
Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Fifty-fourth meeting
Geneva, 13-14 June 2024

Annotated provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth meeting

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- 13. Prevention of accidental water pollution
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- 15. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System.
- 16. Linkages with Sendai Framework, SDGs and policy/governance integration
- 17. Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships.
- 18. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

D. Other business

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Day 1, Thursday, 13 June 2024

(9:00 – 17:15, provisional timing indicated in brackets)

A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (9:00-9:05)

This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Bureau. The Chair will open the meeting and introduce the meeting etiquette. The secretariat will also deliver brief opening remarks. The Bureau will thereafter be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

The Bureau will be also invited, as decided during its last meeting, to reflect on then introduced practice, on a trial basis, to adopt a list of decisions instead of detailed minutes of the meeting and to share its views and feedback thereon.

B. Update on financial and in-kind resources provided in the biennium 2023-2024 (9:05-9:40)

The secretariat will provide the Bureau with an update of the financial and in-kind resources available and pledged to support the implementation of the workplan for 2023-2024, and the related availability and planning for staff and consultancy support. In this context, it will share information on the approach and outline to the official document on the use of financial and in-kind resources to be prepared for CoP-13, for the Bureau's consideration and agreement.

In addition, the Chair will provide an update on the actions taken in follow-up to a previous meeting of the Bureau's small group on financing. Bureau members will be invited to speak about their efforts to attract financing for the Convention's workplan.

The Bureau will be invited to discuss the financial situation and to consider further efforts to attract resources to enable further implementation of the workplan – with due consideration of the sustainable financial mechanism, which places a particular responsibility on the Bureau.

Documentation

Use of financial and in-kind resources to implement the workplan in 2023–2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/12) - draft outline

C. Preparations for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-13) and related updates and considerations (9:40-10:00)

The Chair, supported by the secretariat, will inform the Bureau of the proposed agenda and approach to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 27 – 29 November 2024). The Vice-Chair from France will share information on the co-organization of the CoP by France and the related support provided.

The secretariat will share information on the meeting modalities of the in-person event. It will also present information on the organizational arrangements, including the forthcoming meeting invitation. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the substantive and organizational approach to the Conference and its invitees. In this context, it will be invited to reflect on and approve the list of observers to be invited to attend the CoP from other United Nations and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector and academia and be invited to back the practice of naming of observers in the beginning of the meeting for the CoP's formal approval of the attending observers.

Bureau members will also be invited to consider providing support to the travel and accommodation of participants from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE), and to the secretariat's related arrangements and preparation of the meeting.

In addition, the Bureau will be invited to provide guidance on the promotion of the Conference and consider actions which the secretariat and Bureau members can take. Such actions can include press releases or video statements, among others, announcing and inviting to the Conference.

The secretariat will also present an overview of the expected official documentation for consideration by CoP-13 as well as the informal documents envisaged. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the approach to the presentations, documents and deliberations by the CoP for each of the CoP-agenda items, in their respective sequence, in the following. It will be invited to review the respective documentation and to consider recommending their finalization and submission to thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

1. CoP-13 draft annotated provisional agenda and opening of the meeting (10:00-10:15)

The Bureau will be invited to discuss the draft provisional agenda for the meeting, reflecting on it more broadly. It will also be invited to discuss its opening by the Chair, the Executive-Secretary of ECE and the Minister of Ecological Transition of France as the co-organizer.

Documentation

Draft annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/46) - draft

2. Status of ratification, representation and credentials (10:15-10:30)

Based on a proposal by the secretariat, the Bureau will be invited to agree how to handle this item, including the reporting on ratification and representation, and on credentials, the latter traditionally delivered by one of the Vice-Chairs.

Documentation

Ratification status of the Convention and the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/1) - draft

Coffee break (10:30-10:45)

3. Industrial safety in the energy transition

(a) [High-level] Seminar on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition (10:45 – 11:30)

The secretariat will present the draft concept note and seminar programme. The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the programme of the upcoming seminar, provide suggestions for speakers and the seminar organization during the CoP-13, including on whether the half-day event should be a high-level event, featuring Ministers and other high-level representatives or have more of a technical focus.

