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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### Twelfth meeting

Geneva, 29 November–1 December 2022

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Assistance to countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

## **Progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2021–2022**

### **Note by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

The Assistance Programme under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, established at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Budapest, 27–30 October 2004) and rebranded as the Assistance and Cooperation Programme at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4–6 December 2018), as per the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030, seeks to enhance the efforts of countries with economies in transition in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region to raise their levels of industrial safety, through implementation of the Convention. The present document presents the assistance activities carried out in the period 2021–2022, their main focus and achievements.

## **Introduction**

1. At its third meeting (Budapest, 27–30 October 2004), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) adopted an Assistance Programme in order to enhance the efforts of the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to implement the Industrial Accidents Convention.<sup>1</sup> At its tenth meeting (Geneva, 4–6 December 2018), the Conference of the Parties adopted the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030, which revised and rebranded the Assistance Programme as the Assistance and Cooperation Programme.<sup>2</sup> The Programme helps countries with economies in transition to address obstacles to implementation or accession. Thanks to the secretariat's support during this biennium, participants from the Programme's beneficiary countries confirmed improved understanding of the Convention and its main requirements, as demonstrated by the evaluation questionnaires completed following their participation in the assistance activities.

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<sup>1</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/12, para. 39.

<sup>2</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1, para. 25.



The accession of Ukraine to the Convention, the launch of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Serbia and the establishment of an inter-institutional working group (IIWG) on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan have been milestones. Overall, national progress in policymaking and governance was inspired through the activities conducted and transboundary cooperation was strengthened. The table contained in the annex to the present document lists activities carried out under the Programme. Additionally, all ECE member States, including beneficiary countries of the Programme and beyond, also benefited from the other events carried out during the biennium.

2. The present document examines the focus and main achievements of the assistance activities during the biennium 2021–2022.

## **I. Key focus and achievements of activities carried out under Assistance and Cooperation Programme during biennium 2021–2022**

### **A. Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe**

3. The subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe (Belgrade (hybrid), 27–29 October 2021)<sup>3</sup> was postponed by one-and-a-half years due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It brought together 32 experts from the national authorities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, three private sector representatives and international experts from Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Representatives of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) also attended the meeting. The meeting was organized and served jointly by the ECE secretariat to the Convention and the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia; and was attended by the chairs of the governing bodies of both communities. It was organized thanks to dedicated funding provided by the Ministry of Ecological Transition of France.

4. The workshop provided a forum for the countries of South-Eastern Europe to share their experiences and good practices in coordinating their land-use planning and industrial safety procedures, and to discuss the challenges in and opportunities for enhancing cooperation between the two disciplines. It aimed to improve understanding and implementation of relevant instruments, frameworks and guidance, notably the Industrial Accidents Convention, with the focus on article 7 (decision-making on siting), the Convention on Environmental Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, and the instruments developed under the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management<sup>4</sup> and UN-Habitat.<sup>5</sup>

5. The countries of South-Eastern Europe recognized that they face challenges in coordination between land-use planning and industrial safety authorities, within and across borders, in relation to decision-making on siting of hazardous activities and land-use. Thus,

<sup>3</sup> The full summary of the workshop evaluation, as well as the list of key conclusions and more information, is available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/349513>.

<sup>4</sup> Such as the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development, available at <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/pub/2910>; Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes, available at <https://unece.org/hlm/documents/2021/08/session-documents/place-and-life-ece-regional-action-plan-2030-tackling>; and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, available at <https://unece.org/housing/charter>.

<sup>5</sup> Such as the UN-Habitat International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, available at <https://unhabitat.org/international-guidelines-on-urban-and-territorial-planning>.

they acknowledged the need to establish inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms and appropriate consultation procedures, continue revising or establishing legislation, and make use of available guidelines and policy documents, such as the ECE Guidance on Land-use Planning, the Siting of Hazardous Activities and Related Safety Aspects.<sup>6</sup>

6. More specifically, the countries of South-Eastern Europe acknowledged that there is a need for:

(a) Strengthened implementation of article 7 of the Convention (decision-making on siting) and its related annexes V–VI;

(b) Enhanced transboundary cooperation on land-use planning and siting and continued experience sharing in that respect;

(c) Further information exchange on land-use planning and industrial safety;

(d) Additional support to reinforce coherent policymaking in siting of hazardous activities and land-use planning;

(e) Enhanced coordination between local and State authorities and enhanced capacities of local authorities;

(f) Full transposition of the provisions of the European Union Seveso-III Directive<sup>7</sup> related to land-use planning, in order to incorporate disaster risk reduction considerations into spatial planning, construction and permitting processes;

(g) Taking into account tailings management facilities (TMFs) and risks in relation to natural hazards triggering technological disasters (Natech) in the land-use planning process.

7. Participants greatly benefited from the practical exercise, which helped them understand and try out methods ensuring effective cooperation between land-use planners, industrial safety experts, industry operators and other relevant stakeholders in national and transboundary settings. The role play demonstrated the benefits of a multilevel, inclusive and transparent dialogue through consultations.

