

Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia

25-26 May 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan and online

Main objectives:

- Strengthen transboundary cooperation and dialogue among Central Asian countries in the area of tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution
- Foster understanding of disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposure, including ways to mitigate these, both at the technical and political levels
- Present the achievements of Central Asian countries in strengthening industrial safety and preventing accidental pollution from tailings facilities at the national and regional levels
- Share information on UNECE guidelines, tools and projects, as well as those of partner organizations, and experiences in their application
- Provide a platform for exchanging experiences, good practices and lessons learned, bringing together the relevant stakeholders and partners from industrial safety and water communities
- Strengthen implementation of and accession to the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and promote benefits of implementation of other UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Review recommendations arising from UNECE regional projects, discuss challenges and needs, and identify ways to address them and to strengthen national and transboundary governance of risks.

Venue: The Rumi Hotel, 10 Mirzo Tursunzoda St., Dushanbe, Tajikistan; online participants will connect through ZOOM

Languages: Russian and English (with simultaneous interpretation)

Beneficiary countries: Central Asian and neighbouring countries

Organizers: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), in cooperation with the Service for State Supervision over the Safe Conduct of Work in Industry and Mining Supervision under the Government of Tajikistan, and with financial support from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, GIZ, OSCE and the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation.

Draft agenda (final as of 24 May 2023)

DAY 1 – Thursday, 25 May 2023

(times indicated below refer to Dushanbe local time)

OPENING AND SETTING THE SCENE

Session Chair: Mr. Rahim Sanat Aso, Chairman, State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

08:30-09:00	Arrival (in-person) and connection (online) of participants
09:00-09:20	Opening remarks and welcome speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Rahim Sanat Aso, Chairman, State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</i> - <i>Mr. Latifzoda Hotamsho, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</i> - <i>Mr. Martin Franz Langer, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Republic of Tajikistan</i> - <i>Ms. Laura Platchkov, Senior Policy Advisor, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland (online)</i> - <i>Mr. Mulugeta Zewdie, United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim in Tajikistan and UNHCR Representative</i>
09:20-09:35	Key risks from tailings and UNECE's tools on strengthening mine tailings safety and preventing accidental pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Pavel Danihelka, Professor, Head of the Department of Risk Research and Management, Occupational Safety Research Institute Ostrava, Czechia, member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents</i>
09:35-09:45	UNECE's video on mine tailings safety
09:45-10:00	Key achievements on strengthening tailings safety by Central Asian countries since the 2019 subregional workshop in Almaty and 2022 UNECE road map on tailings safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms. Claudia Kamke, Project Manager, Environmental Affairs Officer, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE</i>
SESSION 1 – HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION ON KEY RISKS AND CHALLENGES IN THE SAFE MANAGEMENT OF TAILINGS FACILITIES AND THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION IN CENTRAL ASIA Session Chair: Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE	
10:00-11:05	High-level panel, comprised of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms. Sharifa Khudobakhsh, Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan</i> - <i>Mr. Mereke Pshembaev, Vice Minister for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i>

- *Mr. Dosbol Bekmaganbetov, Vice Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (online)*
- *Mr. Mukhtar Mukhitdinov, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan (online)*
- *Mr. Abdulkodir Mavlodod, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*
- *Mr. Jamshed Kamolzoda, Head of the Main Department of Population and Territory Protection, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*
- *Mr. Serik Aubakirov, Director of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) (online)*
- *Mr. Serik Akhmetov, Deputy Director, International Water Assessment Center (IWAC), member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents*

Panelists will be asked to share in no more than 5 min their views on:

- 1) *Key challenges on tailings safety and preventing related accidental pollution in their country and transboundary context;*
- 2) *Actions they plan or recommend to take, to overcome the challenges, strengthen transboundary cooperation and implement [the UNECE decision \(2020\)](#) and [road map \(2022\)](#) on tailings safety; and*
- 3) *Support that UNECE or other organizations can provide in this regard.*

11:05-11:35 Coffee/tea break

SESSION 2 – SHARING APPROACHES ON IMPROVING THE UNDERSTANDING AND GOVERNANCE OF MINE TAILINGS IN CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND

Session Chair: Mr. Erbol Elekeev, Head of the Occupational Health and Safety Sector of Samruk-Kazyna, Kazakhstan

11:35-11:50 Establishment and achievements of the Inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan

- *Mr. Musa Tanabaev, Deputy Chairman of the Industrial Safety Committee of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kazakhstan*

11:50-12:05 Onsite training and Inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Tajikistan

- *Mr. Firdavs Sharipov, Head of the State Inspectorate for Geological Supervision of the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*

12:05-12:10 Q&A

12:10-12:25 Regulatory activities for the remediation of uranium production legacy sites in Tajikistan

- *Mr. Bakhtiyor Barotov, Head of Scientific Research, Education and Technical Service – Agency on Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Safety of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan*

