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English only

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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Bureau**

#### **Forty-eighth meeting**

Geneva (online), 14-15 October 2021

### **Annotated provisional agenda of the forty-eighth meeting**

**To be held remotely (through WebEx), starting at 9.30 a.m. on 14 October and ending at 12.30 p.m. on 15 October 2021**

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Implementation of 2021-2022 workplan:
  - (a) Resource availability and financing
  - (b) Outreach, communication, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships:
    - (i) Cooperation with the European Union
    - (ii) Inter-agency coordination
    - (iii) Tailings safety, and preparation of position paper for CoP-12
    - (iv) Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference
  - (c) Facilitation of implementation:
    - (i) Risk assessment
    - (ii) Agenda 2030 and Sendai Framework: Industrial/chemical accident risk at European Forum on DRR and Global Platform
    - (iii) Natech risk management
    - (iv) Update from the Working Group on Implementation; Seminar on good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Convention
    - (v) Seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion
    - (vi) Prevention of accidental water pollution
  - (d) Assistance and Cooperation Programme and other assistance activities
  - (e) Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
3. Draft workplan 2023-2024:
  - (a) Draft *Priorities, workplan and resources for 2023-2024*
  - (b) Possible update of location criteria, in follow-up to Leverkusen accident

4. Implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030: Considerations of gender, age and disability
5. Other business
6. Closure of the meeting

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda, *with provisional timing*

### Day 1: Thursday, 14 October 2021

9:00 – 9:30: Dialing in of participants, testing microphone, as necessary

#### 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

*Provisional timing: 9:30 – 9:40*

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. Following the opening by the Chair and the secretariat, and a tour-de table, the Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

#### 2. Implementation of the 2021-2022 workplan

On the basis of the information provided, the Bureau will be invited to consider the implementation to date and the planning for the remaining 2021-2022 workplan activities.

##### Documentation:

- [Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2021–2022](#)  
(ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1)

##### (a) **Resource availability and financing**

*Provisional timing: 9:40 – 10:10*

The secretariat will provide the Bureau with an update of the financial and in-kind resources available and pledged to support the implementation of the workplan for 2021-2022, and the related planning for staff and consultancy support. It will also provide an update on its actions taken in line with the sustainable financial mechanism. In addition, the Chair will provide an update on the two meetings held and the actions taken by the Bureau's small group on financing.

*The Bureau will be invited to discuss the financial situation and to consider further efforts to attract resources to enable full implementation of the workplan. Specifically, Bureau members will be invited to consider how they can further support the engagement of their various national authorities, or reach out to other countries to attract the necessary resources to enable the full implementation of the Convention's workplan – with due consideration of the sustainable financial mechanism, which places a particular responsibility on the Bureau.*

**(b) Outreach, communication, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships**

Under this item, the secretariat will brief the Bureau of relevant activities in relation to outreach, communication, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships.

**(i) Cooperation with the European Union**

**Provisional timing: 10:10 – 10:30**

The secretariat will share information with the Bureau on a presentation on the Convention which it had been invited (by the Slovenian presidency to the EU) to give at the meeting of the EU Working Party on Civil Protection on 14 September 2021. *On this basis, the Bureau will be invited to discuss opportunities for enhancing cooperation with the European Union and next steps, in order to further raise awareness of the Convention and its linkages with EU legislation, and build respective capacities by Parties and beneficiary countries, among others through the organization of joint exercises (under the Convention, by the EU or its Member States), or through cooperation in capacity-development in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans.*

Documentation:

- Presentation given by the secretary to the EU Working Party on Civil Protection (14 September 2021)

**(ii) Inter-agency coordination**

**Provisional timing: 10:30 – 10:35**

The secretariat will provide an update on its activities to facilitate inter-agency cooperation, including an update of its [webpage on inter-agency coordination](#) (containing links to the other organizations, their bodies/processes and their resources) and its support to organizing the next Inter-agency coordination meeting, hosted by OPCW. *The Bureau will be invited to take note.*

**(iii) Tailings safety, and preparation of a position paper for CoP-12**

**Provisional timing: 10:35 – 11:00**

The secretariat will update the Bureau on strategic partnerships in relation to tailings safety, the prevention of accidental water pollution and mineral resource governance, including its cooperation with UNEP and the OECD, among other organizations, and its participation in relevant meetings.