8. A similar subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Central Asia is included in the workplan for the biennium 2023–2024<sup>8</sup> and could be held (subject to availability of dedicated financing) following the conduct of similar subregional workshops for South-Eastern Europe (see para. 3 above) and for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Chisinau, 22–24 May 2019).<sup>9</sup>

## B. National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Serbia

9. The long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 states that: “The multi-year, multi-country projects implemented through the [Assistance and Cooperation] Programme are expected to lead to enhanced governance through national policy dialogues on industrial safety involving all relevant stakeholders and to improved transboundary cooperation through subregional projects and activities.”<sup>10</sup>

10. Since 2004, Serbia has been actively working on improving its industrial safety as a Party and a beneficiary country of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme. In response to the challenges and needs identified thanks to the application of the Strategic Approach, and with the support of seed funding provided by France, it was possible to establish a National Policy Dialogue on Industrial Safety in Serbia as of 2021, following preparatory work that started in 2019. The National Policy Dialogue in Serbia is being held under the

<sup>6</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.II.E.6.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:197:0001:0037:EN:PDF>.

<sup>8</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11, table 3, activity 3.4.

<sup>9</sup> More information is available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/349713>.

<sup>10</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/5, para. 25.

leadership of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch meeting had to be postponed from 2020 to 2021.

11. Thus, Serbia became the first country in the pan-European region to launch a National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety. The launch meeting (Belgrade (hybrid), 26 October 2021)<sup>11</sup> was attended by representatives of the two competent authorities, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Construction, Traffic and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Mining and Energy. It was co-organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia and the Convention secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariat to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Chemical Accidents, with a financial contribution from France. The meeting led to greater awareness of the benefits of the National Policy Dialogue process, an improved understanding of existing institutional and legislative frameworks, ongoing work and priorities and exchanges about challenges and needs in Serbia.

12. At the launch meeting, the representatives of the Serbian authorities agreed to set up a Steering Committee, with membership from their authorities, and to seek the engagement of the Ministry of Interior as yet another competent authority. They also agreed to seek interaction with relevant stakeholders. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the terms of reference of the Steering Committee, an agreement to develop a memorandum of understanding between ECE and the three competent authorities, to draw up a National Programme on Industrial Safety and to proceed with holding the first National Policy Dialogue meeting.

13. As a result of the launch meeting, preparations for the conceptualization of a National Programme on Industrial Safety began in early 2022, involving close cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the ECE secretariat. A national consultant and an international consultant were engaged to support the drawing up of the Programme, thanks to additional funding from the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation. The Programme aims to address legislative gaps and strengthen implementation of the Convention, related European Union legislation, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and relevant Sustainable Development Goals. It addresses the recommendations arising from the National Disaster Risk Reduction Assessment of Serbia<sup>12</sup> and the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Situations,<sup>13</sup> which highlight the necessity of developing such a strategic document. The preliminary concept of the National Programme on Industrial Safety was presented and discussed at the first meeting of the Steering Committee to National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety in Serbia (Belgrade (hybrid), 16 March 2022).<sup>14</sup>

14. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was attended by representatives of all three competent authorities and representatives from the Ministry of Construction, Traffic and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Mining and Energy, who agreed to continue to engage in the process. Additionally, representatives of the European Union, France, Italy, OECD and UNDRR connected remotely. The meeting contributed to fostering cooperation by means of a structured dialogue between relevant authorities of Serbia. It resulted in agreement on the elements and timeline for the development of the National Programme on Industrial Safety and functioning of the Steering Committee, as well as the overall implementation of the National Policy Dialogue process, including key challenges and gaps. At the meeting, priority areas of focus of the National Policy Dialogue process were highlighted, which were subsequently agreed and included in the annex to the terms of reference. In addition, the

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<sup>11</sup> Related press release, evaluation summary and more information are available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/353193>.

<sup>12</sup> Available at <http://prezentacije.mup.gov.rs/svs/html/licence/Procena%20rizika%20od%20katastrofa%20u%20RS.pdf> (in Serbian).

<sup>13</sup> Available at [www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-smanjenju-rizika-od-katastrofa-i-upravljanju-vanrednim-situacijama.html](http://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-smanjenju-rizika-od-katastrofa-i-upravljanju-vanrednim-situacijama.html) (in Serbian).

<sup>14</sup> The meeting's key conclusions, presentations and evaluation are available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/365249>.

meeting allowed participants to familiarize themselves with international approaches to national industrial safety legislation and its implementation through respective programmes and action plans.

15. Since the first meeting of the National Policy Dialogue Steering Committee, the concept of the National Programme on Industrial Safety has undergone several rounds of review and update. As of July 2022, the National Programme is being prepared based on the agreed concept. A first comprehensive draft of the Programme is expected to be finalized toward the end of 2022. It will be discussed with relevant authorities and reviewed by the members of the Steering Committee. The second meeting of the Steering Committee (with possible engagement of the local authorities) is planned for late 2022–early 2023 (exact dates to be confirmed) and will aim to gather feedback and mainstream the drafting of the Programme.

16. The implementation of the National Policy Dialogue process in Serbia is expected to continue in the upcoming biennium (2023–2024), including through the preparation and holding of the subsequent meetings of the National Policy Dialogue Steering Committee and an open stakeholder consultation on the draft Industrial Safety Programme, its ensuing finalization and the development of a related action plan. Given that the dedicated funding provided by France to initiate the process was spent by end-2021, the ECE and OECD secretariats are seeking other donors to continue supporting Serbia in implementing the National Policy Dialogue process.