12:25-12:40	Rio Tinto's Approach to Safe Tailings Management & Governance - <i>Ms. Marnie Pascoe, Chief Advisor, Major Hazards Surface Mining Centre of Excellence, Rio Tinto, Australia (online)</i>
12:40-12:45	Q&A
12:45-13:00	Group picture
13:00-14:15	Lunch

SESSION 3 – PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION IN THE DANUBE, DNIESTER AND SYR DARYA RIVER BASINS
Session Chair: Mr. Serik Akhmetov, Deputy Director of the International Water Assessment Centre, member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

14:15-14:30	Mapping and integration of tailings risks in the Danube River Basin Management Plan - <i>Mr. Adam Kovacs, Technical expert – Pollution Control, International Commission on the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), JEG observer (online)</i>
14:30-14:45	Inventory and mapping of tailings management facilities in the Syr Darya River Basin – Overview of key hazards and risks <i>Joint presentation by:</i> - <i>Mr. Dmitry Rudakov, Consultant to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention (online)</i> - <i>Ms. Oleksandra Riedl, Consultant to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention (online)</i>
14:45-14:50	Q&A
14:50-15:05	Key findings and recommendations from the UNECE-EU Project on Joint Measures to Prevent and Respond to Pollution of the Syr Darya River in Emergency Situations - <i>Mr. Alexander Belokurov, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE (online)</i>
15:05-15:20	Transboundary Cooperation on preventing accidental water pollution from mine tailings facilities in the Dniester River Basin - <i>Ms. Iryna Nikolaieva, Environmental Consultant to the Dutch organization PAX and OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine</i>
15:20-15:25	Q&A
15:25-15:45	Round-table discussion on strengthening joint contingency planning in the Syr Darya River Basin <i>Moderated by the Session Chair</i> - <i>Mr. Mavlon Hokimalizoda, Member of EC IFAS, representative of the Republic of Tajikistan</i> - <i>Mr. Erbol Elekeev, Head of the Occupational Health and Safety Sector of Samruk-Kazyna, Kazakhstan</i> - <i>Mr. Aibek Kozibaev, Head of Project Implementation and Investment Division, Department of Tailings Management under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (online)</i>

- *Mr. Golib Shukurov, Chief Specialist of the Department for Water, Land and Subsoil Protection, Ministry of Natural Resources, Uzbekistan (online)*
- *Mr. Alexander Belokurov, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE (online)*

The participants of the round-table discussion will be asked to share in 2-3 minutes their views on the following questions:

- 1) *What measures should the riparian countries of the Syr Darya River Basin take to implement the recommendations?*
- 2) *How can the countries of Central Asia benefit from the intersectoral synergies to address the needs of the riparian countries?*

Other workshop participants are encouraged to ask questions, make proposals and share their views on the above questions and other information provided in this session.

15:45-16:15 Coffee/tea break

SESSION 4 – NEEDS AND THE WAY FORWARD ON PREVENTING ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION FROM TAILINGS IN CENTRAL ASIA
Session Chair: Ms. Caroline Milow, Program Manager, GIZ

16:15-16:30 Introduction to group work
 - *Ms. Caroline Milow, Program Manager, GIZ*

16:30-17:15 Group work

Participants will be split in 5 groups (operators, authorities, academia, NGOs and international/governmental organizations), each led by a facilitator. Participants should join that group that they belong to or feel closest to, while they may also join any group of their interest. In the groups, the participants will be asked to share their views on the following questions:

- 1) *What are, in your opinion, the most pressing challenges and needs related to tailings safety and preventing accidental water pollution in Central Asia?*
- 2) *Which are, in your opinion, the most important measures or actions that should be taken and by whom to address the above challenges and needs?*
- 3) *How can your authority/organization help address these challenges and needs?*

Group 1 – Operators (Russian-speaking):

- *Facilitator: Mr. Bobo Bobokhonov, Advisor to the General Director, Zarafshon Metallurgical Plant LLC*

Group 2 – Authorities (Russian-speaking):

- *Facilitator: Mr. Ardasher Mirzozoda, First Deputy Chairman of the Service of the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*

Group 3 – Academia, NGOs and international/governmental organizations (English-speaking):

- *Facilitator: Mr. Brendan Duprey, Director, Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute, Associate Professor, Sustainable Development, Narxoz University*

Group 4 – Academia, NGOs and international/governmental organizations (Russian speaking):

- *Facilitator: Mr. Ilhom Gulamjanov, Regional Programme Manager, ACTED (Tajikistan)*

Group 5 – Online Participants (with simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian)

- *Facilitator: Mr. Daurbek Sakyev, Director, Monitoring and Forecasting Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan (online)*

17:15-18:00 Presentation and discussion of the results of the practical exercise

- *1 representative per group (5 min), followed by a discussion*

18:00 Wrap-up and closure of day 1

20:00 Official Dinner organized by the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for all participants

