

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Implementation

Fiftieth meeting
Geneva, 29 to 30 May 2024

List of Decisions

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Helena Fridh (Sweden) and attended in-person by the following members: Ms. Reelika Kuusik (Estonia), Ms. Nicolette Bouman (Netherlands), Mr. Vitalii Mutaf (Republic of Moldova), Ms. Maria Šebestová (Slovakia) and Mr. Raphaël Gonzalez (Switzerland). The meeting was also attended online by Ms. Tatyana Lógutova (Belarus), Ms. Anna Tsarina (Russian Federation) and Ms. Sanja Stamenkovic (Serbia).¹

The Working Group on Implementation:

Decision 1: Adopted the revised agenda of the meeting (CP.TEIA/2024/WGI.2/Agenda/Rev.1) without further changes.

2. Implementation of the Convention

(a) Status on implementation reports and the sending of official letters

Decision 2: Took note of the receipt of one additional implementation report (by France) since the last meeting of the Working Group and of the secretariat's envisaged sending of official reminder letters to Parties and committed countries that failed to submit an implementation report.

(b) Draft report on the implementation of the Convention

Decision 3: Took note of the draft tenth report on the implementation of the Convention and agreed on each section and the annex, with smaller changes made in-session.

Decision 4: Requested the secretariat to follow up with Cyprus and Finland for clarification on their reported application of the voluntary extension of the Convention under Article 5.

¹ Ms. Laura Vizbule changed her post in October 2021. No replacement has been identified by Latvia.

Decision 5: Noted that Slovenia reported an accident capable of causing transboundary effects during the reporting period and used the Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System to notify Croatia.

Decision 6: Encouraged the European Union to make the information on the hazardous activities with transboundary aspects of its member States available in future reports.

Decision 7: Requested the secretariat to finalize the report and share it with the Bureau at its next meeting, and to then prepare it for submission to the Conference of the Parties for adoption at its thirteenth meeting (CoP-13) (Geneva, 27–29 November 2024).

Decision 8: Decided that Parties and the committed country should have the opportunity to provide written comments on the factual accuracy of information regarding their country in the draft report prior to CoP-13.

(c) Draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention

Decision 9: Took note of the draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention and agreed on each section, with smaller changes made in-session.

Decision 10: Requested the secretariat to finalize the decision and share it with the Bureau at its next meeting, and to then prepare it for submission to the Conference of the Parties for adoption at CoP-13.

Decision 11: Decided that Parties should have the opportunity to provide written comments on the draft decision prior to CoP-13.

(d) Ideas for improving the reporting format and guidelines

Decision 12: Took note of the updated feedback provided on the reporting format and guidelines used for the tenth round on reporting on implementation of the Convention and requested the secretariat to archive these for the Working Group to consider when updating and preparing these for the eleventh round.

(e) Good Practices on the implementation of the Convention

Decision 13: Thanked the secretariat for compiling the good practices collected by the Working Group members and requested the secretariat to proceed with publishing them on the Convention's website before CoP-13.

(f) Draft decision on the identification of tailings management facilities as hazardous activities

Decision 14: Agreed with the draft decision on the identification of tailings management facilities as hazardous activities and expressed support for the Bureau to submit it to the Conference of the Parties for adoption at CoP-13, with the accompanying background note.

3. Development of a guide on good practices on the implementation of the Convention

Decision 15: Thanked the secretariat for preparing the draft framework of the Good Practice Guide on the implementation of the Convention and **agreed on it**, with several revisions made in-session.

Decision 16: Further agreed that the guide should be developed as a timeless tool for supporting countries with the practical implementation of the Convention, including with examples of countries that can be learned from, rather than describing current gaps and trends in implementation which can become outdated.

Decision 17: Requested the secretariat to start drafting the chapter on “Identification and notification of hazardous activities” as a pilot chapter for review by the Working Group at its next meeting.

Decision 18: Encouraged the members of the Working Group to consider seeking additional funding for the development of further chapters of the guide.

4. Establishment of an interactive network for the exchange of information and sharing of experiences

Decision 19: Welcomed the progress made by the secretariat on the technical work completed in developing the e-group.

Decision 20: Encouraged the secretariat to test the e-group, together with the Working Group, during the summer.

Decision 21: Decided to launch the network, following the test, in autumn 2024 and to present it at CoP-13.

5. Teleconferences and engagement with beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme on implementation issues

(a) Pre-discussion

Decision 22: Pre-discussed the questions for and **conducted** two teleconferences with the Convention’s Focal Point from Bosnia and Herzegovina² and a representative from the competent authority from Tajikistan³.

