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Terms of Reference

of the Inter-Institutional Working Group on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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INTRODUCITON

- Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (since 2007) --> Joint Expert Group
- High Level Declaration on Commitments of the Industrial Accidents Convention (2005)
- National Water Policy Dialogue (2022)
- Analysis of national legislation in Uzbekistan with recommendations for harmonization with the requirements of the Industrial Accidents Convention and measures to reduce the risk of man-made actions (2022)
- Decree of the President of Uzbekistan No. UP-5863 dated October 31, 2019 "On approval of the Concept of environmental protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030"
- Assistance and Cooperation Program of the Industrial Accidents Convention
- UNECE projects to support the countries of Central Asia to improve the safety of tailings (from 2020) and to improve the safety of tailings and prevent accidental water pollution in Uzbekistan and beyond in Central Asia (from 2021)

JUSTIFICATION

Objective:

serve as a platform for improving inter-institutional coordination and cooperation between industrial safety, water supply and other relevant bodies and institutions, as well as with operators, academia and public organizations to prevent accidental water pollution and its transboundary consequences in Uzbekistan.

01

strengthening inter-institutional coordination and cooperation between government agencies

02

improving cooperation between government agencies and enterprises, mining industry operators, scientific institutes and public organizations

03

harmonization of state legislation, policies and practices with international standards

04

implementation of the obligations of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, SDGs 6 and 9

05

implementation of recommendations 15.5 (a-c) of the Third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) in Uzbekistan

COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONS, DECISIONS

Preliminary composition:

- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan (structural divisions and subordinate organizations);
- Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan (structural divisions and subordinate organizations);
- Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan (structural divisions and subordinate organizations);
- Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- National Emergency Management and Response Center;
- Uzhydromet;
- Other stakeholders such as operators and/or NGOs.

Chairman:

- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Deputy chairmen:

- Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan

WG meetings: min 1 time per year

Решения: Minutes of the meeting and Work Plan of the WG for a year

Responsibilities:

- recommendations for revision/updating of legislation and policy,
- discussion of international best practices/standards and their possible application in Uzbekistan,
- consideration of the results of relevant (international/regional) projects and measures for the safety of tailings and the prevention of accidental water pollution,
- analysis of lessons learned from accidents at tailings in Uzbekistan and beyond,
- discussing the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on tailings safety,
- review/update of self-assessments and action plans under the Industrial Accidents Convention regarding risks to tailings