



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### Thirteenth meeting

Geneva, 27–29 November 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

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

### Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting

To be held in Geneva, starting on Wednesday, 27 November 2024, at 10 a.m.

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification, representation and credentials.
3. Industrial safety of the energy transition:
  - (a) Seminar on the global energy transition: Strengthening industrial safety to address emerging risks;
  - (b) Bureau's Small Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition;
  - (c) Decision on work on the industrial safety of the energy transition under the Convention.
4. Bureau:
  - (a) Report of the Bureau on its activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (b) Election of officers and other members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Financing *tour-de-table*: Parties' strategic dialogue on enhancing commitments and future-proofing the Convention.
6. Implementation of the Convention:
  - (a) Tenth report and decision on the implementation of the Convention (2019–2022);
  - (b) Other activities of the Working Group on Implementation since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (c) Election of the members of the Working Group on Implementation for the period 2025–2028.



7. Natural hazard-triggered technological disaster risk management:
  - (a) Guidance on Managing Risks from Natural Hazards to Hazardous Installations;
  - (b) Disaster risk reduction, natural hazard-triggered technological disaster risk management and climate change.
8. Assistance to countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia:
  - (a) Highlights of assistance activities in the last 20 years;
  - (b) Twentieth anniversary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme: achievements, challenges and the way ahead.
9. Risk assessment.
10. Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents.
11. Workplan for the Convention for the biennium 2025–2026 and its financing.
12. Prevention of accidental water pollution.
13. Mine tailings safety.
14. Special session on “Innovations and industrial safety: Satellite monitoring technologies, including Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar, for tailings safety”.
15. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System.
16. Linkages with the Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals and policy/governance integration.
17. Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships.
18. Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2023–2024.
19. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
20. Other business.
21. Review of decisions.
22. Final statements and closing of the meeting.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in consultation with the outgoing Chair of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention).
2. The Conference of the Parties will be held as an in-person event, requiring participation in person for decision-making and for the purposes of determining a quorum. Delegations are invited to participate actively in the Conference of the Parties, and to consider, among other items, intervening in particular during the discussions on disaster risk reduction, natural hazard-triggered technological disaster risk management (Natech) and climate change (item 7 (b)), assistance (item 8 (b)) and mine tailings safety (item 13). All delegations are invited to speak during the *tour-de-table* discussion on financing under agenda item 5. Delegates are kindly requested to send their statements and/or presentations to the secretariat four weeks in advance of the meeting, by 30 October 2024, via email (ece-teia.conv@un.org). Delegations are also invited to send their eventual comments on the draft decisions and documents to be adopted, as indicated for the respective items below, to the secretariat by 30 October 2024, along with the pledges for the 2025–2026 workplan.

3. The Conference will be open to Parties to the Convention and observers, notably other member States of ECE and interested States Members of the United Nations. Representatives of the United Nations system, other international organizations, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and the academia that have special qualifications with regard to the Convention can also participate as observers, subject to the approval of the Conference of the Parties and its Bureau. Delegates attending the meeting are also invited **to register by 30 October 2024** using the electronic procedure.<sup>1</sup>

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

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 10–10.15 a.m.*

4. The outgoing Chair of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention will open the thirteenth meeting.

5. As meeting co-organizers, the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director of the Risk Prevention Directorate of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion of France will both make opening remarks.

6. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda for its thirteenth meeting as set out in the present document.

### Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirtieth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/46)

## 2. Status of ratification, representation and credentials

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 10.15–10.20 a.m.*

7. The secretariat will inform the Conference of the Parties of the current status of ratification of the Convention. It will also highlight those countries that have designated competent authorities and points of contact in accordance with article 17 of the Convention. It will furthermore inform the Conference about the representation of Parties and ECE member States at the meeting.

8. A Vice-Chair will report on the credentials submitted by the representatives of the Parties. In this regard, delegations of Parties to the Convention are reminded of the requirement to submit the original of credentials to the secretariat at the beginning of the meeting. In order to facilitate the verification process, the secretariat requests that a scanned copy of credentials be sent in advance of the meeting, by 30 October 2024, via email (ece-teia.conv@un.org). Credentials are to be issued by Heads of State or Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs and should state that the respective delegation is empowered to participate in the meeting and to take decisions on behalf of the respective Government under the applicable rules of procedure. Parties are strongly encouraged to include at least one representative of their permanent mission to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva in their credentials and to authorize all members of the delegation to participate in the sessions and to take decisions on behalf of the corresponding Party.

