

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Forty-fourth meeting

Geneva (online), 18 September 2020, a.m.

Annotated provisional agenda of the forty-fourth meeting

To be held remotely via Webex, 9:00 – 12:00

Registration for webex will open at 8:45.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
 - (a) Practical arrangements
 - (b) Operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making
 - (c) Membership of the Bureau
 - (d) Amendment of the Convention
 - (e) Implementation of the 2019–2020 workplan in view of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - (f) Resource mobilization for 2021–2022 workplan
3. Other business
4. Closing of the meeting

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in consultation with the Chair of the Bureau. The Chair will open the meeting and introduce the meeting etiquette. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The main purpose of the meeting will be to review and plan for the different scenarios and steps to be taken in organizing the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-11)

in light of the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair, supported by the secretariat, will inform the Bureau about the preparations and different options for CoP-11.

(a) Practical arrangements

The secretariat will provide an update on the practical arrangements for CoP-11. Germany has informed the secretariat that it is no longer in the position to host the meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At its forty-third meeting (online, 16–17 June 2020), the Bureau discussed options for the organization of CoP-11 with remote participation and decision-making due to the extraordinary circumstances. With respect to the new location of the meeting and related options, the secretariat will present scenarios and next steps to be taken for preparing CoP-11. On this basis, the Bureau will be invited to discuss and decide on the way forward.

The secretariat will also present an updated provisional agenda with the updated list of official decisions for adoption at CoP-11 (see b).

Documentation:

- Draft annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/41)

(b) Operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making

The secretariat will present a draft addendum to the rules of procedure of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that set out operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, infection control measures and travel restrictions prevent or limit Parties from physically participating in meetings. The secretariat, with regards to the Bureau's discussion on remote participation and decision-making at its forty-third meeting, prepared the draft addendum to supplement the rules of procedure for holding inter-governmental meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and any other future extraordinary circumstances. The draft addendum was prepared according to the procedures and practices of meetings under the Convention, and with consideration of international good practices of procedures adopted and applied by inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations, including ECE, for taking decisions and holding elections remotely due to extraordinary circumstances.

The Bureau will be invited to review and discuss the draft addendum. Thereafter, the draft addendum will then be updated and circulated to all the Parties, as part of the official documentation. The Parties will be requested to communicate their comments on the document prior to CoP-11. At CoP-11, the document should then be adopted by the Parties.

Documentation:

- Operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/11)

(c) Membership of the Bureau

The Bureau members will be invited to provide updates on submissions of candidatures for nomination of Bureau membership 2021–2022, as agreed at the forty-third meeting of the Bureau, and to share information on their intentions. The secretariat will be invited to update the Bureau on nominations and indications received from the Parties.

(d) Amendment of the Convention

The Bureau members will be presented with the factsheet on the amendment, prepared by the secretariat, following the Bureau's request to summarize information contained in CoP and Bureau reports.

The Chair will also share information on the prospective informal meeting with the Russian Federation and Parties who supported the amendment, notably the EU, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Switzerland and Serbia, regarding the amendment and her intentions following the forty-fourth meeting of the Bureau.

Documentation:

- Factsheet on the amendment to the Convention

(e) Implementation of the workplan in view of COVID-19 pandemic

The secretariat will provide an update on implementation of the workplan for 2019–2020, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. This will include information on the prolongation of projects and the changes to and postponements of activities. The Bureau will be invited to reflect on and discuss these matters.

Documentation:

- Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1)

(f) Resource mobilization for 2021–2022 workplan

The Bureau members will be requested to provide information on their intentions to provide financing to support the implementation of the 2021–2022 workplan, and to lead respective workplan items. The secretariat will inform the Bureau of funded and unfunded activities, and intentions communicated by Parties to date. The Bureau will be invited to take note, and discuss further resource mobilization options and actions to help ensure activities under the 2021–2022 workplan will be funded.

3. Other business

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

4. Closing of the meeting

The Bureau is expected to confirm the date and location of its next session, with the understanding that a new composition of the Bureau would be elected at CoP-11, before the Chair formally closes the session.