



Recommendations of the UNECE  
Environmental Performance Review on  
Improving the Tailings Safety in  
Kazakhstan

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# 3-EPR Kazakhstan

- The preparation of the third EPR of Kazakhstan began in November 2017 with a preparatory mission to agree on the structure of the report and the schedule for its preparation. A team of international experts conducted a major review mission from 12 to 20 March 2018. In October 2018, a draft Review was sent to Kazakhstan for comments. In December 2018, the draft was submitted for consideration by the ECE Group of Experts on Environmental Performance Reviews. At the meeting on January 9-10, 2019, the Expert Group discussed the draft report together with representatives of the delegation of Kazakhstan, paying particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations proposed by the international experts. Further, the recommendations, as amended by the Expert Group, were submitted for peer review to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-fourth session on 30 January 2019. A high-level delegation from Kazakhstan participated in the peer review when the Committee adopted the recommendations contained in this Review.



# 3rd EPR on industrial safety

Kazakhstan has been a party to the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents since 2001.

Key steps to be taken by Kazakhstan to strengthen implementation of the Convention include:

Establishment of the inter-institutional Working group for the implementation of the Convention;

Identification of hazardous activities in accordance with the Convention, i.e. activities capable of causing transboundary impact in the event of an accident;

Notification of potentially affected countries of industrial activities that may cause transboundary impacts;

Raising awareness of authorities at the national and local levels, as well as operators involved in hazardous activities, of the basic requirements of the Convention;

Ensuring the use of the Industrial Accident Notification System (IAN) under the Convention by the Ministry of the Interior acting as point of contact.

# Conclusions and Recommendations of EPR

## Chapter 11: Industry and Environment

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

Kazakhstan is a party to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. However, since joining the Convention in 2001, it has made little progress in its implementation.

As of 2018, two UNECE projects are being implemented in Kazakhstan to promote the implementation of the Convention:

- “Strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia” (2016–2019)
- “Strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings, in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia” 2018-2019

### **Recommendation 11.3 :**

The Government should strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in order to improve industrial safety, in particular by:

- a) Taking full advantage of the two projects implemented under the Convention and facilitating the implementation of project activities;
- b) Ensuring coordination among the three designated competent authorities for the purposes of the Convention, in particular through a designated focal point in the Ministry of Investment and Development;
- c) Ensuring the active role of the Ministry of the Interior as a point of contact within the Industrial Accident Notification System of the Convention (re-registration and 24/7 access to the system);
- d) Implementation of the national action plan for the implementation of the Convention; Continue work on identifying hazardous activities capable of causing transboundary impacts, with appropriate notification to potentially affected countries;
- e) Preparation of a risk assessment scale and a map of tailings.

# Draft Action Plan to Strengthen the Implementation of the Convention on Industrial Accidents and the Safety of Tailings (2021)

## Казахстан Обзоры результативности экологической деятельности Третий обзор (2019)

**Проект** Плана действий по укреплению процесса осуществления Конвенции о промышленных авариях и безопасности хвостохранилищ (2021 год)

### Введение

Третий Обзор результативности экологической деятельности ЕЭК ООН (ОРЭД)<sup>1</sup> Казахстана был разработан для оценки прогресса, достигнутого Казахстаном в области управления окружающей средой с 2008 года, и для представления экспертных рекомендаций для дальнейшего прогресса. Данный документ был подготовлен с целью изложения конкретных мер, которые Казахстан может предпринять для осуществления ряда своих рекомендаций по ОРЭД с уделением особого внимания укреплению осуществления Конвенции о трансграничном воздействии промышленных аварий (Конвенция о промышленных авариях) и повышению безопасности хвостохранилищ. Секретариат ЕЭК ООН в сотрудничестве с Казахстаном разработал этот план действий с учетом правовых обязательств страны по Конвенции, а также существующих проектов, инструментов и руководящих материалов. Этот план действий предусматривает конкретные действия, которые Казахстан может предпринять для выполнения своих рекомендаций по ОРЭД на этот счет.

### Справочная информация

Казахстан присоединился к Конвенции о промышленных авариях 11 января 2001 года. Она остается единственной страной Центральной Азии, которая является участником Конвенции. Конвенция направлена на защиту человека и окружающей среды путем предотвращения промышленных аварий, способных вызвать трансграничные последствия, обеспечения готовности к ним и реагирования на них<sup>2</sup>. Ее меры применяются к опасным видам деятельности на разных установках, в том числе на хвостохранилищах, которые широко распространены в Казахстане. Стороны также обязаны представлять доклады об осуществлении ими Конвенции. Страна регулярно представляет доклады об осуществлении Конвенции, в том числе в:

- Первый раунд отчетности (2000-2001 годы)
- Третий раунд отчетности (2004-2005 годы)
- Четвертый раунд отчетности (2006-2007 годы)

<sup>1</sup> Полный ОРЭД Казахстана доступен на английском и русском языках по ссылке: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/3rd-environmental-performance-review-kazakhstan>. UN Doc. ECE/CEP/185.

