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Item 18 of the provisional agenda

Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2023–2024**Use of financial and in-kind resources to implement the
workplan in 2023–2024****Revision****Submitted by the secretariat***Summary*

The present report was prepared by the secretariat in response to the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 29 November–1 December 2022.^a It contains information on the use of financial and in-kind resources provided by Parties to the Convention for the period 2023–2024.

The Conference of the Parties will be invited to take note of the present report.

^a ECE/CP.TEIA/44, para. 99.

1. At its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 29 November–1 December 2022), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) adopted the 2023–2024 workplan, together with its budget (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1). It requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions and to report on the use of financial and in-kind resources for the 2023–2024 biennium.¹

2. The present report responds to the above-mentioned request and presents information on financial or in-kind contributions for the implementation of the Convention’s activities in the period 2023–2024 and their use. The report also includes an analysis of trends and lessons learned, together with considerations on the way forward.

I. Financial contributions

3. During the biennium 2023–2024, as at 31 August 2024, a total of \$1,719,538 in financial contributions was received from the Convention’s Parties, including interest income and bank charges (table 1).² This amount includes two major project contributions:

(a) \$350,000 from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for a project entitled “Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change”.³ This first tranche of the contribution for the Industrial Accidents Convention, received in December 2023, serves to carry out activities during the period January 2024–July 2025. The three-year project is being implemented in close cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)-World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). Under an agreement signed by ECE and SDC in December 2023, an overall amount of \$700,000 was committed to activities in Uzbekistan implemented under the auspices of the Industrial Accidents Convention. Most of the project implementation work will be carried out in the next biennium, in accordance with the draft workplan 2025–2026 (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/8, activity 8.3);

(b) \$200,000 (€185,000) from the European Commission to implement a project entitled “Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide”⁴ under the European Union Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe funding instrument. The related agreement between ECE and the European Commission was signed in July 2024. The total committed contribution for the three-year project period from the European Commission is €500,000. Most activities under the project will be implemented in the upcoming biennium (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/8, activities 3.4, 4.1 and 5.1), whereas the implementation period will reach into 2027.

4. In addition to the contributions received at the time of writing of this report, an amount of \$106,482 in financial contributions was committed to be provided for the implementation of the workplan 2023–2024. This includes contributions pledged at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties⁵ and additional contributions provided by Parties in support of the workplan’s implementation, as indicated in table 1.

¹ ECE/CP.TEIA/44, paras. 89 (f) and 99.

² This amount does not include the financial contribution of \$13,000 from Czechia for the year 2023, which was already transferred at the end of 2022 and is accounted for in table 2.

³ More information about this project is contained in the Report of the Bureau on its activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/4, para. 46) and the Progress report on the implementation of assistance activities in 2023–2024, contained in the report entitled “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, paras. 36, 41 and 53).

⁴ More information about this Project is contained in document ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/4, paras. 35–37.

⁵ ECE/CP.TEIA/44, paras. 85 and 87.

5. At the time of writing, assuming that committed pledges will be honoured, the total amount of financial contributions to the Convention's trust funds expected to be received before the end of the biennium is \$1,826,020.

Table 1

Financial contributions to the trust funds⁶ provided from 1 January 2023 to 31 August 2024 and expected to be received until 31 December 2024

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount received</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars*</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount expected</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars**</i>	<i>Earmarked/ Explanation</i>
Albania				-				
Armenia				-				
Austria	17 May 2023	€	10 000	10 905				Unearmarked
Austria	28 May 2024	€	10 000	10 799				Unearmarked
Azerbaijan				-				
Belarus				-				
Belgium				-				
Bosnia and Herzegovina				-				
Bulgaria	20 June 2023	\$	2 100	2 100				Unearmarked
Bulgaria	25 June 2024	\$	2 100	2 100				Unearmarked
Croatia	31 Oct. 2023	\$	3 000	3 000				Unearmarked
Croatia ^a					\$	3 000	3 000	Unearmarked
Cyprus	6 Oct. 2023	€	3 200	3 376				Unearmarked
Czechia ^b	12 Dec. 2023	\$	13 000	13 000				Unearmarked - for 2024
Denmark				-				
Estonia				-				
European Union	25 May 2023	€	35 000	38 168				Unearmarked
European Union	2 Aug. 2024	€	35 000	37 961				Unearmarked
European Union	20 Aug.2024	€	185 000	200 000				Project "Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate

