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

#### Twelfth meeting

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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

**Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2021–2022**

### **Use of financial and in-kind resources to implement the workplan in 2021–2022\***

#### **Report by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

The present report was prepared by the secretariat in response to the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents at its eleventh meeting. It contains information on the use of financial and in-kind resources provided by Parties to the Convention for the period 2021–2022.

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. At its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 7–9 December 2020), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) accepted the budget for the 2021–2022 workplan. It requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions and to report on the use of financial and in-kind resources for the 2021–2022 biennium.<sup>1</sup>

2. The present report responds to the above request and presents information on the use of financial resources and in-kind contributions under the Convention. It also lists all those Parties, and international and other partner organizations that have provided financial or in-kind contributions for the implementation of the Convention's activities in the period 2021–2022 or communicated their intention yet to provide such contributions.

3. For the biennium 2021–2022, at the time of writing, a total of \$951,500 financial contributions was made to the main Convention trust fund by Parties. An investment income of \$5,464 for 2021 brings the total financial contributions received in the main trust fund in the period 1 January 2021 to 14 September 2022 to \$956,964. This amount includes contributions totalling \$48,826, which were provided by Czechia, Germany and Slovenia at the end of 2020<sup>2</sup> for intended use in the biennium 2021–2022. An estimated additional amount of financial contributions by Parties of approximately \$208,153<sup>3</sup> is yet expected to be received before the end of 2022, according to related pledges and commitments. At the time of writing, the total amount of financial contributions to the Convention's main trust fund expected to be received before the end of the biennium will thus amount to \$1,165,117.

4. In addition to the contributions received to the main Convention trust fund, in July 2020, the Russian Federation committed \$250,000 to a separate trust fund to carry out the Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) during the period 2020–2021. Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the project period was prolonged until the end 2022. The provision of advisory services on reviewing national policies and legislation, in view of alignment with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and national legal requirements and other related policy areas, was carried out in all five beneficiary countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). The subsequent planning for the conduct of outreach missions and consultations with governments of beneficiary countries on the establishment of National Policy Dialogues were suspended at the request of the donor communicated to ECE on 18 April 2022. As the majority of the expenditures, namely \$136,896 were spent under this project during the biennium 2021–2022 (in addition to \$25,396 spent in 2020, see para 20 below), the contribution is being reported here.

5. Furthermore, a contribution from the European Union through a United Nations-to-United Nations transfer agreement between ECE and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) amounting to \$53,000 was received by ECE on 9 September 2022 in yet another dedicated trust fund opened to administer this contribution and the related project. The funds are aimed to support activities of the joint ECE-UNDRR Project on addressing technological/industrial accident risks in national strategies and disaster risk reduction plans in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan during the period 15 August 2022 to 15 January 2023, under the auspices of UNDRR's Central Asia initiative financed by the European Union. The objective of the project is to advance existing policy and governance of multi-hazards risks, including in transboundary context, while strengthening the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Industrial Accidents Convention.

6. Moreover, a contribution of \$13,560 is being provided by the European Union through a dedicated trust fund administered under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) to cover the fees of a consultant to support implementation of the project "Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syr Darya River in emergency situations (Syr Darya

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<sup>1</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/42, para. 51.

<sup>2</sup> Contributions received in December 2020 from Czechia (\$13,000), Germany (\$26,268) and Slovenia (\$9,558).

<sup>3</sup> Including pledged and committed contributions from Croatia (\$3,000), France (€100,000), Germany (€42,075), Hungary (\$10,000), Italy (€50,000), and Serbia (\$2,500).

Project (Phase I).” The Project is implemented by the Water Convention in close cooperation with the Industrial Accident Convention during the period July 2021–February 2023, within the framework of the regional project for Central Asia on the European Union Water Initiative National Water Policy Dialogues and the European Union-Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP) Programme.

7. Table 1 below shows the consolidated contributions received to the main Convention trust fund (\$956,964 with interest income), to the trust fund for the Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety (\$250,000) and the trust for the joint UNECE-UNDRR project (\$53,000), i.e. an overall total amount of contributions of \$1,259,964. Adding the amount of \$208,153 yet to be received in the main Convention trust fund, the total amount of contributions expected by the end of the year 2022 is at \$1,468,117.

