

FIRST MEETING

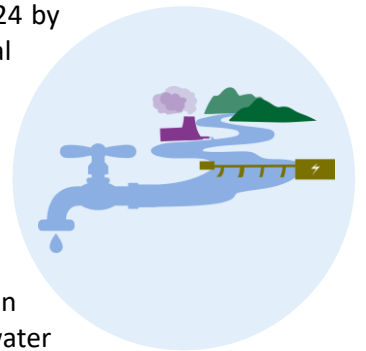
OF THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL WORKING GROUP ON PREVENTION OF WATER POLLUTION AND TAILINGS SAFETY IN UZBEKISTAN¹

TASHKENT

24 September 2024, 9:00 – 12:30

Background:

The Inter-Institutional Working Group (IIWG), officially established on 26 July 2024 by the Decree of Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, the Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is comprised of representatives of the various national authorities in charge of water management to environmental protection, industrial safety, sanitation, climate change, disaster risk reduction and emergency management. The IIWG provides a platform for long-term cooperation and coordination mechanism at national level. Following the high-level project launch event and technical workshop on 14 March 2024, the first IIWG meeting is being organized within the project on “Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change”. The project is implemented by UNECE and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Objectives:

- Familiarize with the Terms of Reference and composition of the IIWG;
- Discuss and agree on the IIWG workplan 2024-2025, including steering the project implementation, the timeline and next steps;
- Review current issues and necessary measures taken in the field of tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution;
- Deepen the understanding of benefits of the Industrial Accidents Convention;
- Discuss and agree on the next steps towards the development of a roadmap for accession to the Convention;
- Agree on the next steps towards the development of the Joint Contingency Plan framework in the Syr Darya River basin and other project activities;
- Enhance capacities of all relevant stakeholders dealing with industrial safety, disaster risk reduction, water resources, sanitation and related policy areas and strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation between all relevant actors.

Organizers:

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

¹ This IIWG is established within the framework of the Project on “Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change” funded by SDC.



Beneficiaries:

Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Economy, Ministry of Mining and Geology, Committee for Industrial, Radiation and Nuclear Safety, Hydrometeorological Service Agency, Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health, Academy of Sciences, “Uzsuvtaminot” Joint Stock Company, Specialized Analytical Control Center in the field of Environmental Protection, State Environmental Expertise Center, representatives of academia, the private sector and civil society of Uzbekistan

Working languages: English & Russian (with simultaneous interpretation and with a possibility to translate from Uzbek to English)

Format: In-person, with possibility of remote connection

Venue: Bentley Hotel Tashkent, Mirzakalon Ismoiliiy street 2A, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Agenda

OPENING AND SETTING THE SCENE

Moderated by Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragcha, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE

08:45-09:00	Arrival (in-person) and connection (online) of participants
09:00-09:20	Opening remarks and welcome statements <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Mr. Iskandar Qutbiddinov, Deputy Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Head of the Inter-institutional Working Group</i>- <i>Ministry of Emergency Situations (to be confirmed)</i>- <i>Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragcha, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE</i>
09:20-09:30	Introduction of the meeting objectives and adoption of the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragcha, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE</i>

SESSION 1: STRENGTHEN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION IN UZBEKISTAN

Moderated by Mr. Farruh Sattarov, Head of the Department of Environmental Policy, Deputy Head of the Inter-Institutional Working Group, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan

09:30-09:40	Inter-institutional Working Group (goals and main objectives, provisions, composition) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Mr. Golib Shukurov, Chief specialist of the Department for Policy of Protection of Water, Land Resources and Subsoil, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan</i>
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09:40-10:10	On-going work, challenges and priorities with regard to water quality and industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response in Uzbekistan: feedback from the national authorities in Uzbekistan (5 min per speaker) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Representative of the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change</i>- <i>Representative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations</i>- <i>Representative of the Ministry of Water Resources</i>- <i>Representative of the Ministry of Health</i>- <i>Representative of the Committee for Industrial, Radiation and Nuclear Safety</i>
10:10-10:25	On-going work, challenges and priorities with regard to water quality and industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response in Uzbekistan: feedback from operators, academia and/or civil society (5 min per speaker) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Representative of operator</i>- <i>Representative of academia</i>- <i>Representative of civil society</i>
10:25 – 10:30	Questions & answers
10:30-11:00	Coffee break

SESSION 2: STRENGTHENING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE ON INDUSTRIAL/TAILINGS SAFETY AND WATER RESOURCES IN UZBEKISTAN
Moderated by Ms. Madina Khalmirzaeva, Consultant, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE

11:00 - 11:15	UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and its activities on strengthening mine tailings governance in Uzbekistan, Central Asia and beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Ms. Ksenia Nechunaeva, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE</i>
11:15-11:30	Road Map for Uzbekistan's accession to the Industrial accidents Convention and development of a draft Joint Contingency Plan for the Syr Darya River Basin: key elements, support by national authorities and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Ms. Madina Khalmirzaeva, Consultant, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE</i>
11:30 - 11:45	Brief overview of the progress and next steps on strengthening the action on water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health in Uzbekistan <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, Environmental Affairs Officer, Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE (online)</i>
11:45 – 11:55	Interventions and questions by national authorities; agreement of the next steps for the implementation of the project's activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Ms. Madina Khalmirzaeva, Consultant, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE</i>
11:55 - 12:05	Climate change and Natech risks for TMFs in Central Asia: on-going and future activities



- *Ms. Claudia Kamke, Environmental Affairs Officer, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE (online)*

12:05 – 12:10 **Questions & answers**

**SESSION 3: DISCUSSION OF THE IIWG WORK PLAN FOR 2024-2025 AND CONCLUSIONS ON
STREERING THE PROJECT**

Moderated by Mr. Golib Shokhurov, Chief specialist of the Department for Policy of Protection of Water, Land Resources and Subsoil, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan

12:10-12:20 **Discussion on the draft Work Plan of the IIWG for 2024-2025**

- *Mr. Golib Shokhurov, Chief specialist of the Department for Policy of Protection of Water, Land Resources and Subsoil, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan*

12:20 – 12:30 **Conclusions and decisions by the members of the Working Group, wrap-up and closure**

- *Mr. Farruh Sattarov, Head of the Department of Environmental Policy, Deputy Head of the Inter-Institutional Working Group, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan*
- *Ms. Sarango Radnaaragchaa, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE*

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch for participants**