17. Lastly, taking account of the lessons learned from the Serbian National Policy Dialogue process and given the related requests received from certain Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries, it is envisaged to launch such a process in other countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, subject to availability of funding. Respective projects have been included in the workplan for 2023–2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11) and donors are being sought to realize this objective, in line with the long-term strategy.

### **C. National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch)**

18. The Project on the National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase: I)<sup>15</sup> has been implemented since mid-2020 with funding from the Russian Federation. It aims to strengthen industrial safety in Central Asia, address existing challenges and needs, and provide a forum for a dialogue between national authorities and stakeholders through the creation of sustainable coordination mechanisms. The main beneficiaries of the Project are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, notably national government officials and experts, while the private sector, civil society and the general public will also benefit. The Project was initially envisaged to be carried out during the period 2020–2021, but due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the pandemic and upon agreement with the donor, it was exceptionally extended into the current biennium.

19. “Phase I: Launch” of the Project consists of two key project components (see below).

#### **1. Review of national policies and legislation**

20. Under this component, the five Central Asian beneficiary countries received advisory services on reviewing national policies and legislation with a view to their alignment with the Convention and other related policy areas (including disaster risk reduction). This activity was implemented by the secretariat, with the support of international experts, who reviewed the national policy and legislation of the beneficiary countries in close cooperation with national experts nominated by each respective country. This component resulted in the production of the five country-specific reports, which reflect the current situation and shortcomings regarding the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention’s

<sup>15</sup> More information on the Project is available at <https://unece.org/project-national-policy-dialogues-industrial-safety-central-asia-phase-i-launch>.

requirements. The reports also contain recommendations on actions needed to be taken to better align national legislation with the Convention's requirements, so as to enhance its implementation and to strengthen policy linkages and coherence, notably in the area of disaster risk reduction.

## 2. Outreach missions

21. The organization of the five outreach missions to the beneficiary countries' capitals was initially envisaged to take place in 2020. Due to the pandemic, this activity was swapped with the activity on review of national policies and legislation and postponed until 2022. As of 2021, the secretariat has been preparing the outreach missions, including identification of the meeting dates in cooperation with the national authorities of the five beneficiary countries. In mid-April 2022, ECE received an official letter from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva requesting the suspension of the preparation and conduct of meetings planned in the framework of the projects funded by the Russian Federation until further notice. Consequently, the outreach missions had to be postponed. At the time of the submission of the present report, it is not known when such missions can take place. The project "National Policy Dialogues for industrial safety in Central Asia (launch – continuation)" has thus been included in the Convention's workplan for the biennium 2023–2024.<sup>16</sup>

22. Implementing the project "National Policy Dialogues for industrial safety in Central Asia (implementation)"<sup>17</sup> will be a natural follow-up after the "launch" phase of the National Policy Dialogue in Central Asia; it is as such also included in the Convention's workplan for the next biennium, subject to availability of funding. The implementation of this project would build upon the needs revealed during the implementation of previous projects in Central Asia (National Policy Dialogue Launch and an earlier project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention).<sup>18</sup> It will provide the five Central Asian countries with a framework for dialogue for advancing policy reform in the fields of industrial safety, environmental governance and disaster resilience.

## D. Projects to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Central Asia

23. During the current biennium, the implementation of several projects aimed to improve the safety mine tailings facilities (TMFs) in Central Asia continued. Their implementation strengthened national capacities in the field of policymaking and governance, as well as the identification and understanding of the risks arising from TMFs. Equally, they have fostered implementation of decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety within and beyond the ECE region,<sup>19</sup> including the Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Management Facilities<sup>20</sup> (Safety Guidelines) and the related methodology for improving TMF safety (TMF Methodology).<sup>21</sup>

<sup>16</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11, table 1, activity 6.5.1.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., table 3, activity 3.3.

<sup>18</sup> More information on the project is available at <https://unece.org/project-strengthening-industrial-safety-central-asia-through-implementation-and-accession>.

<sup>19</sup> The Seminar on mine tailings safety in the ECE region and beyond (online, 1 December 2020) was organized ahead of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Seminar led to a consensus by the Parties on the next steps to strengthen mine tailings safety in the ECE region and beyond through their adoption of decision 2020/1. More information is available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/seminar-mine-tailings-safety-unece-region-and-beyond>.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations publication, ECE/CP.TEIA/26.

<sup>21</sup> Adam Kovacs and others, *Safety of the Tailings Management Facilities in the Danube River Basin: Technical Report – Texte 185/2020* (Dessau-Roßlau, German Environment Agency, 2020) is the latest update of the methodology for improving tailings management facility (TMF) safety and was completed in cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

## 1. Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Tajikistan and Central Asia

24. Project implementation started in December 2018, thanks to Swiss Federal Office for the Environment funding. Initially envisaged to last until end-2020, the implementation period was extended until end-2021 due to the pandemic, namely to allow for implementation of the last activity under the Project, the on-site training. The Project's main beneficiary was Tajikistan, notably its national authorities and industry, while other Central Asian countries also benefited from it by participating in several activities.