8. The financial contributions received to the main Convention trust fund include a new contribution from Switzerland (\$100,401) for the Project on strengthening tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Uzbekistan and beyond in Central Asia, received in end-2020, with an implementation period reaching beyond this biennium, until the end of 2023.

9. In addition to the above-mentioned contributions made available during the biennium 2021–2022, financing provided in previous bienniums was continued to be used to pursue the implementation of activities in 2021–2022, as agreed with the respective donor countries:

(a) A contribution from Switzerland (\$100,401) for the Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia, which was received in November 2018. The implementation period of the Project, initially envisaged for the biennium 2019–2020, was prolonged at no cost, as agreed with the donor, to end-2021, as the full implementation of activities in 2020 could not be pursued, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the organization of an on-site training and evaluation workshop on strengthening the safety and governance of mine tailings in Central Asia (online, 23 April and Penjikent, Tajikistan (hybrid), 2–4 June 2021), expenditures of \$36,953 occurred in 2021;

(b) A contribution from Switzerland (\$250,250) for the Project on supporting countries of Central Asia in strengthening the safety of mine tailings, which was received in November 2019 with an initial implementation period until the end of 2021. Due to the pandemic, the implementation period of the Project was first prolonged until the end of 2022, and now again prolonged until 2023, aiming to make use of synergies with the above-mentioned Project focused on Uzbekistan (see para. 8). About \$125,000 of the contributed amount were committed or spent during the biennium 2021–2022;

(c) From previous contributions from Switzerland provided in 2019–2020 to support the work on risk assessment methodologies, about \$70,000 were spent in 2021–2022 (in addition to the expenditures related to the regular annual contributions of \$70,000 for both 2021 and 2022), as the activity was prolonged into this biennium, after the refinement of the project and the engagement of an institutional contractor, following a United Nations competitive procurement process. The contractor was paid during this biennium for the elaboration of two reports on risk assessment methodologies,<sup>4</sup> in close cooperation with the secretariat and guided by the Bureau’s and Working Group on Implementation’s small group on risk assessment. Switzerland financed the related expenditures, including the secretariat support provided by a staff and a consultant;

(d) A contribution from France (\$227,272) to support activities related to land-use planning, industrial safety and related assistance, which was received in November 2018. Following the holding of the Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Chisinau, 22–24 May 2019) during the previous biennium, the Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe was initially planned to take place in 2020. As it had to be postponed to

<sup>4</sup> Risk assessment for industrial accident prevention: overview of risk assessment methods (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/8) and Risk assessment for industrial accident prevention: Selected case studies and available software tools (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/9).

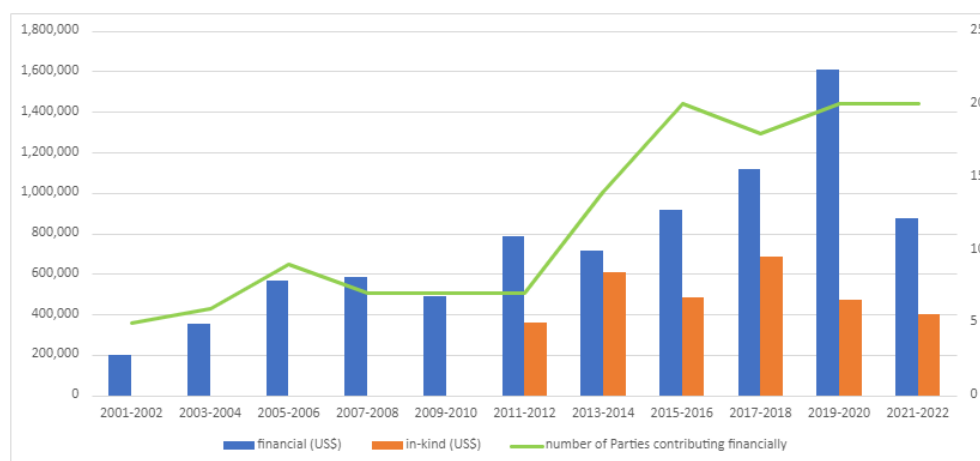
October 2021 due the pandemic, the Project's implementation period was prolonged until end-2021. A remainder of \$62,272 of the contribution was spent in the course of 2021 to cover the costs related to the Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe (Belgrade, 27–29 October 2021), including expert and staff travel and the support to the workshop's organization by secretariat staff;

