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# Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND SPATIAL PLANNING



**UNECE**





# **Item 9 (a): Progress report on assistance activities carried out in 2015–2016**

**Claudia Kamke, UNECE secretariat  
Industrial Accidents Convention**

9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on  
the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Ljubljana, 28-30 November 2016



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# Assistance Programme activities in 2015–2016 (1/4)

- Project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta for the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania
- Subregional workshop for Central Asia on annex I of the Convention
- Working Group Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue Steering Committee in Kazakhstan
- Workshop on industrial accident prevention in Montenegro



- Subregional workshop for South-Eastern Europe on annex I  
→ Postponed to February 2017



# Assistance Programme activities in 2015–2016 (2/4)

## Danube Delta Project (Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine)



**Hazard and crisis management week** (23-26 Mar 2015), Chisinau



**Field exercise in the Danube Delta** (1-3 Sep 2015), Giugiuurlesti (Republic of Moldova)



**Final project workshop** (20-21 Oct 2015), Bucharest

### Project outcomes (crisis management)

- Draft joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta
- Evaluation report of the table-top and field exercises
- Signature of trilateral declaration of intent (Ukraine's signature pending)

# Assistance Programme activities in 2015–2016 (3/4)

## Subregional workshop for Central Asia (in Kazakhstan)

### Objectives:

- To support implementation of the Convention's new annex I
- Segment on accidental water pollution

### Conclusions:

- Need to improve further the national legal and administrative frameworks for the identification and notification of hazardous activities
- Further steps needed to prevent and mitigate transboundary accidental water pollution (focus on tailings management facilities)



# Assistance Programme activities in 2015–2016 (4/4)



## National Policy Dialogue Steering Committee Meeting

- Held in Kazakhstan
- Focus on prevention of accidental water pollution from tailings facilities
- Participation of secretariat and Kazakh member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

### Conclusions

- Need to improve inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation for implementation of the Convention
- Nomination of relevant national authorities as competent for the implementation of the Convention

## Workshop on industrial accident prevention in Montenegro

- Led by Slovenia to support implementation of Seveso III Directive and Industrial Accidents Convention
- Hands-on training for identification of hazardous activities
- Review of progress in implementing Convention, using Strategic Approach indicators and criteria

### Conclusions

- Improve legal & administrative framework regulating industrial accidents prevention
- Set up preliminary list of hazardous activities, start dialogue with operators



# Assistance activities with or by others

- Hazard Mapping in Armenia
- Environmental safety of gas and oil pipelines in Belarus (Sep 2015)
- Information on hazardous chemicals to ensure sound chemicals management in Georgia
- Environmental Emergencies Preparedness in Georgia



# Other assistance activities

- Activities to address risk management at tailings management facilities
- Activities of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents to support the application of safety guidelines and checklists and to provide assistance for workshops, seminars and exercises





# **Item item 9 (b): Assessment of the Assistance Programme's effectiveness and future development**

**Sandra Ashcroft, Chair of the Working Group on Implementation**  
**Claudia Kamke, Industrial Accidents Convention secretariat**  
**Jasmina Karba, Chair of the Conference of the Parties**

9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents

Ljubljana, 28-30 November 2016



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# Background and Mandate

## Assistance Programme and its effectiveness

### Background

- Assistance Programme adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Parties in 2004
- Aims to enhance the efforts of countries with economies in transition to improve their levels of industrial safety, in particular through the implementation of the Convention
- 2014: 10 years of the Assistance Programme – High-level segment at 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties

### Mandate by CoP8

- 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties requested Working Group on Implementation, with support of Bureau and secretariat, to carry out an analytical review to determine whether there was sufficient information available to document and assess the Programme's effectiveness
- Working Group was requested to assess also the need for an independent external evaluation of the Programme

# Deliberations of the Working Group (1/4)

## 1. Analytical review

- Identification of quantitative indicators
- Compilation of information on the quantitative indicators for all Assistance Programme countries, with the support of the secretariat
  - See tables 1–7 in annex of the official background document
  - Compiled in a (relatively) short time with limited effort
- Compilation of qualitative information for 4 case studies (1 per subregion)
  - Implementation reports, self-assessments, action plans, reports from workshops, exercises, inspections projects, etc.
  - Compilation with much more effort
- Review and analysis of the information
- Sharing of progress made and findings with the Convention's Bureau



