

Update on UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

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Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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UNECE

Overview

1. Vision
2. CoP-11
3. Activities:
 - 3.1 Facilitation of implementation
 - 3.2 Servicing intergovernmental bodies and expert groups
 - 3.3 Recent publications
 - 3.4 Assistance activities



1. Vision of the Industrial Accidents Convention

- Long-term Strategy until 2030 (adopted at CoP-10, December 2018)
- Overall vision is to significantly increase industrial safety and reduce the risk of technological disasters by ensuring the Convention's:
 - *Full implementation*
 - *Wide recognition as a legal instrument for risk reduction under the Sendai Framework*
 - *Contribution to achievement of the SDGs*
- To serve as an example of the prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents through transboundary cooperation, including beyond the UNECE region, by:
 - *Building on the Convention's strengths*
 - *Critically evaluating its role in the wider context*
 - *Considering existing challenges and new opportunities*



2. 11th Conference of the Parties (CoP-11)

- Organization and follow-up with financial support from Germany

Key outcomes:

- Elections of officers of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation
- Adoption of the 9th report on implementation and decision on strengthening implementation of the Convention
- Decision on strengthening mine tailings safety in UNECE region and beyond, and conclusions of advance online seminar
- Adoption of progress report on assistance activities 2019-2020
- Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention 2021-2022



Geneva and online,
7-9 December 2020

Decision 2020/2 on strengthening the implementation of the Convention

- Based on WGI analysis of national implementation reports (31 received from Parties on time and 3 late, 1 from committed countries on time and 1 late)
- *Requests* Parties and beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme to review and make use of **existing good practices**
- *Calls* on Parties and beneficiary countries to **identify and notify hazardous activities**
- *Invites* Parties and beneficiary countries to provide further information on the **nature and location of their hazardous activities** to improve understanding of disaster risks and prepare for them, as per the Sendai Framework
- *Requests* Parties and beneficiary countries to **strengthen their risk assessment and prevention measures** for Natech events
- *Urges* Parties and beneficiary countries to further strengthen the development and implementation of **external emergency plans** with neighbouring countries, conduct **joint exercises** and improve their **mutual assistance** procedures
- *Further calls* on Parties and beneficiary countries to develop policies and improve transboundary cooperation for **decision-making on siting and land-use planning**, incl. the involvement of the public of neighbouring countries

Decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety in the UNECE region and beyond

- Preceded by seminar on mine tailings safety
- *Urges* Parties to facilitate the application of UNECE Safety Guidelines, TMF methodology developed by Germany, good practices
- *Urges* Parties to review their legislation and policies on mine tailings storage and management against international good practices, incl. UNECE Safety Guidelines
- *Encourages* countries to make information available on location-specific tailings management hazards and risk
- *Requests* Parties to increase efforts to strengthen tailings safety and prevent failures, in view of elevated risks posed by the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events as a result of climate change
- *Requests* the Bureau to prepare proposals for further actions under the Convention in the field of mine tailings safety, taking into account the activities of other international organizations, such as UNEA



3. Activities under 2021-22 workplan: Ongoing, planned and desired



3.1 Facilitating implementation of the Convention



Strengthening mine tailings safety

New Informative video

- https://youtu.be/0cW_0Z-jbNw
- English and Russian versions

New Online Toolkit + Training

- <https://unece.org/environment-policy/industrial-accidents/online-toolkit-and-training-strengthening-mine-tailings>
- Remote learning about TMF safety
- Practical training for countries to increase safety: video, UNECE Guidelines, TMF methodology
- Information on UNECE's activities, projects and partners

Online Toolkit and Training for Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety

Overview

Industrial accidents at tailings management facilities (TMFs) have led to environmental catastrophes with devastating effects on humans and the environment within and across countries. Major industrial accidents in the UNECE region and beyond have motivated countries to develop and implement tools under the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents to strengthen mine tailings safety and to prevent such accidents in the future.



This online toolkit assists countries in strengthening TMF safety and management practices. It serves as a hub for anyone wishing to learn about the importance of and work and tools on mine tailings safety under the Convention. At the same time, it provides online training for countries, without physically meeting, to improve their knowledge about the impacts and challenges of mine tailings and to apply existing guidelines, including UNECE's tools, to improve tailings safety. Through the drop-down menus below, this online toolkit and training includes four sections: background information on mine tailings safety; a 3-step practical training for countries to enhance safe management practices; a summary of UNECE's mine tailings work and partners; and further reading on key reports and references.