(e) A contribution from France (\$220,022), received in November 2019, to support activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1). This contribution was employed to enhance the Convention's engagement in the field of natural hazard-triggered industrial accidents (Natech), to launch a National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety in Serbia and to strengthen cooperation with other international and regional organizations. Similarly to the above-mentioned contribution from France (see para. 9 (d)), owing to the fact that not all activities could be implemented due to the pandemic, the implementation period for this Project had also been prolonged to end-2021. Approximately \$122,022 remaining from this contribution were spent in the course of 2021 to implement respective activities linked to the Launch of the National Policy Dialogue in Serbia (Belgrade (hybrid), 26 October 2021), the continued engagement by ECE in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Natech Steering Group, contributions to the Inter-agency coordination group on industrial/chemical accidents (IACG) and cooperation with the European Union Joint Research Centre, among others, and to cover related travel and organizational costs, staff and consultancy support.

10. The figure below illustrates the evolution of financial contributions over the past twenty-two years, including contributions to all trust funds, since the entry into force of the Convention in 2000. It also demonstrates the evolution of in-kind contributions since the biennium 2011–2012, as well as number of Parties contributing financially.

#### Biennial financial contributions (2001–2022)<sup>5</sup> and in-kind contributions (2011–2022)

(in United States dollars, as at 14 September 2022)



*Note:* figures along the y-axis on the left indicate the amount in United States dollars; figures along the y-axis on the right indicate the number of Parties.

11. In-kind contributions from ECE member States, by providing expertise or direct financing for the organization of different events under the Convention, were provided during

<sup>5</sup> Consolidated overview of financial contributions received in the respective bienniums in the Convention's main trust fund at 14 September 2022, as well as the trust fund for National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) and the trust fund for a Joint UNECE-UNDRR Project to support the integration of technological DRR into national strategies of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The contribution of \$250,000 by the Russian Federation received in July 2020 is reflected here in the funding received in the biennium 2019–2020.

the biennium of approximately \$401,560 in value (see table 1).<sup>6</sup> During the period 2021–2022 in-kind contributions were made by the following ECE member States, including through their hosting of workshops or seminar and contributions of expertise and/or travel: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Canada; Croatia; Czechia; Estonia; European Union, including the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission; France; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Kyrgyzstan; Lithuania; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Serbia; Slovenia; Switzerland; Tajikistan; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and United States of America. The in-kind contribution provided by the EIB supported a consultancy on Natech and disaster risk reduction which resulted in the elaboration of a chapter on technological disaster risk, in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre, for the UNDRR Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction for Europe and Central Asia (forthcoming), and the organization of a thematic discussion on industrial accident risk at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (Matosinhos, Portugal (online), 24 November 2021).<sup>7</sup> A substantial in-kind contribution was provided by Germany through the financing and oversight of the Project on improving the safety of tailings management facilities in Kyrgyzstan, under the auspices of the Convention’s workplan. Table 1 lists the in-kind contributions provided in support of workplan activities by ECE member States during the biennium 2021–2022, valued in accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism.<sup>8</sup> In addition, representatives from United Nations member States beyond the ECE region also contributed to workplan activities, for example with expertise from Brazil and South-Africa conveyed through presentations delivered at the United Nations (UN)/OECD Seminar in follow-up to the Beirut port explosion (Geneva (online), 14 December 2021).

12. Additional in-kind contributions were provided by other international or regional organizations with whom the secretariat closely cooperated during this biennium, notably the EIB, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Central Asia Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit, UNDRR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and OECD. Cooperation with UNDRR has become particularly close and is being pursued through a joint workplan between ECE and UNDRR. Representatives from the Water Resources Commission, Ghana, and the Mekong River Commission contributed to the ECE side event at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, entitled “Governance of climate and technological risks in transboundary water bodies” (Bali (hybrid), 27 May 2022). Furthermore, in-kind contributions were provided by the ECE secretariats to the Water Convention, the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

13. Representatives of academia, including from the Technical University of Ostrava (Czechia), the National Technical University Dnipro Polytechnic (Ukraine) and the Technical University “Metinvest Polytechnic” Mariupol (Ukraine), and non-governmental organizations, including the Sustainable Development Platform (Ukraine) and the Water Initiative Centre (Kazakhstan), have also contributed to the implementation of the workplan in 2021–2022. Representatives of the private sector have also contributed, among others, the ICS Danube Logistics SRL, Republic of Moldova, and the Zarafshon Joint Venture, Penjikent, Tajikistan. Industry associations have supported the preparation and conduct of the Seminar in follow-up to the Beirut port explosion, as observers of the Advisory Group, notably the Australian Explosives Industry Safety Group Inc., Fertilizers Europe, Institute of Makers of Explosives, and the Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa.

