

# **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

### **List of outcomes and decisions taken per agenda item**

#### **Day 1, 7 December 2020, 10.00 – 12.00**

##### **Agenda item 1 – Adoption of the provisional agenda and operating procedures**

- The Conference of the Parties adopted the annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/41).
- The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.5).

##### **Agenda item 2 – Representation and credentials**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the ratification status of the Convention and the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/1). It requested the secretariat to report on the ratification status in a similar manner at the next meeting.
- The Conference of the Parties accepted the report on credentials and noted that the number of Parties was sufficient to take decisions at the eleventh meeting.

##### **Agenda item 3 – Adoption of decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety**

- The Conference took note of the conclusions of the seminar on mine tailings safety in the UNECE region and beyond (Geneva (online), 1 December 2020).
- The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.1).

##### **Agenda item 4 – Election of members of the Bureau of the Convention**

- The Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Bureau for the period 2021–2022, based on the candidatures received by the secretariat up to eight weeks in advance of the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedures, as amended at CoP-9:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Name</b>
Austria	Mr. Michael Struckl
Belarus	Mr. Evgenij Baranovskij
European Union	Mr. Camille Siefriidt
Finland	Ms. Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund
France	Ms. Marie-Claire Lhenry

Norway	Ms. Torill Tandberg
Russian Federation	Ms. Margarita Redina
Serbia	Ms. Suzana Milutinovic
Slovenia	Ms. Jasmina Karba
Switzerland	Mr. Martin Merkofer

From among the members of the Bureau, it elected the following Officers, based on a proposal by the outgoing Bureau:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Norway	Ms. Torill Tandberg	Chair of the Conference of the Parties
Austria	Mr. Michael Struckl	Vice-Chair of the Conference of the Parties
Switzerland	Mr. Martin Merkofer	Vice-Chair of the Conference of the Parties

### **Agenda item 5 – Implementation of the Convention and election of members of the WGI**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided in and adopted the Ninth report on the implementation of the Convention (2016–2018) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/5). It requested the Working Group on Implementation to prepare a similar report for its thirteenth meeting.
- The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 2020/2 on strengthening the implementation of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.2).
- The Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Working Group on Implementation for the period 2021–2024 based on the candidatures received by the secretariat up to eight weeks in advance of the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedures, as amended at CoP-9:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Name</b>
Belarus	Mr. Pavel Chukharev
Estonia	Ms. Reelika Kuusik
Latvia	Ms. Laura Vizbule
Netherlands	Ms. Nicoletta Bouman
Republic of Moldova	Mr. Vitalii Mutaf
Russian Federation	Ms. Anna Tsarina
Serbia	Ms. Sanja Stamenkovic
Slovakia	Ms. Mária Šebestová
Sweden	Ms. Helena Fridh
Switzerland	Mr. Raphaël Gonzalez

### **Agenda item 6 – Adoption of the plan of action for the Convention for 2021-2022 and its financing**

- The Conference of the Parties adopted the priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2021–2022 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.3) and its corresponding budget, on the basis of the Bureau’s proposal made in cooperation with the secretariat, and updates made thereafter.
- The Conference of the Parties also:
  - Requested Parties and invited other UNECE member States to participate actively in the implementation of the workplan for 2021–2022, including through taking the lead in specific projects and activities contained in the workplan.

- Welcomed the contributions to the budget pledged before and at the meeting by Parties (and strategic partners) to the Convention, and at the same time urged other Parties and UNECE member States to provide voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the budget of the Convention.
- Mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to monitor the implementation of the workplan for 2021–2022, including raising the remaining funds necessary for its full implementation. Further mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to raise additional funds, including in light of the additional resources needed to implement the workplan due to the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions and, at the next meeting, to report on the use of financial and in-kind resources.
- Request the Bureau, in consultation with the secretariat, to continue its discussions on the differentiation between core and non-core activities, with a view of strengthening it.
- Also requested the Bureau to prepare, with the support of the secretariat, a workplan and budget for 2023–2024 for adoption at the next meeting, considering a stronger alignment with the long-term strategy
- Requested the secretariat to service and to provide the necessary meeting rooms, equipment, interpretation in the three official languages of UNECE, official documents, virtual platforms and other resources for the holding of meetings and other events as listed in the adopted workplan.
- The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 2020/3 on guiding principles for financial assistance (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.4) for the participation of, in particular, representatives from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and, as resources allow, other developing and least developed countries.

#### **Day 2, 8 December 2020, 10:00 – 12:00**

#### **Agenda item 9 – Report on the activities of the Bureau since the tenth Conference of the Parties**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of and endorsed the report on the activities of the Bureau since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/4) and took note of the activities described therein. It requested the Bureau to prepare a similar report to present at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Agenda item 10 – Progress report on assistance activities in 2019-2020**

- The Conference of the Parties:
  - Took note of and endorsed the progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/7), noting the benefits of key assistance activities organized in the framework of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
  - Took note of the implementation of the three-step approach it had decided upon at its ninth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, para. 62) and the ongoing evaluations of activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, as carried out by the secretariat.
  - Welcomed the achievements of Central Asian countries under the Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Industrial Accidents Convention (2016-2019), as evidenced by the independent external evaluation. It positively noted the continuation of support to these countries, to address existing gaps and challenges, and thanked the Russian Federation as a donor country.
  - Welcomed the initiation of establishing National Policy Dialogues on Industrial Safety, notably by countries of Central Asia (see above) and Serbia, thanks to the

support by France, and invited other beneficiaries of Assistance and Cooperation Programme to initiate such processes, and donor countries to provide the required financing, in accordance with the Convention's long-term strategy until 2030.