⁶ These include the Industrial Accidents Convention trust fund and two other trust funds established in the course of this biennium, used to implement activities under the Convention's workplan, namely the trust funds for the project entitled "Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change," managed jointly with the ECE secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health; and the trust fund for the project entitled "Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide".

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount received</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars*</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount expected</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars**</i>	<i>Earmarked/ Explanation</i>
								industrial accidents worldwide”
Finland	28 Apr. 2023	€	10 000	10 977				Unearmarked
Finland	25 July 2024	€	10 000	10 893				Unearmarked
France	1 June 2023	€	132 000	141 631				€100,000 - Unearmarked; €32,000 – Supporting participation of countries with economies in transition in 15 th IMPEL Seminar on lessons learned from industrial accidents (Marseille, France, May 2023)
France	28 Mar. 2024	€	200 000	218 818				€100,000 - Unearmarked; €100,000 - Organization of COP-13
Germany	9 May 2023	€	19 841	21 827				JEG
Germany	5 Sept. 2023	€	30 000	32 823				
Germany	23 Apr. 2024	€	15 000	16 094				JEG
Germany ^c					€	20 000	21 906 ^d	Participation of countries with economies in transition in COP-13
Greece				-				
Hungary	16 June 2023	\$	10 000	10 000				Unearmarked
Hungary ^e					\$	10 000	10 000	Unearmarked
Italy	23 Aug. 2023	€	50 000	54 765				Unearmarked
Italy	15 July 2024	€	50 000	54 466				Unearmarked
Kazakhstan ^f				-	\$	12 765	12 765	Unearmarked
Latvia				-				
Lithuania	27 Mar. 2024	\$	5 636	5 636				Unearmarked
Luxembourg				-				
Monaco				-				
Montenegro	3 Aug. 2023	€	384	423				Unearmarked
Netherlands	22 May 2023	€	30 000	32 715				Unearmarked

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount received</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars*</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount expected</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars**</i>	<i>Earmarked/ Explanation</i>
Netherlands	29 Nov. 2023	€	40 000	42 689				Guide of good practices
Netherlands	6 May 2024	€	30 000	32 086				Unearmarked
Netherlands ^g					€	40 000	43 811 ^h	Guide of good practices
North Macedonia	13 Oct. 2023	\$	670	670				Unearmarked
Norway	30 May 2023	\$	40 000	39 985				Unearmarked
Norway	12 Dec. 2023	\$	40 000	39 985				Unearmarked
Norway ⁱ					\$	5 000	5 000	Participation of countries with economies in transition in COP-13
Poland				-				
Portugal				-				
Rep. of Moldova				-				
Romania	3 Jan. 2024	€	10 000	11 099				Unearmarked
Russian Federation								
Serbia	20 June 2023	\$	2 500	2 500				Unearmarked
Serbia	25 July 2024	\$	2 500	2 500				Unearmarked
Slovakia	5 Sept. 2023	€	5 000	5 543				Unearmarked
Slovenia	1 Oct. 2023	€	10 000	10 977				Unearmarked
Spain				-				
Sweden				-				
Switzerland	9 June 2023	CHF	70 000	77 434				Risk assessment and assistance
Switzerland	12 Dec. 2023	\$	350 000	350 000				Project “Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change”
Switzerland	13 June 2024	CHF	70 000	77 434				Risk assessment and assistance
Switzerland ^j					\$	10 000	10 000	IAN system

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount received</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars*</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount expected</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars**</i>	<i>Earmarked/ Explanation</i>
Ukraine				-				
United Kingdom				-				
Interest and charges 2023				70 894				
Total				1 696 273			117 419	

Abbreviations: COP-13, thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties; EU, European Union; IAN, Industrial Accident Notification system; IMPEL, Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law; JEG, Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accident.

