

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Bureau**

##### **Fifty-second meeting**

Geneva (online), 15 February 2023

### **Annotated provisional agenda of the fifty-second meeting**

**To be held in Geneva (Palais des Nations, Room H 307-2) and remotely  
(through Webex), starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.**

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Follow-up to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
  - (a) Representation
  - (b) Evaluation of the meeting and lessons learned
  - (c) Membership of the Bureau
  - (d) Key outcomes and next steps
3. Workplan for 2023–2024
  - (a) Resource availability, requirements and staffing
  - (b) Envisaged activities under the Convention in 2023–2024
  - (c) Envisaged activities of the Bureau in 2023–2024 and organization of work
  - (d) Prioritization of activities under the Convention in 2023–2024
4. Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
5. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2023–2024
6. Other business
7. Closure of the meeting

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (9:00 – 9:05 a.m.)

This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in consultation with the Chair of the Bureau. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

### 2. Follow-up to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (9:05 – 10:30 a.m.)

The secretariat will share the draft report of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in advance of the meeting. The Bureau will be invited to consider selected issues meriting attention in follow-up to the twelfth meeting.

#### Documentation

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/44)

Addendum to the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1)

#### (a) Representation (9:05 – 9:10 a.m.)

The Bureau will be invited to review representation at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (38 out of 42 Parties) and the submission of credentials (34 Parties submitted original credentials) in line with the rules of procedure.

#### Documentation

Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/37):

[https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2020/TEIA/Rules\\_of\\_Procedures\\_\\_ROP/E\\_ECE\\_CP\\_TEIA\\_37.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2020/TEIA/Rules_of_Procedures__ROP/E_ECE_CP_TEIA_37.pdf)

#### (b) Evaluation of the meeting and lessons learned (9:10 – 9:20 a.m.)

The secretariat will present a summary of the evaluation forms received for the twelfth meeting, including those received for the joint UNECE/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seminar on effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards (Geneva (hybrid), 29 November 2022).

The Bureau will be invited to share its views and to review the organizational arrangements that were made for the meeting and suggest actions to address any perceived shortcomings.

#### (c) Membership of the Bureau (9:20 – 9:30 a.m.)

The Bureau will be invited to review its new membership from the point of view of geographical representation and gender. It will also be invited to take note of the expression of interest for Bureau membership from 2025 onwards by Estonia and Germany.

*Coffee break (9:30 – 9:45 a.m.)*

#### (d) Key outcomes and next steps (9:45 – 10:30 a.m.)

The Bureau will review key decisions and outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In a tour-de-table, all members of the Bureau will be invited to share their views

and agree on the implementation of these decisions for the biennium and beyond. This will include:

(i) Natech risk management:

The Chair, in cooperation with the secretariat, will briefly present: the conclusions of the joint UNECE/OECD Seminar on effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards (Geneva (hybrid), 29 November 2022); decision 2022/1 on strengthening Natech risk management in the UNECE region and beyond (ECE/CP.TEIA/44.Add.1); and the status of the development of the joint OECD/UN/European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) Natech guidance.

On this basis, the Bureau members will be invited to express their views on the following questions:

- How do Bureau members, in cooperation with national counterparts from their and other authorities, plan to foster implementation of decision 2022/1?
- Which form and direction should the roadmap on Natech risk management, to be developed for CoP-13, take?
- How could they support the future funding of Natech risk management activities, both at the policy level and for capacity-development?
- Who would be interested in engaging in the small group on disaster risk reduction and Natech to discuss the draft joint OECD/UN/JRC Natech guidance, develop the roadmap on Natech and engage in work on technological disaster risk reduction under the umbrella of the Convention and UNDRR?

**Documentation**

Summary of evaluations on the UNECE/OECD Seminar on effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards:

[https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Evaluation%20Summary\\_0.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Evaluation%20Summary_0.pdf)

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/44, see annex for the conclusions of the UNECE/OECD Seminar on effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards)

Decision 2022/1 on strengthening Natech risk management in the UNECE region and beyond (ECE/CP.TEIA/44.Add.1)

(ii) Mine tailings safety:

The secretariat will briefly recall key aspects from the discussion on the 2030 Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the UNECE region (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/7) at CoP-12 and decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety within and beyond the UNECE region. It will also present on linkages with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) process on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management, as per Resolution 5/12, and its recent related contacts with UNEP. Regarding these, the Bureau members will be invited to discuss the following questions:

- Which actions have the Bureau members planned at the national and international levels, to implement the decision and roadmap during the 2023-2024 biennium and beyond?
- How could they support the monitoring of progress made in implementing these?
- How could they support future funding for mine tailings safety activities under the Convention and contribute substantively to the UNEA process beyond 2023?
- Who would be interested in engaging in the small group on mine tailings safety to discuss the consideration of an update to the Location Criteria (as discussed in the Joint meeting the preceding day), to foster implementation of the Roadmap and decision 2020/1 and

to engage under the auspices of the sub-regional and global consultations of UNEA Resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management?