Documentation

Concept note and seminar programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/INF.1) – draft

Emerging challenges and trends for industrial safety: decarbonization, energy transition, critical minerals and the role of the Industrial Accidents Convention (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/2 - draft)

Member States consultations and Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition (ISET) Survey results (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/INF.2)

(b) Bureau’s Small Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition (ISET-SG) (11:30 – 11:45)

The Chair of the ISET-SG will present the work of the Small Group and the decisions it took at its previous meetings.

The secretariat will present the draft CoP document «Emerging challenges and trends for industrial safety: decarbonization, energy transition, critical minerals and the role of the Industrial Accidents Convention” (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/2 - draft) – an earlier version of which had been presented to the Bureau at its previous meeting. It will also present the results of the survey which will be presented to the CoP as an informal document.

The Bureau will be invited to discuss the deliberations and recommendations by the Small Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition and to comment on the draft documents.

Finally, the Bureau may wish to consider extending financial or in-kind (expert) support to enable the secretariat to better develop the above substantive areas of work.

(c) Decision on work on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition under the Convention (11:45 – 12:00)

The secretariat will present the highlights of the draft decision on work on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition under the Convention.

The members of the Bureau will be invited to consider the draft decision to be taken at the CoP-13 regarding the continuation and strengthening of work in this area under the purview of the Convention, including the possibility of the permanent establishment of the Group by the CoP as a subsidiary body. The Bureau will also be invited to decide on the way forward, including how to present the information at CoP-13.

Documentation

Emerging challenges and trends for industrial safety: decarbonization, energy transition, critical minerals and the role of the Industrial Accidents Convention (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/2 - draft)

Member States consultations and Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition (ISET) Survey results (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/INF.2 - draft)

Draft decision on the work on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition under the Convention (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/3) – draft

Lunch break: 12:00 – 13:00

4. Mine tailings safety (13:00 – 13:45)

The secretariat will present to the Bureau the overview of data collected on tailings management facilities (TMFs) and conclusions drawn from national implementation reports of the 10th reporting period (2019-2022) and propose present a proposal of how to structure this agenda item at the COP, including a roundtable discussion. The secretariat will furthermore highlight its cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the UNEA 5/12 intergovernmental process. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the findings on mine tailings safety of the draft 10th reporting period including the proposed actions and priorities therein as well as their presentation and the related discussions at the CoP. It will also be invited to share its views on the cooperation with the UNEP.

The Chair of the small group on mine tailings safety, in cooperation with the secretariat, will present the highlights of the note on the assessment of the guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention, in view of tailings management facilities, as well as the accompanying draft decision on the identification of tailings management facilities as hazardous activities.

The Bureau will be invited to discuss the draft note and decision, including the proposed actions and priorities therein, as well as their presentation and the related discussion at the CoP, including a roundtable discussion. It will invite to decide, on the basis of the small group's recommendations, whether to submit the draft decision as such to the CoP. In addition, the Bureau will also be invited to advise on the structure of this agenda item at the CoP.

Documentation

Tenth report on the implementation of the Convention (2019-2022) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/5) - draft

Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/7)

Decision 2020/1 on strengthening mine tailings safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond (ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1)

Mine tailings safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond (ECE/CP.TEIA/2020/2)

Implementing UNEA Resolution, Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management, Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Global Intergovernmental Meeting

Knowledge Gaps in Relation to the Environmental Aspects of Tailings Management, United Nations Environment Programme

Note on the assessment of the Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention, in view of tailings management facilities (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/10) - draft

Draft decision on the identification of tailings management facilities as hazardous activities (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/11) – draft

5. Bureau

(a) Report of the Bureau on its activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (13:45-14:15)

The Chair will present the draft outline of the report on the activities of the Bureau in 2023–2024, in cooperation with the Vice-Chairs, and how these activities have contributed to the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1). The Bureau is also

expected to confirm its previous practice of backing up its written report to the CoP with a presentation by the Chair, and to discuss the elements to be highlighted therein.