* United States dollars. Exchange rates from currency of contribution to dollars are calculated as at the date of funds transfer. Figures are rounded.

** United States dollars. Exchange rates from currency of contribution to United States dollars are projected and calculated using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 15 August 2024. Figures are rounded.

^a Contribution was pledged on 2 October 2023; the request for payment was sent on 6 June 2024.

^b Contribution for 2023 transferred already in December 2022 (see table 2).

^c Agreement on this contribution signed in August 2024.

^d Exchange rates from currency of contribution to United States dollars are projected and calculated using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 15 August 2024. Figures are rounded. The actual amount received on 11 October 2024 after issuance of the official document was \$22,371.

^e Contribution was pledged at COP-12. The request for payment was sent on 15 June 2024.

^f Contribution was confirmed on 31 October 2023. The request for payment was sent on 6 November 2023.

^g Contribution was confirmed in June 2024. The request for payment sent on 27 August 2024.

^h Exchange rates from currency of contribution to United States dollars are projected and calculated using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 15 August 2024. The actual amount received on 2 October 2024 after the issuance of the official document was \$43,573.

ⁱ Contribution was indicated in June 2024. The request for payment sent on 18 July 2024.

^j Contribution confirmed on 6 May 2024. The request for payment was sent on 20 June 2024.

6. In addition to the contributions listed in table 1, the report lists in table 2 financial contributions received during the period 15 September–31 December 2022, which could not be included in the report entitled “Use of financial and in-kind resources to implement the workplan in 2021–2022” (ECE/CP.TEIA/2022/10). These contributions include a regular contribution by Czechia to the workplan in 2023, which was transferred to and received by ECE at the end of 2022.

Table 2
Financial contributions to the Convention trust fund⁷ from 15 September 2022 to 31 December 2022

Country	Date received	Currency	Amount	Amount in	
				US dollars ^a	Earmarked/explanation
Croatia	17 Oct. 2022	\$	3 000	3 000	Unearmarked
Czechia	21 Dec. 2022	\$	13 000	13 000	Unearmarked - for 2023
France	10 Oct. 2022	€	100 000	97 371	Unearmarked
Germany	30 Sept. 2022	€	27 075	27 156	Financing activities of JEG
Germany	19 Oct. 2022	€	15 000	14 535	Participation of countries with economies in transition in COP-12
Hungary	5 Oct. 2022	\$	10 000	10 000	Unearmarked
Italy	16 Nov. 2022	€	50 000	51 440	Unearmarked
Serbia	10 Dec. 2022	\$	2 500	2 500	Unearmarked
Sweden	21 Dec. 2022	SKr	73 000	7 775	Unearmarked
Interest and charges in 2022				29 113	
Total				255 890	

^a United States dollars. Exchange rates from currency of contribution to dollars are calculated as at the date of funds transfer. Figures are rounded.

II. In-kind contributions

7. The in-kind contributions provided during the biennium have given additional impetus to the implementation of the workplan. The total estimated value of in-kind contributions for the biennium as at 31 August 2024 is \$225,065 (see table 3).⁸ It should be noted, however, that it is not possible to take account of all in-kind contributions provided.

8. In-kind contributions comprise contributions by Parties to Convention events organized during the biennium, which are valued in accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Stockholm, 14–16 November 2012) (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I, appendix), notably the:

(a) Hosting of respective intergovernmental meetings or workshops (Finland, Georgia, Slovakia, Tajikistan);

(b) Provision of expertise and travel to respective events (Czechia, European Union, Kazakhstan, Norway, Serbia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine).

⁷ During this period, financial contributions were only provided to the main Convention trust funds. Financial contributions to other trust funds used to implement the workplan 2021–2022 had been provided previously, including by the Russian Federation for the project “National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (phase I: Launch)” and by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), funded by the European Union, for the joint UNDRR-ECE project “Addressing technological/industrial accident risks in national strategies and DRR plans”.

⁸ It has not been possible to identify all in-kind contributions.