# Deliberations of the Working Group (2/4)

## 2. Key findings from quantitative indicators

- No. of Parties to the Convention has risen over the years, while no. of Assistance Programme beneficiary countries has remained constant
- Implementation reports were submitted regularly within the evaluation period 2004–2015 by half of the countries with economies in transition
- Positive effect of the adoption of the commitment declaration at the High-level Commitment Meeting in 2005 on reporting
- Of 15 countries currently benefiting from the Assistance Programme, 11 submitted self-assessments and 7 submitted action plans
- 4 countries have not submitted a self-assessment and action plan
- Less information available for Central Asia than for other subregions
- Some indicators seem to have more explanatory value than others

# Deliberations of the Working Group (3/4)

## 3. Key findings from case studies

- Information available varies significantly per country, depending on the intensity of assistance provided and the regularity with which self-assessments, action plans and implementation reports were submitted
- Based on the information available, it is difficult to assess the national progress made, and thus the effectiveness of the Programme, following the implementation of an assistance activity
- To allow a full assessment of the effectiveness of the Programme, there is a need to collect further information on the progress made after an assistance activity and the impact it has had
- The progress made after the implementation of assistance activities was higher in countries where longer-term projects were implemented

# Deliberations of the Working Group (4/4)

## 4. Conclusions

- Complete assessment of the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme would require quantitative and qualitative indicators.
  - Show a causal effect between the implementation of an assistance activity and improvement in industrial safety in a beneficiary country
- There are gaps for some countries and thus a need for additional quantitative and qualitative information to assess fully the Programme's effectiveness
- Currently no need for an external evaluation of the Programme's effectiveness
- Working Group believes it will receive further information from countries, and thus close the information gaps, when pursuing a more rigorous approach to monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the Assistance Programme



# Deliberations of the Bureau (1/2)

## Other factors influencing the implementation of the Assistance Programme

- Changes in the economic and political landscape of beneficiary countries since the inception of the Programme, which may affect their commitment
- Inadequate staffing and availability of resources in the beneficiary countries
- Administrative burden of implementing the Strategic Approach, subject to complicated procedures of authorization by various competent authorities
- Attention of countries increasingly geared towards implementing EU projects which provide for large-scale funding for several years
- Limited, unpredictable and irregular financial contributions for the Programme, preventing sustainable planning of activities and placing a significant burden on the secretariat's administrative capacity
- Assistance Programme mainly targeted at national and local authorities to meet the Convention's obligations, and not specifically at vital stakeholders, such as industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public
- Low visibility of the Convention in beneficiary countries ("niche" legislation)

# Deliberations of the Bureau (2/2)

## Conclusions regarding the Assistance Programme

- Assistance Programme, with its structured approach, is an asset to the Convention and important for enhancing industrial safety throughout the UNECE region
- Strategic Approach, with its benchmarks, has not been used systematically by the countries, likely owing to the insufficient perception of these tools as beneficial
- Co-financing (in cash or in kind) by the beneficiary countries of the projects is important to increase ownership and synergies
- Consider the repositioning or rebranding of the Assistance Programme and a simplified way of implementing the Strategic Approach
- Avoid duplication of work and consider synergies, including with activities financed by EU and development cooperation agencies
- Need to make use of strategic partnerships and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements, international and regional organizations and initiatives
- Need for continued involvement of experts from Parties to decrease the burden on the secretariat in implementing assistance activities
- Sustainable and predictable financing for the Programme is key for planning and implementation of activities

# Proposed way forward (1/2)

## Improving the design and appeal of the Assistance Programme

### **1. Simplification of the design of the Assistance Programme and the Strategic Approach to improve its implementation**

- Further encourage countries to use the user-friendly version of the benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention
- Introduce simplified procedures for gathering and verifying information on the implementation of the Strategic Approach

### **2. Improved funding and efficiency of the Assistance Programme**

- Develop larger-scale and longer-term project proposals by Bureau and secretariat, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation
- Engage a broader base of donors
- Explore and use Internet-based training and information tools (online training courses, webinars)
- Enhance cooperation with strategic partners and explore outsourcing certain activities to partners



