

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Fifty-first meeting

Working Group on Implementation

Forty-eighth meeting

Geneva (online), 14 February 2023

Annotated provisional agenda of the joint meeting

**To be held in Geneva (Palais des Nations, Room H-542) and remotely (through Webex),
starting at 1:30 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.**

The joint meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Working Group on Implementation.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the joint meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents: Planned activities
3. Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention
4. Assistance and Cooperation Programme:
 - (a) Needs of beneficiary countries raised at COP-12 and opportunities to meet these and to support progress towards accession
 - (b) Update on on-going and planned assistance activities and their financing
 - (c) Tour-de-table discussion on next steps
5. Publication of the reports on Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention
6. Potential establishment of a system of hazardous activities
7. Other business
8. Closure of the joint meeting

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the joint meeting and adoption of the agenda (1:30 – 1:45 p.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 and the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation. The Bureau and the Working Group will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

The joint meeting will be chaired by both the Chair of the Bureau (items 1 to 4) and the Chair of the Working Group (from item 5 onwards). The members of the Bureau and Working Group will be invited to introduce themselves.

2. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents: Planned activities (1:45 – 2:25 p.m.)

The Bureau and Working Group will be invited to provide guidance to carrying out activities by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) in the biennium, including on:

- (i) The organization of a JEG teleconference (online) in 2023;
- (ii) The financing and organization of a JEG seminar on preventing accidental water pollution, including early warning and alert systems, including identification and exchange of good practices and collection of examples of Natech accidents affecting transboundary waters in 2024 and possible partnerships in this regard (with ICPDR, WMO and UNDRR, tbc) and a JEG meeting (see Table 1, Item 2.7 “Preventing accidental water pollution” in the workplan); and
- (iii) Attracting resources for the development of a catalogue/web page providing information on accidental water pollution warning systems, including recommendations on their deployment, good practices by countries, river basin commissions and bilateral cooperation examples (see Table 3, Item 1.1. “Knowledge exchange on accidental water pollution (including multi-hazard) warning systems, good practice and lessons learned” in the workplan).

In line with the JEG strategy, the Bureau will be invited to appoint a Co-Chair from the Industrial Accidents Convention at its first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Documentation

Strategy for the ad hoc joint expert group on water and industrial accidents (JEG strategy, 2009): https://unece.org/DAM/env/teia/water/JEG/Strategy_JEG.pdf

3. Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention (2:25 – 3:00 p.m.)

At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties mandated the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, in cooperation with the Working Group and the Bureau, to

assess, in the next biennium, whether there exists a need for updating the *Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention* (Location Criteria). The secretariat will recall past discussions by the Bureau and Working Group regarding a possible update of the Location Criteria, stemming from the Working Group’s Special Session: Seminar on Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Implementing the Convention (Geneva (hybrid), 3–4 February 2022).¹ The joint meeting, joined for this item by the JEG Co-Chair from Serbia, will be invited to discuss this mandate and agree on next steps to consider the need for the possible update, including the timing of considerations by different intergovernmental bodies and the substantive discussions under the leadership of the small group on TMFs with membership from the bodies concerned. Bureau and Working Group members will be invited to express their interest for joining this small group.

Documentation

Conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group on Implementation’s Special Session: Seminar on good practices and lessons learned in implementing the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, as contained in the annex to the document entitled Activities of the Working Group on Implementation since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/5):

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_CPTEIA_2022_5_E.pdf

Report of the Bureau on its activities since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/2):

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_CPTEIA_2022_2_E.pdf

Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention (consolidated version² based on the original decision adopted in 2000 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex IV, decision 2000/3) and the subsequent amendments in 2004 (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex II, decision 2004/2) and 2018 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1, decision 2018/1)):

https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2019/TEIA/ENG_Guidelines_to_facilitate_the_identification_of_hazardous_activities_for_the_purposes_of_the_UNECE_Industrial_Accidents_Convention_Location_Criteria.pdf

Coffee break (3.00 – 3.15 p.m.)

4. Assistance and Cooperation Programme (3:15 – 4:45 p.m.)

The joint meeting will be invited to discuss the future activities and development of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, on the basis of the needs voiced by Parties and committed countries at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva (hybrid), 29 November-1 December 2022) (COP-12) and a presentation from the secretariat.

(a) Needs of beneficiary countries raised at COP-12 and opportunities to meet these and to support progress towards accession (3:15 – 3:25 p.m.)