<sup>6</sup> It has not been possible to identify all in-kind contributions.

<sup>7</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/353910>.

<sup>8</sup> ECE.CP.TEIA/24, annex, see appendix.

Table 1  
**Financial contributions to the Convention's trust funds for the 2021–2022 biennium  
and approximate value of in-kind contributions for this period**

(in United States dollars, as at 14 September 2022)

<i>Source</i>	<i>Financial contributions</i>	<i>Approximate value of main in-kind contributions</i>
Armenia	—	2 000
Austria	18 674	—
Azerbaijan	—	2 000
Belarus	—	7 000
Belgium	—	5 000
Bulgaria	4 200	—
Canada	—	2 000
Croatia <sup>a</sup>	2 980	2 000
Cyprus	3 500	—
Czechia <sup>b</sup>	26 000	2 000
Estonia	—	2 000
Finland	23 060	—
France <sup>c</sup>	119 332	14 000
Germany <sup>d</sup>	90 082	179 000
Hungary <sup>e</sup>	10 000	2 000
Italy <sup>f</sup>	58 962	2 000
Kyrgyzstan	—	2 000
Lithuania	5 636	2 000
Montenegro	—	5 000
Netherlands	65 890	2 000
Norway	133 877	7 000
Poland	10 000	2 000
Portugal	—	4 000
Rep. of Moldova	—	2 000
Romania	11 390	2 000
Russian Federation <sup>g</sup>	250 000	2 000
Serbia <sup>h</sup>	2 500	46 000
Slovakia	11 083	—
Slovenia <sup>i</sup>	18 547	2 000
Switzerland	255 834	4 000
Tajikistan	—	30 000
United Kingdom	—	4 000
United States	—	2 000
European Union, including European Investment Bank and Joint Research Center of European Commission <sup>j</sup>	132 953	62 560
Interest income for main Convention trust fund	5 464	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 259 964</b>	<b>401 560</b>

<sup>a</sup> An additional financial contribution of \$3,000 was committed by Croatia for 2022.

<sup>b</sup> Includes a financial contribution by Czechia in December 2020, for 2021.

<sup>c</sup> An additional financial contribution of €100,000 was committed by France, for 2022.

<sup>d</sup> Includes a financial contribution by Germany of €26,268 provided in December 2020 to support the follow-up to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in January–February 2021. Additional financial contributions were committed by Germany: €27, 075 to support the organization of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents' seminar including participation of members of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents from countries in transition,

and €15,000 to support the participation of countries with economies in transition in the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. An in-kind contribution from Germany of approx. \$175,000 was provided to support the implementation of a Project on improving the safety of TMFs in Kyrgyzstan.

<sup>e</sup> An additional financial contribution of \$10,000 was committed by Hungary for 2022.

<sup>f</sup> An additional financial contribution of €50,000 was committed by Italy for 2022.

<sup>g</sup> A financial contribution of \$250,000 was provided by the Russian Federation in July 2020 to a separate trust fund for the Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia. As the majority of the expenditures occurred during this biennium, it is being reported here.

<sup>h</sup> An additional financial contribution of \$2,500 was committed by Serbia.

<sup>i</sup> Includes a financial contribution by Slovenia provided in December 2020 for 2021.

<sup>j</sup> The financial contributions includes – in addition to the regular contribution from the European Commission, Directorate-General for the Environment – a contribution of \$53,000 under the European Union’s Central Asia initiative, as part of a joint UNDRR-ECE United Nations-to-United Nations transfer agreement. The in-kind contribution includes a contribution of €35,000 to finance a consultancy supporting a joint ECE-UNDRR project on DRR and Natech, and an in-kind contribution of \$13,560 through the trust fund of the Water Convention within the framework of the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia.

