

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

List of outcomes and decisions taken per agenda item

Day 1, 29 November 2022

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

- The Conference of the Parties adopted the annotated provisional agenda for its twelfth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/43).

Agenda item 2 – Thirtieth anniversary of the Convention

- At the occasion of the Convention's 30th anniversary, the Conference of the Parties expressed appreciation for the progress made in implementing the Convention by Parties. It emphasized that the ECE region provides a global example for industrial safety, transboundary cooperation and technological disaster risk reduction thanks to the unique role played by the Convention.
- The Conference of the Parties also commended the progress made by beneficiaries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme not yet Parties to the Convention in strengthening its application and encouraged them to accelerate progress towards accession.
- The Conference of the Parties renewed its commitments to continue working towards full implementation of the Convention in line with its the long-term strategy until 2030, including to address challenges, emerging risks and developments, such as the increasing impacts of climate change and natural hazards triggering technological disasters (Natech events), urbanization and industrialization, and growing demand for minerals and metals to enable the green economy transition and strive for energy security.
- The Conference of the Parties recognized the secretariat's important work in fostering implementation of and accession to the Convention, assisting Parties, and beneficiary countries not yet Parties and building strong partnerships with other international and regional organizations. It stressed the importance of continuing and expanding these activities and invited Parties to provide the necessary resources for the implementation of the Convention's workplans to enable further progress in line with the long-term strategy.

Agenda item 3 – Status of ratification, representation and credentials

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the current status of ratification of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/1) and requested the secretariat to report on the ratification status in a similar manner at its next meeting.
- The Conference of the Parties took note of the report on the credentials of the representatives participating in the meeting and that more than half of the Parties were represented, enabling the Conference to take decisions.
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed Ukraine as the newest Party to the Convention and, considering the high level of industrialization of the country, emphasized the importance of its accession to the Convention for industrial safety in the region.

Agenda item 4 – Election of officers and other members of the Bureau

- In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Bureau for the period of 2023-2024, based on candidatures received by the secretariat up to eight weeks in advance of the meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/INF.2):

Party	Name
Armenia	Ms. Armine Hayrapetyan
Austria	Mr. Michael Struckl
European Union	Mr. Camille Siefritd
Finland	Ms. Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund
France	Ms. Marie-Claire Lhenry
Montenegro	Ms. Dragana Raonić Popović
Norway	Ms. Torill Tandberg
Serbia	Ms. Suzana Milutinovic
Switzerland	Mr. Martin Merkofer
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Gill Smart

From among the members of the Bureau, it elected the following Officers:

Party	Name	Position
Norway	Ms. Torill Tandberg	Chair of the Conference of the Parties
Switzerland	Mr. Martin Merkofer	Vice-Chair of the Conference of the Parties
France	Ms. Marie-Claire Lhenry	Vice-Chair of the Conference of the Parties

Agenda item 5 – Natech risk management

- The Conference of the Parties took note with appreciation of the conclusions of the joint UNECE/OECD Seminar on effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards.
- The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 2022/1 on strengthening Natech risk management in the ECE region and beyond, as contained in document ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/4.

Day 2, 30 November 2022

Agenda item 6 – Report of the Bureau on its activities since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the Bureau on its activities since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/2) and requested the Bureau to prepare a similar report for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- The Conference of the Parties mandated the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG), in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation (WGI) and the Bureau, to assess in the next biennium, whether there exists a need for the *Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention* to be revised and updated in order to cover more comprehensively the hazards and risks arising from tailings management facilities (TMFs), and to share its findings in the form of an official document with the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.

Agenda item 7 – Activities of the Working Group on Implementation

- The Conference of the Parties endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the *Working Group on Implementation's Special Session: Seminar on good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention* (Geneva (hybrid), 1-2 February 2022) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/5, Annex). It invited Parties, beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, other reporting countries, the Working Group on Implementation and the secretariat to implement the respective recommendations across the 6 working areas discussed.