9. In addition, Germany, through the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ), co-financed the Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia (Dushanbe, 25–26 May 2023) in the framework of its Green Central Asia Initiative, by providing travel support to several participants, catering and interpretation costs amounted to \$20,000.

Table 3

In-kind contributions during the period 1 January 2023–31 August 2024

<i>Party</i>	<i>In-kind contribution provided</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>US dollars amount, as calculated or valued in accordance with sustainable financial mechanism*</i>
Czechia	Provision of expertise and travel for International workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailing facilities (Bratislava, 23–24 April 2024) (2 experts) and Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia (Dushanbe (hybrid), 25–26 May 2023) (1 expert)	\$	9 000	9 000
EU/EIB	Direct award consultancy for project entitled “Strengthening industrial safety in Ukraine through enhanced implementation of and alignment with the Industrial Accidents Convention”	€	25 750	28 204
EU/EIB	Direct award consultancy for project entitled “Awareness-raising of risks in managing hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response and training to address those risks”, including development of two videos and a manual	€	49 000	53 669
EU/EIB	Direct award consultancy for project entitled “Evaluation of international legal and policy instruments for strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances and reducing technological disaster risks”, comprising the development of an online information repository on legal and policy instruments	€	33 500	36 692
EU	Provision of expertise for the Mission to support the accession of Georgia to the ECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	\$	2 000	2 000
Finland	Hosting of 53rd Bureau meeting and provision for secretariat’s participation	\$	6 500	6 500
Georgia	Hosting and organization of the Mission to support the accession of Georgia to the ECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	\$	10 000	10 000
Germany (GIZ)	Co-financing of organization of Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in	\$	20 000	20 000

<i>Party</i>	<i>In-kind contribution provided</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>US dollars amount, as calculated or valued in accordance with sustainable financial mechanism*</i>
	Central Asia (Dushanbe, 25–26 May 2023) and travel of participants from Central Asia			
Kazakhstan	Provision of expertise and travel to meeting of Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and International workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailing facilities (Bratislava, 23–24 April 2024)	\$	3 000	3 000
Norway	Expertise provided to the Mission to support the accession of Georgia to the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	\$	2 000	2 000
Serbia	Expertise provided to the Mission to support the accession of Georgia to the ECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	\$	2 000	2 000
Serbia	Expertise provided to technical workshop on facilitating accession of Uzbekistan to the Convention (Tashkent (hybrid), 14 March 2024)	\$	2 000	2 000
Slovakia	Hosting of the International workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailing facilities (Bratislava, 23–24 April 2024)	\$	30 000	30 000
Sweden	Expertise provided to the Mission to support the accession of Georgia to the ECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	\$	2 000	2 000
Tajikistan	Hosting of Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia (Dushanbe, 25–26 May 2023), co-financed by GIZ	\$	15 000	15 000
Tajikistan	Travel of an additional participant to International workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailing facilities and meeting of the Joint Expert Group (Bratislava, 23–24 April 2024)	\$	1 000	1 000
Ukraine	Expertise provided to technical workshop on facilitating accession of Uzbekistan to the Convention (Tashkent (hybrid), 14 March 2024)	\$	2 000	2 000
Total				225 065

* US dollar amounts are either estimated (in the case of Germany (GIZ)), calculated in accordance with the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 15 August 2024 (in the case of EU/EIB), or valued in accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism (see ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I, appendix).

10. The in-kind contributions from the European Investment Bank (EIB) were the most substantial in terms of their overall value during this biennium, in line with the pledge made by EIB at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.⁹ The contributions consisted of the three direct award consultancies listed in table 3.

11. In addition to the in-kind contributions listed in table 3, elected and nominated members of the Bureau, the Working Group on Implementation and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents have made significant contributions to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and by raising awareness of the Convention at various events. This includes members from the following Parties:

(a) Bureau: Armenia, Austria, European Union, Finland, France (Vice-Chair), Montenegro, Norway (Chair), Serbia, Switzerland (Vice-Chair) and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Working Group on Implementation: Belarus, Estonia, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation (Vice-Chair), Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden (Chair), Switzerland (Vice-Chair);¹⁰

(c) Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents: Belarus, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Hungary (Co-Chair for the Water Convention), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia (Co-Chair), Slovakia and Ukraine.