*The Bureau will be invited to take note and to advise on the next steps for the preparation of an orientation paper for consideration at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties, containing proposals for further actions under the Convention in the field of mine tailings safety, taking into account the activities of other international organizations (for example, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme), in response to the request contained in CoP-11 Decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety in the UNECE region and beyond.*

Documentation:

- [CoP-11 Decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety in the UNECE region and beyond](#)

**Coffee break: 11:00-11:10**

**(iv) Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

***Provisional timing: 11:10 – 11:25***

The secretariat will provide information on the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, 5-7 October 2022, and in particular one of the Conference themes “sustainable infrastructure,” as well as the preceding meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy. ***The Bureau will be invited to reflect on opportunities for highlighting aspects of industrial safety and the work under the Industrial Accidents Convention at the Conference.***

**(c) Facilitation of implementation**

Under this item, the Bureau will be brief of the implementation of and planning for activities under the workplan item “Facilitation of implementation.” ***It will be invited to endorse the envisaged planning for the work to be conducted under the respective workplan items.***

**(i) Risk assessment**

***Provisional timing: 11:25 – 11:50***

The Swiss Vice-Chair of the Bureau, leading the activities on risk assessment, will be invited to provide an update on the conduct of the study on risk assessment methodologies, the draft report and the responses received to a call for the submission of case studies. ***The Bureau will be invited to take note and comment on the draft report, either during the meeting or thereafter in writing by 29 October 2021.***

Documentation:

- Draft report “Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention: An Introduction to Methodologies and Available Software Tools”

**(ii) Agenda 2030 and Sendai Framework: Industrial/chemical accident risk at European Forum on DRR and Global Platform**

***Provisional timing: 11:50 – 12:15***

The Chair of Bureau, as Chair of the small group on DRR and Natech, will give an update on the meetings of the Group, and its preparations of the thematic session on chemical/industrial accident risk on 24 October 2021, organized in the framework of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), entitled *Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspectives in risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework*. The secretariat will give a further update on the conduct of the thematic session and the preparation of a dedicated chapter for the Regional Assessment Report for Europe and Central Asia, in cooperation with the Group, as well as the EU Joint Research Centre. Furthermore, it will share information on its contributions to the working session on DRR and climate change adaptation and the plenary session “Roadmap 2030: Accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework.”

In addition, the secretariat will provide information on the seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022, Bali, 23 – 28 May 2022) and the secretariat’s contribution to one of its Thematic Sessions through its participation in the respective Session Organizing Team, namely “Thematic Session 3: Breaking the Silos – Towards multi-hazard, multi-sectoral approaches to managing risks.”

***The Bureau will be invited to take note, and to consider how to further promote attendance of the respective events at the European Forum, and highlight the importance of considering industrial accident risk at the event as well as the Global Platform on DRR.***

Documentation:

- Background note and agenda for the thematic session *Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspectives in risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework* at the European Forum on DRR

**(iii) Natech risk management*****Provisional timing: 12:15 – 12:45***

The Chair of Bureau, as Chair of the small group on DRR and Natech will give an update on the considerations by the Group in relation to the organization of a UN/OECD seminar (prepared in cooperation with members of the Natech Steering Group, notably the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit and the EU Joint Research Centre) on Natech risk management in the margins of CoP-12. ***The Bureau will be invited to take note, comment on the outline, and to consider the seminar's outcome, including the possibility of preparing a draft decision on Natech risk management in the UNECE region (and beyond) for adoption by the Conference.***

Documentation:

- Outline for the seminar on Natech risk management

***Lunch break: 12:45 – 13:30*****(iv) Update by the Working Group on Implementation; Seminar on good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Convention*****Provisional timing: 13:30 – 14:00***

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will be invited to provide an update on the activities of the Working Group on Implementation (WGI), including its forty-third meeting (online, 12–13 October 2021). She will also share with the Bureau information on the organization of the Seminar on good practices and lessons learned on the Convention's implementation, to be organized on 3–4 February 2022, in the framework of a WGI special session. The secretariat will provide additional information on the seminar, including its agenda. ***The Bureau will be invited to take note and advise. It will be invited to consider how to promote participation in the seminar by different authorities, so as to ensure that the seminar will be most conducive to fostering Convention's implementation.***

Documentation:

- Concept note and draft agenda for the seminar of good practices

**(v) Seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion*****Provisional timing: 14:00 – 14:30***

The Austrian Vice-Chair of the Bureau, as Chair of the Advisory Group, will provide information on the preparation of the Seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion: *Lessons learned, experiences and good practices in managing risks of ammonium nitrate storage, handling and transport in port areas, preventing accidents and mitigating their consequences*, including the composition and the meetings of the Advisory Group.