25. The State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service led the implementation of the project activities, enabling the achievement of the following results in Tajikistan:

- (a) Establishment of a national inventory with 13 TMFs, ranked by hazard degree;
- (b) Identification of TMFs that could cause accidental water pollution and at which an accident might have caused transboundary impacts;
- (c) Development of a hazard map showing the above-mentioned TMFs;
- (d) Drafting of the on-site training report,<sup>22</sup> highlighting the results of the application of the TMF Methodology, with identification of specific short-, medium- and long-term measures to be taken at the JV «Zarafshon» TMF;
- (e) Improved cooperation among competent authorities at the national and regional levels and between competent authorities and operators of mine tailings facilities;
- (f) Enhanced implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), its Safety Guidelines, the related checklist methodology, including of the related recommendations from the Third Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan.<sup>23</sup>

26. The Project supported Tajikistan and other countries of Central Asia in improving mine tailings safety by fostering regional cooperation, neighbourly relations and the exchange of information in a transboundary context. It encouraged Tajikistan to establish an IIWG on tailings safety and the prevention of water pollution and motivated other Central Asian countries to applying the Safety Guidelines and the related checklist methodology.

### 1.1. Technical meeting to prepare for the on-site training session in Tajikistan

27. Due to the pandemic and related travel restrictions, the organization of the on-site training — initially envisaged for 29 September–2 October 2020 — had to be postponed. It was redesigned, in consultation with Tajikistan, into a technical preparatory meeting (online) and an on-site training session (in-person) followed by an evaluation workshop (hybrid). The technical meeting (online, 23 April), organized in cooperation with the Water Initiatives Centre, prepared representatives of the authorities and operators for the on-site training session at a TMF in Tajikistan, notably by training them in the application of the TMF Methodology. It presented a valuable opportunity for participants to improve their knowledge about the Safety Guidelines, the TMF Methodology and the Convention's implementation.

28. The event was combined with a subregional meeting to enhance capacity for governance and policymaking on tailings safety in Central Asia, implemented as part of the Project on supporting countries of Central Asia in strengthening the safety of mine tailings (further details provided under the respective project below). As such, it was also attended by representatives of the authorities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and

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through a project in the Danube River basin. The methodology is available at <https://unece.org/info/Environment-Policy/Industrial-accidents/pub/369164> (English and Russian).

<sup>22</sup> The on-site training report is available at <https://unece.org/project-strengthen-safety-mining-operations-particular-tailings-management-facilities-tmfs> (English and Russian).

<sup>23</sup> United Nations publication, ECE/CEP/80.

Uzbekistan, as well as operators and the private sector from Central Asia, international experts, regional and international organizations and other stakeholders.

1.2. *On-site training session, evaluation workshop and on-site report*

29. The on-site training session (Penjikent, Tajikistan (hybrid), 2–4 June 2021)<sup>24</sup> was attended by representatives of several State authorities of Tajikistan, notably: the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service; the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Department of the Mining Industry and New Technologies; and the Committee for Environmental Protection. Comprised of both theoretical and practical parts, the on-site training session enhanced the capacities of the Tajik authorities and operators to prevent accidental water pollution from TMFs by supporting them in applying the Safety Guidelines and the TMF Methodology. The results from the on-site training session were discussed at the evaluation workshop (hybrid), which was also attended by representatives of other Central Asian countries, namely Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as international experts from Mongolia, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine. The on-site training session resulted in the development of the on-site training report containing conclusions, respective measures and recommendations for operators and authorities to address safety deficiencies at TMFs.

**2. Project on supporting countries of Central Asia in strengthening the safety of mine tailings**

30. Project implementation started in end-2019 with Swiss Federal Office for the Environment funding. Due to the pandemic and the possibility to seek synergies with the ongoing implementation of other TMF-related activities,<sup>25</sup> the implementation period was extended until 2023, in agreement with the donor. Overall, the Project seeks to improve the capacities of authorities and other relevant stakeholders (operators, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities) to safely manage mine tailings facilities, including through established governance mechanisms, enabling inclusive policy dialogue and effective and sustainable decision-making, as well as improved transboundary cooperation. The main beneficiary countries of the Project are Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which lead the implementation of the respective activities through the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources (Kazakhstan), the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service (Tajikistan) and the State Committee on Ecology and Environment Protection (Uzbekistan). Other Central Asian and neighbouring countries, notably Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, also benefit from the Project through their participation in subregional activities.

31. Several key activities were implemented in the current biennium. While implementation of activities continues, project activities thus far have achieved the following results:

- (a) Establishment of an IIWG on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan through a Ministry of Emergency Situations decree;
- (b) Development of a national inventory and map with 41 TMFs in Uzbekistan, ranked by hazard and risk degree, including identification of those TMFs that could cause accidents with transboundary impacts;
- (c) Strengthened cooperation between authorities and other relevant stakeholders on mine tailings, prevention of accidental water pollution and Natech risk management in a national and transboundary setting;
- (d) Enhanced implementation of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and recommendations linked with mine tailings safety, as contained in the environmental performance reviews through the development of dedicated environmental performance

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<sup>24</sup> The full summary of the on-site training session and evaluation workshop, the key conclusions and more information are available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/356600>.