<sup>1</sup> Registration is available through the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Industrial-Accidents/events/389754>. For assistance with registration, please contact the secretariat by email (ece-teia.conv@un.org). This will be a paperless meeting; all documentation and related information will be made available on the meeting web page. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their own copies of any meeting documentation that they will require. Delegations from countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia eligible for financial support in line with decision 2022/2 on guiding principles for financial assistance (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1) are invited to nominate their representative and submit the respective financial support request form (available on the above-mentioned web page) to the secretariat by email (ece-teia.conv@un.org) **by 1 October 2024**.

9. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to approve the report on credentials presented by the Vice-Chair, in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/CP.TEIA/37).

#### **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)

### **3. Industrial safety of the energy transition**

#### **(a) Seminar on the global energy transition: Strengthening industrial safety to address emerging risks**

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 10.20 a.m.–1 p.m.*

10. Decarbonization has become a high priority for many Governments worldwide and for regional and international organizations. Many Governments, albeit with different priorities and trajectories, are rapidly shifting from fossil fuels to low- and zero-carbon technologies and, accordingly, developing policies, processes and technologies to produce, transport, store and distribute energy. Among other things, these energy sources include the use of ammonia, hydrogen and renewables, as well as of large-scale battery energy storage systems. Furthermore, to produce renewable energy technology that captures and stores energy, critical minerals are required. Estimates show that the demand for such minerals will significantly rise in the coming decades, resulting in more mining, tailings and production facilities. Additional processes currently being pursued are carbon capture and storage processes and the decarbonization and electrification of industrial facilities. The increasing and new uses of hazardous substances and processes can pose significant risks to people and the environment if not safely managed.

11. The main objective of the seminar is to enhance Governments' understanding of the industrial and environmental risks linked to decarbonization and the energy transition. The speakers will identify key risks of the predominant hazardous substances, processes and industrial facilities being used for the energy transition, share information on national laws and policies in place to address those risks, outline the gaps that remain, and define the role of the Industrial Accidents Convention in supporting countries in the region and beyond moving forward. The seminar will aim to set the agenda for international cooperation and the development of standards and approaches in the framework of the Convention in the years to come. Participants will be invited to take note of the seminar conclusions, which will be annexed to the report of the meeting.

#### **Documentation**

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

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)

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**

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 3–3.20 p.m.*

12. Following the recognition by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 29 November–1 December 2022) of the need to address emerging issues of concern for industrial safety, including energy transition and changes of energy sources, and the

Convention's relation with those issues,<sup>2</sup> the outgoing Chair will brief the Conference of the Parties on the role of the Convention in this dynamic environment and its current and potential contributions. She will also highlight the connection to the long-term strategy of the Convention until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1) and beyond.

13. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will introduce the Small Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition, which the Bureau established in 2023. The overall aim of the Small Group is to lead the work in the area of the energy transition with the support of the secretariat. The Bureau tasked the Small Group with: (a) preparing an assessment of the extent to which the Long-term Strategy is fully fit-for-purpose in the current setting; (b) developing a detailed note with possible options on likely areas warranting further work of the Convention and on possible institutional adjustments to the subsidiary structure of the Convention; and (c) initiating a process of consultation with member States in the form of a survey to better understand their needs and expectations in a fast-evolving strategic environment.<sup>3</sup> The Chair will inform the Conference on the outcomes of the Small Group's work to date.

**(c) Decision on work on the industrial safety of the energy transition under the Convention**

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 3.20–4 p.m.*

14. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to discuss the ongoing work on the industrial safety of the energy transition under the Convention. It will also be invited to discuss the draft decision on that workstream and adopt it amended at the meeting.

15. Parties are invited to communicate advance comments on the draft decision to the secretariat four weeks in advance of the meeting (via email to [ece-teia.conv@un.org](mailto:ece-teia.conv@un.org)), that is to say, by 30 October 2024.

**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)

Member State consultations and industrial safety of the energy transition (ISET) survey results (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/INF.2)

Draft decision on work on the industrial safety of the energy transition under the Convention (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/3)

## **4. Bureau**

**(a) Report of the Bureau on its activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 4–4.20 p.m.*

16. The outgoing Chair will report on the activities of the Bureau since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference will be invited to take note of the report and to discuss proposed future activities.