12. In addition to the regular meetings of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation, the following subsidiary groups were established under their auspices, with active contributions from their members to the implementation of the respective activities:

(a) Small group on mine tailings safety in an expanded form to include members of the Bureau from Austria and Switzerland (lead), a member of the Working Group on Implementation (Serbia) and members of the Joint Expert Group, including from Czechia, Germany and the Co-Chair from Serbia;

(b) Small group on the industrial safety of the energy transition,¹¹ comprised of members from Austria, Norway (led by the Chair), Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Commission;

(c) Small group on financing, established under the Bureau, with members from Finland, Norway (lead) and France.

13. Further to the in-kind contributions from Parties and other stakeholders, the Convention benefited during the biennium 2023–2024 from co-financing from the United Nations regular budget, which covered a share of the expenditures for the Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia (Dushanbe, 25–26 May 2023), namely interpretation and equipment, as well as the participation of various representatives of industrial safety and water authorities, operators, NGOs, academia and international organizations in Central Asia.

14. Furthermore, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Programme Office in Dushanbe provided financing to meet the costs of the third meeting of the Inter-institutional Working Group (IIWG) on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Tajikistan (Dushanbe, 15 May 2024), to the amount of \$2,500. In addition, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana co-financed the second and third IIWG meetings in Kazakhstan (Astana, respectively, 15 March 2023 and 26 August 2024) by providing financing to the amount of \$7,000 for the travel of two Kazakh experts to the Subregional workshop on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution (Dushanbe, 25–26 May 2023).

⁹ ECE/CP.TEIA/44, para. 85 (l).

¹⁰ Latvia could unfortunately not continue its membership in the Working Group on Implementation.

¹¹ CP.TEIA/2023/B.4/Decisions Report, decisions 33–36.

15. In addition, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provided a direct award consultancy to the amount of €11,000 (\$12,048) to develop a National Programme for Industrial Safety in Serbia and organize a Stakeholder Consultation (Belgrade, 20 September 2023) within the context of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) process, launched by Serbia, with the support of the Convention’s secretariat. The consultant also reviewed the National Programme for Industrial Safety of Serbia.

16. Furthermore, the International Labour Organization provided travel and accommodation for one secretariat staff member to the Twenty-third World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (Sydney, Australia, 27–30 November 2023) to the amount of \$9,000. Many other organizations contributed to the activities under the Convention’s workplan, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and international river basin organizations such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

III. Expenditures

17. Table 4 presents the aggregated provisional expenditures per object class of the United Nations administrative system “Umoja” for the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2023–2024, as at 31 August 2024. The list is provisional, especially for the period 1 January–31 August 2024.

Table 4

Provisional expenditures charged to Convention’s trust funds for the period 1 January 2023–August 2024¹²

(United States dollars)

<i>Umoja object class</i>	<i>Expenditures 2023–2024</i>
Contractual services	\$ 34 512
Equipment, vehicles, furniture	\$ 993
Operating and other direct costs	\$ 51 747
Grants	\$ 12 000
Staff and other personnel costs	\$ 885 947
<i>of which: Consultancy fees^a</i>	\$ 44 230
<i>of which: Staff and other personnel costs</i>	\$ 841 718
Travel	\$ 103 731
Supplies, commodities and materials	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 1 133 159
Programme support cost (13 per cent)	\$ 134 035
Total (all activities and staff)	\$ 1 267 194

^a Including travel expenses of consultants.

Note: The figures in table 4 are rounded.

18. Table 5 presents the projected expenditures of the trust funds until 31 December 2024, based on estimated expenditures necessary for activities to be carried out until the end of the year, including to organize on-site training back-to-back with the first meeting of the Inter-institutional Working Group on Water Pollution and Tailings Safety in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, 24–26 September 2024), expenditures related to the newly initiated project “Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide” and the Conference of the Parties, comprising, among other things, travel for participants from countries with economies in transition. There will also be end-of-year expenditures covering administrative charges by the United Nations

¹² Based on actual expenditures, as recorded in Umoja until 31 August 2024

Office at Geneva for the functioning of the secretariat team, including office space and information and telecommunications equipment for staff.