The secretariat will briefly recall the needs of beneficiary countries as expressed and highlighted at COP-12, including:

- (i) Country missions to support implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Approach;

¹ ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/5, Annex, paragraph 17.

² See section “Guidelines and templates” under the tab “Guidelines and good practices” on the Convention’s web page, available at <https://unece.org/guidelines-and-templates>.

- (ii) Alignment of national legislation with the Convention;
- (iii) Strengthening governance and policies on industrial safety, e.g. through National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety and Inter-Institutional Working Groups on Tailings Safety;
- (iv) Ensuring the prevention of, preparedness for and response to mine tailings accidents, including to prevent accidental water pollution and natural hazards triggering technological disasters (Natech events), to which the risks are being exacerbated by climate change;
- (v) Transboundary cooperation, joint exercises and contingency planning, including in transboundary river basins;
- (vi) Support to accession processes and in follow-up to accession;
- (vii) Strengthening preparedness for attacks and accidents at industrial sites in Ukraine; and
- (viii) Further integration of industrial accidents risk management in overall disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and plans.

(b) Update on on-going and planned assistance activities and their financing (3:25 – 3:45 p.m.)

Building on its previous presentation, the secretariat will provide an update on the ongoing and planned activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme contained within the Convention's current workplan, taking account of resources pledged and available. Among other activities, this will cover the finalization of the Projects on strengthening tailings safety in Central Asia and in Uzbekistan (coming to an end with current funding from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment by the end of 2023), following the finalization of the Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch, funded by the Russian Federation) in December 2022 and of the UNECE-UNDRR joint project supporting the integration of technological DRR into national DRR strategies in January 2023. Information will also cover the continuation of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Serbia, feasible with co-funding from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Regular Budget (previously funded with the support from the dedicated contribution from France) – while other countries continue to raise related needs. Given the limited earmarked funding for assistance activities and the need to use pledged resources first and foremost for staffing, assistance missions in line with the Convention's Strategic Approach require additional resources to cover at least the respective activity costs. Activities to support capacity-building in Ukraine and other projects fostering transboundary cooperation (e.g. along the Danube Delta) will depend on the availability of dedicated project funding.

The workplan also includes the development of a brochure on the Assistance and Cooperation Programme at the occasion of its 20th anniversary, which could be launched at COP-13 in 2024, for which no resources are currently pledged or available.

(c) Tour-de-table discussion on next steps (3:45 – 4:45 p.m.)

In a tour-de-table, the Bureau and Working Group members will be invited to exchange their views on the above, discussing the direction and priority of activities contained within the workplan and steps to take to ensure their financing. More specifically, the members will be invited to reflect on the following questions:

- (i) How should the activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme be prioritized to meet the needs of beneficiary countries?

(ii) How can Bureau and Working Group members support (a) planned assistance activities and engagements and (b) attracting financial resources to enable the financing of additional activities envisaged under the Convention's workplan?

5. Publication of the reports on Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention (4:45 – 5:00 p.m.)

The Vice-Chair of the Bureau from Switzerland, in cooperation with the secretariat, will present information on the status of the reports on Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention and the plans for their combined publication as a United Nations publication. The Bureau and Working Group members will be invited to strategize on how they can best promote and distribute the publication once made available.

Documentation

Risk assessment for industrial accident prevention: Overview of risk assessment methods (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/8):

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_CPTEIA_2022_8_E.pdf

Risk assessment for industrial accident prevention: Selected case studies and available software tools (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/9):

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/ECE_CP.TEIA_2022_9-2214901E%5B1%5D.pdf

6. Potential establishment of a system of hazardous activities (5:00 – 5:15 p.m.)

The Chair of the Working Group will report on the discussions on the potential establishment of a system on hazardous activities held by the Group at its preceding meeting. This will include background information from an idea brainstormed in the preparation of the Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the UNECE region (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/7), to which the Bureau decided to first discuss with the Working Group. The joint meeting will be invited to discuss the usefulness of such a system and the next steps, should it be decided and financially feasible to pursue.

7. Other business (5:15 – 5:25 p.m.)

Members of the Bureau or the Working Group wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

8. Closure of the joint meeting (5:25 – 5:30 p.m.)

The Chairs of the two bodies are expected to close the joint meeting on 14 February at 5.30 p.m.
