

Thematic session 4: Emergency preparedness, response and mutual assistance

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

*Seminar on good practices and lessons learned in implementing the
UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*
Geneva and online, 3-4 February 2022

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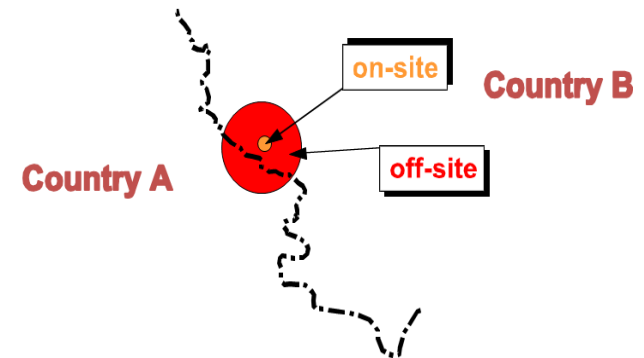


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Industrial Accidents Convention:

Articles 8 (and Annex VII) and 11 on emergency preparedness and response

- Parties shall take appropriate measures to establish and maintain adequate emergency preparedness to respond to industrial accidents, including to mitigate transboundary effects.
- Parties shall prepare:
 - On-site contingency plans for hazardous activities, incl. to prevent and minimize transboundary effects; elements shall be shared with other Parties concerned
 - Off-site contingency plans for hazardous activities to prevent and minimize transboundary effects; Parties concerned shall make their plans compatible or make joint plans
- Adequate measures shall be taken in case of an accident or imminent threat of one, incl. against transboundary effects; Parties shall coordinate response measures



Industrial Accidents Convention:

Article 12 on mutual assistance

- Parties may ask for assistance from other Parties in case of an accident, to which the latter must promptly decide and inform the requesting Party on its position to assist
- If in a positive position, the concerned Parties shall cooperate to facilitate the prompt provision of assistance, incl. to minimize the consequences and effects of industrial accidents
- Also, the UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System provides a basis for alerting other countries of accidents



9th report on implementation: *Key findings/recommendations of the WGI*

- Emergency preparedness and response were generally at an acceptable level.
- The WGI considers that testing, updating and review of emergency plans in cooperation with neighbouring countries continue to be challenging for many Parties and beneficiary countries.
- The WGI calls on Parties and committed countries with hazardous activities to further strengthen their testing, updating and review of emergency plans in cooperation with neighbouring countries — and their development, implementation and testing of joint or harmonized plans.

Economic Commission for Europe
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 7–9 December 2020
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda
**Implementation of the Convention: activities of the Working
Group on Implementation and ninth report on the
implementation of the Convention**

**Ninth report on the implementation of the Convention
(2016–2018)**

Report by the Working Group on Implementation

Summary

At its ninth meeting (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents adopted a decision on reporting requirements under the Convention, amending the length of the reporting period and requesting the Working Group to prepare the ninth report on the implementation of the Convention for review and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (ECE/CP/TEIA/32/Add.1, decision 2016/2, paras. 1 and 2).

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of its terms of reference (ECE/CP/TEIA/32/Add.1), the Working Group shall: "(a) Monitor the implementation of the Convention; (b) Prepare the report on the implementation of the Convention, including conclusions, on the basis of the individual country reports, in line with article 23 of the Convention; (c) Make draft recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the basis of the above report and submit these, through the Bureau, to the Conference of the Parties for adoption."

The present document contains the ninth report on the implementation of the Convention, prepared on the basis of the national reports for the period 2016–2018. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to adopt the ninth report.



9th report on implementation: *Key findings/recommendations of the WGI*

- Almost all countries identified an authority to act as a point of contact for mutual assistance and provided clear information about their procedures for requesting and providing assistance in case of an accident with transboundary effects.
- The WGI encourages the remaining Parties and committed countries to establish an authority to act as a point of contact on mutual assistance. It also encourages all Parties and committed countries to improve their procedures for mutual assistance.



Decision 200/2: Strengthening the implementation of the Convention

- Urges all Parties and beneficiary countries with hazardous activities to strengthen external emergency plans in cooperation with neighbouring countries, including with regard to their testing, updating and review
- Encourages all Parties and beneficiary countries to conduct joint exercises on preparedness and response
- Urges all Parties and beneficiary countries to continue to improve their procedures for mutual assistance
- Invites all Parties and beneficiary countries to use the IAN system

ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1

Decision 200/2 Strengthening the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 18 and 23 of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Recognizing that 31 out of 41 Parties reported on the implementation of the Convention within the deadline set for the ninth (2016–2018) reporting round,

Recognizing also that only one out of five committed countries¹ not yet Parties to the Convention reported on the implementation of the Convention within the deadline set for the ninth reporting round,

Taking into account and recognizing with appreciation the work done by the Working Group on Implementation to analyse and evaluate the national implementation reports and, with the support of the secretariat, to compile the ninth report on the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing with appreciation also the valuable work carried out by the Working Group on Implementation in monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/3) and the support provided by the Bureau to ensure the availability of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme,

Welcoming the activities conducted under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme in the period 2019–2020, as outlined in the progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/7).

General

1. *Adopts* the ninth report on the implementation of the Convention (2016–2018) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/5), as prepared and submitted by the Working Group on Implementation;

2. *Calls* on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which have not yet submitted their national implementation reports, to do so without further delay, and invites other non-Parties, including Turkmenistan, which also benefits from activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, to submit such reports on a voluntary basis;

3. *Strongly urges* Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which failed to provide their implementation reports for several consecutive rounds, to submit their national reports for the current reporting round without further delay;

4. *Stresses* the need for the timely submission of national implementation reports, in line with the agreed deadlines,² and calls on all Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to comply with those deadlines in the future;

5. *Requests* all Parties and beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme³ to review and, as appropriate, make use of existing good practices in the

¹ Through the adoption of the commitment declaration (CP.TEIA/2005/10) at the High-level Commitment Meeting (Geneva, 14 and 15 December 2005), countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia committed to enhancing industrial safety through their participation in the Assistance Programme and the implementation of the Convention, as well as to submitting national implementation reports. The committed countries are Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

² See decision 2016/2 on reporting requirements under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/32/Add.1).

³ The following countries benefit from activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

How to implement Article 7, the related WGI recommendations and Decision 2020/2?

- Use the UNECE Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters
- Review national examples in this session, such as examples of Hungary's transboundary cooperation exercises on emergency preparedness for a complex response
- Review lessons learned from trilateral table-top and field exercises between the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine at the International Sea Port Guirgiulesti and their development of a joint/transboundary contingency plan in the Danube Delta
- Look at other UNECE resources and other good practices

Other relevant good practices (reported)

Croatia	Database with documents on good practices for off-site contingency planning
Czech Republic	Methodological instructions for off-site contingency planning
European Union	Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC)
Finland	Guidance documents on internal emergency planning for operators and external emergency planning
Germany	The Commission on Process Safety (KAS) elaborated on guidelines, including for contingency planning
Greece	Guidelines for contingency planning
Lithuania	Training exercises
Luxembourg	Development of technologies to provide alerts and trigger responses in case of an emergency (GouvAlert)
Norway	National emergency preparedness plan for chemical substances, biological agents, radioactive substances, nuclear material and explosives (CBRNE)
Netherlands	Guidance documents on contingency planning
Romania	Good practices for off-site contingency planning
Slovakia	Methodology on contingency planning
Spain	Guidance for planning and controlling major accidents with dangerous substances
Sweden	Good practices for off-site contingency planning
UK	Good practices for on-site contingency planning and on the responsibilities of responder agencies to prepare and plan for emergencies