<sup>2</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/44, para. 104.

<sup>3</sup> CP.TEIA/2023/B.4/Decisions Report, decisions 35–36, pp. 4–5. Available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/Decisions%20Report\\_53rd%20meeting%20of%20the%20Bureau\\_11-12%20October%202023.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/Decisions%20Report_53rd%20meeting%20of%20the%20Bureau_11-12%20October%202023.pdf).

**Documentation**

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

**(b) Election of officers and other members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties**

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 4.20–4.40 p.m.*

17. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected or re-elected Ms. Torill Tandberg (Norway) as Chair, and Mr. Martin Merkofer (Switzerland) and Ms. Marie-Claire Lhenry (France) as Vice-Chairs. It elected or re-elected as Bureau members Ms. Armine Hayrapetyan (Armenia), Mr. Michael Struckl (Austria), Mr. Camille Siefridt (European Union),<sup>4</sup> Ms. Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund (Finland), Ms. Dragana Raonić Popović (Montenegro), Ms. Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia) and Ms. Gill Smart (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).<sup>5</sup>

18. According to rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs as its officers, and up to seven other members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties.

19. Candidatures shall be communicated by the Parties to the secretariat at least eight weeks ahead of the meeting, that is to say, by 2 October 2024. The secretariat shall communicate the list of candidates to the Parties at the latest six weeks before the meeting, that is to say, by 16 October 2024.

**Documentation**

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

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

Candidatures for election as officers and members of the Convention's Bureau (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/INF.3)

**5. Financing *tour-de-table*: Parties' strategic dialogue on enhancing commitments and future-proofing the Convention**

*Provisional time: Wednesday, 27 November, 4.40–6 p.m.*

20. Following a recommendation by the Bureau, the Conference of the Parties will engage in a round table discussion on fair and equitable contribution by Parties to the work of the Convention, chaired by the incoming Chair. All Parties will be invited to report on their efforts to implement the sustainable financial mechanism adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Stockholm, 14–16 November 2012) and decision 2018/2 fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1), adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4–6 December 2018).

21. Following a presentation by the secretariat on the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism and decisions 2018/2 fostering its implementation, and a presentation by the outgoing Chair on the efforts of the Bureau's Small Group on Financing to encourage additional funding for activities under the Convention, Parties will be invited to respond to the following questions. Interested observers and other international organizations are also invited to take the floor:

(a) Which commitments and financial or in-kind contribution can your country make in order to support implementation of the vision and objectives set out in the long-term

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Siefridt was replaced by Ms. Maud Casier as of the fifty-fourth meeting of the Bureau (Geneva, 13–14 June 2024).

<sup>5</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/44, para. 19.

strategy until 2030, in particular considering the Convention's evolution and coverage of emerging issues and trends, such as the energy transition, Natech risk management, and disaster risk governance?

(b) As a Party, how can your country contribute in a fair and equitable manner to the Convention's trust fund, supporting efforts to enhance the sustainability and predictability of financing, in line with the sustainable financial mechanism and decision 2018/1 fostering its implementation?

(c) What concrete pledges can your country make to support implementation of the 2025–2026 workplan, and thus enable the support of the Convention's continued functioning and evolution?

22. On the basis of these statements, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to discuss and determine the way forward with a view to enhancing the predictability and sustainability of funding for the Convention's biennial workplans, aiming for the strengthened implementation of the long-term strategy until 2030 and fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism.

### **Documentation**

Sustainable financial mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I)

Decision 2018/2 fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention (ECE/CP/TEIA/38/Add.1)

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

## **6. Implementation of the Convention**

*Provisional time: Thursday, 28 November, 10 a.m.–noon.*

### **(a) Tenth report and decision on the implementation of the Convention (2019–2022)**

23. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will introduce the tenth report on the implementation of the Convention (2019–2022), including its key findings and recommendations regarding the status of implementation, and the decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention, both of which the Working Group prepared on the basis of its analysis of the national implementation reports submitted by the deadline for the tenth reporting round. The Conference will be invited to adopt the tenth report on the implementation of the Convention and the decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

24. Parties are invited to communicate advance comments regarding the accuracy of factual information on their country contained in the draft report and on the decision to the secretariat four weeks in advance of the meeting (via email to [ece-teia.conv@un.org](mailto:ece-teia.conv@un.org)), that is to say, by 30 October 2024.

