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Eleventh meeting

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2021–2022 and its financing

Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2021–2022

Proposal by the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties, prepared in cooperation with the secretariat

Summary

The present document sets out the proposed activities under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents for 2021–2022 (workplan) and the resource requirements to implement them, as proposed by the Bureau based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Further to the request by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/38, para. 51 (g)), the proposal is being submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and possible revision.

Parties are invited to share information on their pledges and leadership of workplan items, as well as any other eventual comments on the draft workplan four weeks in advance of the meeting with the Chair and the secretariat (via email to ece-teia.conv@un.org), i.e. by 9 November 2020. This approach will facilitate the presentation of an updated draft workplan in session, with a clear indication of proposed changes as communicated by the Parties, and the adoption of the final workplan, with its accompanying resources.

The Conference of the Parties will then be invited to review the proposal, make revisions as necessary and adopt the workplan for the biennium 2021–2022.



1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents developed the present document, setting out the proposed activities under the Convention for 2021–2022 (workplan) and the resource requirements to implement them, in cooperation with the Convention secretariat. The workplan was prepared based on the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (ECE/CP/TEIA/38/Add.1); the outcomes of events held and activities carried out under the Convention; the strategic approach taken under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme (formerly known as the Assistance Programme, renamed as per the long-term strategy); the needs expressed by beneficiary countries; donors' and beneficiaries' proposals to the Bureau, the Working Group on Implementation and the secretariat; the priority needs identified by the Working Group on Implementation, in the review of the implementation reports and the preparation of a summary report for the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/5) and the Bureau; and the suggestions made by the secretariat and supported by the Bureau.

2. The workplan includes activities for which continued implementation and follow-up are needed; as well as activities, related to implementation of the long-term strategy. Moreover, the workplan includes activities that the Bureau considers necessary in order to: maintain the high profile of the Convention, enhance industrial safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region in the light of the goal of significantly increasing industrial safety and reducing technological disaster risks by 2030 through full implementation of the Convention; broaden recognition of the Convention as a legal instrument for technological disaster risk reduction under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; and strengthen the Convention's contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and particularly targets 3.9, 3.d, 6.3, 9.1, 9.4, 11.b, 12.4 and 13.1.¹

3. The workplan also includes elements intended to maximize synergies with other ECE multilateral environmental agreements — for example, the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) — and with other ECE activities, including with regard to urban development, housing and land management. Further synergies with other organizations active in the field of industrial safety are also envisaged to be maintained and further developed.

4. Since implementation of the activities set out in the workplan will require extrabudgetary resources, Parties, other ECE member States and other stakeholders are invited to support the activities of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in 2021–2022 by contributing to the Convention's trust fund, financing activities directly and making in-kind contributions. In accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism, prior to the adoption of the biennial workplan, Parties are expected to pledge or indicate the level of their annual voluntary financial and in-kind contributions and to take an active part in ensuring additional contributions (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I, para. 24(a) (i) and (ii)). They are also invited to take the lead in supporting specific activities substantively, as lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations.

¹ Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals; Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries ... for risk reduction; Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, ... and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials; Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure; Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable; Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards ... resilience to disasters and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels; Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals ... throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks; Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

5. By adopting decision 2018/2 on fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1), the Conference of the Parties, at its tenth meeting:

(a) Urged all Parties to contribute to the sustainable funding of activities and to share the financial burden equitably and proportionately;

(b) Encouraged the Parties to consider making predictable, and preferably multi-year, sustainable funding pledges prior to the adoption of the biennial workplans, at or in advance of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism.

6. In the draft version of the workplan, the names of some potential lead parties are identified or placed in square brackets; the final workplan will include the names of leading and supporting countries. Other countries with an interest in leading activities are invited to contact the secretariat in advance of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. The workplan has been divided into two parts: the first includes core activities essential for the functioning of the Convention and the second includes non-core activities. As agreed by the Convention's Bureau, the core activities are:

(a) Convening and preparing meetings of the Parties, including servicing the meetings of the Bureau and the subsidiary bodies and substantive input to meetings;

(b) Preparation of documents and other deliverables, also including the facilitation of participation (flights, travel and subsistence);

(c) Information, liaison and communication, including with Parties, member States, other ECE multilateral environmental agreements and committees and relevant international organizations;

(d) Facilitation of implementation through, for example, the development of implementation guidance, coordination, partnerships and the sharing of good practice;

(e) General programme management, including with regard to human resources and financial issues, and related reporting to member States within the United Nations framework.