Improving the management and safety of mine tailings increases countries' understanding and governance of disaster risks, including through inter-institutional and cross-sectoral cooperation. As such, the work contributes to accomplishing the objectives of Agenda 2030, with its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It also strengthens mineral resource governance, sustainable infrastructure and disaster resilience, both within and across countries.

Background information - A call for an urgent action

Practical training (3 steps)

UNECE's mine tailings work and partners

Further reading - Key reports and references on mine tailings safety

SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Good practices in implementing the Convention

Upcoming Seminar on good practices (early 2022)

- **Lead Party: Netherlands**
- Exchange of experiences and good practices on the implementation of the Convention, including on good practices submitted through national implementation reports
- Based on WGI's analysis, seminar will present trends and implementation gaps (identified in national implementation reports)
- Inform participants of good practices in prevention, preparedness and response
- Review good practices of transboundary cooperation through international or cross-boundary commissions, cooperation programmes and/or coordination centres

New Online Tables of good practices

- <https://unece.org/environment-policy/industrial-accidents/overview-tables>
- Compilations of good practices from national implementation reports of the 9th and 8th reporting rounds mainly

2020 Beirut explosion: lessons learned

- Lead/contributing Parties yet tbc

Upcoming Survey (spring/summer 2021)

- To gain insights/data from seminar participants, UN Member States and representatives of industry, academia, civil society
- To evaluate existing regulatory requirements, guidance documents and/or documented good practices

Upcoming Seminar (late 2021)

- Co-led by UNECE with partner organizations, incl. UNEP/OCHA JEU, OECD, ILO, with contribution from EU JRC and others tbc
- Advisory Group, incl. from members of the Bureau, to provide advice (tbc)
- Exchange information on the explosion – the latest in a series of accidents involving ammonium nitrate storage
- Learn from Beirut accident, take stock of prevention, preparedness and response capacities Address issues of whether countries are prepared to prevent such accidents
- Discussion on safe storage of ammonium nitrate in ports and beyond



Image: Freimut Bahlo, Aftermath of the 2020 Beirut explosions (CC BY-SA 4.0), via Wikimedia Commons

Land-use planning & industrial safety

New Information Repository

- <https://unece.org/information-repository-good-practices-and-lessons-learned-land-use-planning-and-industrial-safety>
- UNECE-led, with support by European Investment Bank and France
- Online hub of good practices, lessons learned
- Promotes and enhances implementation of relevant UNECE instruments, protocols and frameworks
- Enables governments, private sector, academia, NGOs to learn from and apply good practices in national, regional, sub-regional, local contexts
- Highlights linkages to Sendai Framework and SDGs
- **Continued submissions possible**

Upcoming Sub-regional workshops

- Online teaser (21 Oct. 2020) held to prepare for Sub-regional workshop on LUP and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe (Belgrade, 27-29 Oct. 2021)
- Sub-regional workshop for Central Asia (fall 2022, tbc)
- To share good practices in coordinating LUP and industrial safety procedures
- To raise awareness of the linkages with the Sendai Framework and SDGs in the context of LUP and industrial safety

Table of Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Land-Use Planning and Industrial Safety, listed by country and integrated issues

The table below contains links to the case studies, listed by country and integrated issues. Click on the country name to access the summaries of the good practices and lessons learned in land-use planning and industrial safety over the past decade.

Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Land-Use Planning and Industrial Safety, with a focus on the following key integrated issues

Country	Siting of (or modifications to) industrial facilities	Public participation information to the public	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Disaster risk reduction / Natech?	Transboundary cooperation	Other related matters?
Albania					✓		✓
Belarus	✓	✓			✓		
Belgium	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Bulgaria			✓				
Denmark		✓					✓
Estonia	✓						✓
France					✓		✓
Georgia	✓		✓	✓			
Germany		✓				✓	
Greece	✓	✓					
Hungary							✓
Kazakhstan		✓			✓		
Kyrgyzstan		✓		✓		✓	
Netherlands		✓					✓
Norway		✓					
Poland							✓
Portugal		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Republic of Moldova		✓				✓	✓
Romania						✓	✓
Russian Federation		✓					✓
Serbia	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Switzerland	✓	✓					
United Kingdom	✓						✓
Ukraine						✓	
OHCHR	✓						✓