Table 5

Summary of projected expenditures from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2024 from all trust funds, for the biennium 2023–2024¹³

(United States dollars)

<i>Umoja object class</i>	<i>Estimated expenditures 2023–2024</i>
Contractual services	71 000
Equipment, vehicles and furniture	1 000
Operating and other direct costs	95 000
Grants	12 000
Staff and other personnel costs	1 142 000
<i>of which: Consultancy fees^a</i>	65 000
<i>of which: Staff and other personnel costs</i>	1 077 000
Travel	175 000
Supplies, commodities and materials	0
Subtotal	1 496 000
Programme support cost (13 per cent)	186 000
Total (all activities and staff)	1 682 000

^a Including travel expenses of consultants.

IV. Balance, available budget and workplan implementation

19. The approximate provisional balance of the main Convention trust fund as at 31 August 2024 was \$1,619,115. This is nearly the same as the ending balance of the main trust fund on 31 August 2022.

20. In addition, the projected balance at the end of 2024 for the two trust funds for the dedicated projects mentioned above will amount to around \$400,000, as the United Nations requires prepayment and the corresponding activities will be carried out in 2025. The Convention's activities in the coming biennium (and beyond) will be focused, among other things, on the implementation of these projects, for which the funding is reserved, be it for the organization of various activities or related staff costs.

21. Retaining a sufficient trust fund balance is essential in order to be able, at the end of the year, to prolong ongoing staff contracts and allocate funding for the operational expenditures envisaged to implement activities as per the workplan for 2025–2026 to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/8).

22. Overall, contributions this biennium were higher than expenditures – mainly due to the first tranches of the two large project contributions received. As the project implementation periods have just begun, related funding will be mainly spent in the next biennium.

23. The planned budget for the envisaged activities to be carried out in the biennium, as per the adopted workplan for 2023–2024, was \$3,064,518.¹⁴ The sum of received financial contributions for the period 2023–2024 to support workplan activities amounts to \$1,696,273 at 31 August 2024 and is projected to be at \$1,813,692 before the end of the biennium (see

¹³ Based on a combination of actual expenditures, as recorded in Umoja until 31 August 2024, and estimated expenditures until end-December 2024

¹⁴ ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1, Workplan and resource requirement for the Convention for 2023–2024, tables 1–2.

table 1).¹⁵ Furthermore, the sum of in-kind contributions provided in this period to support the workplan activities amounts to \$225,065 (see table 3). A comparison of the adopted workplan budget with the sum of financial contributions received and the estimated value of in-kind contributions in this biennium as at 31 August 2024 results in an implementation rate of 63 per cent. Considering the contributions expected to be received before the end of the year, this implementation rate will rise to about 67 per cent.

