

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Bureau**

##### **Fifty-third meeting**

Helsinki, 11-12 October 2023

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

**To be held in Helsinki, starting at 9.30 a.m. on 11 October 2023 and  
ending at 1 p.m. on 12 October 2023**

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

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Implementation of the 2023-2024 workplan
  - (a) Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships
  - (b) Facilitation of implementation
  - (c) Assistance and Cooperation Programme
  - (d) Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
  - (e) ECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System
  - (f) Activities of the Working Group on Implementation
3. Other strategic issues for the implementation of the workplan: resource availability and financing
4. Strategic industrial safety policy and regulatory issues
  - (a) Challenges and emerging trends for industrial safety
  - (b) Implementation of the Convention under extraordinary circumstances
5. Preparations for the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties
  - (a) COP-13 provisional outline
  - (b) Discussion of a possible seminar, site visit and celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme
  - (c) Identification of a host
6. Other Business
7. Closure of the meeting

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

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.

*Documentation*

- CP.TEIA/2023/B.3/Agenda/Rev.1

### 2. Implementation of the 2023-2024 workplan

The Bureau will be presented with information on the implementation of and the planning for activities in 2023-2024. The secretariat and selected Bureau members will provide information on the implementation of the activities, as outlined below. The Bureau will be invited to endorse the planning for activities expected to be implemented, and to reflect, in particular, on the activities which are not (fully) funded, and which will consequently not be implemented (or not in full scale) in the current biennium, and to provide advice.

**a. Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships:**

The secretariat and members of the Bureau will provide information on conducted and planned outreach and participation in international and regional meetings and forums, working visits and high-level missions to Parties; donor meetings and bilateral visits.

**b. Facilitation of implementation:**

**i. Risk assessment**

The secretariat will provide information on the progress made towards the preparation of a UN publication of the combined Risk assessment reports (overview of risk assessment methods with selected case studies and available software tools) to be published in 3 languages in the 2023-2024 biennium. The Bureau members will be invited to discuss the promotion of the publication within their networks and by the secretariat.

**ii. SDGs/Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The secretariat will provide information on the activities carried out under this agenda item, notably its contribution to meetings and reports on the Sendai Framework and SDGs. The Bureau members will be invited to provide an update with respect to any relevant engagements on their side, such as at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in New York in May 2023.

**iii. Natech Risk Management**

The secretariat will provide information on the development of the joint OECD/JRC/UN Guidance on Managing Natech Accident Risk: A Guide for Senior Leaders in Industry and Public Authorities and its anticipated issuance in 2024. Given

the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of climate change and natural disasters and their implications for industrial safety, it will also present further activities to raise awareness of, mainstream and build capacity to address Natech risks, including its readiness, should financial support be made available, to prepare the Road map of actions by Parties towards more effective Natech risk management, as the Conference of the Parties requested in its workplan 2023-2024.

*Documentation*

- Draft OECD/JRC/UN Guidance on Managing Natech Accident Risk: A Guide for Senior Leaders in Industry and Public Authorities

**iv. Mine tailings Safety**

The secretariat will provide an update on its activities to support to the implementation of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management, notably its contribution to the regional consultations and the global consultation in 2023. The Bureau will be invited to review the information and reflect on possible follow-up actions to take.

The Bureau will also be invited to review the 2030 Road Map for Action on strengthening Mine Tailings Safety and discuss how to monitor countries' progress in their implementation, in particular in view of paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Road Map suggesting the organization of a round table at CoP-13 and, depending on the funds available, the development of an overview of TMFs in the UNECE region.

*Documentation*

- 2030 Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the UNECE region (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/7)

**v. Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention**

The Vice-Chair from Switzerland, in cooperation with the secretariat, will introduce the background note on the Consideration for the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and its Guidelines on Identification of Hazardous Activities for the Purposes of the Convention to more comprehensively cover the hazards and risks of tailings management facilities. In response to the Conference of the Parties' mandate from the twelfth meeting, the small group on mine tailings safety, comprised of Bureau, Working Group on Implementation and Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) members, and the full JEG have discussed this issue at length and prepared the background note with several options for updating the guidelines and/or amending the Convention. The groups have also assessed these options and prepared a recommendation to make to the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau will be invited to take decisions on the recommendation, including to advance or revise it, and the next steps for preparing the official document for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference.

