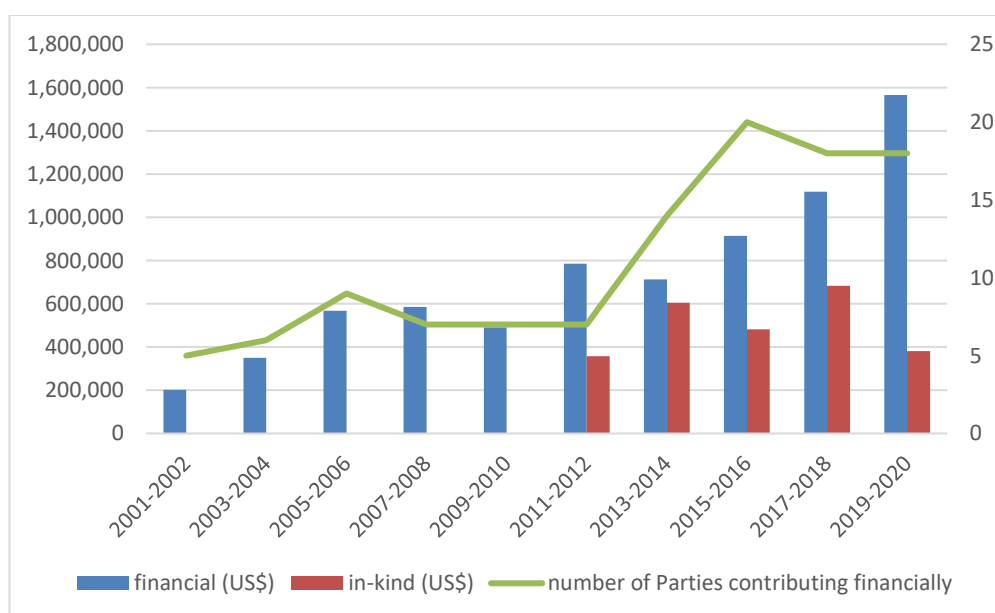
activities could be implemented, and the launch meeting of the NPD in Serbia had to be postponed to 2021, the implementation period for this project has also been prolonged to end-2021.

5. In addition to the contributions received to the main Convention trust fund, in July 2020 the Russian Federation committed \$250,000 to a separate trust fund to carry out the Project on National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) during the period 2020–2021. As most of the activities for the project are envisaged to be implemented in the following 2021–2022 biennium, the project income and expenditure will be reported to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In 2020, the respective project funds will largely be spent on detailed project planning and the organization and preparation of the Project activities. Most of the contribution is expected to be employed in 2021, subject to developments related to the pandemic, for the conduct of activities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Activities to be carried out comprise the organization of outreach missions and consultations with governments of beneficiary countries on the establishment of NPDs and the provision of advisory services on reviewing national policies and legislation, in view of alignment with ECE and national legal requirements, and other related policy areas.

6. The figure below illustrates the evolution of financial contributions over the past 20 years, including contributions to all trust funds, since the entry into force of the Convention in 2000. It also demonstrates the evolution of in-kind contributions since the biennium 2011–2012.

Biennial financial contributions (2001–2020)³ and in-kind contributions (2011–2020)

(in United States dollars)



Note: figures along the y axis on the left indicate the amount in United States dollars; figures along the y axis on the right indicate the number of Parties.

³ The financial contributions indicated for 2019-2020 include an amount of \$437,166 provided by Parties in end-2018, intended for implementation in the workplan period 2019-2020, and partially beyond.

7. In-kind contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, by providing expertise or direct financing for the organization of different meetings and events under the Convention, were provided during the biennium 2019–2020, of approximately \$380,969 in value (see table 1).⁴ During the biennium 2019–2020 in-kind contributions were received from the following Parties: Austria; Belgium (Flemish Region); Czechia; European Union, including the European Investment Bank; France; Germany; Hungary; Rep. of Moldova; Norway; and Slovenia. In-kind contributions provided by Germany were substantial and included the implementation of regional projects on improving the safety of tailings management facilities, carried out under the Convention’s workplan. The European Investment Bank to the European Union supported with its in-kind contribution the development of an information repository on land-use planning and industrial safety. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) financially supported the participation of representatives from Kazakhstan and OSCE staff in two meetings under the Convention on tailings safety in Central Asia.⁵

8. Additional in-kind contributions were provided by the Central Asia Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, the Commonwealth of Independent States Inter-State Council for Industrial Safety, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the Joint United Nations Environment/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Unit, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Cooperation during the biennium has been further pursued with other international organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Representatives of academia, including from the Technical University of Ostrava (Czechia), the Technical University of Moldova (Republic of Moldova) and the National Technical University Dnipro Polytechnic (Ukraine), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including Eco-Peace, have also contributed to the implementation of the workplan. Further in-kind contributions were received from the private sector, notably the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), as part of the Global Tailings Review,⁶ to support the participation of representatives from Central Asia in the Consultation for Central Asia on a draft global tailings standard (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18 and 19 November 2019), and the Sub-regional workshop on improving mine tailings safety in Central Asia held back-to-back (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 and 21 November 2019).