**Documentation**

Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the UNECE region (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/7):

[https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/ECE\\_CP.TEIA\\_2022\\_7-2214590E%5B1%5D.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/ECE_CP.TEIA_2022_7-2214590E%5B1%5D.pdf)

Decision on strengthening mine tailings safety within and beyond the UNECE region (ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1):

[https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/ECE\\_CP.TEIA\\_42\\_Add.1\\_E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/ECE_CP.TEIA_42_Add.1_E.pdf)

UNEA Resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39927/ENVIRONMENTAL%20ASPECTS%20OF%20MINERALS%20AND%20METALS%20MANAGEMENT.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

**3. Workplan for 2023–2024 (10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 – 3:00 p.m.)**

The Bureau will be invited to examine the workplan for 2023–2024, finalized by the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, and to suggest how gaps may be filled, particularly in terms of leadership of activities and additional financing required to implement them.

**Documentation**

Workplan and resource requirements for the Convention for 2023–2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1)

**(a) Resource availability, requirements and staffing (10:30 – 10:55 a.m.)**

The Bureau will be invited to consider the resource requirements for the implementation of the activities funded, as per the pledges and indications received at the twelfth meeting, and available funding, of which the secretariat will present an overview. The secretariat will also present to the Bureau the available and envisaged staff resources needed to implement the planned activities. The Bureau will be invited to consider further efforts to attract resources to enable staffing security and a fuller implementation of the workplan. At this stage in time, the resources pledged and available are not sufficient to ensure stable staffing to implement activities throughout the entire biennium, in particular beyond 2023, and activity costs need additional financing.

**Documentation**

Decision 2018/2 on fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1)

**(b) Envisaged activities under the Convention in 2023–2024 (10:55 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)**

The Bureau is expected to review and provide guidance on the envisaged activities to be carried out under the Convention, of which the secretariat will present an overview, building on the structure of the workplan (apart from the activities which are planned to be discussed during the joint meeting on 14 February 2023). The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the planning of activities and to provide advice on, *inter alia*:

- (i) Outreach, communication, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships;
- (ii) Facilitation of implementation; notably:

*Item 2.1 Risk assessment:*

Building on the risk assessment reports prepared in the biennium 2021–2022, this activity involves publishing the risk assessment study (overview of risk assessment methods with selected case studies and available software tools) in 3 languages and promoting it with focal points and counterparts. The lead Party is Switzerland.

*Item 2.2 Linkages with Sendai Framework, SDGs and policy/governance integration:*

This activity includes participation in and presentations at meetings and platforms, including those hosted by UNDRR and other partner organizations. It will involve contributions to: meetings and reports on the Sendai Framework and SDGs; national DRR policies/strategies and platforms; and United Nations Common Country Assessments and Cooperation Frameworks. The activities will be implemented with financial support of [donor] (to be confirmed), in cooperation with UNDRR.

*Item 2.3 Natech risk management:*

This activity aims to consider Natech events in risk assessment and evaluation, contingency planning and relevant guidance, policy and expert dialogues. It entails contributions to the Natech-III Project, notably: the development of OECD/United Nations guidance on Natech risk management; follow-up to the seminar on Natech risk management held at the twelfth meeting of the CoP; and further activities to raise awareness of Natech risks and build related capacity. It will result in the OECD/UNECE guidance and a Road map of actions by Parties towards more effective Natech risk management and proposals for further actions under the Convention. The activities will be implemented with financial support of [donor] (to be confirmed), in cooperation with OECD and in partnership with UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, European Commission Joint Research Centre and OECD Natech project steering group.

*Item 2.4 Land-use planning, siting and TMF Safety:*

In follow-up to the exchange of information on land-use planning and industrial safety (2016–2022 seminars/workshops), this activity includes maintaining and updating the repository of good practices and lessons learned and the online toolkit and training for strengthening mine tailings safety.

*Item 2.5 Fostering exchange of information and sharing of experiences:*

This activity involves the establishment of an interactive network for exchanging information and sharing of experiences on the Convention's implementation, amongst competent authorities, focal points, through an existing provider or e-group. Sweden, with the support of the Working Group on Implementation, will be the lead Party.