8. Non-core activities include:

(a) Capacity development on the ground and technical assistance, including within the Assistance and Cooperation Programme;

(b) Reporting to donors providing funding for assistance activities;

(c) Supporting the ECE Industrial Accidents Notification system;

(d) Awareness-raising in and outreach beyond the ECE region;

(e) Other functions determined by Parties.

9. Table 1 below sets out the draft workplan and resources for 2021–2022. It includes activities for which financial resources are expected to be available during the biennium based on expected pledges by Parties at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and further financial and in-kind contributions during the biennium that have not yet been confirmed. Table 2 below sets out the total projected resources for the biennium, including expenditures for secretariat staff (not included in table 1). Table 3 below sets out the activities for which, as at the time of preparation of the present document, lead countries and/or associated resources have not been identified. Additional resources (beyond those set out in table 2) for the period leading up to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be required for implementation of the activities included in table 3. Should the respective pledges be made and lead countries identified in advance of the eleventh meeting, the activities in question can be moved to table 2 in the final workplan adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Table 1
Workplan and resources for 2021–2022

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
I. Core activities, including activities to implement the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (other than assistance activities)				
<i>Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships</i>	Targeted communication (newsletters, press releases, leaflets, postcards, website, social media, promotion of brochures and online training on industrial accidents and participation in international and regional meetings and forums)	15 000	3	1.5
	Working visits and high-level missions to Parties	9 000	1	0.25
	Working visits to other stakeholders	6 000	1	0.25
	Meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities, including inter-agency coordination meetings	10 000	2	0.5
	Donor meetings and bilateral visits	5 000	1	0.5
<i>Supporting body:</i> Bureau				
Subtotal		45 000	8	3
<i>Facilitation of implementation</i>	Development of a study on risk assessment methodologies	25 000	4	1.5
	<i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Switzerland, with contributions from the members of the small group on risk assessment, representing Austria, Belarus, Latvia, Serbia and Slovenia.			
– Risk assessment				
– Sustainable Development Goals / Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Support for countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goals, and of the Sendai Framework, with a focus on industrial accident prevention and preparedness by contributing to the relevant reports on the Goals, the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, and meetings and platforms	25 000	3	0.5
– NATECH risk management	NATECH-III Project: development of a brochure and guidance on NATECH risk management, under the leadership of OECD and Germany, and in partnership with UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit, The European Union JRC, and other countries part of the Steering Group raising visibility of the Convention's role with respect to NATECH, [exchange of experiences and good practices in the framework of seminar, organized in cooperation with partner organizations] ^a	50 000	6	2
– Land-use planning and industrial safety	Follow-up to the exchange of information on land-use planning and industrial safety (2016–2022 seminars/workshops): dissemination of outcomes, maintenance and update of repository of good practices and lessons learned; fostering governance and policy coordination among related disciplines, in collaboration with the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, The Aarhus Convention and the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment]	-	2	2

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
– Experiences and good practice on implementation	Exchange of experiences and good practices on the implementation of the Convention, including on good practices submitted through national implementation reports <i>Lead Party:</i> tbc, with the support of the Working Group on Implementation ^a	35 000	3	2
– Preventing accidental water pollution	Follow-up to 2019 contingency planning seminar; Strengthening of cooperation with river basin commissions <i>Lead/supporting Parties:</i> Hungary [and Germany], with the support of the JEG, in cooperation with the Water Convention	12 000	1	0.25
	Promotion and translation into national languages of JEG-developed guidance and good industry practices <i>Lead/supporting Parties/organizations:</i> [Czechia], Rep. of Moldova and Romania on firefighting water retention and management, [and Germany on checklist methodology on TMFs], in cooperation with river basin commissions, such as ICPDR and the Water Convention, though the JEG	4 000	0.5	0.25
Subtotal		151 000	19.5	8.50
<i>Servicing intergovernmental bodies and expert groups^b</i>	Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	90 000	4	4
	Meetings of the Bureau (estimated 4)	44 000	8	2
	Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation (estimated 4)	38 000	8	4
	Meetings of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention (none foreseen in this period)	-	-	-
	Meetings of the JEG (estimated 1)	15 000	1	0.25
Subtotal		187 000	21	10.25
<i>General programme management</i>	Other secretariat activities, including human resources, financial and other management-related functions, administrative actions needed to ensure the functioning of the ECE Industrial Safety Unit and, as part of the ECE secretariat, reporting on substantive and administrative issues.	-	4	1
Subtotal		-	4	1
Subtotal section I		383 000	52.5	22.75