⁴ It has not been possible to identify all in-kind contributions.

⁵ Introduction workshop and on-site training session (Kokshetau, Kazakhstan, 11–13 June 2019) and Subregional workshop under the projects on improving mining/tailings safety in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 and 21 November 2019).

⁶ A partnership between ICMM, the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP) and the [Principles for Responsible Investment](#) (PRI).

Table 1
Financial contributions to Convention trust funds in the 2019–2020 biennium
(as at 15 September 2020)

<i>Source</i>	<i>Financial contributions</i>	<i>Approximate value of main in-kind contributions</i>
Austria	17 847	2 000
Belgium (Flemish Region)	—	6 000
Bulgaria	4 200	—
Croatia ^a	3 000	—
Cyprus	7 000	—
Czechia ^b	26 000	3 000
Finland	11 037	—
France ^c	491 788	2 000
Germany	50 528	233 000
Hungary	—	32 500
Italy ^d	56 818	—
Lithuania	5 907	—
Netherlands	66 446	—
Norway ^e	194 631	10 000
Poland ^f	10 000	—
Republic of Moldova	—	30 000
Romania	11 123	—
Russian Federation ^g	—	—
Serbia ^h	2 000	—
Slovakia ⁱ	—	—
Slovenia ^j	—	5 000
Switzerland ^k	496 050	—
European Union, including the European Investment Bank	78 407	41 469
OSCE	—	16 000
Interest income for main Convention trust fund (2019)	32 767	—
Total	1 565 552	380 969

^a An additional financial contribution of \$3,000 was committed by Croatia.

^b Includes a financial contribution provided by Czechia in December 2018, for 2019.

^c Includes a financial contribution of \$227,273 provided by France in November 2018, for the biennium. An additional financial contribution of €40,000 was pledged and committed.

^d An additional financial contribution of €50,000 was pledged and committed by Italy for 2020.

^e Includes a financial contribution of \$96,492 provided by Norway in December 2018 for 2019.

^f An additional financial contribution of \$10,000 was committed by Poland.

^g A financial contribution of \$250,000 was provided by the Russian Federation in July 2020 to a separate trust fund for the Project on NPDs for Industrial Safety in Central Asia. As the majority of the contribution will be spent in 2021, it will be recorded in the biennium 2021–2022.

^h An additional financial contribution of \$2,000 was committed by Serbia.

ⁱ A financial contribution of €5,000 was committed by Slovakia.

^j A financial contribution from Slovenia remains yet to be confirmed.

^k Includes a financial contribution of \$100,402 provided by Switzerland in end-2018 for the Project on strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia.

9. The in-kind contributions provided during the biennium have, in addition to the financial contributions provided, substantially contributed to an enhanced implementation of the workplan. Overall, in-kind contributions have been lower than expected, as numerous activities had to be postponed in view of the pandemic. Countries which had intended to host intergovernmental meetings and workshops, including Germany, Serbia and Sweden, were not able to do so, as the respective activities had to be organized virtually, or postponed.

10. In addition to the in-kind contributions listed above, elected and nominated members of subsidiary bodies have made significant contributions in meetings of the subsidiary bodies and by raising awareness of the Convention at various events. In addition to the regular meetings of the Bureau and the three small groups established under its auspices — the small group on risk assessment, the small group on mine tailings safety and the small group on financing — the Working Group on Implementation, and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents were active during the biennium.

11. Further to the in-kind contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, the Convention benefited during the biennium 2019–2020 from significant co-financing from the ECE Regular Budget Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, which covered expenditures related to the participation of representatives from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the Sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Chisinau, 22–24 May 2019) and the Subregional workshop on improving mine tailings safety in Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 and 21 November 2019).