### **Documentation**

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

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

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

25. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation, in cooperation with the secretariat, will report on other activities of the Working Group in the period since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The presentation will include information on the:

- (a) Support provided to Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries to strengthen industrial safety through implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Establishment of an interactive network for the exchange of information and sharing of experiences;
- (c) Follow-up with Parties and beneficiary countries, resulting in late submissions of national implementation reports for the tenth round of reporting (2019–2022);
- (d) Development of a web page with tables on good practices on the implementation of the Convention;
- (e) Update of the reporting format and guidelines for the tenth round of reporting on the implementation of the Convention;
- (f) Development of a guide of good practice on the implementation of the Convention.

26. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of the information on the activities of the Working Group since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to discuss the proposed follow-up activities in the biennium 2025–2026.

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

27. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected or re-elected the following members of the Working Group for the period 2021–2024: Mr. Pavel Chukharev<sup>6</sup> (Belarus), Ms. Reelika Kuusik (Estonia), Ms. Laura Vizbule<sup>7</sup> (Latvia), Ms. Nicoletta Bouman (Netherlands), Mr. Vitalii Mutaf (Republic of Moldova), Ms. Anna Tsarina (Russian Federation), Ms. Sanja Stamenkovic (Serbia), Ms. Mária Šebestová (Slovakia), Ms. Helena Fridh (Sweden) and Mr. Raphaël Gonzalez (Switzerland).<sup>8</sup> At its forty-first meeting (Geneva (online), 23 February 2021), the Working Group elected Ms. Fridh as its Chair and Mr. Chukharev and Mr. Gonzalez as its Vice-Chairs, respectively, for the period 2021–2024.<sup>9</sup> At its forty-fourth meeting (Geneva (online), 1–2 February 2022), Ms. Tsarina was elected by the Working Group as Vice-Chair, replacing Mr. Chukharev in that function.<sup>10</sup>

28. The Conference of 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 fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

29. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure, as amended by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016), candidatures shall be communicated by the Parties to the secretariat at least eight weeks ahead of the meeting, that is to say, by 2 October 2024. The secretariat shall communicate the list of candidates to the Parties at the latest six weeks before the meeting, that is to say, by 16 October 2024.

**Documentation**

Terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation (ECE/CP.TEIA/32/Add.1)

Candidatures for election of members of the Convention's Working Group on Implementation (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/INF.4)

**7. Natural hazard-triggered technological disaster risk management**

*Provisional time: Thursday, 28 November, noon–1 p.m.*

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Chukharev changed his post in November 2021 and was subsequently replaced by Ms. Tatyana Lógutova.

<sup>7</sup> Ms. Vizbule changed her post in October 2021; to date no replacement has been identified by Latvia. ECE/CP.TEIA/42, para. 27.

<sup>8</sup> CP.TEIA/2021/WGI.1/Minutes, paras. 4–5, available at <https://unece.org/info/events/event/352284>.

<sup>10</sup> CP.TEIA/2022/WGI.1/Minutes, para. 28, available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/WGI44\\_Minutes\\_Final.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/WGI44_Minutes_Final.pdf).



**(a) Guidance on Managing Risks from Natural Hazards to Hazardous Installations**

30. Representatives of the ECE secretariat, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) will launch and present the publication *Joint OECD/UNECE/JRC Guidance on Managing Risks from Natural Hazards to Hazardous Installations (Natech): A Guide for Senior Leaders in Industry and Public Authorities*. Parties that contributed to the development of the publication will be invited to make a statement on its use to formulate sounder Natech risk management policies.

31. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to endorse the publication and recommend its use in line with the Convention.

**Documentation:**

*Joint OECD/UNECE/JRC Guidance on Managing Risks from Natural Hazards to Hazardous Installations (Natech): A Guide for Senior Leaders in Industry and Public Authorities*

**(b) Disaster risk reduction, natural hazard-triggered technological disaster risk management and climate change**

32. Following the adoption of decision 2022/1 on strengthening Natech risk management in the UNECE region and beyond at the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties and observers will be invited to reflect on the following questions during a panel discussion, followed by interventions from the floor, introduced by the secretariat:

(a) To which types of natural hazards (e.g., seismic activity, flooding, landslides) are industrial facilities in your country most exposed (currently and in the future)?