14. The in-kind contributions provided during the biennium have, in addition to the financial contributions provided, substantially contributed to the implementation of the workplan. Despite the fact that numerous activities had to be postponed or transformed to online meetings in view of the pandemic, there have been considerable in-kind contributions from throughout the ECE region, including to the three main seminars held during the biennium benefiting all ECE member States, and other interested countries beyond the region,<sup>9</sup> as well as dedicated national and subregional assistance activities. While slightly lower than during the previous biennium, the level of in-kind contributions was still considerable. Some countries which had intended to host intergovernmental meetings, including Norway and Sweden, were not able to do so, as the majority of the meetings of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation, as well as workshops and seminars, were held online.

15. In addition to the in-kind contributions listed above, elected and nominated members of the Bureau, the Working Group on Implementation and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents have made significant contributions to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and by raising awareness of the Convention at various events. This includes members from the following countries/supranational organizations:

(a) Bureau: Austria (Vice-Chair), Belarus, European Union, Finland, France, Norway (Chair), Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland (Vice-Chair);

(b) Working Group on Implementation: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia (until October 2021), Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation (Vice-Chair), Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden (Chair) and Switzerland (Vice-Chair);

(c) Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents: Belarus, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Hungary (Co-Chair), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia (Co-Chair), Slovakia and Ukraine.

16. In addition to the regular meetings of the Bureau and Working Group on Implementation, the following subsidiary groups were established under their auspices, with active contributions from their members to the implementation of respective activities:

(a) Small group to support the preparation of the Working Group on Implementation special session: Seminar on good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Convention (Geneva (hybrid), 3–4 February 2022), with members from

<sup>9</sup> European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction focused thematic session entitled “Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspectives on risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework” (Matosinhos, Portugal (online), 24 November 2021), UN/OECD Seminar in follow-up to the Beirut port explosion (Geneva (online), 14 December 2021), and Working Group on Implementation special session: Seminar on good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Convention (Geneva (hybrid), 3–4 February 2022).

Belarus, Latvia (until October 2021)), the Netherlands (lead), the Republic of Moldova and Switzerland;

(b) Small group on risk assessment, established under the Bureau and the Working Group Implementation, with members from Austria, Belarus, Latvia (until October 2021), Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland (lead);

(c) Small group on disaster risk reduction and Natech, established under the Bureau, with contributing members from Belarus, Finland, Norway (lead by the Chair) and Slovenia;

(d) Small group on mine tailings safety, established under the Bureau, with members from Austria, Germany, Norway (lead by the Chair), Serbia (Co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents) and Switzerland;

(e) Small group on financing, established under the Bureau, with members from Belarus, Finland, Norway (lead by the Chair) and Slovenia.

17. Further to the in-kind contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, the Convention benefited during the biennium 2021–2022 from co-financing from the United Nations regular budget, which covered expenditures related to interpretation and equipment as well as the participation of representatives of South-Eastern Europe from numerous authorities<sup>10</sup> in the Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe (Belgrade (hybrid), 27–29 October 2021) and the engagement of a national and an international consultant to support the elaboration of a National Programme on Industrial Safety in Serbia, under the auspices of the country's National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety.

18. The planned budget for the envisaged activities to be carried out in the biennium, as per the adopted workplan for 2021–2022<sup>11</sup> is \$2,602,600. The sum of actual and projected financial contributions for use in the period 2021–2022 to support workplan activities envisaged as per table 1 and the overall workplan budget (Table 2) adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1) amounts to \$1,125,278 at 14 September<sup>12</sup> and is projected to be at \$1,468,117 before the end of the biennium.<sup>13</sup> An additional amount of financial contributions provided in previous bienniums of approximately \$420,000 has been used to support activities during this biennium (see paras. 9 a)–e) above). The decrease of new contributions received at the time of writing during this biennium, compared to the previous biennium, demonstrates visually in the figure above the important reliance on contributions previously provided. Furthermore, the sum of in-kind contributions provided in this period to support the workplan activities envisaged as per Table 1, corresponding to the adopted budget, amounts to \$226,560.<sup>14</sup> Comparing the adopted workplan budget with the sum of financial contributions available for use in this biennium (including remaining contributions from the former bienniums) and the in-kind contributions provided results in an implementation rate of about 76 per cent.

19. As the overall funding provided during the biennium was lower than the workplan budget, a number of planned activities could not be implemented:

<sup>10</sup> Covering the travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) of representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Montenegro who participated in the event in person in addition to the representatives from Serbia; representatives from Albania participated remotely.

