

External evaluation of the project “**Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**” (June 2019)

Progress report as at 30 June 2020

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	The UNECE needs to support the Central Asian countries (CAC) in addressing the challenges linked to the implementation of and accession to the Convention with a long-term support which extend over a considerable number of years with each phase building on the results and lessons learned of the previous ones since the nature of the industrial safety related issues in Central Asia is complex and requires long-term efforts.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention’s workplan for 2019-2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/7) adopted at COP-10 includes respective activities aimed at helping the beneficiary countries address the subsequent difficulties and challenges linked to the implementation of and accession to the Convention.</p> <p>The Convention’s Working Group on Implementation (WGI), serviced by the secretariat, to continue monitoring closely the developments in each of the CAC, encourage countries to submit updated self-assessments and action plans reflecting any new developments as well as to submit project proposals aimed to address specific needs of individual countries and the subregion.</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Convention secretariat pursues the implementation of the Convention’s workplan, which has placed a great emphasis on helping CAC address the difficulties and challenges linked to the Convention’s implementation and accession to it. As such, the secretariat finalized and published the Guide on the implementation of the Convention for Central Asia in its original version (Russian, developed under the Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention) and translated it into English and French.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is implementing other projects under the Convention’s workplan to support CAC in addressing more specific industrial safety challenges, namely the Projects on improving mining/tailings safety in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia.</p> <p>From among CAC only Uzbekistan has submitted its national implementation report covering the period of 2016-2018 to date. Reminder letters have been sent by the secretariat to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. At its Fortieth meeting held online on 12-13 May 2020, the Convention’s Working Group on Implementation, serviced by the secretariat, held a teleconference with Kazakhstan (the only Party from among the CAC) whereby the country confirmed its</p>

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					plans to submit its national implementation report promptly.
2	<p>The UNECE Convention's secretariat needs to continue communications with the national authorities responsible for industrial safety and transboundary cooperation and has to involve all industrial safety actors in the future similar projects design and implementation to maintain the momentum for enhancing the commitment of the CAC in the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat to continue to include CAC in communication on the Convention's activities. The Project manager and the Convention's Secretary to continue fundraising efforts aiming to secure funding for the Project "National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Industrial Safety for Central Asia," which would meet CAC's needs for strengthened inter-institutional cooperation, enhanced governance and more coherent policy-making. NPDs are part of the Convention's long-term strategy until 2030, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018) and included in the Convention's workplan for 2019-2020 (see ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1).</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p>December 2020</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat was informed in late April 2020 by the Russian Federation that the country would be in a position to provide funding for the first phase of the Project "National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Industrial Safety for Central Asia". The funding is expected to cover the period August 2020-December 2021 in the course of which the Project will be launched, commitment and ownership by the beneficiary countries (CAC) ensured and advisory services on reviewing national policies and legislation, in view of alignment with UNECE and national legal requirements, and other related policy areas in all beneficiary countries, provided. The Convention's secretariat plans to resubmit a project proposal to the donor for phase II of the Project, following the completion of Phase I, in order to allow for the full implementation of NPDs in all five beneficiary countries with the view of addressing their needs and challenges - which were revealed in the course of the implementation of the Project "Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents" (2016-2019). Furthermore, countries' needs are known to the secretariat through communication with the national authorities responsible for industrial safety and transboundary cooperation in the CAC.</p> <p>The secretariat continues to actively engage with the CAC's national authorities and advocate for increased implementation of and accession to the Convention by the CAC, notably through the implementation of dedicated projects (further to the above Project, also the Projects on improving mining tailings safety in</p>

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					Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia and the Project on improving mine tailings safety in Central Asia), direct communication and through extensive network of regional partners (e.g. the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Interstate Council on Industrial Safety, Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty etc.)
3	The UNECE needs to promote the message that effective industrial accidents hazard and risk management is linked to development planning per se and requires the streamlining of industrial safety risk and prevention throughout development and environment programming. The way forward would be by enhanced mainstreaming of the objectives of the UNECE Convention, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat, through assistance activities, to continue increasing awareness and the level of implementation of relevant international legal instruments, such as the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In 2019-2020 this will be done, notably through the Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia, and similar Project for Tajikistan. It will also continue to raise awareness of the linkages to Agenda 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety, through the subregional workshops on Land-use Planning and Industrial Safety (for Eastern Europe and Caucasus, May 2019, Chisinau; for South-Eastern Europe, spring 2020, Belgrade (tbc); and for Central Asia (tbc, if funding becomes available). The implementation of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in CACs would enable enhanced mainstreaming of the Convention's</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	<p>In progress</p> <p>Under the UNECE project on supporting CAC in strengthening mine tailings safety, an inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and prevention of water pollution is planned to be established in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (the implementation of the related activities in the countries has been preliminarily planned for the end of 2020 or early 2021 in view of the developing COVID-19 situation). These activities will contribute to fostering the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, both serviced by UNECE and improving of awareness of linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with participants from other CAC (notably, Uzbekistan), attending and actively participating too.</p> <p>The Sub-Regional Workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (May 2019) raised awareness of the linkages to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety. A representative of Kyrgyzstan who attended the workshop expressed the need for a sub-</p>