(b) What actions have your national authorities taken or are planning to take in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change, strengthen Natech risk management and manage disaster risk in line with decision 2022/1 (e.g., the development of guidelines)?

(c) Which areas should be covered by the future Natech roadmap for the Convention – envisaged to be developed in the following biennium 2025–2026, once respective resources in line with the workplan budget have been made available?<sup>11</sup> Could your country support, financially or in-kind, the development of the Natech roadmap in the next biennium?

33. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to review the status of Natech risk management and to agree on a process for developing the Natech roadmap, by identifying a lead Party and financial resources to support the process.

**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)

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

**8. Assistance to countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

*Provisional time: Thursday, 28 November, 3–4.20 p.m.*

34. The year 2024 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption and launch of the internationally supported Assistance Programme to help countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to strengthen their implementation of the Convention at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Budapest, 27–30 October 2004).<sup>12</sup> The Assistance Programme was subsequently rebranded the Assistance and

<sup>11</sup> In the absence of sufficient resources provided by Parties for the biennium 2023–2024, it was not possible to move forward with the development of the roadmap on Natech risk management.

<sup>12</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/12, para. 39.

Cooperation Programme at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4–6 December 2018).<sup>13</sup>

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

35. This anniversary provides an occasion to take stock of the progress achieved since 2004 by the countries with economies in transition that have benefited from assistance activities within the framework of the Convention, to highlight remaining challenges, and to reflect on the evolution of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme to date and reaching into the future.

36. In view of the twentieth anniversary, the secretariat will give a presentation on the evolution of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme over the past 20 years, along with some highlights of assistance activities and their impact. In this context, it will also report on the outcomes of assistance activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as their envisaged follow-up.

37. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of achievements by beneficiary countries and remaining challenges and to reflect on the approach to the continued implementation of assistance activities in the framework of the Convention, considering their sustainability and the continued need for financial resources to support countries with economies in transition. It will also be invited to endorse the progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2023–2024 and to consider the assistance activities included in the draft workplan for 2025–2026.

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

38. In a panel discussion, beneficiary countries of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme will be invited to highlight the results and impact of activities carried out thereunder.

39. In addition, beneficiary countries will be invited during a *tour de table* to respond to the following questions:

(a) How has the Assistance and Cooperation Programme helped achieve your national objectives to strengthen industrial safety, and what long-term impact has it had at the national, subregional and regional levels?

(b) What are your main lessons learned and the remaining challenges in the Convention's implementation? Which aspects would benefit from further assistance and support?

(c) What are your future plans to strengthen transboundary industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response, in line with the Convention's implementation and eventual accession thereto?

40. Donor countries and partner organizations will also be invited to share information on how they have provided and plan to prepare further support to countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to enhance industrial safety and advance in the implementation of the Convention. Such support could range from sponsoring capacity-development projects to dedicated activities, or the development of a dedicated brochure on the programme following its twentieth anniversary in the next biennium.

41. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of achievements by beneficiary countries and the remaining challenges, the support provided by donors and partner organizations and to reflect on the future delivery and sustainability of assistance activities in the framework of the Convention.

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<sup>13</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/38, paras. 62–63.

## Documentation

Twentieth 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)

## 9. Risk assessment

*Provisional time: Thursday, 28 November, 4.20–4.50 p.m.*

42. The Vice-Chair (Switzerland), leading the Small Group on Risk Assessment, will present highlights of the publication *Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention: An Overview of Risk Assessment Methods, Selected Case Studies and Available Software*, which will be launched in this context. Based on its review of two reports on risk assessment presented at its twelfth meeting,<sup>14</sup> the Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of the publication and to encourage countries to review and consider the publication and apply suitable methodologies, as appropriate, for strengthening industrial accident prevention and transboundary cooperation. The Conference of the Parties will also be invited to share information on current and foreseen challenges in risk assessment, propose concrete next steps regarding risk assessment under the Convention, and agree on follow-up activities.

### Documentation

*Risk Assessment for Industrial Accident Prevention: An Overview of Risk Assessment Methods, Selected Case Studies and Available Software* (ECE/CP.TEIA/45)

## 10. Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents

*Provisional time: Thursday, 28 November, 4.50–5.15 p.m.*

43. The secretariat will provide an overview of activities it is conducting with partner organizations to strengthen the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide, including as they build on the conclusions and recommendations from the United Nations/OECD seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion (Geneva (online), 14 December 2021), notably actions under a related project funded by the European Union for the period 2024–2027 under the “Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe” framework.

44. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of the information provided and agree on the integration of related activities in the biennium 2025–2026, in the lead up to its fourteenth meeting in 2026.

## 11. Workplan for the Convention for the biennium 2025–2026 and its financing

*Provisional time: Thursday, 28 November, 5.15–6 p.m.*

45. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider the draft workplan and related resource requirements for 2025–2026 on the basis of a proposal made by the Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat.

46. Following the indication of concrete pledges under item 5 on “Financing *tour-de-table*: Parties’ strategic dialogue on enhancing commitments and future-proofing the Convention”, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider and adopt its workplan

<sup>14</sup> ECE/CP.TEIA/44, paras. 49–54.

under the Convention for 2025–2026 and to decide on the resources to be allocated, along with actions to attract the further funding required.

47. Parties are invited to share information on their pledges and leadership of workplan items, as well as any eventual comments on the draft workplan, four weeks in advance of the meeting by email (ece-teia.conv@un.org), that is to say, by 30 October 2024. This approach will facilitate the presentation of an updated draft workplan during the session, if needed, with a clear indication of proposed changes as communicated by the Parties, and the adoption of the final workplan, with its accompanying resources.

48. The Conference of the Parties will also be invited to decide on guiding principles for financial assistance for the participation of representatives of countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Parties are invited to share any eventual comments on the draft decision four weeks in advance of the meeting (via email to ece-teia.conv@un.org), that is to say, by 30 October 2024.

### **Documentation**

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

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

## **12. Prevention of accidental water pollution**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 10–10.30 a.m.*

49. The Serbian Co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Joint Expert Group) will report on the activities carried out by the Group since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

50. A representative of Slovakia will then give a presentation on the Workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailing facilities (Bratislava (hybrid), 23–24 April 2024), including related conclusions and recommendations for follow-up activities and information on a related site visit.

51. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of the activities carried out by the Joint Expert Group, and the key findings and recommendations from the above-mentioned workshop. It will also be invited to discuss the proposed follow-up activities and agree on their inclusion in the workplan for 2025–2026.

## **13. Mine tailings safety**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 10.30–11.30 a.m.*

52. The secretariat will present the overview of data collected on tailings management facilities from national implementation reports of the tenth reporting period (2019–2022) and the conclusions drawn therefrom. It will also report on cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the intergovernmental process of regional and global consultation under United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management (UNEP/EA.5/Res.12), in the lead-up to the sixth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly of UNEP (Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024). The secretariat will give a presentation on how the work of the Convention and its guidelines and tools to support the ECE member States in strengthening mine tailings safety have been promoted worldwide.

53. The Chair of the Bureau's Small Group on Mine Tailings Safety, comprised of members of the Bureau, the Working Group on Implementation and the Joint Expert Group, will be invited to present findings and the recommendation arising from its assessment on whether there is a need to update the Guideline to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purpose of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1, decision 2018/1) to more comprehensively cover the hazards and risks of tailings management facilities, which

the Conference of the Parties mandated at its twelfth meeting.<sup>15</sup> In this regard, the Chair will present the accompanying draft decision on the identification of tailings management facilities as hazardous activities, which the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group and Joint Expert Group, prepared on the basis of the Small Group's recommendation.

54. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to review and adopt the decision.

55. Parties are invited to communicate advance comments on the draft decision to the secretariat four weeks in advance of the meeting by email (ece-teia.conv@un.org), that is to say, by 30 October 2024.

56. The Conference of the Parties will be then invited to a panel discussion to examine how the Parties and other ECE member States have implemented and plan to continue implementing the 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), and to reflect on the following questions:

(a) What actions have you taken this biennium to implement the road map for action on strengthening tailings safety adopted at the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties and what actions are you planning to take?<sup>16</sup>

(b) Does your country have experience, good practices, guidelines or a methodology in assessing tailings mixtures against hazardous substances, including those included in annex I? Would your country be interested in participating in the process of developing such a methodology over the next biennium?