*Documentation*

- Background note, Guidelines (decision 2018/1 in ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1)

**c. Assistance and Cooperation Programme**

The secretariat will give an overview of the activities carried out and planned under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme.

The Bureau will be invited to take note of the information and to advise on the next steps for the development of the ACP brochure in advance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Programme in 2024, pending the necessary financial resources. xx

**d. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

The JEG co-Chair from Serbia will provide an update on the conducted and planned activities of the JEG in the biennium 2023–2024, including the holding of a teleconference on 2 June 2023, the organization of a workshop on the prevention of accidental water pollution hosted by Slovakia as lead Party in 2024 and the 2024 JEG meeting. The Bureau members will be invited to review the information and provide guidance on the further implementation of the activities, notably on the 2024 JEG workshop. It will also be invited to reflect on attraction of resources for 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.

*Documentation*

- Background document: Concept note on the 2024 JEG workshop on the prevention of accidental water pollution
- Minutes of the 2023 JEG Teleconference

**e. ECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System**

The secretariat will present possible opportunities with respect to the upgrade of the IAN System. The Bureau will be invited to provide an update with respect to the identification of (additional) resources necessary to maintain and upgrade the IAN system.

**f. Activities of the Working Group on Implementation**

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will provide an update on the ongoing activities of the Group, including the establishment of an inter-active network for exchanging information and experiences on the Convention's implementation as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> round of reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

**3. Other strategic issues for the implementation of the workplan: resource availability and financing**

The Bureau will be informed by the secretariat about the resources made available and confirmed by Parties for the implementation of the 2023-2024 workplan. The secretariat will also provide information on the sending of official letters to Parties, in line with the sustainable financial mechanism. Bureau members will be invited to provide information on the actions taken to secure additional resources for the workplan's implementation, beyond the pledges/indications made at CoP, including to support addressing the needs expressed by beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme discussed at the Bureau's Joint meeting with the Working Group on Implementation in February 2023. The Bureau will be invited to discuss its further efforts and agree on next steps to attract the missing resources.

#### 4. Strategic industrial safety policy and regulatory issues

##### *a. Challenges and emerging trends for industrial safety*

The secretariat will present a background paper on emerging trends and challenges for industrial safety and the role of the Convention in this dynamic environment and its current and potential contributions. Bureau members will be invited to discuss this matter and exchange views on its possible inclusion in the COP-13 agenda and the connection to the Long-term Strategy of the Convention until 2030 and beyond. The secretariat will also present a background paper providing an overview of satellite monitoring and its potential application for tailings safety and the work under the Convention. Bureau members will be invited to exchange views on the paper and agree on steps to take to integrate this into existing work streams, if so desired.

##### *Documentation*

- Background paper on emerging trends and challenges for industrial safety and the role of the Convention
- Background paper on satellite monitoring and its potential application for and contribution to tailings safety and the work of the Convention

##### *b. Implementation of the Convention under extraordinary circumstances*

The original drafters of the Convention designed it as a legal instrument that addresses relevant industrial safety issues under “normal” circumstances. The recent experience of war in Ukraine has raised fundamental issues concerning the implementation of the Convention and several of its clauses under extraordinary conditions, including those of war. The Bureau will be invited to discuss this sensitive and important matter and will also be updated on the situation in Ukraine, based on available information.

#### 5. Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau will be invited to discuss the arrangements for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties envisaged to be held at the end of November 2024.

##### *a. COP-13 provisional outline*

The Bureau will be invited to discuss key matters to be addressed at the next meeting of the Parties by exchanging their views on the structure and content of the meeting and providing guidance for the further elaboration of the provisional agenda and expected key deliverables, including potential decisions at COP-13.

##### *b. Discussion of a possible seminar, site visit and celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme*

The secretariat will present different options for CoP-13. Bureau members will be invited to discuss and decide on the holding of a seminar, site visit and celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme.

##### *c. Identification of a host*

The Bureau members will be invited to report on the steps they have taken to identify a host country for the meeting.

**6. Other business**

Members of the Bureau wishing to raise any other matters not reflected in the agenda are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

**7. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 12 October 2023 at 1 p.m.

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