Risk assessment (RA) methodologies for chemical installations

Follow-up to UNECE seminar on RA methodologies (Geneva, 4 Dec 2018)

Ongoing Preparation of report for presentation to CoP-12 (2022)

- Lead Party: Switzerland

Part 1 – RA for industrial accident prevention

- Introduction to RA methodologies, benefits and available software tools

Part 2 – RA methodologies applied in the UNECE region

- Case studies on selected industrial activities, incl. transboundary examples
- Overview of RA methodologies used by UNECE countries



Contribution to UNDRR European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)

- Supported by France and European Investment Bank

EFDRR “Open Forum”

- 24-26 November 2021 in Matosinhos, Portugal and online
- UNECE will work with OECD, in partnership with EIB to organize a joint side event on chemical/industrial risks, incl. Natech
- In addition, contribution envisaged to plenary and working sessions on accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework

UNDRR Regional Assessment Report (RAR) for Europe and Central Asia

- Addresses the main regional priorities and progress vis-à-vis implementation of the Sendai Framework
- to be launched in November 2021
- In cooperation with EFDRR and EIB, UNECE will co-author a chapter on preventing technological and cyber risks
- Small group of the Bureau and partners of Inter-agency group to contribute (tbc)

Natech

- Supported by France and European Investment Bank

Ongoing Brochure & Guidance

- UNECE contribution to brochure, guidance on Natech risk management
- Led by OECD and Germany, in partnership with UNECE, UNEP/OCHA Joint Unit, European Union JRC, other countries, under **Natech-III Project**

New Preparation of Seminar on Natech (at CoP-12, 2022)

- Proposed, tbc by Convention's Bureau (23 Feb 2021)
- UNECE-led with key Natech-III partner organizations
- Presentation of draft guidance and brochure
- Exchange experiences and good practices on Natech risk reduction
- In accordance with the LTS and SDGs 11 and 13, support national efforts to adapt and strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters
- Discuss how Natech events can find consideration in risk assessment and evaluation, safety measures and contingency planning and reflected in guidance, policy and expert dialogues
- Discuss transboundary cooperation to reduce Natech risks

3.2 Servicing intergovernmental bodies and expert groups



Joint Expert Group: Water & Industrial Accidents

Ongoing Preventing accidental water pollution

- Support the follow-up to the 2019 contingency planning seminar and strengthening of cooperation with river basin commissions (**lead Parties: Hungary and Germany**)
- Promotion and *new* language translation of JEG-developed guidance and good industry practices
 - Firefighting water retention and management (lead Parties: Czechia, Rep. of Moldova and Romania)
 - TMF checklist methodology (Germany, in cooperation with river basin commissions, such as ICPDR, and Water Convention)

New UNECE Global workshop on building climate-resilience through improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels (29-31 March 2021)

- Organized by UNECE Water Convention secretariat and Protocol on Water and Health co-secretariat, WHO-Europe, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland; **contribution by UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention**, in cooperation with European Investment Bank
- Water and sanitation, DRR, climate change and health communities and transboundary basin organisations to come together to strengthen their cooperation, links and synergies
- Envisaged presentation(s) on preventing accidental water pollution, Natech

Intergovernmental and expert meetings

Working Group on Implementation (4-5 meetings)

- Update of reporting template and guidance
- Oversight of and advice on assistance activities
- Monitoring of Strategic Approach: Self-Assessments and Action Plans
- Preparation of online seminar of good practices

Bureau (4-5 meetings)

- Oversight of Convention's implementation
- Preparation of CoP-12
- Encouraging Parties to provide resources for workplan