Documentation

Report of the Bureau on its activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/4) - outline

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

(b) Election of officers and other members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (14:15-14:45)

Following an invitation by the Chair, Bureau members will be invited to express their availability and respective backing by their competent authorities for their nomination for a future term in the Bureau for the period 2025-2026. On this basis, the Bureau will be invited to discuss the possible future composition of the Bureau, including its Chair and Vice-Chairs, and possible actions it could take in this respect. At its forty-sixth meeting (February 2021), the Bureau agreed to consider options to attract the sub-regions not represented for nomination for Bureau membership for the next biennium. Several Parties had also expressed an interest in submitting their candidatures for election to the Bureau from 2025 onwards.

Furthermore, the Chair will invite the secretariat to recall the relevant rules of procedure concerning elections. On this basis, the Bureau will be invited to discuss a proposed approach to reaching consensus.

Documentation

Rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/37 (consolidated version))

Terms of reference of the Bureau (ECE/CP.TEIA/32/Add.1)

6. Financing “tour-de-table”: Parties’ strategic dialogue on enhancing commitments and future-proofing the Convention (14:45 – 15:30)

As recommended by the Bureau during its 53rd meeting (Helsinki, 11-12 October 2023), the secretariat included in the agenda of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties a roundtable discussion on financing, aiming to discuss, among others, a fair and equitable contribution by the Parties to the work of the Convention. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the approach to the roundtable discussion, making recommendations for the consideration of the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In this regard, the Bureau will be invited to keep in mind the sustainable financial mechanism (SFM) adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Stockholm, 14-16 November 2012),¹ Decision 2018/2 fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018),² and the experience from the roundtable discussion at CoP-10.³ The Chair will share relevant

¹ See CoP-7 report (annex), available from: https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2020/TEIA/CoP_Decisions/Sustainable_financial_mechanism.pdf

² Available from: https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2018/TEIA/CoP_10/Decisions_Add1/E_2_2018_Fostering_the_Implementation_of_the_Sustainable_Development_Mechanism.pdf

³ In 2010, in response to an invitation by the Chair, with reference to two questions included in the provisional agenda, delegations provided information on Parties’ past and future envisaged contributions and concrete pledges for the period 2019–2020, sharing their views and experiences under six categories. The 6 categories were: 1) regular financial donors, 2) project funding donors, 3)

information on the discussions held by the Small Group on Financing during two meetings this biennium (11 September and 20 December 2023) which could feed into recommendations arising from the roundtable to be reflected in the CoP report.

The Bureau will be invited to consider ways of organizing the roundtable discussion so as to encourage Parties to share information on their regular and future intended contributions, ways of drawing attention to funding opportunities for the new workplan (e.g. by preparing and sharing questions with Parties in advance of the COP, getting in touch with selected countries and encouraging them to consider providing funding commensurate with the level of their economic strength).

The Bureau will also be invited to consider the recommendations for the outcome of the discussion at the CoP which could range from recalling again the SFM and decision 2018/2, encouraging Parties to provide higher contributions more commensurate with economic scale, sensitizing Parties of the costs of implementing the workplan and running the secretariat as well as the accompanying administrative costs of their contributions to possibly establishing recommended minimum thresholds for the contributions to the Convention's trust fund. To that effect, the secretariat will provide the Bureau members with relevant decisions and practices of other MEAs.

Coffee break: 15:30 – 15:45

7. Implementation of the Convention (15:45 – 16:15)

(a) Tenth Report and decision on the implementation of the Convention

The Swiss Vice-Chair of the Working Group, who will attend the meeting in lieu of the Chair, will report on assessments and conclusions of the review of the national implementation reports for the tenth reporting round (2019-2022) and present the related draft decision. The Bureau will be invited to take note of the report and decision.

Documentation

Tenth report on the implementation of the Convention (2019-2022) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/5) - draft

Draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/6) - draft

(b) Other activities of the Working Group on Implementation since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will report on other activities by the Working Group in the period since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, notably on development of a web page with tables on good practices, update of the reporting format, development of a guide of good practices and continued engagement with beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme.