DAY 2 – Friday, 26 May 2023

(times indicated below refer to Dushanbe local time)

SESSION 5 – INCREASING ACCESSION TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION AND OTHER UNECE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Session Chair: Ms. Claudia Kamke, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

09:00-09:15 Benefits of accession and main requirements of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

- *Ms. Ksenia Nechunaeva, Environmental Affairs Consultant, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE*

09:15-09:30 Experience by Kazakhstan in implementing the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

- *Mr. Ermek Umarov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan*

09:30-09:35 Q&A

09:35-09:50 Steps taken by Tajikistan to prepare for accession to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

- *Mr. Ardasher Mirzozoda, First Deputy Chairman of State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*

09:50-10:00	Q&A; Statements by other Central Asian countries
10:00-10:15	Other UNECE MEAs and benefits of their implementation - <i>Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE</i> Q&A

**SESSION 6 – EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATING RISKS AND APPLYING A MULTI-
 HAZARD/RISK APPROACH IN CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND**
*Session Chair: Mr. Dilshod Kodirov, National Officer in Tajikistan, UNDRR Regional
 Office for Europe and Central Asia*

10:15-10:30	Green Central Asia: Enhancing regional dialogue on climate, environment and security <i>Ms. Caroline Milow, Programme Manager, Green Central Asia, GIZ</i>
10:30-10:45	Integrating industrial/tailings risks into national DRR strategies and plans of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan <i>Joint presentation by:</i> - <i>Mr. Daurbek Sakyev, Director, Monitoring and Forecasting Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan (online)</i> - <i>Mr. Ilhom Gulamjanov, Regional Programme Manager, ACTED (Tajikistan)</i>
10:45-10:50	Q&A
10:50-11:05	Integration of multi-hazard risk management into Volta River basin Management Plans - <i>Mr. Joachim Ayiwe Abungba, PhD, Principal Basin Officer and Head of the Black Volta Basin at the Water Resources Commission, Ghana (online)</i>
11:05-11:15	Q&A; Statements by other participants
11:15-11:45	Coffee/tea break

SESSION 7 – LESSONS LEARNT FROM PAST TAILINGS ACCIDENTS IN THE UNECE REGION

Session Chair: Mr. Pavel Danihelka, Professor, Head of the Department of Risk Research and Management, Occupational Safety Research Institute Ostrava, Czechia, member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

11:45-12:00	Lessons learnt from the tailings dam failures at Baia Mare and Baia Borsa, Romania, in 2000 - <i>Mr. Zoltán Török, Associate Professor PhD; Research Institute for Sustainability and Disaster Management, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania; member of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (online)</i>
12:00-12:15	Lessons learnt from the tailings dam failure at Kolontar, Hungary, in 2010 - <i>Mr. Peter Kovács, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary, Co-chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (online)</i>

12:15-12:25 Status of radiation and industrial tailings management facilities in Tajikistan

- *Mr. Tojiddin Makhmadov, Head of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection Department, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*

12:25-12:35 Q&A

SESSION 8 – FURTHER GUIDELINES, APPROACHES AND TOOLS TO IMPROVE TAILINGS SAFETY AND THE PREVENTION OR MITIGATION OF ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION

Session Chair: Ms. Iryna Nikolaieva, Environmental Consultant to the Dutch organization PAX and OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

12:35-12:55 GRID Geneva – Vale’s experience on processing tailings sand and potential to do the same in Central Asia

Joint presentation by:

- *Mr. Arnaud Vander Velpen, GRID-Geneva, University of Geneva (online)*
- *Mr. Emile Scheepers, Vale's Manager – Customer Service Solutions (Atlantic) (online)*
- *Mr. Felipe Daminato, New Business Development Specialist, Vale (online)*

12:55-13:10 ICOLD Bulletin 194 on Tailings Dam Safety with a focus on Design Principles

- *Ms. Annika Bjelkevik, Technical Director at Tailings Consultants Scandinavia AB, International Commission on Large Dams (online)*

13:10-13:15 Q&A

13:15-13:30 Satellite-based risk assessments and monitoring

- *Mr. Reijo Pold, Founder of Value.Space (online)*

13:30–13:45 Implementation of nature-based solutions to mitigate pollution from tailings management facilities in Central Asia

- *Mr. Brendan Duprey, Director of the Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute, Associate Professor on Sustainable Development at the Narxoz University*

13:45-13:50 Q&A

CLOSING SESSION

Session Chair: Mr. Ardasher Mirzozoda, First Deputy Chairman of the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

13:50-14:00 Wrap up and conclusions

- *Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE*
- *Ms. Caroline Milow, Program Manager, GIZ*
- *Session Chair*

14:00-15:00

Light lunch

15:00-18:00

Cultural event

(optional, for the participants who are not departing immediately after the workshop), organized by the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the Government of Tajikistan