12. Table 2 presents the estimated aggregated expenditures per object class of the United Nations administrative system Umoja for the main Convention trust fund for the biennium 2019–2020. The respective Umoja object classes presented in the table cover, among others, the following costs:

(a) Contractual services: Interpretation and translation services, incl. equipment, during meetings with simultaneous interpretation; operating and hospitality expenses related to the implementation of assistance activities; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) service fees; insurance for consultants;

(b) Operating and other direct costs: Training courses of project staff for upgrading of substantive and information technology skill; transportation, such as rental of local transport, car, bus/coach in connection with project activities; bank service fees for costs related to project activities; postal pouch services for project meetings and seminars; visa costs related to travel requests; custom stationary, office supplies, business cards in connection with project activities; for project staff and consultants: office space including utilities; office furniture; telephone rental and services charges; personal computing incl. network and internet connectivity; email and printing;

(c) Grants: Grants to implementing partners to organize meetings under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme;

(d) Staff and other personnel costs: Salaries and related entitlements of fixed-term and temporary project staff in relation to the implementation of project activities; services of outside expertise, including international, national or regional consultants, to support the implementation of project-related workplan activities, include core activities (e.g. Natech), non-core activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme (e.g. mapping of tailings management facilities in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and translations (English-Russian, English-French); and institutional contracts (e.g. elaboration of a report on risk assessment methodologies for chemical installations);

(e) Travel: Travel of staff, consultants, meeting participants and office holders from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and experts in intergovernmental and assistance activities. Costs of travel include as air /train tickets, car mileage, daily subsistence allowance (DSA), and any other related travel expenses;

(f) Supplies, commodities and materials: Office stationery and supplies; laptops and screens for project staff and consultants;

(g) Programme support cost (PSC): 13 per cent PSC normally apply to all expenditures from trust funds established under the United Nations.

Table 2
**Summary of estimated expenditures from the main
 Convention trust fund for the biennium 2019–2020^a**
 (in United States dollars)

<i>Umoja object class</i>	<i>Estimated expenditures 2019-2020</i>
Contractual services	30 000
Operating and other direct costs	40 000
Grants	78 000
Staff and other personnel costs	865 000
Travel	40 000
Supplies, commodities and materials	8 000
Subtotal	1 061 000
Programme Support Cost (PSC, 13%)	137 930
Total (all activities and staff)	1 198 930

^a Based on a combination of real expenditures, as recorded in Umoja until 25 September 2020; and estimated expenditures until end-December 2020. Does not include in-kind contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, listed in table 1.

13. A number of planned activities could not be completed in the biennium. Under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, it was not possible, due to the pandemic, to implement the following activities, which had to be postponed to the following biennium 2021–2022:

- (a) Sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe;
- (b) Launch of NPD for Industrial Safety in Serbia;
- (c) Technical mission to support accession of Ukraine to the Industrial Accidents Convention; and
- (d) On-site training and back-to-back meeting in Tajikistan, under the Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Tajikistan and Central Asia.

14. Further information on the postponement of these activities is available in Progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/7). Due to a lack of dedicated project financing, it was not possible to launch NPDs for Industrial Safety in other countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, including countries which have expressed needs for the implementation of such a process.

15. The planned budget for the biennium was \$2,920,618, whereas the sum of actual and projected financial and in-kind contributions received for the period 2019–2020 amounts to approximately \$2,103,701,⁷ suggesting an implementation rate of about 72 per cent.

16. The total financial income thus far received for the biennium 2019–2020 (\$1,565,552, see Table 1), coupled with the additional income yet expected (\$157,180) will exceed the estimated total expenditures (\$1,198,930, see Table 2), resulting in a projected increased balance (\$1,661,932 at 31 May 2020, as compared with a balance of \$1,351,115

⁷ \$1,722,732 estimated financial contributions for the biennium 2019–2020 (\$1,565,552 financial contributions received for the period 2019–2020, incl. investment income (2019) + \$157,180 committed financial contributions expected be received before the end of the biennium) + \$380,969 estimated value of in-kind contributions.

at 31 December 2018, the end of the previous biennium).⁸ As mentioned above, not all contributions received for intended use in the biennium could be spent, as numerous activities had to be postponed due to the pandemic, or implemented virtually, without incurring travel-related expenses. The implementation period for four larger project-related contributions (see para. 4) carries over into the next biennium 2021–2022, along with the respective reservation of funds. Furthermore, significant co-financing from other international and private sector organizations, in particular OSCE and ICMM (see paras. 7 and 8) and from the United Nations Regular Budget (see para. 11) contributed to reducing expenditures during the biennium.

⁸ Data from Umoja Business Intelligence (BI) reporting, based on Accrual Accounting.