The secretariat will provide supplementary information on the meetings of the Organizing Committee, comprised of UNECE (secretariats to the Industrial Accidents Convention (lead) and to the Sub-Committees of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)), ILO, IMO, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNDRR Regional

Office for Arab States and OECD). It will also share information on the conduct and analysis of a related survey, and how they will feed into preparing the seminar's agenda. ***The Bureau will be invited to take note and provide guidance on the seminar's conduct. It will also be invited to promote attendance among concerned national authorities.***

Documentation:

- Concept note

**(vi) Prevention of accidental water pollution**

***Provisional timing: 14:30 – 15:00***

The Co-Chair of JEG will be invited to join the meeting for this item to give an update on the conduct of and planning for the JEG activities. ***The Bureau will be invited to take note and advise on the future conduct of JEG activities during the biennium.***

**(d) Assistance and Cooperation Programme and other assistance activities**

***Provisional timing: 15:00 – 15:45***

The secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of and planning for activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme. It will also share information received from the German focal point about the carrying out of other assistance activities under the Convention's workplan, notably the implementation of a project on TMF safety in Kyrgyzstan, under the oversight of the German Environment Agency. ***The Bureau will be invited to take note and advise.***

**(e) Preparations for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

***Provisional timing: 15:45 – 16:00***

***The Bureau will be invited to discuss ~~possibilities for the hosting and the conduct of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, envisaged to be held in end-November/early-December 2022.~~***

**3. Draft workplan for 2023–2024**

**Day 2: Friday, 15 October 2021**

**9:00 – 9:30:** Dialing in of participants, testing microphone, as necessary

**(a) Draft Priorities, workplan and resources for 2023-2024**

***Provisional timing: 9:30 – 10:30***

The Chair of the Bureau will provide information on deliberations of the small group on financing in relation to the structure for the future draft workplan and the differentiation among core and non-core activities. The secretariat will introduce the first draft it has prepared of the workplan for 2023-2024, following the Bureau's request at its last meeting, in view of the proposal by the EU at CoP-11 to amend the structure so as to allow each activity to be matched with an expected deliverable and with a key objective/s of the long-term strategy until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/42, para. 30).

***The Bureau will be invited to review the initial draft of the workplan for 2023–2024, and to advise on its structure and approach, and decide on the next steps to refine the activities contained therein. In addition, the Bureau will be invited to review the “Overview of considerations by the CoP and the Bureau relating to core and non-core activities”, and to advise on next steps, in view of the request by the Conference of the Parties, following a related suggestion by the EU that the Bureau, in consultation with the secretariat, continue***

*its discussions on the differentiation between core and non-core activities, with a view to strengthening it* (ECE/CP.TEIA/42, para. 35 e).

Documentation:

- Draft *Priorities, workplan and resources for 2023-2024*
- *Overview of considerations relating to core and non-core activities*

**(b) Possible update of location criteria, in follow-up to Leverkusen accident**

***Provisional timing: 10:30 – 11:20***

The secretariat will inform the Bureau of a suggestion by Germany, voiced in follow-up to the Leverkusen accident (27 July 2021), to discuss with the Bureau a possible update of the location criteria in relation to the air path – an item closely linked with the work on risk assessment. In this context, the Bureau will be reminded of the request by the Conference of the Parties, arising from its tenth meeting (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018) to “*task the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation and the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, to review the Guidelines (taking into consideration effect and risk assessment methodologies) and to prepare a draft decision containing the proposed amendments to the Guidelines for consideration at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*” ([Decision 2018/1](#), last para.).

***Against this background, the Bureau will be invited to discuss whether and when it wishes to consider a possible update of the location criteria (air and possibly also water path), and in the affirmative, how to prepare for related considerations in the next biennium, and which elements, if any, to propose to the CoP at its twelfth meeting in order to prepare an amendment to the Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention in the next biennium.***

Documentation:

- [UNECE Press Release “Industrial accident in Leverkusen is reminder of continuous need to invest in in prevention and preparedness for response”](#)
- [Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention \(“location criteria”\) \(consolidated version, as amended at CoP-10\)](#)
- [CoP-10 Decision 2018/1 Amending the Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention](#)

***Coffee break: 11:20 – 11:30***

**4. Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030: Considerations of gender, age and disability**

***Provisional timing: 11:30 – 12:20***

The Chair will introduce this item and its linkages with the implementation of the long-term strategy until 2030, as it provides that “Parties will ensure inclusive public information and participation by implementing article 9 of the Convention with the involvement of the population, regardless of age and gender,” in line with SDG 16. The secretariat will introduce a background note in relations to inclusive policy and governance of industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response within the context of the Convention and related United Nations and UNECE strategies, namely the ECE Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and the UNECE strategy on mainstreaming ageing. It will also present questions and suggest next steps for further consideration by the Bureau. ***The Bureau will be invited to consider the elements set out in the note and to discuss questions on how***

*to ensure inclusiveness, with due consideration to gender, age and disability, in national policy-making and governance, and the support provided under the auspices of the Convention.*

Documentation:

- Background note: Towards more inclusive policy and governance of industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response: A discussion on gender, age and disability
- [Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030](#), adopted at CoP-10 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1)

**5. Other business**

*Provisional timing: 12:20 – 12:25*

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

**6. Closure of the meeting**

*Provisional timing: 12:25 – 12:30*

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 15 October 2021 at 12.30 p.m.

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