The Bureau will be invited to take note of the information provided and share its views.

Documentation

Tenth report on the implementation of the Convention (2019-2022) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/5) – draft

Recent or occasional financial donors, 4) regular in-kind donors, 5) recent or occasional in-kind donors; 6) Parties that have not yet had the opportunity to contribute financially or in-kind. For more information, please see the CoP-10 report (ECE/TEIA/38), Section VI available at: E_ECE_CP.TEIA_2018_38.pdf (unece.org)

(c) Election of the members of the Working Group on Implementation for the period 2025–2028

The Vice-Chair, in cooperation with the secretariat, will brief the Bureau regarding the upcoming elections of the members of the Working Group on Implementation. In advance of the Conference, the Parties will be invited to elect 10 members of the Working Group on Implementation from among the candidates nominated by Parties, for a term to last until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure, as amended by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/37).

8. Natech risk management (16:15 – 16:45)

(a) Joint OECD/UN/JRC Guidance on Managing Natech Accident Risk: A Guide for Senior Leaders in Industry and Public Authorities

The secretariat will report on the highlights of the Joint Guidance and provide an update as to the status of the publication process, its envisaged launch and endorsement by the CoP.

The Bureau will be invited to take note of the Guidance and to advise on the organization of the launch of the guidance at CoP-13 and its application through future activities in the course of this and the next biennium.

Documentation

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

(b) Disaster risk reduction, Natech risk management and climate change: [Towards strengthened Natech risk management in the ECE region and beyond]

The secretariat will briefly recall the envisaged development of a roadmap for Natech risk management under the Convention during this biennium, subject to the necessary resources which have not been forthcoming, and the ensuing intention to prepare such a roadmap in the 2025-2026 biennium, should respective resources be provided.

It will also explain the envisaged preparation of this agenda item, enabling countries – following a secretariat presentation – during a “tour de table” panel discussion to reflect on actions taken to strengthen Natech risk management, in line with Decision 2018/1 adopted at the last CoP.

The Bureau will also be invited to share its views and advise on the name and organization of this agenda item at CoP-13, as well as on attracting the financial resources for the development of the roadmap in the next biennium.

Documentation

Decision 2022/1 on strengthening Natech risk management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1)

9. Assistance to countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (16:45 – 17:15)

(a) Highlights of assistance activities in the last 20 years

As the current year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, the beneficiary countries of Programme will be invited at the CoP to report on

their progress and impact by the Programme. The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the achievements of 20 years of the Programme and how best to mark the 20th anniversary at the CoP during the official segment and in the margins of a reception, if so sponsored. In this regard and in follow-up to the last meeting, Bureau members will report on their considerations of providing financial or in-kind support to mark the Programme's anniversary at CoP-13.

In this context, the secretariat will also present an outline of the background document on the 20 years of assistance to countries with economies in transition: highlights and progress made, which will also include the progress report for assistance activities carried out in 2023-2024. The Bureau will be invited to provide guidance and views on the issues to the outlined in the document.

(b) 20th anniversary of Assistance and Cooperation Programme: achievements, challenges and the way ahead

The secretariat will present the outcomes of the key assistance activities organized in the framework of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme and other capacity-building activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, focusing on providing updates on assistance activities since the Bureau's last meeting and their proposed continuation or conduct of new activities in the biennium 2025-2026.

The Bureau will be invited to take note of the activities conducted thus far and to advise on the conduct of future activities in the course of this and the next biennium. In addition, the Bureau will be invited to advise on attracting the financial resources for the continued conduct of assistance activities to support addressing the needs of beneficiary countries.

Documentation

20th anniversary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme: Highlights and progress made in 20 years of assistance to countries with economies in transition (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/7) – outline

Day 2, Friday, 14 June 2024

(9:30 – 15:00; provisional timing in brackets)

10. Risk assessment (09:30 – 09:45)

The Swiss Vice-Chair, leading the small group on risk assessment, will present highlights of the publication on the Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention: An Overview of Risk Assessment Methods, Selected Case Studies and Available Software, and its envisaged launch at the CoP.

