



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 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Industrial safety of the energy transition:**Decision on work on the industrial safety of the
energy transition under the Convention****Option 3 for the draft decision on work on the industrial
safety of the energy transition under the Convention****Submitted by the Chair***Summary*

The present document has been prepared by the Chair as a third option for the draft decision on work on the industrial safety of the energy transition under the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/3). The third option entails carrying out work in the framework of the Bureau with the support of an Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition. It was prepared on the basis of the Chair's consultations on the draft decision with the Bureau and secretariat. It aims to provide a compromise between options 1 and 2 and further supports the needs of Parties and member States. More specifically, the option: (i) allows Party and member State representatives and other relevant experts beyond the officers of current bodies under the Convention to voluntarily participate in the Group (compared to option 2); (ii) comprises an Ad hoc Expert Group, that reflects the intended composition and expertise necessary on the industrial safety of the energy transition from Parties and member States, international organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector and academia; (iii) enables interested participants to engage and take ownership of the work as nominated members of the Expert Group; (iv) provides a means for meetings to convene mainly online without official documentation, translation and interpretation that comes with option 1; and (v) allows the Bureau to provide strategic oversight of and guidance to the Group.

Parties are invited to share any comments on the present document with the secretariat in advance of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (via email to ece-teia.conv@un.org).

The Conference of the Parties is invited to review the third option alongside the draft decision (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/3), noting that it would fit in the draft workplan – in line with option 2 – for 2025–2026 (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/8), and adopt the decision with the selected option.

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the central role of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in preventing and mitigating the effects of industrial accidents through preparedness and response measures, thereby protecting human life and the environment, and the stated objective of its long-term strategy until 2030 that: “The Convention will be a flexible and modern instrument capable of addressing new and emerging risks.”,¹

Recalling also its decision at its twelfth meeting (Geneva (hybrid), 29 November–1 December 2022) recognizing the need to address emerging issues of concern for industrial safety, including the energy transition and changes of energy sources and the Convention’s relation to those issues,²

Recognizing in this respect the direct relevance of, inter alia, the Convention’s articles 3 (1) and 6 (1) on prevention, 8 (1) on emergency preparedness, 9 on information to and participation of the public, 10 and 12 (1) on notification, information-sharing and mutual assistance and 13–16 on international cooperation,

Emphasizing the central role of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and shaping the global decarbonization agenda, and the commitments made by Parties under this framework to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels,³

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme resolutions 6/5 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals⁴ and 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management,⁵ which underscore the importance of the need for enhanced action to support the environmentally sustainable management of minerals and metals, which in turn are components of the energy transition,

Recalling also United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme resolution 4/1 on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production,⁶ which calls for the adoption of cleaner and more energy-efficient technologies as a part of broader efforts to transition towards a sustainable economy,

Reaffirming the commitments made under the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and Goal 13, which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,

Emphasizing the importance of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fifth session (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023) recognizing the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and calling on Parties to contribute to tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, and to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science,

¹ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1, Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030, subsection III.4, key challenge (a).

²ECE/CP.TEIA/44, para. 104.

³Paris Agreement, art. 2 (1) (a), available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>.

⁴UNEP/EA.6/Res.5.

⁵UNEP/EA.5/Res.12.

⁶UNEP/EA.4/Res.1.

Recognizing the new challenges to industrial safety and risks brought about by the rapid pace of the energy transition and the emergence of new energy technologies, which necessitate robust safety protocols and regulatory frameworks,

Acknowledging the importance of understanding and addressing these new industrial safety challenges and risks, and emphasizing the need for concerted efforts in research, international cooperation and the development and sharing of technical guidelines, experiences and best practices to enhance safety standards in the energy sector, through established intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platforms, such as that under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Highlighting the value of partnerships and collaborative initiatives among member States and relevant stakeholders, including international organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia, to facilitate knowledge creation and the dissemination of key lessons learned in industrial safety during the energy transition,

Recognizing that the challenges and risks associated with the industrial safety of the accelerated energy transition are multifaceted and dynamic, and that they will be persistent features of the global landscape, thus requiring systematic and sustained attention and robust international cooperation to ensure both the safety and the sustainability of future energy systems,

1. *Welcomes* the work under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on industrial safety aspects linked to the energy transition, among other things, on mine tailings safety, land-use planning/siting, the storage, use and handling of hazardous substances, and, most recently, under the Bureau's Small Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition;

2. *Takes note* of the exchanges and conclusions drawn from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Seminar on the global energy transition: Strengthening industrial safety to address emerging risks (Geneva, 27 November 2024), organized within the context of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 27–29 November 2024), and the findings presented in the secretariat note entitled 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) and of the survey conducted on the industrial safety of the energy transition (ECE.CP.TEIA/2024/INF.2);

3. *Recognizes* that tackling emerging challenges and risks for industrial safety from the accelerated energy transition is a high-priority issue that merits sustained attention and that necessitates continued and enhanced international cooperation through appropriate platforms for intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder cooperation;

4. *Decides* to entrust the Bureau of the Convention to continue to pursue this work with the objectives to: assess related work done by other international organizations; generate a better understanding of safety trends and risks associated with the energy transition; provide background information to member States to address those risks; and advise the Conference of the Parties on strategic directions and policy formulations for the industrial safety of the energy transition of relevance to the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Bureau to establish an Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition to support this work under the guidance of the Bureau;

6. *Requests* interested Parties and other member States within and outside the ECE region to nominate and communicate to the secretariat by 31 January 2025 relevant experts who could participate in the Ad Hoc Expert Group and contribute to its activities voluntarily. *Invites* interested international governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations and academia to also nominate and communicate relevant experts;

7. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Expert Group will work in English only, meet mostly online and elect its own Chair and Vice-Chairs;

8. *Requests* the Bureau, in pursuing this work, to consider the need to further consolidate

this work by establishing an open-ended Working Group on the Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition in accordance with the Convention's article 18 (2) (c) and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of ensuring the provision of adequate funding to support the work on the industrial safety of the energy transition under the Convention.