<sup>11</sup> Tables 1 and 2 of the adopted workplan for 2021–2022, ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1.

<sup>12</sup> Not considering the financial contributions from Switzerland of \$109,290 which supports a workplan activity included in Table 3 and subtracting \$25,396 from the overall contribution of \$250,000 provided by the Russian Federation, which corresponds to the amount spent in 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Adding \$208,153 committed financial contributions expected be received before the end of the biennium.

<sup>14</sup> The in-kind contribution from Germany of \$175,000 is not considered here, as it supports a workplan activity foreseen in Table 3 of the workplan for 2021–2022, which is not accounted for in the total workplan budget indicated in Table 2.



(a) Country missions to support implementation of the Strategic Approach, in response to concrete requests by beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, namely such missions to:

- (i) Azerbaijan;
- (ii) Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- (iii) North Macedonia;

(b) Subregional activities, such as the subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Central Asia, for which Kyrgyzstan had expressed an interest during the Subregional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Chisinau, 22–24 May 2019);

(c) Costs covering in-person participation from representatives from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the Working Group on Implementation special session: Seminar of good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Convention (Geneva (hybrid), 3–4 October 2022);

(d) Further outreach, awareness-raising and participation by the secretariat in meetings of strategic partners and the following partner organizations, which the secretariat attended previously:

- (i) The International Atomic Energy Agency's Coordination Group on Uranium Legacy Sites (CGULS);
- (ii) The meetings organized by the Inter-organization programme for the sound management of chemicals (IOMC), to which ECE is an observer;
- (iii) Inter-agency coordination group on sound chemicals managements;
- (iv) The World Resources Forum;
- (v) The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals and Metals;

(e) Developing new strategic partnerships, including in response to expressions of interest.

20. Moreover, as explained above (para. 4), the conduct of outreach missions and consultations with governments of the five Central Asian countries on the establishment of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia could not proceed as planned during this biennium.

21. In addition to the above-mentioned activities which could not be carried out during the biennium, several envisaged activities under the ongoing Project on strengthening the safety of tailings management facilities in Central Asia have been postponed until 2023, in agreement with the donor, the Federal Environment Office of Switzerland. This approach will enable benefiting from synergies with other ongoing Projects, in particular the on Project on strengthening the safety of tailings management facilities in Uzbekistan and beyond in Central Asia.

22. Moreover, further assistance activities listed in table 3 of the adopted workplan for 2021–2022 (ECE.CP.TEIA/42/Add.1), in response to needs expressed by beneficiary countries could not be carried out, including, among others:

(a) Launch of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in other countries of South-Eastern Europe (apart from Serbia), as well as in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus;

(b) Danube Delta-II Project (including completion of the joint contingency plan, exercises and drafting of a protocol by the three concerned countries) benefiting the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

23. In addition, no upgrade of the Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) system was possible, in order to fix existing glitches, improve functionality and user-friendliness and develop the linkages to a mobile device.

24. Moreover, whereas the workplan for 2021–2022 foresees the engagement of 3.5 professional staff and 1 general service staff funded from extra budgetary resources, the

financing available only allowed to engage two professional extrabudgetary staff (at the P-3 level), a junior professional extra budgetary staff at 50 per cent (at the P-1 level, on maternity leave since September 2021) until February 2022, and a 50 per cent general service staff, shared with the Water Convention.

25. In the absence of sufficient funding for staff support, as envisaged in the adopted workplan, the secretariat relied on the support of several consultants and individual contractors, to be able to implement the ambitious work programme. Consultancy support is, however, temporary only,<sup>15</sup> and no sustainable longer-term solution. The various breaks between consultancy contracts have added to the workload of professional staff who have overseen and guided them, and ensured the continuity of the work. In addition, interns have also supported the implementation of the workplan, at no cost to the trust fund.