# Proposed way forward (2/2)

## Improving the design and appeal of the Assistance Programme

### 3. Improved visibility of the Convention and its Assistance Programme

- Advertise the linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Cooperate with NGOs and relevant stakeholders in defining the interlinkages between public information and participation and industrial security and safety
- Further develop and contribute to guidance and training materials on the implementation of aspects of the Convention, individually or with partners
- Develop a marketing strategy for the Convention and Assistance Programme
- Enhance cooperation with industry in areas of common interest (e.g., guidance notes, training and safety standards)
- Request high-level feedback from beneficiary countries on the progress made after an assistance activity and future needs
- Organize a high-level segment on the Assistance Programme during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

# Proposed next steps

1. Working Group to pursue in its next term 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 beneficiaries
2. Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, to request **high-level feedback from beneficiary countries** 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 present document, the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group, to 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 Conference of the Parties
3. Following implementation of steps 2 and 3, Conference of the Parties could **revisit the issue** at its eleventh meeting in autumn 2020

# Thank you for your attention





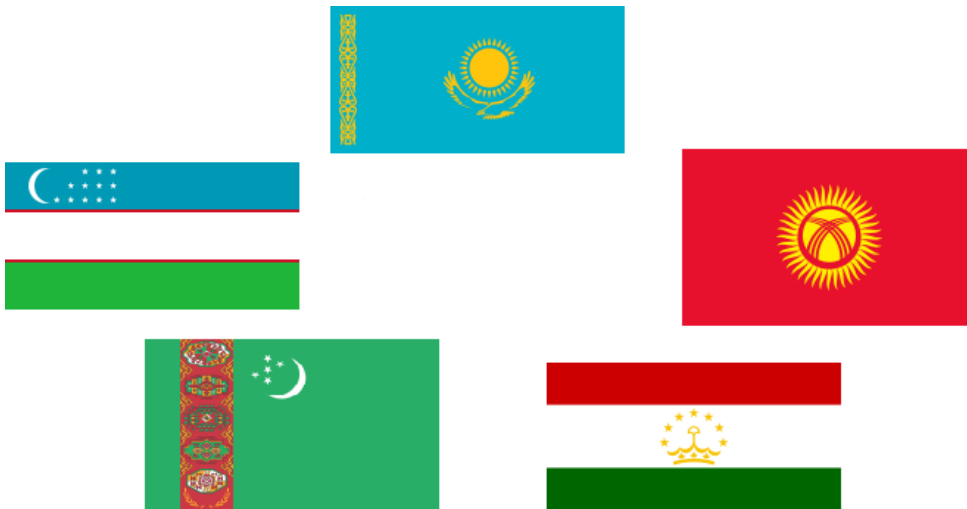
## Item 9. Assistance

Project “Strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents”



# Scope of the Project

Aims to strengthen the implementation of and accession to the Convention in Central Asia



## Expected outcomes

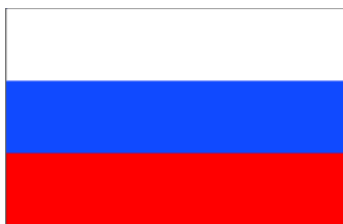
- Raised awareness and improved understanding of the requirements of the Convention and industrial safety by key target groups in the countries
- Enhanced capacities for assessment of industrial safety and development of national action plans for the implementation of and accession to the Convention
- One self-assessment undertaken by each country
- One action plan on industrial safety developed by each country
- Enhanced transboundary cooperation in Central Asia

# Expected Project Timeline

International and most national experts for the project have been identified.

Some of national experts are still to be nominated for the full start of the project as of 2017

Implemented with the generous support of the Russian Federation



<b>November 2016</b>	Kick-off here
<b>March 2017 – January 2018</b>	Preparation of a guide on Convention's key requirements, with engagement of international experts
<b>March 2017 – May 2018</b>	Preparation of national self-assessments, in each of the countries, with the engagement of national experts and the conduct of national expert group meetings
<b>July – September 2018</b>	Preparation of national action plans with the engagement of national experts
<b>September 2018</b>	Final subregional workshop in Kyrgyzstan
<b>January – March 2019</b>	Project evaluation



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