

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Implementation

Forty-Ninth meeting

Geneva, 31 January to 1 February 2024

Annotated provisional agenda of the forty-ninth meeting

**To be held in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations,* on 31 January, starting
at 9.00 a.m. and ending on 1 February at 4 p.m.**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the national implementation reports.
 - (a) Analysis of the national implementation reports.
 - (b) Identification of good practices in the implementation reports.
 - (c) Ideas for improving the reporting format and/or guidelines.
3. Preparation of the tenth report on implementation.
4. Strengthening the implementation of the Convention
 - (a) Assessment of the need to update the Convention and/or identification guidelines with regards to tailings management facilities.
 - (b) Establishment of an interactive network for the exchange of information and sharing of experiences.
 - (c) Development of a guide of good practice on the implementation of the Convention.
5. Assistance and Cooperation Programme.
 - (a) Update by the secretariat on the implemented and planned activities.
 - (b) Teleconferences to engage with beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme on implementation issues.
 - (c) Integrating Natech and tailing risks into the e-tool.
 - (d) Status of action items from the forty-seventh meeting of the Working Group and next steps.

* The meeting will be held in room H.307.

6. Next meetings.
7. Other business.
8. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

The Working Group on Implementation is expected to review national implementation reports, received for the tenth round of reporting on the Convention, and to plan its work for the period up to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe secretariat in agreement with the Chair of the Working Group.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Expected timing: 10 minutes

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will open the meeting and invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

The secretariat will inform members of the Working Group about the planned schedule for the teleconferences at the meeting.

2. Review of the national implementation reports

(a) Analysis of the national implementation reports

Expected timing: 6 hours

In line with Decision 2016/2,¹ all Parties and other reporting countries were requested to submit their implementation report by the deadline, 31 October 2023, for the tenth reporting round (2019–2022). The secretariat will brief the meeting on the timely and late receipt of reports from Parties to the Convention and non-Parties. The Working Group may wish to discuss if any steps should be taken to encourage those countries that did not submit an implementation report to do so.

Members of the Working Group will be invited to present their assessments and conclusions² of the sections which were assigned to them. At a previous meeting, the Working Group decided to divide the work on reviewing the national implementation reports according to the sections of the reports, as follows:

¹ Decision 2016/2 on reporting requirements under the Convention available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2016/TEIA/COP/Decisions_Add1/E_2_2016_Reporting_requirements_under_the_Convention.pdf.

² All members of the Working Group are requested to share their assessments with all members and the secretariat by email no later than one week before the meeting, i.e. by 24 January 2024 the latest.

Table 1. Member responsibility for national implementation report analysis

Section	Members in charge
Policy for implementation of the Convention Scientific and technological cooperation and exchange of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Raphaël Gonzalez (Switzerland) • Ms. Nicolette Bouman (Netherlands)
Identification and notification of hazardous activities with the potential to cause transboundary effects Prevention of industrial accidents Good Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sanja Stamenkovic (Serbia) • Ms. Mária Šebestová (Slovakia) • Ms. Anna Tsarina (Russian Federation)
Emergency preparedness and response Mutual assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Helena Fridh (Sweden) • Mr. Vitalii Mutaf (Rep. of Moldova)
Participation of the public Decision-making on siting Reporting on past industrial accidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Reelika Kuusik (Estonia) • Ms. Tatyana Logutova (Belarus)

The Working Group may wish to discuss whether there is a need to contact some Focal Points in advance of the next meeting to get clarification on any replies by countries in their national implementation reports.

Coffee/Tea breaks (Day 1): 10:30-10:45 and 15:00-15:15

Lunch break (Day 1): 12:15-13:15

(b) Identification of good practices in the implementation reports

Expected timing: 20 minutes

The Working Group may wish to discuss how to promote the good practices identified by countries in their implementation reports, including by making them available on the Convention website.