*Item 2.6 Risk management in relation to the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances, such as ammonium nitrate, and related accident prevention, preparedness and response:*

This activity builds on the outcomes of the UN/OECD seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion (online, 14 December 2021) and its preceding survey. It entails preparation of an online web page/repository of information and good practice to share information on: international legal and policy instruments for the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances such as ammonium nitrate and related industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response; and existing guidance, national experiences, lessons learned and good practices. It will also include the development of related promotional materials (video or brochure) and a seminar to build capacity on the above in one or several Parties or beneficiary countries, such as Ukraine, through a dedicated seminar/on-site training session. The lead Party is yet to be determined, but this will include financial support from the EIB and be conducted in cooperation with

ECE Sustainable Transport Division, ILO, IMO, OECD, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNDRR.

*Item 2.7 Preventing accidental water pollution:*

At the intersection of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions, in the framework of their JEG, this activity addresses long-term strategy objectives of facilitating cooperation between riparian countries and river basin commissions and promoting the prevention of accidental water pollution and preparedness. It will result in the JEG teleconference envisaged for 2023 to prepare for the 2024 workshop on preventing accidental water pollution, including early warning and alert systems, the identification and exchange of good practices and collection of examples of Natech accidents affecting transboundary waters, and the JEG meeting. Slovakia will be the lead country, with the support of JEG, in cooperation with the Water Convention and river basin commissions, including ICPDR. Finland, Germany (to be confirmed), Rep. of Moldova and Romania will be supporting countries.

(iii) Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System: this activity includes the holding of an online consultation with Points of Contact and the IAN connectivity test. It also involves discussion of the required maintenance and upgrade costs, as per Switzerland's statement at CoP-12 and previously discussed by the Bureau. The Bureau will be invited to consider the required resources necessary to maintain and upgrade the IAN system. The Bureau member from Switzerland will be invited to elaborate on possible support which Switzerland could provide to this, following its statement at CoP-12.

The Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation together will have already reviewed and provided guidance to the activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme.

**Documentation**

Workplan and resource requirements for the Convention for 2023–2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1)

*Lunch break (12:15 – 1:15 p.m.)*

**(c) Envisaged activities of the Bureau in 2023–2024 and organization of work (1:15 – 1:45 p.m.)**

The Bureau is expected to review the tasks assigned to it by the Conference of the Parties, through decisions taken at the twelfth meeting. It will be invited to reflect on the organization of work, including the possible continuation of the following small groups:

(i) Small group on financing, to continue fostering opportunities for additional resources to be provided to finance the workplan;

(ii) Small group on disaster risk reduction and natural hazards triggering technological disasters (Natech), to discuss the draft joint OECD/UN/JRC Natech guidance and suggest ways how to promote and mainstream its findings, to develop the roadmap on Natech and to engage in work on technological disaster risk reduction under the umbrella of the Convention and UNDRR; and

(iii) Small group on mine tailings safety, to discuss the consideration of an update to the Location Criteria, to foster implementation of the Roadmap and decision 2020/1 and to engage under the auspices of the UNEP sub-regional and global consultations on UNEA Resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management.

**(d) Prioritization of activities under the Convention in 2023-2024 and outlook until 2030 (1:45 – 3:00 p.m.)**

In a tour-de-table, all Bureau members will be invited to provide their views on the prioritization of work in the upcoming biennium, in view of a related request at the twelfth

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Conference of the Parties by the European Union, also taking into account the long-term strategy. Bureau members will be invited to consider the following questions, building on the presentations by the secretariat and discussions by the Bureau under item (b) above:

- How to prioritize activities, in the absence of the sufficient funding to carry out all activities, including the core activities, in 2023-2024?
- How to build on the significant achievements and progress made towards the implementation of the long-term strategy during the past two bienniums, when significant additional funding was available?
- How to ensure the active engagement of all Parties, and their active contributions to the financing of respective activities, preferably in line with economic scale, so as to ensure that financing for the workplan's implementation will again increase and progress towards implementation of the long-term strategy can flourish?

#### **Documentation**

Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1):

[https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2019/TEIA/LTS\\_ENG.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2019/TEIA/LTS_ENG.pdf)

*Break (3:00 – 3:15 p.m.)*

#### **4. Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (3:15 – 3:30 p.m.)**

In accordance with the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau will be invited to have an initial discussion on the arrangements for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in end-November 2024. It will be invited to consider further arrangements for identifying a host country.

#### **5. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2023–2024 (3:30 – 3:45 p.m.)**

The Bureau will decide on its schedule of meetings and discuss possible dates and venues. It is proposed that the Bureau will meet in fall 2023 and again in the end of spring/early summer 2024, to review preparations for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Bureau members are invited to consider hosting Bureau meetings, to the extent feasible.

#### **Documentation**

Provisional list of meetings for 2023-2024

#### **6. Other business (3:45 – 3:55 p.m.)**

Members of the Bureau wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat.

#### **7. Closure of the meeting (3:55 – 4:00 p.m.)**

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 15 February 2023 at 4 p.m.