

# Strengthening Tailings Safety and Natech Risk Management in Central Asia

through Environmental Performance Reviews,  
Self-Assessments & Action Plans



# Project overview

- Countries at the subregional workshop on strengthening mine tailings safety in Central Asia (Almaty, 20-21 Nov 2019) stressed the needs to:
  - *Share information in the area of mine tailings safety at the subregional level*
  - *Take urgent action in managing tailings risks and accidents triggered by natural disasters (Natech events)*
  - *Develop a harmonized regional approach for tailings management for Central Asia*
- To respond to the needs expressed, UNECE will provide technical assistance to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to integrate tailings safety and Natech risk management into their:

## Part 1: Environmental Performance Review

- ✓ Tailings-related recommendations

## Part 2: Industrial Accidents Convention

- ✓ Self-Assessment on Implementation
- ✓ Action Plan for Implementation

- **Purpose:** to strengthen implementation of the Convention, tailings safety, and Natech risk reduction; to complement assistance activities; to contribute to the implementation of CoP-11 decision 2020/1 on strengthening tailings safety:

*Calls on beneficiary countries of the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme to use the tools under the Strategic Approach, notably the self-assessments and action plans, to signal needs and to request support in overcoming capacity constraints.*

# Part 1:

## Preparing Supplementary Action Plans to Environmental Performance Reviews

# Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs)

- **EPR:** an assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments
- **EPR recommendations:** proposals developed by experts to guide countries in actions that can be taken to meet their environmental and economic targets
- The latest EPRs of Central Asian countries include recommendations related to the Industrial Accidents Convention and tailings
- **Project objective 1:** [To prepare Supplementary Action Plans to EPRs for countries to implement their tailings-related EPR recommendations](#)



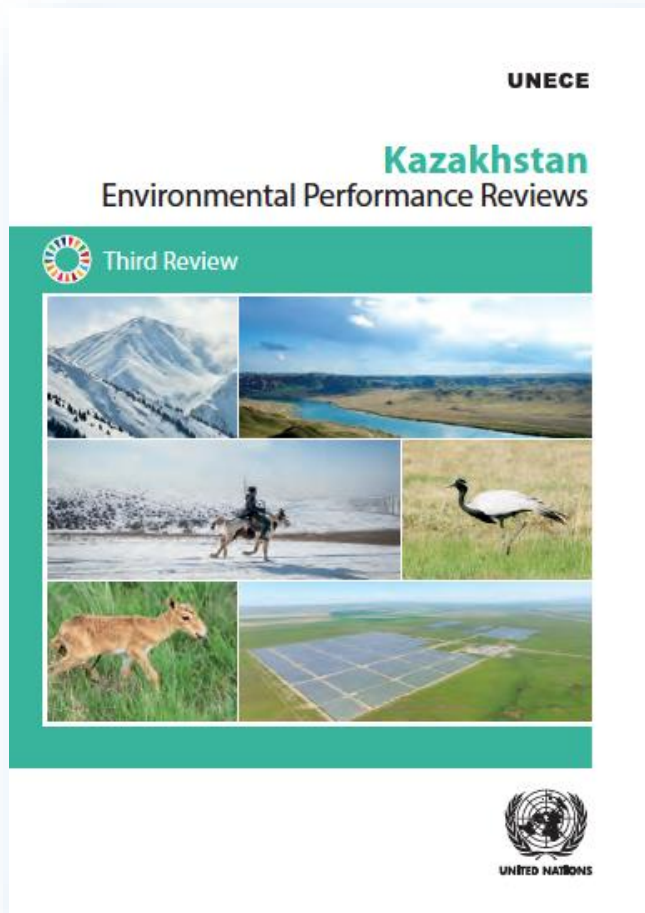
# Kazakhstan: 3rd EPR (2019)

## Recommendation 11.3(e):

- *The Government should strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents to enhance industrial safety, in particular by proceeding with the identification of hazardous activities with possible transboundary effects and their notification to potentially affected countries.*

## Example actions to implement this recommendation:

- *Identify hazardous activities under the Convention, including tailings management facilities, using the Convention's location criteria*
- *Notify potentially affected countries of hazardous activities (i.e. with potential transboundary effects) using the Convention's notification template*