26. Table 2 presents the aggregated expenditures per object class of the United Nations administrative system Umoja for the main Convention trust fund for the biennium 2021–2022, at 14 September 2022. The respective Umoja object classes presented in table 2, 3 and 4 cover, among others, the following costs:

(a) Contractual services: Individual contractors, interpretation and translation services, incl. equipment, during meetings with simultaneous interpretation; operating and hospitality expenses related to the implementation of assistance activities; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) service fees; insurance for consultants;

(b) Operating and other direct costs: Training courses of project staff for upgrading of substantive and information technology skill; transportation, such as rental of local transport, car, bus/coach in connection with project activities; bank service fees for costs related to project activities; postal pouch services for project meetings and seminars; visa costs related to travel requests; custom stationary, office supplies, business cards in connection with project activities; for project staff and consultants: office space including utilities; office furniture; telephone rental and services charges; personal computing incl. network and internet connectivity; email and printing;

(c) Grants: Grants to implementing partners to organize meetings under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme;

(d) Staff and other personnel costs: Salaries and related entitlements of fixed-term and temporary project staff in relation to the implementation of project activities; services of outside expertise, including international, national or regional consultants, to support the implementation of workplan activities, whether to support the servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the exchange of information or activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme and translations (English-Russian, English-French). The expenditures for after service health insurance have also been added under this object class. The costs for consultancies are presented as a separate subcategory;

(e) Travel: Travel of staff, consultants, meeting participants and office holders from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and experts in intergovernmental and assistance activities. Costs of travel include as air /train tickets, car mileage, daily subsistence allowance (DSA), and any other related travel expenses;

(f) Supplies, commodities and materials: Office stationery and supplies, and laptops and screens for project staff and consultants;

(g) Programme support cost (PSC): 13 per cent PSC normally apply to all expenditures from trust funds established under the United Nations.

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<sup>15</sup> In accordance with the respective United Nations rules and regulations, consultants can only work for 24 months within a period of 36 months.

Table 2  
**Summary of expenditures until 14 September 2022 from the main  
 Convention trust fund for the biennium 2021–2022<sup>a</sup>**

(in United States dollars)

<i>Umoja object class</i>	<i>Expenditures 2021–2022</i>
Contractual services	179 965
Operating and other direct costs	44 094
Grants	43 400
Staff and other personnel costs	734 839
<i>of which: Consultancy fees</i>	<i>155 117</i>
<i>of which: Staff and other personnel costs</i>	<i>579 721</i>
Travel	13 058
Supplies, commodities, and materials	5 120
Subtotal	1 020 476
Programme Support Cost (13 per cent)	132 666
<b>Total (all activities and staff)</b>	<b>1 153 142</b>

<sup>a</sup> Based on real expenditures, as recorded in Umoja until 14 September 2022. Does not include in-kind contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, listed in table 1.

*Note:* the figures in table 2 were rounded.

27. Table 3 presents the summary of estimated expenditures from the main Convention trust fund until 31 December 2022, based on projected expenditures necessary for activities to be carried out until the end of the year, including to:

(a) Organize a seminar of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, entitled “Emerging risks in accidental water pollution: focus on natural hazard-triggered industrial accidents” (Budapest (hybrid), 5 October 2022), including to support the participation of the Group’s members from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(b) Also organize an Inter-institutional Working Group meeting on the mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan, and continue to support Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the establishment of a similar Working Group along with other activities to strengthen mine tailings safety in Central Asia and Mongolia;

(c) Continue supporting the development of a National Programme for Industrial Safety in Serbia, under the auspices of the National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Serbia;

(d) Support and ensure continuous liaison with beneficiary countries under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme in the continued implementation of Projects;

(e) Prepare and service the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including an ECE/OECD Seminar on the effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards and to support the participation of representatives from economies in transition in the meeting.

Table 3  
**Summary of estimated expenditures until 31 December 2022 from the main Convention trust fund for the biennium 2021–2022<sup>a</sup>**

(in United States dollars)

<i>Umoja object class</i>	<i>Estimated expenditures 2021–2022</i>
Contractual services	198 000
Operating and other direct costs	85 000
Grants	55 000
Staff and other personnel costs	878 000
<i>of which: Consultancy fees</i>	<i>182 000</i>
<i>of which: Staff and other personnel costs</i>	<i>696 000</i>
Travel	120 000
Supplies, commodities, and materials	6 000
Subtotal	1 342 000
Programme Support Cost (13 per cent)	174 460
<b>Total (all activities and staff)</b>	<b>1 516 460</b>

<sup>a</sup> Based on a combination of real expenditures, as recorded in Umoja until 14 September 2022, and estimated expenditures until end-December 2022. Does not include in-kind contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, listed in table 1.