<sup>25</sup> Notably the Project on strengthening tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Uzbekistan and beyond in Central Asia.



review action plans for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as Mongolia (in progress);

(e) Addressing mine tailings safety and Natech risks as part of the Strategic Approach, by supporting the updating of national self-assessments and action plans;

(f) Improved application of the Safety Guidelines and related checklist methodology;

(g) Continued engagement and strengthened partnerships with other international organizations, notably with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and OECD, among others, through participation in partner organizations' meetings to highlight mine tailings safety and ECE efforts.<sup>26</sup>

### 2.1. *Subregional meetings to enhance capacity for governance and policymaking on tailings safety in Central Asia*

32. Two subregional meetings were organized, in combination with the above-mentioned on-site training session and evaluation workshop (online, 23 April, and Penjikent, Tajikistan (hybrid), 2–4 June 2021). Session three of both meetings served to discuss policy and governance on tailings safety and fostered a subregional exchange, including on progress made in establishing the above-mentioned IIWGs. Additionally, participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan presented and discussed their draft updated national self-assessments and action plans to address issues in relation to mine tailings safety and Natech risk management. Furthermore, they commented on dedicated environmental performance review action plans developed by the secretariat, to support their implementation of the recommendations arising from the respective environmental performance reviews. The meetings were attended by the representatives of the national authorities of all Central Asian countries, as well as Mongolia, who envisaged embarking on a similar process of preparation of an environmental performance review action plan. The meeting also brought together representatives of international and regional organizations, TMF operators and international experts.

33. In the context of the above-mentioned meetings, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reviewed and agreed on their environmental performance review action plans. Additionally, they reviewed and elaborated updates to their national self-assessments and action plans to integrate tailings and Natech risks (see section II for further information on the latter). The development of a similar action plan for Mongolia has been initiated and relevant contacts with the country established.

### 2.2. *Inaugural meeting of Inter-institutional Working Group on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Tajikistan (Geneva (hybrid), 2 December 2021)*

34. The meeting's objectives<sup>27</sup> were to launch the process of establishing the IIWG on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Tajikistan, discuss challenges and agree on the next steps. It was attended by representatives of national authorities of Tajikistan, operators, NGOs and other specialists. The State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service has taken the lead in the IIWG's establishment and the engagement of relevant authorities and industry representatives. The meeting resulted in agreement on the IIWG's terms of reference and a recommendation to formally establish such a working group. The formal establishment of the IIWG is still ongoing and has been continuously supported by the ECE secretariat.

<sup>26</sup> For example, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform webinar entitled How to strengthen mineral resource governance in 2021 (Geneva (online), 19 January 2021) and the United Nations Development Programme stakeholder consultative meeting within the framework of the "Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia" project (6 May 2022).

<sup>27</sup> More detailed information on the meeting, along with the press release, is available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/inaugural-meeting-inter-institutional-working-group-tailings-safety-and>.

2.3. *Inaugural meeting of Inter-institutional Working Group on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan (hybrid), 11 February 2022)*

35. The IIWG on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan was officially established on 21 January 2022 by a decree of the Kazakh Ministry of Emergency Situations. The decree stipulates the IIWG's membership and terms of references, which were developed in 2021 in close cooperation with the competent national authorities, notably the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources. To mark the IIWG's establishment, with the support of secretariat and the Water Initiatives Centre, Kazakhstan held the inaugural meeting of the IIWG (Nur-Sultan (hybrid), 11 February 2022), which<sup>28</sup> brought together representatives of national authorities, operators, international organizations, NGOs, academia and other stakeholders. The IIWG members agreed to continue cooperation between national, local and regional authorities, under the IIWG's auspices, and to intensify joint efforts to manage risks of industrial accidents and accidental water pollution.

36. It is envisaged that Kazakhstan will hold the second meeting of IIWG in autumn 2022. The secretariat will continue to support Tajikistan in the process of its formal establishment of an IIWG, with the subsequent organization of an IIWG meeting envisaged for the first quarter of 2023. Furthermore, a subregional workshop on improving tailings management safety in Central Asia will take place in 2023.

**3. Project on strengthening tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Uzbekistan and beyond in Central Asia**

37. The two-year Project<sup>29</sup> is being implemented during the period 2021–2023 with Swiss Federal Office for the Environment funding. It draws upon experience on implementing similar tailings projects under the Convention and synergies with the Water Convention. The Project is designed to address the needs of Uzbekistan in the framework of the above-mentioned tailings safety projects.

38. While the main beneficiary of the Project is Uzbekistan, other Central Asian countries benefit from it. With the overall objective of strengthening the safety of mining operations, the Project seeks to improve the national capacities of Uzbekistan, notably of relevant national authorities and operators, to reduce water-related risks by improving coordination mechanisms between industrial safety and water resource management authorities and by identifying various measures to address safety deficiencies. It will help Uzbekistan to enhance implementation of relevant policy recommendations arising from, for example, the environmental performance review process.

39. The Project is being carried out in close cooperation with the competent authority, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and other national authorities, including the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection, the State Committee on Industrial Safety and the Ministry of Water Resources, and in partnership with international and regional organizations and NGOs.

40. At the moment of writing the present report, the following results were achieved:

- (a) Development of the project website (English and Russian), along with flyers and promotion of the Project;
- (b) Liaison with government authorities, resulting in nomination of project coordinator by Uzbekistan;
- (c) Initiation of discussions on the establishment of the IIWG in Uzbekistan;

<sup>28</sup> More detailed conclusions, together with a press release and presentations are available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/364553>.

<sup>29</sup> More detailed information on the Project is available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/project-strengthening-tailings-safety-and-prevention-accidental-water-pollution> (English and Russian).

(d) Facilitation of the subregional exchange of information and cooperation on prevention of accidental pollution from tailings among Syr Darya River basin riparian countries.