- Also welcomed the achievements under the Projects on strengthening the safety of mine tailings with a specific focus on the Caucasus, the Danube region, and Central Asia, and thanked Germany and Switzerland for the leadership and financing provided.
- Also welcomed the progress reported by Ukraine towards accession to the Convention. Based on the information received, it hopes to welcome Ukraine as a Party at its next meeting.

### **Agenda item 11 – Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2019-2020**

- The Conference of the Parties endorsed the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources under the Convention in 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/8). It requested the secretariat to report on the use of financial and in-kind resources in 2021–2022 at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### **Agenda item 12 – Prevention of accidental water pollution**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the activities carried out by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including on the outcome of the seminar on accidental transboundary water pollution prevention – contingency planning, early warning, mitigation (Budapest, 4 and 5 November 2019), and actions taken to strengthen cooperation with the river basin commissions. It also welcomed the publication of the Safety guidelines and good practices for the management of firefighting water in the three official languages of ECE and promotional materials.
- It also took note of the proposed activities of the Joint Expert Group, as contained in the draft workplan for the Convention for 2021–2022 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/9).

### **Agenda item 13 – UNECE Industrial Accident Notification system**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the outcomes of both the test and the consultation and the results of the seventh online consultation of the points of contact (CP.TEIA/2020/INF.4).
- It welcomed the conduct of a subregional connectivity test by Belarus in the current biennium and encouraged the organization of future connectivity tests at the sub-regional level by Parties and beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, information on which could be shared during the next online consultation.

### **Agenda item 14 – Development of the Convention**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided by the Chair that the informal consultations on the draft amendments to the Convention held during the biennium with the Parties concerned (the European Union, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Switzerland) revealed that there was no change in the positions communicated at the ninth and tenth meetings of the Conference. It invited the Parties to communicate any future change in positions to each-other and the Chair and the secretariat. The Conference requested the Chair and secretariat to provide it with any updates communicated on the matter and agreed to consider resuming its considerations on draft amendments to the Convention, as contained in the draft decision amending the Convention (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/7) in case of a change in position communicated by the concerned Parties.

### **Day 3, 9 December 2020, 10.00-12.00**

#### **Agenda item 17 – Implications of COVID-19 for industrial safety**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the outcome of a European Union/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/ECE survey on the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for industrial safety. It also took note of the information shared by delegations and invited speakers on the implications/impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for authorities and industry in the area of industrial safety and on how industry manages risks during these disruptive times.
- It called on delegations to learn from these extraordinary circumstances, so as to prevent that sudden disruption of operations leading to higher technological risks. It also invited delegations to share good practices in risk prevention, inspection and management of hazardous activities under the unprecedented situation provoked by the pandemic.

#### **Agenda item 18 – Facilitation of implementation**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the presentations made on the workplan areas “facilitation of implementation”, namely: the progress of the Small Group on Risk Assessment in elaborating reports on risk assessment methodologies for chemical installations in the UNECE region; the Convention’s contribution to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019; and cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; and developing of an information repository of good practices on land-use planning and industrial safety, in cooperation with the European Investment Bank.
- The Conference of the Parties requested the Small Group on Risk Assessment to submit, for review at its twelfth meeting, two reports on risk assessment methodologies for chemical installations in the UNECE region (one providing an introduction to risk assessment methodologies for industrial accident prevention and available software tools and another one presenting specific case studies on risk assessment methodologies applied at selected industrial facilities in the UNECE region).

#### **Agenda item 19 – Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnership**

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the secretariat’s report on targeted communication, working visits and high-level missions to Parties and other stakeholders.
- It took note of the secretariat’s report on the follow-up to the United Nations/OECD workshop on Natural Hazards Triggering Technological Accidents (NATECH) risk management (Potsdam, Germany, 5–7 September 2018), information shared on its contribution to the NATECH-III Project, implemented under the leadership of OECD and Germany, in partnership with the UNEP/OCHA Joint Unit and the European Union Joint Research Centre, and other activities, incl. the development of a dedicated webpage on Natech and the contribution to the Hazard Information Profile on Natech as part of the UNDRR Hazard Definition and Classification Review.
- The Conference of the Parties reflected on the continued importance of strategic partnerships, in view of the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030. It encouraged the maintenance and continued development of strategic partnerships with existing and new partners.

#### **Agenda item 20 – Date and venue of twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

- The Conference of the Parties entrusted the Bureau to identify a country to host the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2022, failing which the meeting will be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **Agenda item 21 - AOB**

- The Conference of the Parties considered the Convention's role in facilitating the further exchanges among countries on the follow-up to the accident in Beirut port area in August 2020, such as the organization of an online seminar, in cooperation with partner organizations, such as the OECD, UNEP/OCHA Joint Unit, and the EU Joint Research Centre.

### **Agreement with decisions taken (Agenda items 7, 8, 15 and 16)**

- The Conference of the Parties reviewed and agreed on its decisions taken. It entrusted the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of its eleventh meeting, on the basis of the decisions taken.