28. The total financial income thus far received for the biennium 2021–2022 to the main Convention trust fund is at \$956,964 (see table 1<sup>16</sup>). Coupled with the additional income yet forthcoming (\$208,153), a total income of \$1,165,117 is expected in the main trust fund by 31 December 2022. The additional contributions still available from previous bienniums of approx. 420,000 have been essential in order to provide the overall funding necessary funding necessary to enable implementing activities in line with the scale of the workplan. The estimated expenditures from the main Convention trust fund during this biennium (\$1,516,460, see table 3) are slightly below the level of overall contributions available for use during this biennium – while noting the need to reserve a part of several contributions provided previously provided, namely those from Switzerland for the Projects on strengthening the safety of mine tailings in Central Asia and in Uzbekistan, with an implementation period reaching until the end of 2023.

29. In addition to the above expenditures, the secretariat will in the period until the end of 2022, reaching into mid-January 2023, actively support the implementation of the joint ECE-UNDRR Project addressing technological/industrial accident risks in national strategies and disaster risk reduction plans with funding through the European Union Central Asia Initiative, received through UNDRR in a separate trust fund (see para. 5 above), resulting in \$53,000 expenditures, the majority of which will occur still during this biennium.

30. Table 4 includes the summary of expenditures from 1 January 2021 until 14 September 2022 from the dedicated trust fund established for the Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch), with funding provided by the Russian Federation in July 2020. A total of \$136,896 were spent under this project during the biennium 2021–2022. In 2020, \$25,396 were spent. Accordingly, \$87,708 of the original \$250,000 provided currently still remain in the trust fund and are envisaged for further project implementation, once feasible.

<sup>16</sup> Without the contribution of \$250,000 from the Russian Federation and of \$53,000 from the European Union, both provided to separate trust funds. Interest income for 2021 has been added.

Table 4

**Summary of expenditures until 14 September 2022 from the trust fund for the Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch) for the biennium 2021–2022**

(in United States dollars)

<i>Umoja object class</i>	<i>Estimated expenditures 2021–2022</i>
Contractual services	3 731
Operating and other direct costs	3 798
Staff and other personnel costs	113 618
<i>of which: Consultancy fees</i>	15 472
<i>of which: Staff and other personnel costs</i>	98 146
Subtotal	121 147
Programme Support Cost (13 per cent)	15 749
<b>Total (all activities and staff)</b>	<b>136 896</b>

31. The balance of the main Convention trust fund at 31 August 2022 was at \$1,608,015. The balance is expected to further decrease by 31 December 2022, as the expected expenditures in the period September–December 2022 (approx. 359,000) are about \$150,000 higher than the expected additional contributions before the end of the year (\$208,153). Compared with a balance of \$1,705,760 at 31 December 2020, the ending balance at 31 December 2022 will thus decrease by about \$ 250,000.

32. Retaining a sufficient trust fund balance is essential in order to be able to allot funding before the end of the fiscal year 2022 for the fiscal year 2023, enabling the prolongation of ongoing staff contracts and the engagement of the additional staff, consultancies, individual contractors and/or grantees required to implement activities envisaged for 2023, as per the workplan 2023–2024 to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11). In this regard, it will be important that Parties provide the funding pledged at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and any additional funding committed for 2023 in line with the adopted workplan either still before the end of 2022, if feasible, or as soon as possible in the calendar year 2023, in line with Decision 2020/2 fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention.<sup>17</sup>

33. In conclusions, in order to maintain the scale of the Convention’s workplan (covering outreach, communications, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships; facilitation of implementation, including in relation to Natech and disaster risk reduction; the servicing of intergovernmental bodies and expert groups; the IAN system; Assistance and Cooperation Programme, and general programme management) and ensure the Convention’s continued progress in line with its long-term strategy until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1), additional contributions by Parties are required, further to the regular pledges and contributions normally communicated at the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties. As currently only about half of the Parties provide financial contributions (see figure above), such contributions from the other Parties, as well as contributions in line with economic scale from Parties already contributing will be essential in order to progress towards a more predictable and sustainable system of financing of the future workplan 2023–2024, and beyond.

<sup>17</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1, decision 2020/2. As per the decision, the Conference of the Parties “requests that Parties make their contributions to the ECE Local Technical Cooperation Trust Fund under the Convention as early as possible in the budget yet and that, to the extent possible, contributions for a given calendar year for made by the end of the preceding year in order to provide greater certainty for future financial and project management”.