# Kyrgyzstan: 2nd EPR (2009)

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
Committee on Environmental Policy

ENVIRONMENTAL  
PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

KYRGYZSTAN

Second Review



UNITED NATIONS  
New York and Geneva, 2009

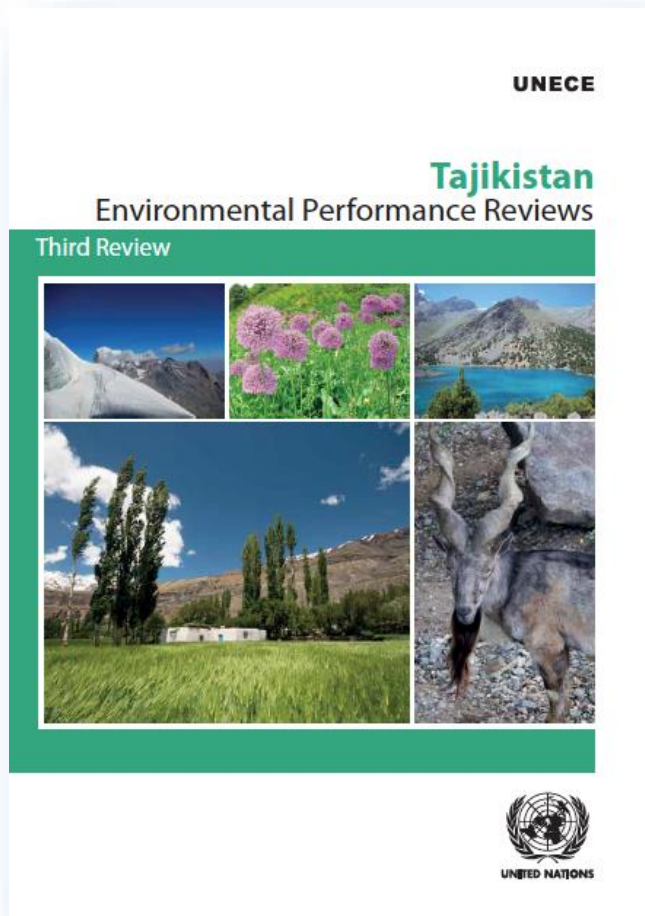
## Recommendation 4.2(b):

- *The Government should, in particular, proceed with preparatory work for ratification of the UNECE Convention on Industrial Accidents...*

## Example action to implement this recommendation:

- *Collect documentation and prepare analyses of legislative and policy actions that need to be taken to align with the Convention's measures to prevent, prepare for and respond to hazardous accidents, including those caused by tailings failures.*

# Tajikistan: 3rd EPR (2017)



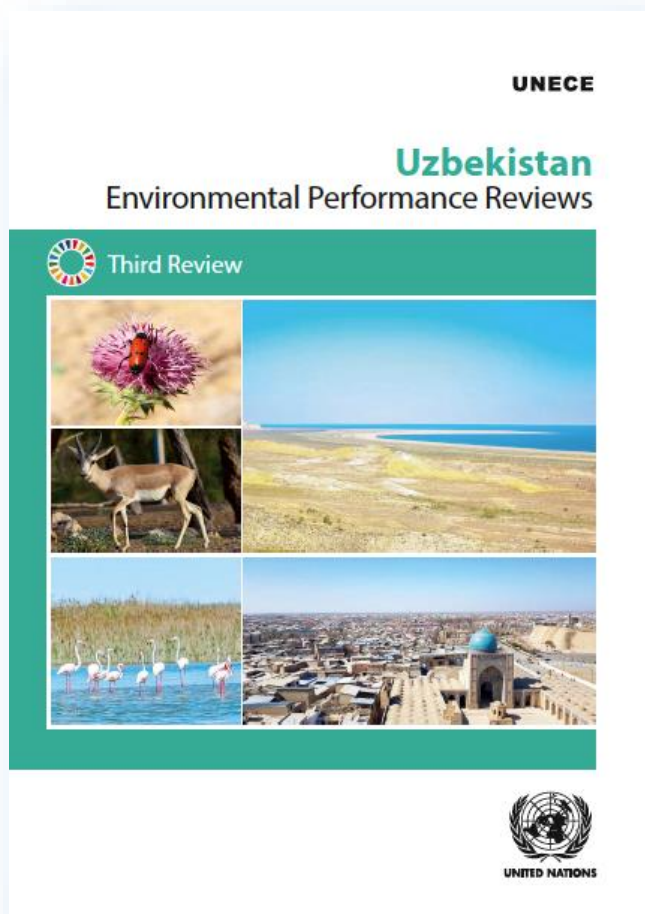
## Recommendation 15.5(b):