#### **Documentation**

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

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)

Information on progress in the implementation of resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management – Co-Chairs' summary report of the Global Intergovernmental Meeting on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management (UNEP/EA.6/INF/7)

*Knowledge Gaps in Relation to the Environmental Aspects of Tailings Management*, UNEP<sup>17</sup>

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

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., para. 31.

<sup>16</sup> For list of actions contained in road map endorsed at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, see ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/7, paras. 35–36.

<sup>17</sup> Available at

[www.greenpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/downloads/tools/Final%20Knowledge%20Gaps%20Report\\_Environmental%20Aspects%20of%20Tailings%20Management%20%28January%202024%29\\_1.pdf](http://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/downloads/tools/Final%20Knowledge%20Gaps%20Report_Environmental%20Aspects%20of%20Tailings%20Management%20%28January%202024%29_1.pdf).

#### **14. Special session on “Innovations and industrial safety: Satellite monitoring technologies, including Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar, for tailings safety”**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.*

57. The special session will provide information on satellite monitoring technologies, including Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) and facilitate a discussion on the potential use of satellite monitoring technologies, including as a failure prediction tool, to strengthen tailings safety under the framework of the Convention. The session will promote the exchange of information about the benefits and limitations of satellite monitoring technologies for the mining industry and public authorities, and how these technologies can help improve the implementation of the Convention. At the end of the special session, participants will be invited to take note of the information provided and consider the use of satellite monitoring tools in strengthening tailings safety.

##### **Documentation**

Concept note and programme of the special session on satellite monitoring technologies, including InSAR, for tailings safety (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/INF.5)

#### **15. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 3–3.30 p.m.*

58. The Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 29 November–1 December 2022), recognized that the Industrial Accident Notification System needs an upgrade to fix glitches, enhance its technical functionalities and ensure full compliance with current cybersecurity standards.<sup>18</sup> The secretariat will brief the Conference of the Parties on plans for an upgrade, considering the financial resources required and available, as well as its engagement with the points of contact during the biennium. Parties will be invited to report on subregional connectivity tests conducted in the current biennium and announce planned tests in the following biennium.

59. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider and agree on the steps to be taken in order to upgrade the Industrial Accident Notification System. It will also be invited to consider the organization of a test and consultation in the next biennium, as per the draft 2025–2026 workplan.

#### **16. Linkages with the Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals and policy/governance integration**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 3.30–4 p.m.*

60. The secretariat will report on activities undertaken to promote the Convention’s linkages with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as further actions to foster policy/governance integration. The cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction will be highlighted, among other things, in the framework of the preparation, by ECE jointly with the Joint Research Centre, of a chapter on managing technological risks as part of the *Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023: Europe and Central Asia*.<sup>19</sup>

61. The Conference of the Parties 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

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid., para. 79.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (Brussels, 2023).

between activities to support the Convention's implementation and those to foster implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Documentation**

*Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023: Europe and Central Asia* (see chap. 3, challenge 4: Managing technological risks)

### **17. Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 4–4.30 p.m.*

62. Under this agenda item, the secretariat will report on:

- (a) Targeted communication efforts;
- (b) Its participation in international and regional meetings and forums;
- (c) Meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities, including inter-agency coordination meetings;
- (d) Working visits and missions to Parties and other stakeholders, and donor meetings.

63. Parties will be invited to share information on their communication and outreach efforts to promote the Convention and its tools. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note and to share its views on further developing communication and outreach activities, as well as strategic partnerships.

### **18. Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2023–2024**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 4.30–4.50 p.m.*

64. The secretariat will present the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources under the Convention in 2023–2024, which the Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of.

#### **Documentation**

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

### **19. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 4.50–5 p.m.*

65. Delegations are encouraged to offer to host the fourteenth meeting, so that the Conference of the Parties can decide on its next venue. Parties wishing to express an offer to host are invited to inform the secretariat accordingly four weeks in advance of the meeting by email (ece-teia.conv@un.org), that is to say, by 30 October 2024.

### **20. Other business**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 5–5.10 p.m.*

66. Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **21. Review of decisions**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 5.10–5.50 p.m.*

67. The incoming Chair will provide an overview of the decisions taken under each agenda item by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties will be invited to entrust the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, with finalizing the report of its thirteenth meeting.

## **22. Final statements and closing of the meeting**

*Provisional time: Friday, 29 November, 5.50–6 p.m.*

68. The incoming Chair and a representative of ECE will make final statements. The Chair will then officially close the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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