- The Conference of the Parties took note with appreciation of the report on the activities of the Working Group on Implementation since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/5) and requested the Working Group to prepare a similar report for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed the belated submission of national implementation reports by Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina for the ninth reporting round, noting that as such, all Parties submitted national implementation reports for the period 2016-2018. It also welcomed the belated submission of a national implementation report by Georgia. It also encouraged all Parties and other reporting countries to submit their implementation report on time by 31 October 2023 for the tenth reporting round (2019–2022).
- The Conference of the Parties recommended that beneficiaries of the Convention’s Assistance and Cooperation Programme use the e-tool, developed by the Working Group on Implementation, to facilitate the preparation of self-assessments.
- The Conference of the Parties called on Latvia to urgently appoint another representative to serve the Working Group for the remainder of the term 2021–2024.

Agenda item 8 – Assistance to countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

- The Conference of the Parties endorsed the progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2021-2022 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/6) and requested the secretariat to prepare a similar report for its thirteenth meeting.
- The Conference of the Parties appreciated the progress made by Ukraine in strengthening implementation of the Convention, culminating in its accession, in line with the intentions expressed at the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties. It invited Parties to support Ukraine’s progress in the Convention’s implementation and its endeavours to strengthen industrial safety,
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed the progress made by beneficiary countries in the Convention’s implementation, particularly in strengthening policies and governance, among others, through the National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety in Serbia and the Inter-institutional Working Groups on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. It encouraged the countries to sustain respective processes created.
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed the preparation of reports for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the analysis of national policies and legislation and recommendations for their harmonization with the Convention’s requirements and other related policy areas, such as disaster risk reduction. It encouraged the 5 Central Asian countries to pursue the implementation of the respective recommendations, with the involvement of all relevant government authorities and stakeholders
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed progress made by Azerbaijan, Montenegro, Ukraine and four Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) in the implementation of the Convention’s Strategic Approach, by preparing updated national self-assessments and action plans. It encouraged other beneficiary countries to consider such updates, to further progress in implementation.
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed the active cooperation among four riparian countries to the Syr Darya river basin (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) through the development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syr Darya river in emergency situations, addressing both water and industrial pollution risks, as well as Natch.
- The Conference of the Parties took note of the expressed needs of beneficiary countries of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, to improve national governance, through, e.g. National Policy Dialogues on Industrial Safety, to further strengthen policies and legislation on industrial safety and transboundary cooperation, e.g. in relation to mine tailings safety and land-use planning and industrial safety and, to develop a joint contingency plan in the Syr Darya river basin. It appreciated the support provided by donor countries for past assistance activities and requested Parties to further support these in the next biennium and beyond to address the expressed needs.

Agenda item 9 – Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

- The Conference of the Parties endorsed the *Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region* (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/7), and thanked the Bureau, with the support of a small group, and the secretariat for its preparation.
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed progress made by Parties under the auspices of the Convention in the field of mine tailings safety, supported by the *Safety Guidelines and Good Industrial Practices for TMFs* and related checklist methodology with a Tailings risk and hazard index, the *Online Toolkit and Training on TMF* and the capacity-building projects to support countries in strengthening safety, implemented by the secretariat.
- The Conference of the Parties called upon Parties and member States within the ECE region and beyond to take the actions outlined in the road map to strengthen mine tailings safety, including in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- The Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat, to provide related support for the implementation of the outlined actions and to prepare a regional overview of TMFs, including existing hazards, risks and hotspots, for facilitating better understandings amongst countries and dialogues among different stakeholders.
- The Conference of the Parties noted with satisfaction the partnerships established with other international organizations to enhance mine tailings safety.
- The Conference of the Parties requested Parties and other ECE member States to report to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (e.g., during a round table) on their notifications of TMFs with potential transboundary effects to potentially affected countries and on their identification of TMF-related risks, past accidents, challenges and their efforts to address those.
- The Conference of the Parties agreed to regularly report on the progress made in implementing the action items under each objective at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and through their national implementation reports.

