

Agenda item 9:
Road map for action to strengthen
Mine Tailings Safety within and
beyond the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Geneva, Switzerland and online, 29 November-1 December 2022

ROAD MAP FOR ACTION TO STRENGTHEN MINE TAILINGS SAFETY WITHIN AND BEYOND THE UNECE REGION

(Torill Tandberg, Chair to the Conference of the Parties)

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

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BACKGROUND

TMF-Seminar 2020

Bureau was requested to make an orientation paper to COP-12

Prepared by a small group and the secretariat

ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1

Decision 2020/1
Strengthening mine tailings safety in the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond

The Conference of the Parties,

Alarmed by the increasing frequency of serious tailings dam failures over recent decades, causing deaths and the destruction of families, homes, infrastructure, ecosystems and the environment,

Increasingly aware of the far-reaching and potentially transboundary nature of accidental water pollution caused by tailings dam failure, both within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, making tailings dam failures a matter not only of national but also of regional concern, calling for joint prevention and management approaches,

Concerned by the observation that the majority of tailings dam failures can be attributed to a limited number of human factors, notably a lack of management continuity and inadequate resources for maintenance and management of tailings management facilities,

Conscious of the economic importance of the mining sector and its role in the transition to low-carbon energy production and storage technologies, and the interconnection of sustainably deployed infrastructure, mining safety, human well-being and the environment,