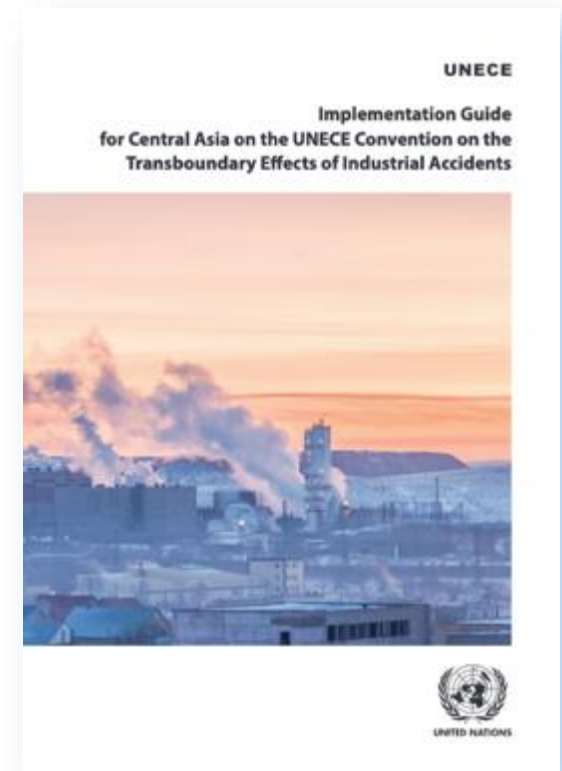
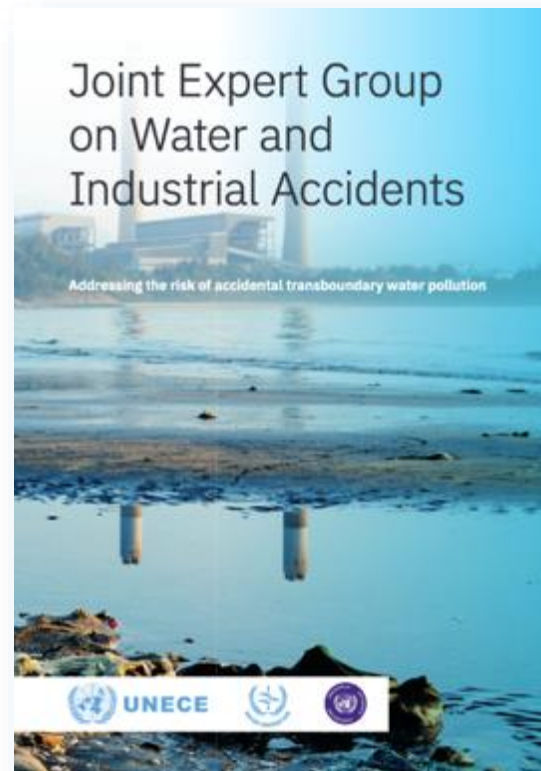
Conference of the Parties (early-Dec 2022, tbc)

- Review of workplan implementation; Natech-seminar

Points of contacts

- Online connectivity test and consultation (2022); sub-regional tests envisaged
- Upgrade of IAN system: **Lead and financing Parties yet tbd**

3.3 Recent publications



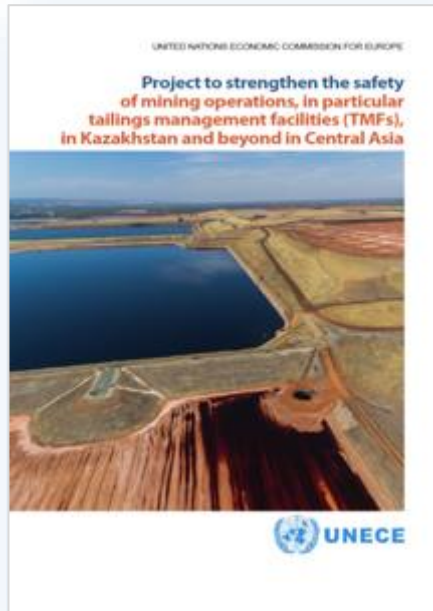
Available at <https://unece.org/publications/industrial-accidents>