Agenda item 10 – Facilitation of implementation

(a) Risk assessment for industrial accident prevention

- The Conference of the Parties took note with appreciation of the *Report on risk assessment for industrial accident prevention: Overview of risk assessment methods* (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/8) and the *Report on risk assessment for industrial accident prevention: Selected case studies and available software tools* (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/9) and thanked the small group of the Bureau and Working Group on Implementation, under the lead of Switzerland, and the contractor Jensen Hughes, for its preparation.
- The Conference of the Parties encouraged countries to review and consider the information in the two risk assessment reports and apply suitable methodologies, as appropriate, for strengthening industrial accident prevention and transboundary cooperation.
- The Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to publish the two risk assessment reports as a single publication in the biennium 2023-2024, in English, French and Russian, as envisaged in the workplan (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11).
- The Conference of the Parties invited Parties to review and consider the future implementation of proposed follow-up activities resulting from the 2018 Seminar on risk assessment methodologies (Geneva, 4 December 2018).

(b) United Nations/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Seminar in follow-up to the Beirut port explosion

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the conclusions of the “*UN/OECD Seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion: Lessons learned, experiences and good practices in managing risks of ammonium nitrate storage, handling and transport in port areas, preventing accidents and mitigating their consequences*” and encouraged the uptake of the actions therein to strengthen safety, address challenges and gaps. It noted with gratitude the partnerships established to organize this event, namely with the UNECE Sub-Committees on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized Systems on the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), the International Labour Organization, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Joint Environment Unit (UNEP/OCHA JEU), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Arab States and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- It encouraged Parties to widely distribute and support implementation of the seminar conclusions, contribute to the further work and support the follow-up activities, notably the development of an information repository/webpage, possibly supplemented by a video and an information-brochure and a dedicated seminar for Parties, such as Ukraine.

(c) Contribution to implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

- The Conference of the Parties welcomed the close cooperation with UNDRR, in the context of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), the Global Platform for DRR, and the preparation of the Regional Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction and the joint UNECE-UNDRR Project on supporting Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to integrate elements of industrial accident risk and transboundary considerations into their national strategic documents prepared under the umbrella of the Sendai Framework, under UNDRR’s Central Asia Initiative.
- The Conference of the Parties underscored the fact that the Convention has progressively become a recognized legal instrument for risk reduction under the Sendai Framework, in line with its long-term strategy until 2030. It recognized that the Convention played an important role in raising awareness of technological risks, their interlinkages with natural, including climate-induced hazards, and transboundary cooperation in the disaster risk reduction community.
- It encouraged Parties and beneficiary countries to make further progress in policy integration, ensuring that industrial accident risk and related multi-hazard/risk such as Natech, and transboundary considerations, form part of the national DRR strategies and plan, and respective activities are implemented in synergy.

Agenda item 11 – Prevention of accidental water pollution

- The Conference of the Parties took note with appreciation of the activities carried out by the JEG in 2021-2022 and of the key findings and recommendations from the JEG Seminar on emerging risks in accidental water pollution: focus on natural hazard-triggered accidents.
- The Conference of the Parties endorsed the proposed activities of the JEG, as contained in the draft workplan for the Convention for 2023–2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11), notably the organization of a JEG workshop on preventing accidental water pollution, including early warning and alert systems, comprising the identification and exchange of good practices and collection of examples of Natech accidents affecting transboundary waters, and the development of a catalogue/web page on accidental water pollution warning systems and recommendations on their deployment. The Conference of the Parties recognized the importance of this work in view of the United Nations Secretary-General’s call for every person on the planet to be covered by early warning systems within 5 years to come. It welcomed the launch of the SG’s “Early Warnings for All Executive Action Plan” and asked UNECE to cooperate with WMO and UNDRR in its implementation.

- The Conference of the Parties welcomed the continued close cooperation with the Water Convention on the prevention of accidental water pollution, including through the organization of activities of the JEG.

