

1 February 2021
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Forty-sixth meeting

Geneva (online), 23 February 2021

Annotated provisional agenda of the forty-sixth meeting

To be held remotely (through WebEx), starting at 2 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Operating procedures
3. Follow-up to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
 - (a) Representation
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4. Workplan for 2021–2022
 - (a) Resource availability, requirements and staffing
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 - (c) Activities to be carried out under the Convention in 2021–2022
5. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG): Election of the Chair and planned activities
6. Long-term strategy and communication, outreach and engagement strategy
7. Adjusted format of the future workplan 2023–2024
8. Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
9. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2021–2022
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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

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

Following the opening of the meeting by the Chair and the secretariat, Bureau members, as well as the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation (WGI), traditionally invited to attend the meetings of the Bureau, will be invited to present themselves.

2. Operating procedures

The secretariat will recall the adoption of the operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making, which apply to proceedings of the Bureau before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties when extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic limit in-person participation.

Documentation:

- 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/42/Add.1 and ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.5)

3. Follow-up to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The secretariat will present the report of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau will be invited to consider selected issues meriting attention in follow-up to the eleventh meeting.

Documentation:

- Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eleventh meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/42)
- Addendum to the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eleventh meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1)

(a) Representation

The Bureau will be invited to discuss representation at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (38 out of 41 Parties) and the submission of credentials (34 Parties submitted advance copies of credentials; and 25 Parties submitted original credentials by the submission of the present document) in line with the rules of procedure and operating procedures, namely paragraph 14.

Documentation:

- Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/37)
- 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/42/Add.1 and ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.5)

(b) Evaluation of the meeting and lessons learned

The secretariat will present a summary of the evaluation forms received for the eleventh meeting, which included questions on the advance information session (30 October 2020). The Bureau will be invited to share its views and to review the organizational arrangements that were made for the meeting, including the special arrangements that were made due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and suggest actions to address any perceived shortcomings. The Bureau will also be invited to share its views on the substantive outcomes of the eleventh meeting.

(c) Membership of the Bureau

The Bureau will be invited to review its membership from the point of view of geographical representation and gender.

4. Workplan for 2021–2022

The Bureau will be invited to examine the workplan for 2021–2022, finalized by the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, and to suggest how gaps may be filled, particularly in terms of leadership of activities and additional contributions required to implement them.

Documentation:

- Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2021–2022 (ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1 and ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.3)

(a) Resource availability, requirements and staffing

The Bureau will be invited to consider the resource requirements for the implementation of the activities funded, as per the pledges and indications received at the eleventh meeting, and available funding, of which the secretariat will present an overview. The secretariat will also present to the Bureau the available and envisaged staff resources needed to implement the planned activities. The Bureau will be invited to consider further efforts to attract resources to enable full implementation of the workplan. It will also be invited to reflect on actions to promote decision 2018/2 on fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention.

Documentation:

- Decision 2018/2 on fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1)

(b) Planned activities of the Bureau in 2021–2022 and organization of work

The Bureau is expected to review the tasks assigned to it by the Conference of the Parties, through decisions taken at the eleventh meeting. It will be invited to reflect on the organization of work, including the following:

- (i) Role of the Chair and Vice-Chairs;
- (ii) Continuation of the small group on financing;
- (iii) Continuation of the small group on risk assessment;
- (iv) Establishment of a small group on disaster risk reduction (DRR)/natural hazards triggering technological disasters (Natech) to advise on the preparation of a joint session at the European Forum on DRR and a possible seminar at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

- (v) Establishment of a small group to support the preparation for a seminar to follow-up on the Beirut accident (for discussion also at the ensuing joint Bureau and WGI meeting); and
- (vi) Any other small groups to be established.

(c) Activities to be carried out under the Convention in 2021–2022

The Bureau is expected to review and provide guidance on the envisaged activities to be carried out under the Convention, of which the secretariat will present an overview, building on the structure of the workplan (apart from the activities which are planned to be discussed during the joint meeting on the following day). The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the planning of activities and to provide advice on, *inter alia*:

- (i) Outreach and awareness-raising, including dedicated meetings with donors;
- (ii) Continuing and enhancing strategic partnerships;
- (iii) Facilitation of implementation: Actions to enhance contributions to the Sendai process, including the organization of a joint session, together with the OECD Working Party on Chemical Accidents, at the European Forum on DRR (Matosinhos, Portugal, 24–26 November 2021);
- (iv) Natech risk management: Continuing cooperation with OECD, UNEP/OCHA and EU JRC on the Natech-III project, including the possible organization of a seminar at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (v) Land-use planning and industrial safety: Continuing promotion of information repository, including with reference to and consideration of the applicability of case studies.¹
- (vi) Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) system: required upgrade and options

Documentation:

- Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2021–2022 (ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1 and ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.3)
- Background note for the session on technological DRR for the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (Matosinhos, Portugal, 24–26 November 2021)

5. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG): Election of the Chair and planned activities

In accordance with the JEG Strategy, the Bureau will be invited to elect a new Co-Chair of the JEG for the Industrial Accidents Convention, given that the former Chair is no longer available. At CoP-11, Serbia announced its readiness to nominate Mr. Bojan Srdic, current JEG member, as a candidate for the Co-Chair in 2021–2022. The Bureau will be invited to consider the nomination and to elect the Co-Chair.

With the presence of the elected Co-Chair and in line with the JEG Strategy and related key-decisions agreed in 2019, the Bureau will be invited to provide guidance to the carrying out of activities by the JEG in the biennium, including on:

- (i) Follow-up to the nomination of new JEG members;
- (ii) Strengthening cooperation with the river basin commission; and

¹ The information repository is available at <https://unece.org/information-repository-good-practices-and-lessons-learned-land-use-planning-and-industrial-safety>.

- (iii) Organization of a JEG meeting in 2022.

Documentation:

- Summary of key decisions on the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents taken at the 42nd meeting of the Bureau to the Industrial Accidents Convention (Oslo, 26-27 September 2019)
- JEG strategy (2009):
https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/teia/water/JEG/Strategy_JEG.pdf

6. Long-term strategy and communication, outreach and engagement strategy

The Bureau will be invited to reflect on how the planned activities in the biennium 2021–2022 will support the implementation of the long-term strategy until 2030 going forward, and how to implement and raise awareness among focal points of the communication, outreach and engagement strategy.

Documentation:

- Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1)
- Communication, outreach and engagement strategy for the Industrial Accidents Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1)

7. Adjusted format of the future workplan 2023–2024

The Bureau will be invited to have an initial discussion on a proposed adjustment to the format of the future workplan, to increasingly differentiate between core and non-core activities and increasingly align with the long-term strategy, in view of the related proposal by the European Union and decision by the eleventh meeting. The Bureau will be invited to share its ideas and views and to advise on the further process for discussing this matter at its following meetings, in the lead-up to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

8. Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

In accordance with the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau will be invited to have an initial discussion on the arrangements for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in November/December 2022, including the organization of a dedicated seminar, e.g. on Natech (see 4c) iv) above). It will be invited to consider the further arrangements for identifying a host country.

9. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2021–2022

The Bureau will decide on its schedule of meetings and discuss possible dates and venues. It is proposed that the Bureau will meet in fall 2021, and then again in end-spring/early summer 2022, to review preparations for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Bureau members are invited to consider hosting Bureau meetings, to the extent feasible.

10. Other business

Members of the Bureau wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat.

11. Closure of the meeting

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 23 February 2021 at 6 p.m.