(b) Teleconferences

Decision 23: Took note of the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina, notably that the country did not have any industrial accidents; that it has a low number of hazardous activities with 130 industrial facilities being closed; that there is a lack of human resources, financing, capacities and political awareness to implement the Convention; and that the country requires additional support to

² Mr. Senad Oprasic, Head of Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

³ Mr. Ardasher Mirzozoda, First Deputy Chairman of the Service of the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision under the Government of Tajikistan.

address its needs, in particular to draft a strategy on the implementation of the Convention.

Decision 24: **Strongly welcomed** the mayor progress made by Tajikistan in acceding to the Convention, notably its submission of the proposal on accession to the Convention for consideration by the Tajik government and the establishment and organization of a meeting of the national working group on accession to the Convention, comprising representatives of various authorities.

Decision 25: **Took note of** Tajikistan's organization of the 3rd meeting of the Inter-institutional Working Group on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution as well as the needs of Tajikistan to advance the implementation of the Convention, notably the need for capacity-building or legislative support.

(c) Follow-up

Decision 26: **Agreed** that the members of the subregional group would send a follow-up e-mail to Bosnia and Herzegovina, inviting the country to establish a national working group on the implementation of the Convention; highlighting the linkages between the Convention and Seveso Directive-III; requesting the development of the self-assessment and action plan along with the submission of the national implementation report.

Decision 27: **Agreed** to consider including a possible mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Convention's workplan for the 2025–2026 biennium.

Decision 28: **Agreed** that the members of the subregional group would send a follow-up e-mail to Tajikistan, sharing the reporting format and guidelines to complete the national report on implementation of the Convention and suggesting to Tajikistan updating its self-assessment and action plan.

Decision 29: **Decided** to invite Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to a teleconference at the next meeting.

6. Assistance and Cooperation Programme

(a) Update on implemented and planned activities

Decision 30: **Took note of** the Assistance and Cooperation activities carried out since the last meeting of the Working Group and of the planned activities for 2024.

Decision 31: **Suggested** to encourage Georgia and/or Tajikistan to present their steps towards accession to the Convention during the 20th anniversary panel of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme at CoP-13 and **invited** Serbia to share its experience on the implementation of the Convention during the panel.

(b) Update on the country dossiers and engagement strategies

Decision 32: **Took a note of and welcomed** the updated country dossiers and engagement strategies, presented by the members of the subregional groups.

Decision 33: **Requested** the secretariat, in response to Armenia's oral reply to the Working Group's message of 15 February 2024, to send a formal letter inviting

Armenia to develop a self-assessment and action plan; and **agreed** to send a follow-up message to encourage a written reply to its message.

Decision 34: Requested the secretariat to send a high-level letter to Azerbaijan to inquire on behalf of the Working Group about the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, following the meeting in 2021.

Decision 35: Agreed that the small group members reach out informally to Georgia in the margins of CoP-13 to discuss progress made with accession.

Decision 36: Welcomed the appointment of the Working Group member from the Republic of Moldova as new Focal Point for the Convention and the country's plans to create a new national working group on the implementation of the Convention in 2024-2025.

Decision 37: Agreed that due to the lack of response of Albania to the email of 25 April 2024, the members of the subregional group would send a reminder e-mail inquiring on the progress made by Albania since the teleconference with the Working Group at its 49th meeting (Geneva, 31 January–1 February 2024).

(c) Other business related to monitoring the implementation of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme

Decision 38: Requested the members of all subregional groups to finalize their update the country dossiers and engagement strategies after the meeting.

Decision 39: Invited the subregional groups to pursue informal contacts with the beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme at CoP-13.

7. Presentation of the e-tool with integration of Natech and tailing risks

Decision 40: Thanked the Vice-Chair from the Russian Federation for the work done and **decided** that the e-tool on Natech and tailing risks was now final.

Decision 41: Requested the Vice Chair from the Russian Federation to prepare a message with the downloadable file attached for circulation among the Parties.

8. Composition of the next Working Group on Implementation

Decision 42: Took note of the availability of Belarus, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland to serve as members of the Working Group for the next four-year term.

Decision 43: Invited members to submit their candidature as members of the Working Group for the next four-year term.

Decision 44: Also invited other countries to consider joining the Working Group to fill the open seats, such as Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Portugal and Romania.

Decision 45: Took note of the planned attendance of Ms. Kuusik (Estonia), Mr. Mutaf (Republic of Moldova), Ms. Fridh (Sweden) and Mr. Gonzalez (Switzerland) at CoP-13.

9. Other business

Decision 46: **Thanked** the member from the Republic of Moldova for his presentation on *Cybercor*, an advanced training course on cybersecurity covering key topics of relevance, taught at the Technical University of Moldova.

Decision 47: **Agreed** that the secretariat prepare decisions instead of minutes to reduce workload, accelerate the preparation of meeting outcomes and facilitate the implementation of follow-up of actions.

10. Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting on 30 May 2024 at 2 p.m.