3.4 Assistance activities

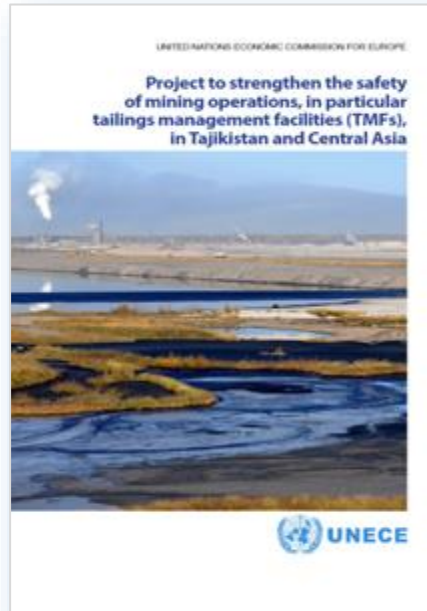


Assistance activities on mine tailings safety in Central Asia

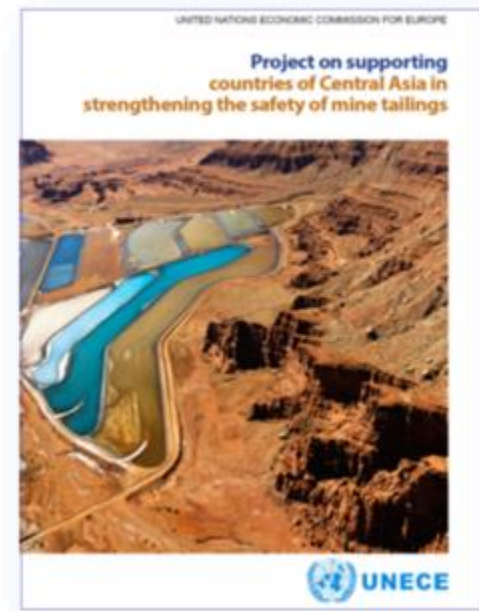
Donor: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
Objective: Strengthen TMF safety, management



Implemented 2018-2019, subregional workshop for Central Asian (Almaty, KAZ, 20-21 Nov 2019)



Ongoing, onsite training in TAJ postponed until 2021 (April-May TBC)



Ongoing, establishing an inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and the prevention of water pollution in KAZ and in TAJ, mapping of TMFs in UZB

National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (2020-2021)



- Phase I – Launch; donor: Russian Federation
- Project beneficiaries: all 5 Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; all have nominated national experts

- Key project activities include:

- ✓ Outreach missions and consultations with governments of beneficiary countries with subsequent signature of agreement on the establishment of NPDs
- ✓ Advisory services on reviewing national policies and legislation, in view of alignment with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and national legal requirements, and other related policy areas (including DRR), will commence soon



National Policy Dialogue (NPD) for Industrial Safety in Serbia

- NPDs in Serbia **are in the process of being launched** thanks to the additional **financial contribution by France** for the implementation of LTS and efforts by the Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection with support by the secretariat
- The **NPD Launch meeting** in Serbia is envisaged back-to-back with the Sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety (October 2021)
- **Terms of Reference of the NPD Steering Committee** have been developed by Serbia in cooperation with the Convention's secretariat
- Cooperation with OECD

Technical mission to Ukraine to facilitate the process of accession to the Convention -> 2021 (dates tbc)

- Preparation of mission in 2020 supported by Germany

Main Objectives

- Support Ukraine in its accession to the Convention
- Improve the understanding of the Industrial Accidents Convention and Strategic Approach, including the benchmarks with its indicators and criteria to measure progress
- Provide support in the elaboration and finalization of the national self-assessment and national action plan
- Exchange of experience between international and national experts
- Provide a forum for Ukraine to share its views in respect of the future of the Convention

Elements

- Bilateral meetings with relevant authorities
- High-level & international segment
- Technical/working level segment

Plans to accede to the Convention asap



Technical missions to beneficiary countries

Requested missions – lead Parties yet tbc, with financing under Assistance and Cooperation Programme

- **Armenia**: requested a national activity on LuP, pending follow-up by the country
- **Azerbaijan**: currently updating its self-assessment, requested an assistance mission
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: assistance mission has been requested, difficulties with the Convention implementation
- **Montenegro**: draft self-assessment under review, requested an assistance mission
- **North Macedonia**: assistance mission has been requested

***Desired* Assistance activities requiring financing for their implementation**

Project on NPDs for industrial safety in South-Eastern Europe

- Beneficiary countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia

Project on NPDs for industrial safety in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

- Beneficiary countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Danube Delta-II Project (including completion of the joint contingency plan, exercises and drafting of a protocol by the three concerned countries)

- Beneficiary countries: Rep. of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine

Project on strengthening NATECH risk management in Central Asia, for example through the development and application of dedicated guidelines

- Beneficiary countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Thank you for your attention!



Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents

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