<sup>2</sup> Полный текст Конвенции доступен на английском и русском языках по ссылке: <https://unece.org/more-1>.

## Measures to implement Recommendation 11.3: To implement paragraphs 11.3 (a) and (b)):

- *Establish a sustainable process of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) for Industrial Safety that allows for cooperation and coordination between all relevant authorities responsible for accident prevention, disaster risk reduction and emergency response (Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and all other relevant stakeholders, on an ongoing basis)*
  - *Actively contribute to the ongoing review of national policies and legislation, which will result in a report with recommendations on national policies and legislation, taking into account their alignment with the Convention and the requirements of national legislation, as well as in other relevant policy areas (including disaster risk reduction) within the framework of ongoing Project for National Dialogues on Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) (Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and all other relevant stakeholders, by September 2021)*
  - *Lead the organization of consultations with UNECE on the establishment of National Dialogues on Industrial Safety followed by the signing of an appropriate agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding or an exchange of letters (Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and all other relevant stakeholders, by December 2021 of the year)*
- *Enhance transboundary cooperation and joint planning with neighboring countries, including by strengthening relationships with partners during UNECE assistance activities and by organizing meetings, developing joint action plans and conducting exercises with them on transboundary issues such as accidental water pollution in as a result of tailings failures (Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, by July 2022 and beyond)*
  - *Establish an interinstitutional working group (IIWG) on industrial safety and prevention of unintentional pollution of water resources in Kazakhstan (Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and all other relevant stakeholders) by August 2021)*
  - *Ensure that the IIWG meets regularly, including by convening its first meeting by October 2021 and the second by February 2022 to discuss, inter alia, the coordination of emergency prevention and preparedness measures in all relevant authorities and cross-border coordination (Ministry for Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and all other relevant stakeholders)*

### **To implement paragraph 11.3(c):**

*If necessary, re-register the current Point of Contact in the Industrial Accident Notification System (IAN) (Ministry of Emergency Situations, by September 2021)*

- *Ensure that Kazakhstan can send and receive requests and notifications for assistance in case of industrial accidents with potential transboundary consequences (Ministry of Emergency Situations, by September 2021 and beyond)*
- *Lead a sub-regional connectivity test for Central Asian countries using the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System (IAN) (Ministry of Emergency Situations, by December 2021)*
- *Participation in the connection tests of the Industrial Accident Notification System organized every two years by the secretariat of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention (Ministry of Emergency Situations, date to be confirmed in 2022)*

### **To implement paragraph 11.3(d):**

- *Prepare and submit national reports on the implementation of the Convention, including the next (tenth) national implementation report (2019-2022), due by the end of October 2023, using the reporting template (Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Ecology, Geology and natural resources)*
- *Review, update and submit the Kazakhstan Self-Assessment and Action Plan for the Implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention in accordance with the cyclical three-stage process under the Strategic Approach of the Convention (Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, by October 2022)*

### **To implement paragraph 11.3(e):**

- *Identify hazardous activities under the Convention, including all hazardous facilities covered by Annex I of the Convention, that may cause potential transboundary impacts, including on tailings (see 11.3(f) below), using the Convention's location criteria (see 11.3(f) below). Appendix) (Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, by March 2022)*
- *Notify potentially affected countries of hazardous activities (i.e. hazardous activities with potential transboundary impact), including at tailings, using the Convention notification template (see Annex) (Ministry of Emergency Situations, by May 2022 )*
- *Improve understanding and risk management of managing natural hazards causing man-made disasters (Natech) in order to strengthen the safety and management of tailings, for example, by integrating Natech/industrial accident prevention into national disaster risk reduction strategies (Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Ecology, Geology and natural resources, by December 2021)*

### **To implement paragraph 11.3(f):**

- *Update the existing (2019) cadastre of 121 tailings to determine the Tailings Hazard Index and include the Soviet legacy site and uranium tailings (Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and all other relevant stakeholders, by April 2022)*
- *Apply the Tailings Facility Methodology, including its Tailings Hazard Index, Tailings Hazard Index and Checklist methodology, and then take the necessary measures in accordance with the Catalog of Measures provided in the Checklist (Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, by June 2022 years and beyond)*
- *Support measures to identify and map tailings in transboundary river basins, including the Syr Darya basin, and take measures to prevent accidental water pollution, including by updating or developing joint emergency action plans (Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and all other relevant stakeholders, February 2022)*



Thank you for your attention!

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