- *The Government should build on the work and experiences of other countries on industrial risk management by ensuring the continuous involvement of the relevant bodies in activities under the Convention and, notably, under the Assistance Programme.*

## Example action to implement this recommendation:

- *Establish an official inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution.*

# Uzbekistan: 3rd EPR (2020)



## Recommendation 15.5(c):

- *The Cabinet of Ministers should identify hazardous activities that may cause accidents with potential transboundary effects and subsequently notify its neighbours of such activities.*

## Example action to implement this recommendation:

- *Complete the mapping and inventory of tailings management facilities and notify potentially affected countries of hazardous activities (i.e. with potential transboundary effects) using the Convention's notification template*



# Process to prepare an EPR Supplementary Action Plan for tailings safety

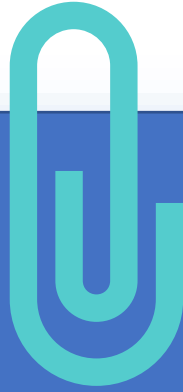
1. UNECE to review EPRs to identify and assess tailings-related recommendations

2. UNECE to draft actions countries can take to implement EPR recommendations to strengthen tailings safety

3. Countries and UNECE to discuss the draft actions

4. UNECE to revise drafts, prepare EPR Supplementary Action Plans to present to all Central Asian countries in mid-May

5. Countries to finalize EPR Supplementary Action Plans and countries to implement them



**EPR  
Supplementary  
Action Plan**  
*for strengthening  
tailings safety*

## Results / outputs

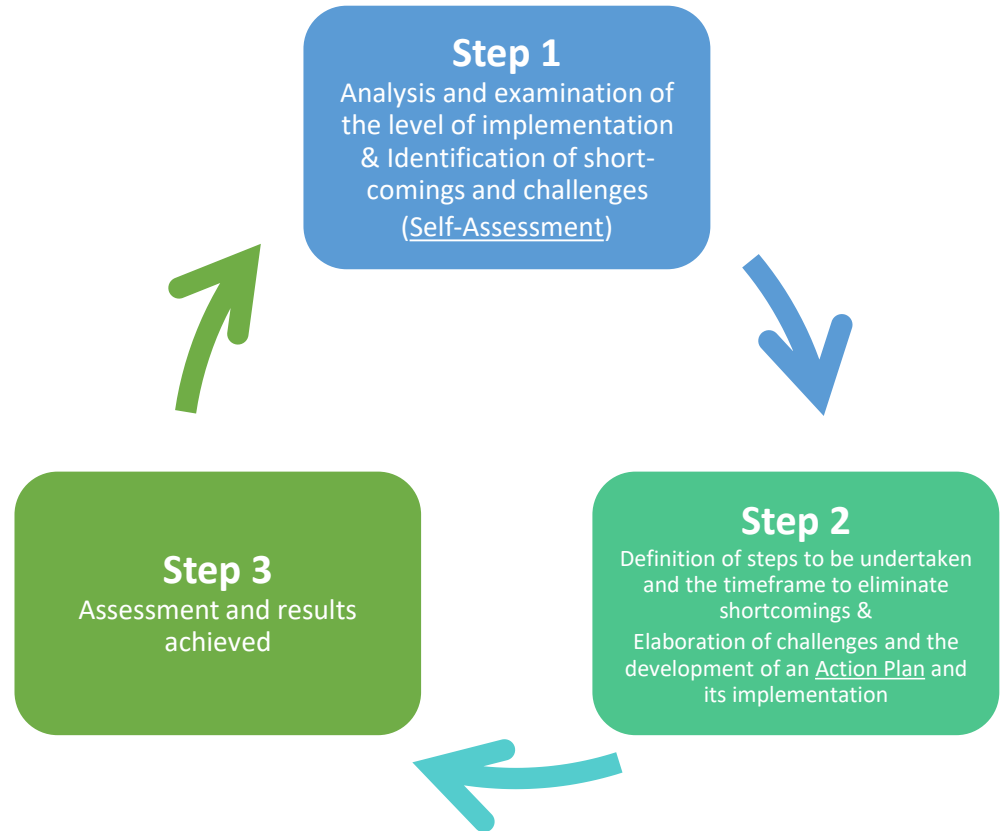
- Compilation of tailings-related EPR recommendations with action points for countries to strengthen tailings safety
- Implementation of the actions to strengthen tailings safety within countries and (sub)regions
- EPR Supplementary Action Plans provide a model for other countries in the ECE region and beyond

