

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)

**Final Progress Report as at 31 December 2020**

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	<b>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.</b>	<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	<b>Implemented by 31 December 2020</b>	<p>The Convention secretariat pursued the implementation of the Convention’s workplan 2019-2020 (<a href="#">ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1</a>), which placed great emphasis on helping the Central Asian countries (CAC) address the difficulties and challenges linked to the Convention’s implementation and accession to it.</p> <p>Forward-looking, the secretariat included in the workplan for 2021-2022 (see addendum to meeting report ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1, forthcoming, based on in-session document <a href="#">ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/L.3</a>) adopted at eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11, Geneva and online, 7-9 December 2020) projects and activities aimed at strengthening industrial safety in the CAC aiming to address the challenges linked to the implementation of and accession to the Convention (such as Project on National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) for industrial safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) (as a follow-up to the Project on Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia), Project on supporting Central Asian countries’ efforts to strengthen the safety of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs) (continuation), Project on strengthening the safety of TMFs in Tajikistan, Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety in Central Asia, Project on strengthening NATECH risk management in Central Asia etc.).</p> <p>All these activities and Projects are based on the needs voiced by the CAC and aim to provide long-term support for enhanced industrial safety in the CAC and in the subregion on the whole. At COP-11, representatives of the CAC acknowledged their progress in the implementation of the Convention, notably thanks to the Convention’s Assistance and Cooperation Programme. Notably, representatives of</p>

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					<p>Kazakhstan and Tajikistan acknowledged the importance of activities under the Programme, including the project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, the project on strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular TMFs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, and beyond in Central Asia, and the new Project on NPDs for industrial safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch ).</p> <p>Delegates noted that such projects contributed to knowledge- and experience-sharing, for the benefit of harmonizing national procedures and strengthening transboundary cooperation and highlighted that the Assistance and Cooperation Programme was an important means for enhancing industrial safety in the Central Asian subregion. A representative of the Russian Federation also acknowledged that the work under the Project allowed CAC to strengthen industrial safety and the Convention's Chair acknowledged CAC's successes in the Project implementation. COP-11 welcomed the achievements of the CAC under the Project, as evidenced by the independent external evaluation and positively noted the continuation of support to these countries, to address existing gaps and challenges.</p> <p>More information is available in the COP report (ECE/CP.TEIA/42, forthcoming).</p>
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</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p><b>Implemented by 31 December 2020</b></p>	<p>The Convention's secretariat has maintained close contact with the CAC, notably with the focal points nominated by the competent authorities. It also facilitated communication between the Convention's Working Group on Implementation (WGI) and the focal points, notably by arranging and holding teleconferences with the CAC to follow up on progress in the implementation of national action plans.</p> <p>In the second half of 2020, the Russian Federation confirmed funding for the implementation of the first phase of the Project "<a href="#">NPDs on Industrial Safety for Central Asia</a>". The funding intends 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</p>

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		<p>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>requirements, and other related policy areas in all beneficiary countries, provided. The Project will involve all relevant national authorities, including those responsible for industrial safety, environment, internal affairs, civil defence, emergency situations, among other areas, as well as local authorities, industries and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The secretariat has continuously engaged with the CAC's national authorities in an active manner and advocated 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 <a href="#">Tajikistan</a> and beyond in Central Asia and the <a href="#">Project on improving mine tailings safety in Central Asia</a>), 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.), including through its participation in the meetings of these partners in 2020.</p>
3	<p><b>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.</b></p>	<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</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p><b>Implemented by 31 December 2020</b></p>	<p>Several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are directly relevant for risk prevention, preparedness and response in the context of the Industrial Accidents Convention. Industrial accidents and their potential far-reaching consequences pose a threat to countries' ability to achieve sustainable development. The UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and Agenda 2030 strengthen each other, just as the Convention can support its Parties in their commitments to achieve the SDGs. That is why supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant policies is one of the key objectives of the <a href="#">Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030</a>, adopted at CoP-10 in December 2018. The Convention also helps its Parties and committed countries to follow up on the priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework.</p> <p>The effective implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention contributes to achieving the objectives set out in the Sendai Framework, while the priorities for action under the Framework directly support prevention, preparedness and response to industrial and chemical accidents.</p>