41. Planned activities comprise further support for the establishment of an IIWG on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution, the organization of an on-site training in Uzbekistan, and the development of the related on-site report and support to continue improving transboundary, river basin-level cooperation between countries of Central Asia, notably in the Syr Darya River basin.

#### **4. Project “Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syr Darya River in emergency situations (Phase I)”**

42. The Project on “Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syr Darya River in emergency situations” (July 2021–February 2023) is being implemented by ECE, led by the Water Convention, with significant contributions from the Industrial Accidents Convention and support from the International Water Assessment Centre. It is funded by the European Union and implemented within the framework of the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia. The overall objective of the Project is to reduce and prevent pollution of the transboundary Syr Darya River basin. The beneficiary countries are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Project is being carried out in close cooperation with a group of national experts, i.e. two experts per riparian country — one on environment and water, and one on industrial safety — and international experts. Currently, the Project is in Phase I of its implementation, which includes understanding disaster risks and identifying potential sources of accidental pollution, managing disaster risks and strengthening preparedness for an effective response.

43. Project activities accomplished in the biennium 2021–2022 to date include the following:

(a) Identification, collection of data and preparation of reports on potential sources of pollution and main pollutants in the Syr Darya River basin, including with regard to Natech accidents, among other things, through regular meetings with national and international experts;

(b) Collection of data on existing mechanisms of information exchange, early warning/notification and cooperation between riparian countries in case of accidental pollution in the Syr Darya River basin;

(c) Review of regulatory legal acts in the field of tailings safety and for (joint) prevention and response to accidental water pollution in the Syr Darya River basin;

(d) Finalization of TMF inventories produced based on the updated TMF Methodology, with the application of the Tailings Hazard Index and the Tailings Risk Index, and identification of other hazardous facilities, their mapping in the Syr Darya River Basin.

44. In the second half of 2022, there are plans to finalize an in-depth analysis of the data collected, including with regard to lessons learned from Natech accidents, and to develop recommendations for improving contingency planning and reducing pollution of the Syr Darya River Basin.

45. Phase I of the Project has revealed that there is a lack of coordinated measures and plans to prevent and respond to emergency situations in the Syr Darya River basin. Moreover, there is no joint contingency plan for the Syr Darya River basin containing industrial pollution risks and related contingency planning procedures. Therefore, it is envisaged that, as of the biennium 2023–2024, Phase II will be launched to strengthen joint contingency planning and management of industrial disaster risks in the Syr Darya River basin, subject to availability of funding.

#### **5. Project on strengthening the safety of tailings management facilities in Kyrgyzstan**

46. The Project on improving the safety of TMFs in Kyrgyzstan,<sup>30</sup> — part of the Convention's workplan for the reported biennium — was implemented during the period June 2021–December 2021 by the NGO Sustainable Development Platform (Ukraine) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia country office in Kyrgyzstan, in close cooperation with the German Environment Agency, which financed the Project under its Advisory Assistance Programme. The Project allowed to update the TMF inventory of Kyrgyzstan, including mapping, risk assessment and identification of TMFs with transboundary impacts, diversify the knowledge and raise awareness among relevant stakeholders on the application of the TMF Methodology and Checklist, and provide recommendations on how to manage TMFs. The Department of Geology and Subsoil Use and the Environmental and Technical Supervision Service of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, local government bodies, TMF operators and other relevant stakeholders have benefited from the Project's implementation. Under the Project, the following activities were carried out:<sup>31</sup>

- (a) TMF inventory for 62 facilities with mapping and risk assessment;
- (b) Update and translation into Russian of the TMFs Checklist and Methodology;
- (c) Production of an educational video (English and Russian),<sup>32</sup> explaining how to use the TMF Checklist and Methodology and the main features of this approach to assessing TMF safety;
- (d) Drafting and discussion with representatives of competent authorities and international experts of policy recommendations to ensure the effective use of the Project's results and improve tailings safety in Kyrgyzstan;
- (e) The final workshop concluding the results of the Project.

## **E. Joint United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-United Nations Economic Commission for Europe project on strengthening technological/industrial accident risk management in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**

47. The Project is being implemented by ECE under the auspices of the Convention, following a related agreement with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) covering the period August 2022–January 2023, as a component of the UNDRR Central Asia initiative, with financing from the European Union. The main beneficiaries of the Project are Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, notably their national authorities. The general objective of the project is to integrate technological/chemical accident risks into the national disaster risk reduction strategies of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, thus strengthening existing governance of multi-hazards risks, including in the transboundary context, and fostering the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Industrial Accidents Convention.

48. The Project will cover technological/industrial accident risks, comprising chemical risks from installations across a range of industries/sectors and extractive industries, including TMFs, and will also address Natech. Envisaged Project activities include the development of a country-specific context analysis of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to be presented to the Regional Forum — Meeting of Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian Countries (Dushanbe, 4–6 October 2022), drafting parts covering technological/industrial accident risks to be introduced into the national disaster risk

<sup>30</sup> More information about the Project is available at [www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/sustainability-strategies-international/cooperation-eeca-centraleastern-european-states/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme/improving-the-safety-of-tailings-management-0](http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/sustainability-strategies-international/cooperation-eeca-centraleastern-european-states/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme/improving-the-safety-of-tailings-management-0).