Agenda item 12 – Industrial Accident Notification System

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System connectivity test and the eighth online consultation of the points of contact organized, and their conclusions, as contained in CP.TEIA/2022/INF.5. It encouraged Parties and beneficiary countries, through their nominated Points of contact, to make use of the System in case of industrial accidents with transboundary effects or imminent threats thereof and to request mutual assistance. It also particularly encouraged Turkmenistan to register in the IAN System a Point of Contact, in accordance with article 17 of the Convention.
- The Conference of the Parties requested Parties to provide the financing necessary to ensure regular maintenance of the IAN System and to enable an upgrade of the IAN system to fix glitches, enhance its technical functionalities and ensure full compliance with the current cyber security standards. It noted that upgrading the system will enable strengthening its multi-hazard, multi-risk approach and linkages with other early-warning systems of River Basin commissions, while increasing its operability and efficiency.
- The Conference of the Parties welcomed the conduct of subregional connectivity tests by Slovenia and Switzerland in the current biennium and encouraged the organization of connectivity tests / table-top exercises at the sub-regional level by Parties and beneficiary countries, involving one or more potentially affected countries. It also took note of the use of the IAN System by Slovenia in May 2022 to notify Croatia of a real industrial accident.
- The Conference of the Parties recommended the organization of a connectivity test with the Points of Contacts and the ninth online consultation of the points of contact in 2023-2024, as per the workplan of 2023-2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11).

Day 3, 1 December 2022

Agenda item 13 – Workplan and resource requirements for the Convention for 2023–2024

- The Conference of the Parties adopted the workplan and resource requirements for the Convention for 2023-2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/11), and its corresponding budget, on the basis of the Bureau's proposal made in cooperation with the secretariat, and the changes made during the session. The Conference of the Parties entrusted the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, with the support of the secretariat, to finalize the workplan after the meeting, on the basis of the pledges made and to be confirmed.
- The Conference of the Parties also:
 - Requested Parties and invited other UNECE member States to participate actively in the implementation of the workplan for 2023-2024, including through taking the lead in specific projects and activities contained in the workplan;
 - Welcomed the contributions to the budget pledged before and at the meeting by Parties to the Convention;
 - Urged other Parties and UNECE member States to provide voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to support the implementation of the Convention's workplan, including for ensuring adequate human resources in the secretariat;
 - Also welcomed the in-kind contributions provided by partner organizations, including the EIB, OSCE and OECD;
 - Mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to monitor and support the implementation of the workplan for 2023-2024, including raising the additional funds necessary for its full implementation;
 - Requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions;
 - Requested the Bureau to draw up, with the support of the secretariat, a workplan and budget for 2025-2026 for adoption at the thirteenth meeting.

- The Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to service and to provide the necessary meeting rooms and/or online platforms, equipment, interpretation in the three official ECE languages, official documents and other resources for the holding of meetings and other events as listed in the adopted workplan.
- The Conference of the Parties requested Parties to consider providing the additional resources necessary for the holding of meetings with remote simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Russian, and recognizing, should these not be forthcoming, that intergovernmental meetings will be held as in person events.
- The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 2022/2 on guiding principles for financial assistance (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/12).

Agenda item 14 – Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships

- The Conference of the Parties took note of the secretariat’s communication and outreach efforts to promote the Convention and its tools. It encouraged Parties and beneficiary countries to also engage in actions to promote the Convention in line with the communication, outreach and engagement strategy (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1).
- The Conference of the Parties underlined the continued importance of strategic partnerships, in view of the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030. It encouraged the maintenance and continued development of strategic partnerships with existing and new partners, subject to available resources.

Agenda item 15 – Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2021–2022

- The Conference of the Parties endorsed the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources to implement the workplan in 2021–2022 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/10) and requested the secretariat to report on the use of financial and in-kind resources in 2023–2024 at the thirteenth meeting.

Agenda item 16 – Emerging risks and developments

- The Conference of the Parties recognized the need to address emerging issues of concern for industrial safety, including energy transition and changes of energy sources, cybersecurity, Natech risks in view of wildfires from heatwaves, waste treatment and opportunities in relation to ore-sand and mine-tailing, and the Convention’s relation to these.

Agenda item 17 – Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- The Conference of the Parties entrusted the Bureau to facilitate the identification of a country to host the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2024. In the absence of a host, the meeting will be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Agenda item 19 – Review of decisions

- The Conference of the Parties reviewed and adopted the decisions taken during the session. It entrusted the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of its twelfth meeting.