****End of Day 1: 17:00 / Start of Day 2: 8:30****

(c) Ideas for improving the reporting format and/or guidelines

Expected timing: 25 minutes

Based on the review of the national implementation reports, the members of the Working Group may wish to provide feedback on possible unclarities in some of the questions in the sections analysed, suggesting possible changes for the next reporting round.

Background information and documents:

- National implementation reports, available at <https://wiki.unece.org/display/TEIA/Implementation+Reports>.
- Draft assessments and conclusions per section, shared by members of the Working Group in advance of the meeting.
- Good Practices identified in the eighth (2014-2015) and ninth (2016-2018) reporting periods: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/industrial-accidents/good-practices-implementing-industrial-accidents-convention>.

3. Preparation of the tenth report on implementation

Expected timing: 30 minutes

The Working Group will discuss the next steps, including responsibilities and deadlines, for drafting the tenth report on the implementation of the Convention, based on the findings discussed at the meeting and the written inputs by the Group members. For its further planning, the Working Group may wish to bear in mind the following:

- (a) The envisaged holding of another meeting of the Working Group on 29 to 30 May 2024 to review and finalize the draft report on implementation;
- (b) The availability of the draft report for the next meeting of the Bureau (Geneva, 12–13 June 2024);
- (c) The limit of 10,700 words for the report to be issued as an official document for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 27–29 November 2024, tbc).

The Working Group may also wish to discuss to which extent the areas for follow-up identified in the ninth report on the implementation of the Convention have been addressed and whether further actions should be taken in this regard.

Background document:

- Ninth report on the implementation of the Convention (2016–2018), available at https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2020/TEIA/COP_11/Official_docs/ECECPTEIA20205_E.pdf

4. Strengthening the implementation of the Convention

- (a) **Assessment of the need to update the Convention and/or identification guidelines with regards to tailings management facilities**

Expected timing: 60 minutes

The Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 29 November–1 December 2022), mandated the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG), in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation (WGI) and the Bureau, to assess in the next biennium, whether there exists a need for *the Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention* to be revised and updated in order to cover more comprehensively the hazards and risks arising from tailings management facilities (TMFs), and to share its findings in the form of an official document with the Conference at its thirteenth meeting.

The Working Group will be invited to review the draft official document and draft elements for a related decision for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as prepared by the small group on mine tailings safety, and to provide comments and inputs for improving these, in advance of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, the Bureau and the small group on mine tailings safety further reviewing and eventually finalizing them.

Background document:

- Decision under CoP-12 Agenda item 6: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/CoP-12-UNECE%20Industrial%20Accidents%20Convention-List%20of%20decisions%20taken.pdf>.
- Draft background note on Consideration for the Industrial Accidents Convention and its Guidelines on the Identification of Hazardous Activities to more comprehensively cover the hazards and risks of tailings management facilities

Coffee/Tea break (Day 2): 10:25-10:40

(b) Establishment of an interactive network for the exchange of information and sharing of experiences

Expected timing: 30 minutes

At its Special Session: Seminar on Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Implementing the Convention, the Working Group also recommended the establishment of an interactive network for the exchange of information and sharing experience about the implementation of the Convention. At its forty-seventh meeting, the Working Group agreed to pursue the network through the development of an e-group email list —containing the contacts of all Focal Points, officeholders and the Joint Expert Group— which would allow all members on that list to receive and write messages. The Chair of the Working Group, representing Sweden as the lead Party for this activity, agreed to draft a message to initiate this group.

The secretariat will provide a brief update on the technical work completed in developing the e-group and foreseen next steps. The Working Group will be invited to reflect on the next steps and methods to managing the e-group once launched.

Background document:

- Minutes of the Forty-seventh meeting of the Working Group on Implementation, available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/WGI47_minutes_final.pdf.