The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the publication, its launch and the envisaged follow-up activities, as reflected in the draft 2025-2026 workplan.

Documentation

Publication on the Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention: An Overview of Risk Assessment Methods, Selected Case Studies and Available Software

11. Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents (09:45 – 10:00)

The secretariat will report on current and planned activities for strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide, which the European Union is financially supporting. The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the upcoming activities and their presentation at the CoP.

12. Workplan for the Convention for the biennium 2025–2026 and its financing (10:00 – 10:30)

The secretariat will present the draft plan of action and resource requirements for the next biennium. The Bureau will be invited to exchange its views, discuss and advise, in particular on attracting the financial resources to enable a predictable, sustainable implementation of the workplan. It will be invited to discuss specific actions which can be taken to reach out to Parties to encourage pledges in advance of the CoP.

The secretariat will also present the draft decision on guiding principles for financial assistance, which the Bureau will be invited to endorse.

Documentation

Draft workplan and resource requirements for the Convention for 2025–2026 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/8) - draft

Draft decision on guiding principles for financial assistance (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/9) – draft

13. Prevention of accidental water pollution (10:30 – 11:00)

The Serbian and Hungarian Co-Chairs of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Joint Expert Group) will report on Joint Expert Group activities carried out since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. They will also present the outcomes of the workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailing facilities (Bratislava (hybrid), 23-24 April 2024). The JEG Co-Chairs will present the items proposed by the JEG for inclusion into the 2025-2026 workplan for the Convention, along with their envisaged lead Parties and budget.

The Bureau will be invited to review and agree on the items related to the prevention of accidental water pollution to be included in the Convention's workplan for 2025-26, and the corresponding budget.

Coffee break (11:00 -11:15)

14. Special session on Technology and industrial safety: Satellite monitoring technologies, including InSAR, for industrial/tailings safety (11:15 – 11:45)

The secretariat will present the draft concept note and programme of the special session. The Bureau will be invited to share its views on the programme of the upcoming special session and its organization during the CoP-13.

Documentation

Concept note and programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/INF.5) – draft

15. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System (11:45 – 12:15)

The secretariat will brief the Bureau on the envisaged steps with regard to the upgrade of the Industrial Accident Notification System and the envisaged holding of the consultation of the points of contact.

The Bureau will be invited to take note and advise on the envisaged presentation of these issues at the CoP. It will also be invited to specifically consider the required resources necessary to upgrade the IAN system.

Lunch break (12:15-13:15)

16. Linkages with the Sendai Framework, SDGs and policy/governance integration (13:15 – 13:45)

The secretariat will report on activities taken to promote the Convention's linkages with the Sendai Framework and the SDGs as well as on fostering policy/governance integration, such as its regular contributions to United Nations Common Country Assessments for countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and their Cooperation Frameworks. The cooperation with UNDRR will be highlighted, among others, in the framework of UNECE's preparation, jointly with the Joint Research Centre, of a chapter on technological disaster risk part of the UNDRR Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 Europe and Central Asia, which has not been issued.

The Bureau will be invited to take note of the activities carried out, and to reflect on their inclusion in the 2025-2026 workplan. It will also be invited to reflect on actions Parties and committed countries can undertake to promote policy integration between activities to support the Convention's implementation and those to foster implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, and how to present this item and related questions to the CoP.

Documentation

UNDRR Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 Europe and Central Asia, see Chapter 3, challenge 4: Managing technological risks

17. Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships (13:45 – 14:15)

The secretariat will also share information on the proposed approach to sharing the above-mentioned information at the CoP and to inviting Parties to also share information on their communication, outreach and partnership efforts in order to promote the Convention. The Bureau will be invited to advise.

18. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (14:15 - 14:30)

The Bureau will be invited to discuss options for the hosting of CoP-14 in 2026.

D. Other business (14:30 - 14:45)

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

F. Closing of the meeting (14:45 – 15:00)

The Bureau is invited to confirm the date and location of its next session, normally held back-to-back with the CoP, i.e. on Tuesday afternoon, 26 November 2024 in Geneva, before the Chair formally closes the session.