<sup>31</sup> For more information see the final project report, available at [https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/1411/beratungshilfe/11\\_final\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/1411/beratungshilfe/11_final_report_en.pdf) [https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/1411/beratungshilfe/11\\_final\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/1411/beratungshilfe/11_final_report_en.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Available at (direct link) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4foCK\\_kogAs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4foCK_kogAs) or the Convention's video section of the webpage [https://unece.org/videos-7#accordion\\_1](https://unece.org/videos-7#accordion_1)

reduction strategies of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and development of country-specific recommendations on technological/industrial accident risks.

49. Activities will be carried out in partnership with UNDRR, in cooperation with relevant national authorities of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and are expected to lead to the enhancement of the national disaster risk reduction strategies of those countries.

## **II. Implementation of Strategic Approach in 2021–2022**

50. The Strategic Approach, based on the cyclic mechanism, allows countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia not only to keep track of progress achieved in implementing the Convention, but also to identify and address challenges in this respect. The regular submission of (updated) self-assessments and action plans is an integral part of the Strategic Approach and beneficiary countries are encouraged to make use of it, including to request targeted support needed to enhance the Convention's implementation. Throughout the biennium, the secretariat closely liaised with national focal points and supported them in the elaboration, updating and submission of these documents, as well as with the Working Group on Implementation in its review.

### **A. Self-assessments and national action plans from countries of Central Asia**

51. The self-assessments from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the action plans from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were updated by the respective countries as a result of the assistance provided by the secretariat in the framework of the Swiss-funded Project on supporting countries of Central Asia in strengthening the safety of mine tailings, thanks to co-funding from the United Nation regular budget. The distinctive feature of this round of submission of self-assessments and action plans is that they specifically take account of tailings and Natech risks — marking the first time that countries have made use of the tools of the Strategic Approach to integrate these issues. To this end, the secretariat developed guiding questions and worked closely with the Central Asian countries to support them in these efforts. The draft updated self-assessments and action plans were also presented at the subregional meeting to enhance capacity for governance and policymaking on tailings safety in Central Asia (online, 3 June 2021) and reviewed by the Working Group on Implementation at its forty-fourth meeting (online, 1–2 February 2022), which provided further guidance and recommendations on how to strengthen inclusion of specific needs and actions related to tailings safety and Natech risks.

### **B. Self-assessments and national action plans from countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus**

52. Azerbaijan and Ukraine submitted their updated self-assessments in the course of this biennium. In 2022, Azerbaijan also submitted its action plan. The members of the Working Group on Implementation responsible for the Eastern Europe and the Caucasus subregion provided their feedback, which is to be taken into account by the national authorities in their future updates and finalization of the documents.

#### **1. Meeting between representatives of Azerbaijan and the Working Group on Implementation (Geneva (online), 21 September 2021)**

53. Azerbaijan has been receiving targeted support to progress in implementing the Convention. While initially a country-specific mission was planned to support Azerbaijan with implementing the Strategic Approach, it could not be realized due to the pandemic. Instead, an online meeting between the competent authorities of Azerbaijan (the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Emergency Situations) and the members of the Working Group responsible for the subregion of Eastern Europe and Caucasus, was

organized (Geneva (online), 21 September 2021).<sup>33</sup> The overall objective of the meeting was to support the authorities of Azerbaijan in applying the Strategic Approach and in finalizing a self-assessment, preparing an action plan and agreeing on the next steps.

54. Since the meeting, Azerbaijan has undertaken two rounds of revision of its self-assessment (addressing the respective comments by the Working Group) and submitted a draft national action plan. The Working Group's subregional group for Eastern Europe and Caucasus is expected to provide its final feedback on the documents, with their subsequent finalization by Azerbaijan. A country-specific mission may then be organized in the next biennium, subject to confirmation of the need by Azerbaijan and availability of funding, to further support the country in the implementation of the Convention.

## **2. Progress of Ukraine in implementing the Strategic Approach and its accession**

55. During the current biennium, Ukraine has been actively working on updating its self-assessment, having revised it to address the respective Working Group on Implementation feedback. Furthermore, a technical mission to support the accession of the country to the Convention — originally scheduled to take place in the previous biennium — had to be postponed to the current biennium due to the pandemic. The mission was then rescheduled for April 2022 but had to be cancelled due to the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

56. Following a high-level awareness-raising mission to Ukraine (Kyiv, 18–19 April 2018), Ukraine has continued its efforts to increase the level of industrial safety and implement the Convention. Notably, in 2018 and 2020, the country declared its intention to accede to the Convention during the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of Parties, respectively.<sup>34</sup> The strong commitment of Ukraine, notably of its competent authority — the State Emergency Service — has paved the way towards accession. The accession bill was voted by the Parliament of Ukraine on 3 May 2022 and signed by the President on 6 May 2022. Ukraine then deposited its instrument of accession on 6 July 2022, and the Convention will enter into force for Ukraine on 4 October 2022, in accordance with its article 30 (3).<sup>35</sup> As such, Ukraine will be welcomed as the Convention's newest Party at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

57. To support Ukraine in enhancing its prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents, the threat of which has become even more imminent in view of the aftermath of the invasion and reported attacks on industrial facilities, a number of activities aimed to support Ukraine have been included in the Convention's draft workplan for 2023–2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11, table 1).

## **C. Self-assessments and national action plans from countries of South-Eastern Europe**

58. Since the previous biennium, Montenegro has been working to update its self-assessment and prepare a national action plan. The updated documents taking account of the Working Group on Implementation feedback were submitted by Montenegro in the course of the current biennium, also thanks to the technical mission (see below).