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		<p>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 objectives with the policy commitments under Agenda 2030.</p>			<p>Through the implementation of various activities and projects since the issuance of the recommendation, UNECE has consistently promoted the message that effective industrial accidents hazard and risk management was linked to development planning and required the streamlining of industrial safety risk and prevention throughout development and environment programming. 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-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 workplan and is envisaged to be held in the biennium 2021-22.</p> <p>Through its communication (via press-releases, news pieces, social media posts, e-mails as well as at various capacity-building activities and official meetings), the Convention's secretariat has been continuously stressing the role of the Convention as a tool for technological disaster risk which provides support for the attainment of the priorities for action under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and relevant SDGs. The recommendation to accede to (where relevant) and strengthen the Convention's implementation, including as means to comply with global commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been continuously included to the Common Country Analyses under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</p> <p>The <a href="#">Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch)</a>, initiated in 2020, seeks to support beneficiary countries in achieving relevant SDGs through a coordinated and well-established process of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs). Notably, it will help in the implementation of the SDGs 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16, including targets 6.3, 9.4, 11.b, 12.4, 13.1 &amp; 16.6. Furthermore, through the establishment of the NPDs as coordination mechanisms addressing,</p>

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					<p>inter alia, technological/chemical accident risks, the Project will contribute to achieving the objectives and four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, notably:</p> <p>Priority 1: understanding disaster risk,            Priority 2: strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk,            Priority 3: investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and            Priority 4: enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.</p> <p>Under the <a href="#">UNECE project on supporting CAC in strengthening mine tailings safety</a>, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have taken steps to establish an inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and the prevention of water pollution, and Uzbekistan is embarking on the preparation of an inventory and a map of tailings facilities. Related activities have contributed 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 to improving awareness of linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p>
4	<p><b>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 coordinate further support to the countries concerned. In the longer term the feasibility</b></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 agenda. Moreover, the secretariat of the Convention actively engages in cooperation with the Chairs of the Council to encourage the country holding the chairmanship</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p><b>Implemented by 31 December 2020</b></p>	<p>The UNECE secretariat to 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> <p>The Convention's secretariat has exchanged the letters of cooperation with the CESDRR (December 2018) and is cooperating with the Center closely. It has hosted several subregional activities for the CAC in the course of the 2019-2020 biennium and it is planned that the Centre would continue to host relevant assistance activities in the coming</p>

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	<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>(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>biennium and beyond. The Convention's secretariat is also cooperating closely with UNDRR and was invited to participate in and contribute to the regional ministerial roundtables (hosted by CESDRR) and national workshops on national and local strategies.</p> <p>A close partnership with the CIS ICIS has been 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. Most recently, the secretariat attended the XVIII meeting of the ICIS (September 2020) and the ICIS Chair attended the Convention's COP-11 (December 2020).</p>
5	<p><b>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.</b></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 management of industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response in CAC.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat to continue its</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention		<p><b>Implemented by 31 December 2020</b></p> <p>The Convention's secretariat started the implementation of the Project on NPDs for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) in August 2020. 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. The advisory services will be provided to the five beneficiary countries with the aim of reviewing and analysing the industrial safety legislation in force and providing recommendations in view of alignment with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and national legal requirements, and other related policy areas (including disaster risk reduction) in the five CAC. 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 Switzerland has begun to promote appropriate governance arrangements in the field of industrial safety, specifically that of mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution. While this work addresses a very specific aspect of tailings 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>

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		<p>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>The Convention's secretariat has thus continued its outreach to potential donors and its efforts to raise necessary funds for the implementation of relevant projects aiming at improving the existing industrial safety governance bore fruit. The implementation of the above projects, the funding for which has been secured by the secretariat, thanks to the successful fund-raising with relevant donor countries, is ongoing and will continue throughout the next biennium and possibly beyond. <b>The recommendation, which is long-term in its nature, will continue to be implemented, though its shorter-term goals have been achieved by the indicated deadline.</b></p>
6	<p><b>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.</b></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, non-governmental organizations, industry representatives, parliamentary bodies, and other national stakeholders thereon.</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p><b>Implemented by 31 December 2020</b></p>	<p>The Convention's secretariat managed to secure funding (provided by the donor country – Russian Federation) allowing to initiate the process of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in the CAC. The objective is to address the need to enhance industrial safety in Central Asia, through activities directed at strengthening respective governance mechanisms and policy making, by means of launching the process of NPDs on Industrial Safety. It is designed to effectively assist beneficiary countries by providing a framework for dialogue in view of advancing policy reforms and enhancing their environmental governance, disaster resilience and industrial safety.</p> <p>The process of establishing NPDs in the CAC has been on-going since mid-2020. While the NPDs will be taking place in the future with the constantly increasing ownership of the process by the CAC, the secretariat succeeded in launching this process by the set deadline (an announcement of the official launch took place at COP-11). Moreover, the Convention's secretariat and the Working Group on Implementation have been in close touch with the CAC to ensure proper follow-up to the Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia since its completion in March 2019 and providing support and guidance to the</p>

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					<p>countries, as required.</p> <p><b>Further support will be provided in the course of the implementation of the current Projects in Central Asia</b> which have been designed on a needs-driven basis in consultation with the CAC and bearing in mind the needs and priorities set in the countries' national action plans.</p>