# Part 2:

Updating Self-Assessments & Action Plans  
under the Industrial Accidents Convention

# Implementation of the IA Convention

- **Strategic Approach:** tool that provides a robust basis for the comprehensive, carefully planned and coordinated implementation of the Convention
- Central Asian countries recognized the importance of including tailings safety and Natech risk management in SAs + APs
- **Project objective 2:** To prepare updated Self-Assessments and Actions Plans for implementation of the Convention, particularly integrating tailings safety and Natech risk management



**UNECE**  
Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents



ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME



# Updating Self-Assessments & Action Plans

6 priority working areas under the IA Convention to review in SA + AP

*Update with UNECE  
(SA shortcomings > AP actions)*

1. Identification of hazardous activities

*@ TMFs & sites prone to Natech*

2. Notification of hazardous activities

*@ TMFs & regarding Natech*

3. Prevention

*of TMF failures & Natech risks*

4. Preparedness

*in case of TMF failures & Natech*

5. Response and mutual assistance

*regarding TMF failures & Natech*

6. Information to the public and participation

*about TMFs & Natech*

# Process to update Self-Assessments + Action Plans for tailings safety and Natech

1. Countries review their most recent SA and draft shortcomings/problems related to tailings and Natech

2. Building on the shortcomings identified, countries to draft actions points to integrate into their AP

3. Countries to send drafts to UNECE secretariat to review, discuss with the country and provide technical assistance on advancing the drafts towards finalization

4. Countries to revise and finalize their updated SA + AP to present to all Central Asian countries in mid-May

5. Countries to submit their final updated SA + AP to UNECE



**Industrial  
Accidents  
Convention:**  
*Updated Self-  
Assessment on  
Implementation*



**Industrial  
Accidents  
Convention:**  
*Updated  
Action Plan for  
Implementation*

## Results / outputs

- Compilations of shortcomings in implementing the Convention, specifically with regards to tailings safety and Natech risk management, and action points for countries to improve their implementation
- Assessing implementation status and implementing actions to overcome shortcomings to ensure tailings safety and Natech risk reduction within countries and (sub)regions
- Contribute to the implementation of the decision 2020/1 on strengthening tailings safety and the Online Toolkit + Training on Mine Tailings Safety

# Overall timeline to complete EPRs, SAs + APs

## End of April: e-mail and phone exchanges

- UNECE to send draft EPR actions to countries
- Countries to send draft additions to their SA + AP to UNECE

## Early May: individual consultations

- Country-UNECE discussions on draft EPR actions and draft additions to SAs + APs

## Mid-May (date TBD): meeting with all countries

- UNECE to present all EPR Supplementary Action Plans for discussion
- Each country to present their updated draft SA + AP

## End of May: submission of documents

- Finalize all EPR Supplementary Action Plans, updated SAs + APs
- Countries to submit documents to UNECE



# Using the updated documents: Milestones moving forward

## June 2021

- UNECE to compile EPR Supplementary Action Plans, updated SAs + APs
- UNECE to forward documents to WGI for review

## Mid-October 2021: 42nd WGI meeting

- Working Group on Implementation to discuss updated SAs + APs

## 2022: Subregional workshop

- Countries to report on progress in implementing their EPR Supplementary Action Plans, updated SAs + APs

## November/December 2022: CoP-12

- Central Asian countries to share progress with Conference of the Parties

# Thank you for listening

Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents

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