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
II. Non-core activities, including assistance activities to support countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe				
Assistance and Cooperation Programme ^c	Activities to support implementation of the Strategic Approach through national and subregional expert and high-level meetings and support for the development of self-assessments and action plans [in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and other countries, to be determined] (estimate based on 3 national activities) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine, possibly other Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries, to be determined], with funding through the Assistance and Cooperation Programme	90 000	7.5	3
	Development and integration of Convention's self-assessment indicators into European Union Seveso Progress Measurement Indices tool <i>Lead organization/countries:</i> JRC, in cooperation with the Rep. of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine, with support from the Working Group on Implementation	20 000	2.5	-
	NPDs for industrial safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, with financing by the Russian Federation (\$ 250,000 for 2020–2021)	220 000	5.5	2.75
	NPDs for industrial safety in Central Asia (Phase II: Implementation, as of 2022) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, with financing to be determined, ^d in cooperation with OECD	220 000	5.5	2.75
	Launch of NPDs for industrial safety in three countries of Eastern and/or South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus <i>Lead countries:</i> Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, possibly another country, [with the financial support of Norway, tbc], in cooperation with OECD (estimate based on activities in 3 countries)	150 000	9	3
	Launch and implementation of NPDs in Serbia <i>Lead country:</i> Serbia, with the financial support of France [or Norway, tbc,] in cooperation with OECD	100 000	4	1
	Project on supporting Central Asian countries' efforts to strengthen the safety of TMFs (continuation) <i>Lead countries:</i> Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, in cooperation with Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, with financial support of Switzerland (financing of CHF 250,000 provided in end-2019), in cooperation with ECE Water Convention	80 000	8	2

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
	Project on strengthen the safety of TMFs in Tajikistan (continuation) <i>Lead country:</i> Tajikistan, with the financial support of Switzerland (financing of CHF 100,000 provided in end-2018)	30 000	3	1.5
	Subregional workshops on land-use planning and industrial safety in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Serbia and Kyrgyzstan [with the financial support of France, tbc, in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management]	120 000	10	5
	National workshop(s) on land-use planning and industrial safety <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Armenia [with financial support tbc, in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management]	30 000	3	1.5
	Subtotal	1 060 000	58	22.5
<i>Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions</i>	Promoting and raising of awareness of the Convention, including beyond the ECE region (production of information materials and establishment of a network of contacts) <i>Supporting bodies/organizations:</i> ECE and possibly other regional commissions, UN Environment and lead countries	10 000	0.5	0.25
<i>IAN system</i>	Electronic consultation for points of contact on the ECE IAN system <i>Lead countries/organization:</i> [to be determined]	-	1	0.25
	Subtotal	10 000	1.5	0.5
	Subtotal section II	1 070 000	59.5	23
	Total activities (section I + II)	1 453 000	112	45.75

Abbreviations: IAN, Industrial Accident Notification; ICPDR, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River; JEG, Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents; JRC, Joint Research Centre; NATECH, Natural-hazard-triggered technical accidents; NPD, National Policy Dialogue; OCHA, Office for the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; RB, regular budget; TMF, tailings management facility;; XB, extrabudgetary.

^a Should the exchange of experiences and good practices be carried out within the framework of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the financial implications would be minimized.

^b Estimates for the servicing of intergovernmental bodies are based on the indicative amount for hosting such meetings as set out in the sustainable financial mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I), in addition to costs arising from the participation in the work of these bodies by members from countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and by the secretariat. An estimate of \$1,500 is assumed for two Bureau members from countries eligible for financial support (in accordance with draft decision on guiding principles for financial assistance (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/10)) and for two members of the secretariat to service the Bureau meetings and one member to service meetings of the Working Group on Implementation and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.

^c Activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme are demand-driven; their implementation depends on the submission of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals by beneficiary countries and on the availability of financial resources for their implementation. The Working Group on Implementation evaluates the substance of assistance requests and the Bureau decides whether to approve the activities in the light of the available funds.

^d Funding for phase I of this project (Launch of the National Policy Dialogues) by the Russian Federation is confirmed until end-2021; the intention is to submit a follow-up proposal for phase II (Implementation of the National Policy Dialogues), for the period 2022–2024. The envisaged budget indicated is an estimate for the first year (2022) of phase II.