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROADMAP

1

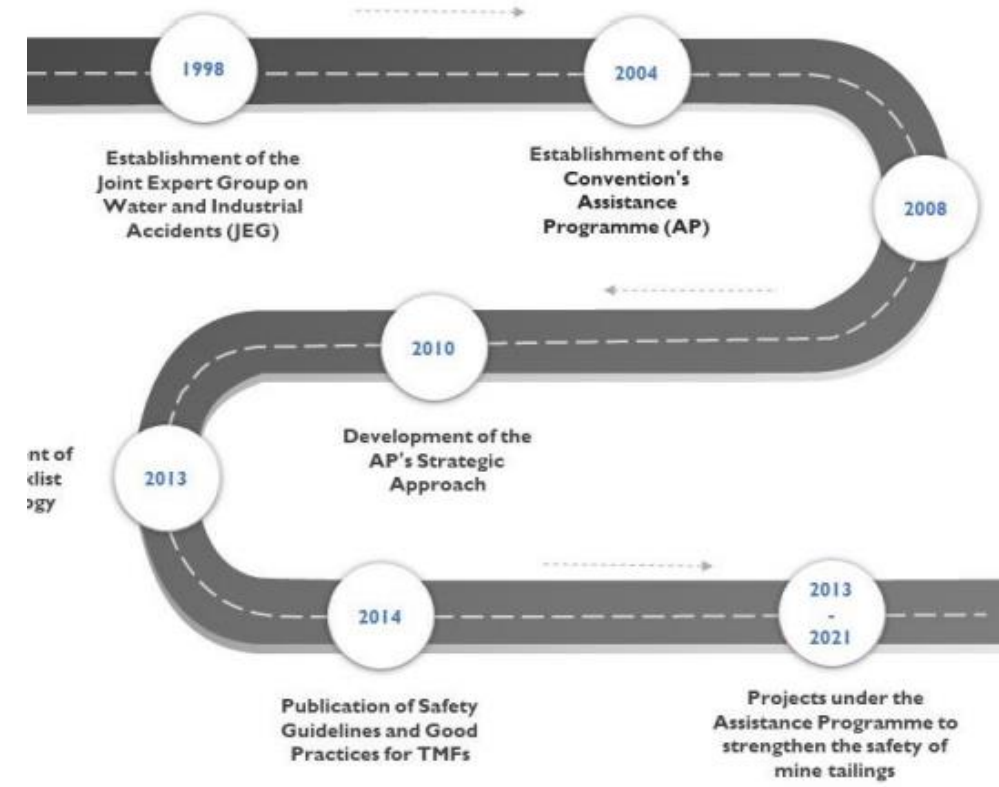
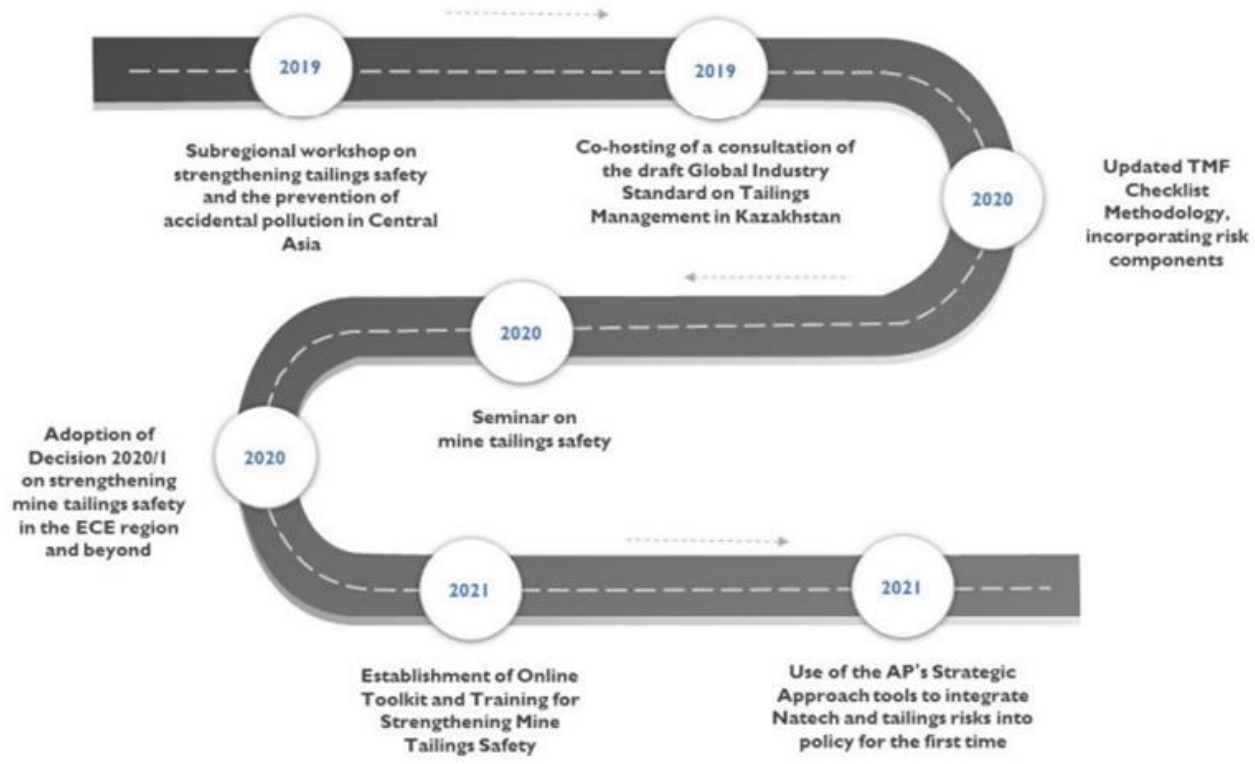
Define key objective to strengthen Mine Tailings Safety based on the 2020/1 decision

2

Provide direction, actions and priorities for Parties and MS within the ECE-region and beyond

3

Highlight the activities that the EEC secretariat to the Convention could conduct to support Parties and other ECE MS and cooperation with other international organization



PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Parties
- National Government Authorities
- Involvement of local authorities
- ECE secretariat
- International organizations

FIVE KEY OBJECTIVES

- A. Understanding tailings management facility-related risks within and across national borders
- B. Addressing tailing management facility risks through policy and governance
- C. Prevention and preparedness for accidental water pollution from tailing management facilities to ensure water quality
- D. Prevention of natural hazard-triggered industrial accidents (Natech events) and adoption top climate change
- E. Exchange of information and knowledge and capacity-building

STRUCTURE



Objective summary



Proposed approach to achieve objective



Actions for Parties and MS within the ECE region and beyond



Actions by ECE-secretariat



Joint or complementary actions by ECE secretariat and other international organizations

NEXT STEPS

2023–2024

Advanced understanding
Existing working groups and national coordination mechanism
Report on TMFs as part of the hazardous activities (10th reporting round)

Prepare overview of TMFs in the ECE-region
Possibly existing hazards, risks and hotspots
Joint understanding and governance of the risks among countries

2025–2026



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!