

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Implementation

Thirtieth meeting

Geneva, 27 and 28 April 2016

Annotated provisional agenda of the thirtieth meeting

**To be held in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations,* on 27 April, starting at 9.30 a.m.
and ending on 28 April at 5 p.m.**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the national implementation reports.
3. Preparation of the eighth report on implementation.
4. Areas of follow-up from the seventh report on implementation.
5. Draft decision clarifying the reporting requirements under the Convention.
6. Draft terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation.
7. Assistance Programme – Status of action items from the previous meeting of the Working Group and next steps.
8. Other business.
9. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

The Working Group on Implementation is expected to review national implementation reports, received for the eighth round of reporting on the Convention, and to plan its work for the period up to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe secretariat in agreement with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

* The meeting will be held in room S1.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will open the meeting and invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Review of the national implementation reports

The secretariat will introduce this agenda item and brief the meeting on the status of reports received from Parties and non-Parties to the Convention.

Members of the Working Group will be invited to present their assessments and conclusions¹ of the sections which were assigned to them. At its last meeting, the Working Group decided to divide the work on reviewing the national implementation reports according to the sections of the reports, as follows:

Topic	Working Group members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for implementation of the Convention • Scientific and technological cooperation and exchange of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sandra Ashcroft (United Kingdom) • Mr. Peter Westerbeek (Netherlands)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and notification of hazardous activities with the potential to cause transboundary effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia) • Ms. Lina Buciene (Lithuania)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of industrial accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Martin Merkofer (Switzerland) • Ms. Anna Tsarina (Russian Federation)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency preparedness and response • Mutual assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Evgeny Baranovsky (Belarus) • Ms. Helena Fridh (Sweden)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of the public • Decision-making on siting • Reporting on past industrial accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hrvoje Buljan (Croatia) • Mr. Leo Iberl (Germany)

3. Preparation of the eighth report on implementation

The Working Group will discuss the next steps for the preparation of the eighth report on the implementation of the Convention, based on the findings discussed during the meeting. For its further planning, the Working Group should bear in mind the following:

(a) The word limit of 10,700 words for the report to be issued as an official document to allow that the detailed analysis of the different sections and the general conclusions could be maintained in one official document. Contrary to the previous biennium, no additional informal document will be issued;

(b) The report needs to be submitted to the Bureau, for discussion at its next meeting (Ljubljana, 29–30 June 2016), before its finalization and submission to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016).

¹ All members of the Working Group are also requested to provide their assessments to the secretariat no later than one week before the meeting, preferably before 18 April 2016.

4. Areas of follow-up from the seventh report on implementation

The Working Group might wish to discuss, based on information provided by the Vice-Chair, to which extent the areas for follow-up identified in the seventh report on the implementation of the Convention have been addressed in the 2015-2016 workplan and whether further actions should be taken in this regard.

5. Draft decision clarifying the reporting requirements under the Convention

The Working Group on Implementation had been requested by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting to prepare a draft decision clarifying the reporting requirements under the Convention. At its previous meeting, the Working Group agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties a change in the reporting cycle from two to four years. This information was presented to the Working Group on Development at its sixth meeting (Geneva, 30 November-2 December 2015) and to the EU Seveso Expert Group at its fourth meeting (Brussels, 14-15 January 2016), which both welcomed it. The Working Group will be invited to discuss this and further elements of the draft decision, which will then be prepared by the secretariat in advance of the Working Group's next meeting for its review.

Mr. Iberl will present a proposal for the possible transition of the biannual reporting period towards a four-year reporting cycle, harmonized with the term of the members of the Working Group on Implementation. Participants will be invited to discuss the proposal, keeping in mind the reporting cycle and modalities for the EU Seveso III Directive. They will be invited to discuss next steps for its implementation.

6. Draft terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation

The Working Group on Development at its sixth meeting continued its exchange of views on the possible introduction of a compliance mechanism, based on the outcome of the deliberations by the Working Group on Implementation provided by its Chair. The Working Group on Development agreed that the Working Group on Implementation should continue monitoring and identifying deficiencies in the implementation of the Convention and should engage in providing support to Parties and committed countries, for instance, through recommendations for strengthening the implementation of the Convention, within the framework of its mandate. In that regard, it recommended that the terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation be updated to ensure that it could support Parties and committed countries in strengthening their implementation of the Convention most effectively. The Working Group on Development further recommended that that could be achieved within the current review of the terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.²

The Working Group on Implementation might wish to discuss the recommendation from the Working Group on Development as well as the next steps for the finalization of its draft terms of reference.

² The Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting requested the Bureau to review the terms of reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies, and to prepare revised terms of reference for review and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/30, para. 48).

7. Assistance Programme – Status of action items from the previous meeting of the Working Group and next steps

The secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, will provide a status report on progress made towards the implementation of action items from the last meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group is expected to discuss the status of the following action items, agree on the next steps and reconfirm and agree on responsibilities:

- (i) Assessment of the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme;
- (ii) Feedback on the self-assessments and action plans provided to countries (Albania, Armenia, Serbia and Uzbekistan);
- (iii) Communication from Georgia regarding the submission of a project proposal.

8. Other business

Members of the Working Group wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Closing of the meeting

The Chair will close the meeting at about 5 p.m. on 28 April 2016.