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		<p>objectives with the policy commitments under Agenda 2030.</p>			<p>regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for countries of Central Asia and offered to host such an activity. Such an activity for the CAC has been included in the draft workplan for the next biennium (2021-22). I. A subregional workshop for countries of South-Eastern Europe which was supposed to take place in March 2020 was moved to October 2020 in view of the pandemic. It will also highlight linkages to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety.</p> <p>Further streamlining of industrial safety risk and prevention throughout development and environment programming can be fostered through NPDs on Industrial Safety planned for the sub-regions of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as part of the Convention's long-term strategy until 2030 and the workplan (subject to availability of funding). The NPD launch meeting in Serbia is planned for October 2020. Further support to other countries is dependent on available financing.</p>
4	<p>The UNECE Convention's secretariat should maintain a continued dialogue with the sub-regional Centre for Emergency Situation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), CIS ICIS and other relevant regional and sub-regional partners and donor organizations for the joint effort aimed at sustaining the results achieved and</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat is an official observer at the meetings of the CIS Interstate Council on Industrial Safety (CIS ICIS) and regularly participates in its meetings since 2014. The secretariat will participate in the upcoming meeting of the Council in September 2019 and the presentation of the results of the Central Asian Project is included in the meeting's</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p>December 2020</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Industrial Accidents Convention cooperates closely with a number of regional organizations striving to reduce the risk of technological disaster risks and prevent industrial accidents from happening. Such organisations include the Centre for Emergency Situation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) in Almaty, the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety, Regional Environmental Centre for Asia (CAREC).</p>

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	<p>coordinate further support to the countries concerned. In the longer term the feasibility of a suitable sub-regional organization acting as a sub-regional hub or platform for the exchange of lessons learned, best practices and advanced knowledge in industrial safety could be explored.</p>	<p>agenda. Moreover, the secretariat of the Convention actively engages in cooperation with the Chairs of the Council to encourage the country holding the chairmanship (rotating) to actively promote the accession to the Convention among non-Parties members of the Council and an increased implementation among all Members of the Council.</p> <p>The secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention to continue to actively engage with a broad range of relevant actors for increased industrial safety and transboundary cooperation in 2019-2020.</p>			<p>The Convention's secretariat has exchanged the letters of cooperation with the CESDRR (December 2018) and is cooperating with the Center closely. The Center will be invited to participate in the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11). It is also planned that the Centre will continue to host relevant assistance activities for the CAC. Close partnership with the CIS ICIS is on-going with the secretariat's regular attendance of its annual meetings and presentation of the on-going and planned assistance activities, notably under technical cooperation projects for the CAC. The secretariat has been invited to attend the upcoming XVIII meeting of the ICIS (September 2020). The ICIS Chair will also be invited to the upcoming COP-11.</p>
5	<p>For the future similar projects UNECE should encourage and promote the development and/or improvement of existing industrial safety governance arrangements in the way which could facilitate the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention. Industrial safety, including its transboundary dimension, has to be clearly conceptualized by appropriate governance (legislation, policy, strategy, standards etc.) in the countries of Central Asia.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE has designed a follow-up project based on the remaining needs of the CAC following the implementation of the 2016-2019 Central Asia Project. This follow-up project intends to address the need to strengthen industrial safety in Central Asia, by improving the respective governance mechanisms and policy making. The objective is to effectively assist countries by providing a platform for dialogue in view of advancing policy reforms and enhancing their environmental governance, disaster resilience and industrial safety. The main impact will be the improved national, regional and transboundary coordination, governance arrangements and</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat will start the launch of the National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Industrial Safety for Central Asia as of August 2020 (subject to receipt of respective funds from the donor (the Russian Federation which has confirmed such plans). It is expected that through the implementation of this project the NPDs will be launched in all CAC with high-level commitment and full ownership on the side of the beneficiary countries. Subject to further donor financial support, Phase II of the Project (envisaged for 2022-2024) will contribute to the improvement of existing industrial safety governance arrangements and facilitate the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention by the CAC.</p> <p>Furthermore, the implementation of the TMF safety projects for the CAC funded by the respective donor country (Switzerland) will promote the appropriate governance in the field of industrial safety, specifically</p>

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		<p>management of industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response in CAC.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat to continue its outreach to potential donors and efforts to raise necessary funds for the implementation of the project aiming at improving the existing industrial safety governance. The project activities will be tailored to country-specific needs which are tracked by the secretariat and the Convention's WGI. The Russian Federation appears to be the obvious partner for the implementation of a follow-up project, given the geographical proximity and the transboundary dimension as well as the experience gained by experts, which have participated in the first phase of the project.</p>			<p>that of mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution. While this work addresses a very specific aspect of industrial safety risk, the Project on NPDs for Industrial Safety for CAC will allow to strengthen governance and policy-making in the field of industrial safety more comprehensively in all CAC.</p>
6	<p>The establishment and continuous holding of National and Sub-regional Policy Dialogues for industrial safety could be an effective way to provide support to countries in coherent and risk-informed policy-making for industrial safety across different sectors in direct follow-up to the completion of the Project and to support the implementation of activities set out in the national action plans developed during the Project.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Indeed, The Convention's long-term strategy until 2030 envisages the establishment of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs).</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat to actively pursue the mobilization of funding for the launch of NPDs for Central Asia as of 2020 and the establishment of a steady and sustainable process of consultations on industrial safety, accident prevention, disaster risk reduction and emergency response with relevant national institutions,</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p>December 2020</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>As per its workplan for 2019-2020 adopted at the COP-10, the Convention's secretariat remains ready to start implementing the Project on national policy dialogues for industrial safety in Central Asia as soon as the dedicated funding is received. This Project (Phase 1, to launch the NPD process, funded by the Russian Federation) and an envisaged Phase 2 (implementation of the NPD process, which would naturally follow as of 2022) has also been included in the draft workplan for 2021-2022 to be adopted at the upcoming COP-11 (1-3 December 2020).</p>



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		non-governmental organizations, industry representatives, parliamentary bodies, and other national stakeholders thereon.			