### **1. Technical mission to support Montenegro in the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention (Podgorica, 30 November–1 December 2021)**

59. A technical mission to support Montenegro in the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention<sup>36</sup> was co-organized by the secretariat and the Ministry of Ecology,

<sup>33</sup> Information on the meeting, together with presentations and evaluations, is available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/359356>.

<sup>34</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/38, para. 86; and ECE/CP.TEIA/42, para. 43 (d).

<sup>35</sup> Related press release is available at <https://unece.org/environment/press/ukraine-joins-unece-convention-transboundary-effects-industrial-accidents>.

<sup>36</sup> The meeting's evaluation, presentations and more information are available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/360671>.

Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro. Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, Environmental Protection Agency, Labour Inspectorate, Water Inspectorate and Ecological Inspectorate, as well as industry, attended the meeting organized in the framework of the mission. It provided a forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences between international and national experts, allowed for the deepening of knowledge and understanding of the Convention's main requirements and the conclusion of work to update the self-assessment and prepare the national action plan, which were both submitted by the country following the event. It was agreed at the meeting that the level of the Convention's implementation should be raised and cooperation between relevant national authorities strengthened.

60. Additionally, Montenegro requested to benefit from other capacity-building activities and advisory services to align national legislation with the Convention and related European Union legislation, for instance, through the launch of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety and additional training on the use of the Industrial Accident Notification system. Such activities can be implemented in the upcoming biennium, subject to availability of funding. The secretariat has also received requests for assistance from other countries of the subregion, including from Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, which would allow them to progress towards a higher level of implementation of the Convention and enhance their industrial safety.

## Annex

## Activities under Assistance and Cooperation Programme during biennium 2021–2022

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Beneficiary countries</i>	<i>Location and date</i>
Preparation and launching of ECE Online Toolkit and Training for Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety	All countries of ECE region and beyond	Available at <a href="https://unece.org/environment-policy/industrial-accidents/online-toolkit-and-training-strengthening-mine-tailings">https://unece.org/environment-policy/industrial-accidents/online-toolkit-and-training-strengthening-mine-tailings</a> (launched Feb. 2021, see <a href="https://unece.org/media/environment/Industrial-Accidents-Convention/press/352614">https://unece.org/media/environment/Industrial-Accidents-Convention/press/352614</a> )
Preparation of terms of reference for IIWG on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Tajikistan (ongoing) and Kazakhstan (established), consultations with various government authorities	Tajikistan, Kazakhstan	2021–2022
Ongoing support to Ukraine in implementation of Strategic Approach and accession process	Ukraine	2021–2022
Introductory meeting on reviewing national policies and legislation on industrial safety	Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Online, 10 Mar. 2021
Technical meeting to prepare for on-site training in Tajikistan and to enhance capacity for governance and policymaking on tailings safety in Central Asia	Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Online, 23 Apr. 2021
On-site training, evaluation workshop and on-site report on strengthening safety and governance of mine tailings in Central Asia	Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan	Penjikent, Tajikistan (hybrid), 2–4 June 2021
Meeting on reviewing industrial safety-related policies and legislation of Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Online, 24 June 2021
Meeting on reviewing industrial safety-related policies and legislation of Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan	Online, 8 July 2021
Meeting between representatives of Azerbaijan and Working Group on Implementation	Azerbaijan	Online, 21 Sept. 2021
Participation in, awareness-raising and experience-sharing at nineteenth meeting of Commonwealth of Independent States Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety	Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Online, 22 Oct. 2021



<i>Activity</i>	<i>Beneficiary countries</i>	<i>Location and date</i>
Launch of National Policy Dialogue in Serbia	Serbia	Belgrade, 26 Oct. 2021
Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	Belgrade (hybrid), 27–29 Oct. 2021
Participation in Regional Forum – Meeting of Heads of Emergency Services of Central Asia (remote)	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Tashkent (hybrid), 4–5 Nov. 2021
Technical mission to support Montenegro in implementing Industrial Accidents Convention	Montenegro	Podgorica, 30 Nov.–1 Dec. 2021
Inaugural Meeting of IIWG on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Tajikistan	Tajikistan	Geneva (hybrid), 2 Dec. 2021
Introductory online meeting of experts within Syr Darya Project	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Online, 21 Dec. 2021
Support to elaboration of National Programme for Industrial Safety (ongoing)	Serbia	From Jan. 2022 onwards
Technical meeting of experts on industrial safety within Syr Darya Project	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Online, 24 Jan. 2022
Inaugural Meeting of IIWG on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan (hybrid), 11 Feb. 2022
First meeting of Steering Committee to National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety in Serbia	Serbia	Belgrade, 16 Mar. 2022
First Meeting of IIWG on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan (hybrid), planned for Oct. 2022 (to be confirmed)
Initiation of preparation of terms of reference for IIWG on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Uzbekistan, consultations with government authorities	Uzbekistan	From second half of 2022 and leading into 2023
Participation in, awareness-raising and experience-sharing at Regional Forum – Meeting of Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian Countries, including presentation of context analysis conducted in framework of joint ECE-UNDRR Project	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Dushanbe, 4–6 Oct. 2022

*Abbreviations:* DRR, disaster risk reduction; ECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; UNDRR, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; IIWG, inter-institutional working group.