(c) Development of a guide of good practice on the implementation of the Convention

Expected timing: 30 minutes

At its Special Session: Seminar on Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Implementing the Convention (Geneva, 3-4 February 2022), the Working Group recommended the development of a UNECE Guide on Good Practices in Implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention. The Convention's 2023-2024 workplan subsequently entailed an activity to develop a guide to explain the provisions of the Convention, including their scope, limitations and practical application within and across countries, and to showcase concrete examples of national implementation, such as the good practices presented at the special session. It stated that a possible e-learning course could be developed to supplement the guide. At its forty-seventh meeting, the Working Group reconfirmed the need for and added value of such a guide and agreed that members should actively explore funding opportunities for this and report back at the next meeting.

The Working Group will be invited to discuss the development of the guide (or portions of it) and a related timeline, given the Netherlands has pledged to provide partial funding for this activity.

Background document:

- Minutes of the Forty-seventh meeting of the Working Group on Implementation, available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/WGI47_minutes_final.pdf

- Workplan and resource requirements for the Convention for 2023–2024, Addendum to the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twelfth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1): https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/ECE_CPTEIA_44Add1_E.pdf.

5. Assistance and Cooperation Programme

(a) Update by the secretariat on implemented and planned activities

Expected timing: 20 minutes

The secretariat will give an overview of the assistance activities carried out since the last meeting of the Working Group as well as of the activities planned for 2024 under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme.

Lunch break (Day 2): 12:00-13:00

(b) Teleconferences to engage with beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme on implementation issues

Expected timing: 90 minutes

At its forty-seventh meeting, the Working Group recommended to invite Albania and Armenia to a teleconference. The Working Group on Implementation, in particular the members of respective subregional groups, may wish to present the agenda of the teleconference and proposed questions/issues for discussion.

The Working Group will be invited to decide whether to invite Tajikistan to a teleconference at its next meeting and may recommend inviting other countries based on specific criteria or priorities.

Coffee/Tea break (Day 2): 14:30-14:45

(c) Integrating Natech and tailing risks into the e-tool

Expected timing: 15 minutes

The Vice Chair from the Russian Federation will provide an update on the progress made in updating the e-tool to integrate Natech and tailing risks. The Working Group will be invited to provide feedback and agree on the next steps.

(d) Status of action items from the forty-seventh meeting of the Working Group and next steps

Expected timing: 45 minutes

The members of the Working Group will be invited to provide a status report on progress made towards the implementation of action items from the 47th meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group is expected to discuss the status of the following action items, agree on the next steps and reconfirm and agree on responsibilities:

- (i) Receiving a new self-assessment and action plan from Tajikistan (item 13 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);
- (ii) Progress in improving the implementation of the Convention by Azerbaijan, including finalizing the national action plan and organizing a country-specific mission (item 14 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);

(iii) Update and follow-up to the technical mission to Georgia (items 14 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);

(iv) Receipt of a self-assessment and action plan in English from Belarus (items 15 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);

(v) Progress in the development of a new self-assessment and action plan in the Republic of Moldova (item 15 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);

(vi) Receiving an updated implementation report for the 10th reporting round from Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the information on identification of hazardous activities and transboundary considerations information (item 16 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);

(vii) Progress in the National Programme for Industrial Safety of Serbia in developing the national strategy (item 16 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);

(viii) Progress made by the Working Group members in updating the country dossiers (item 17 of the minutes of the 47th meeting);

Background documents:

- Engagement strategies for beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, available at <https://wiki.unece.org/display/TAAP/Country+Dossiers>.
- Minutes of the Forty-seventh meeting of the Working Group on Implementation, available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/WGI47_minutes_final.pdf.

6. Next meetings

Expected timing: 5 minutes

At its Forty-seventh meeting, the Working Group had agreed that the fiftieth meeting would take place on 29 to 30 May 2024. The Working Group may wish to confirm the venue.

7. Other business

Expected timing: 5 minutes

Members of the Working Group wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

8. Closing of the meeting

Expected timing: 5 minutes

The Chair will close the meeting at about 4 p.m. on 1 February 2024.