Table 2

Total resources for 2021–2022

(in United States dollars)

<i>Items/activities</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Non-core</i>	<i>Total</i>
Activities	383 000	1 070 000	1 453 000
Staff:			
RB, Professional (core: 21 work-months)	^a	—	—
RB, General Service (core: 10.5 work-months)	^a	—	—
XB, Professional (core: 31.5 work-months)	519 687	—	519 687
XB, General Service (core: 12.25 work-months)	138 425	—	138 425
XB, Professional (non-core: 59.5 work-months)	—	922 932	922 932
XB, General Service (non-core: 23 work-months)	—	259 900	259 900
Total	1 041 112	2 252 832	3 293 944

Note: One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 21 work-months per biennium, while XB funding for 24 months per post is required. The staff resource estimates indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates. In terms of human resources, implementation of the workplan will require additional financing from XB resources for about three and a half up to four professional posts and one Programme Assistant post (General Service), depending on the core and non-core workplan activities that receive funding

^a Provided under the United Nations regular budget. The RB, Professional post involves oversight of the Industrial Safety Unit, the Convention secretariat and workplan implementation, including core and non-core activities.

Table 3

Activities that would require lead Parties and additional resources for implementation during the period leading up to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>
<i>Assistance and Cooperation Programme/Facilitation of Implementation</i>	Danube Delta-II Project (including completion of the joint contingency plan, exercises and drafting of a protocol by the three concerned countries) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Rep. of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine [with financial support to be determined]	600 000
	Project on NPDs for industrial safety in South-Eastern Europe <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Serbia [and other countries in South-Eastern Europe with financial support to be determined, in cooperation with OECD]	500 000
	Project on NPDs for industrial safety in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Azerbaijan, Rep. of Moldova [with financial support to be determined, in cooperation with OECD]	600 000
	Project on strengthening NATECH risk management in Central Asia, for example through the development and application of dedicated guidelines, in cooperation with partner organizations, such as ECE Water Convention and UN Environment /OCHA Joint Unit	500 000
	Strengthening tailings safety and preventing accidental water pollution in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia <i>Lead /supporting countries:</i> [to be determined, in cooperation with the ECE Water Convention]	600 000
	Development of training modules (including train-the-trainer modules, manuals, guidance documents, e-learning and interactive tools) on implementation of the Convention and its linkages with other instruments and policies, including the Sendai Framework	400 000

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	<i>XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>
	<i>Lead /supporting countries:</i> [to be determined, in cooperation with the members of the Inter-agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents]	
<i>Other assistance activities^a</i>	Project on improving the safety of TMFs in Kyrgyzstan - Training and legislative options	tbc
	<i>Lead/supporting organization/countries:</i> Kyrgyzstan, in cooperation with Kazakhstan, with financial support from Germany	
	Project on developing a checklist for pipeline safety, based on the UNECE safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines, including a transboundary exercise	tbc
	<i>Lead/supporting country:</i> Belarus, with financial support from Germany and support by the JEG	
<i>Facilitation of implementation: Implementation Guidance</i>	Guide to the Implementation of the Convention <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined]	60 000
<i>Facilitation of implementation: Land-use planning and industrial safety</i>	Follow-up to the exchange of information on land-use planning and industrial safety (2016–2020 seminars/workshops): Seminar for exchanging experiences, and involving role-playing with a focus on public information and participation ^b <i>Lead/supporting country/organization:</i> [tbd, in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, the Aarhus Convention and the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment]	100 000
<i>Facilitation of implementation: Preventing accidental water pollution</i>	Development of a catalogue/web page for accidental pollution events and good practice by countries, river basin commissions, including bilateral cooperation examples and one meeting on good practices <i>Lead/supporting countries/organization:</i> [to be determined], with the support of the JEG and river basin organizations	60 000
<i>Facilitation of implementation: Benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention</i>	Review of the Benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention and proposed updates, mainly in relation to land-use planning, public information and participation, NATECH, and considering the development of self-assessment indicators (see joint project with JRC in table 1 above) <i>Lead/supporting country/organization:</i> [to be determined]	60 000
<i>ECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System</i>	Upgrade of the IAN system to fix existing glitches, improve functionality and user-friendliness and develop the linkages to a mobile device <i>Lead/supporting countries/organization:</i> [to be determined]	40 000
Total		3 520 000

^a Information on the budget/in-kind contribution provided for the “other assistance activities” for the period will be provided by Germany once their implementation is confirmed and reflected in the respective report on the use of financial and in-kind resources for 2021–2022.

^b This activity would be placed under “Assistance and Cooperation Programme” or “Facilitation of implementation”, depending on its scope.