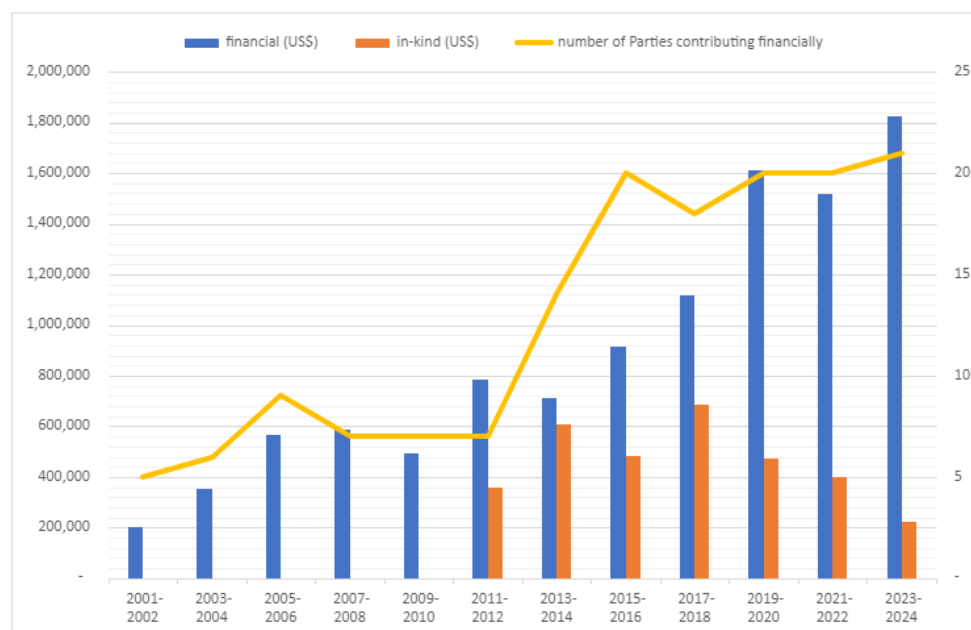
24. As the overall funding provided during the biennium was lower than the workplan budget, several planned activities could not be implemented.¹⁶ Moreover, whereas the workplan for 2023–2024 foresaw the engagement of 4 full-time professional (P) staff members and 1 full-time general service (G) staff member funded from extrabudgetary resources, owing to the financing available, only about 3.4 extrabudgetary P staff members and 0.30 G staff members could be engaged in the biennium. This was particularly challenging as one staff member has been on maternity leave for 6 months and the lack of resources did not allow for the hiring of a replacement.

V. Analysis, trends, lessons learned and the way forward

25. The figure below illustrates the evolution of financial contributions, including contributions to all trust funds, since the entry into force of the Convention in 2000. It also demonstrates the evolution of in-kind contributions since the biennium 2011–2012, as well as the number of Parties contributing financially.

Biennial financial contributions (2001–2024)¹⁷ and in-kind contributions (2011–2024)

(US dollars, financial contributions as estimated until 31 December 2024)



¹⁵ Adding \$106,482 committed financial contributions expected to be received before the end of the biennium.

¹⁶ See Report of Bureau on its activities since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, ECE/CP.TEIA/2024/4, paras. 62–65.

¹⁷ Consolidated overview of financial contributions received for the respective bienniums in the Convention's main trust fund at 31 August 2024, and estimated contributions to be provided during the period 1 January 2023–31 December 2024, as well as the trust funds for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation-financed project "Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change" and the European Union-financed project "Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide".

Note: Figures to left-hand side of graph indicate amount (US dollars); figures to right-hand side of graph indicate No. of Parties.

A. Gradual increase in contributions since Convention's entry into force

26. Overall, as seen in the figure above, there has been a continuous positive trend of increasing financial contributions over the years following the Convention's entry into force in 2000 and the holding of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Brussels, 22–24 November 2000). Following a continuous increase in the first three bienniums, an amount close to \$600,000 was reached for the bienniums 2005–2006 and 2007–2008 and a new ceiling of \$800,000 was reached in the biennium 2011–2012. The period 2015–2016 saw a new record high of \$900,000, which was surpassed with \$1.1 million for the period 2017–2018, and an initial peak of around \$1.6 million in the biennium 2019–2020 thereafter.

27. In addition to new Parties contributing, the gradual increase in contributions in the past decade was mainly a result of additional contributions provided by France, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland:

(a) During the periods 2015–2017 and 2018–2020, Norway provided additional contributions to the Convention, as part of a larger project benefiting the ECE multilateral environmental agreements funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

(b) During the periods 2016–2019 and 2020–2022, the Russian Federation (with financing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) awarded funding of \$250,000 each for two projects to strengthen the Convention's implementation in Central Asia;

(c) The biennium 2019–2020 benefited from two additional contributions of €200,000 each, provided by the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition to support implementation of the long-term Strategy – which also benefited the work in the following biennium, including the period of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2021–2022, when meetings were mostly held online or in hybrid format;

(d) Since 2018, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment has awarded additional project contributions to strengthen mine tailings safety, financing three dedicated projects to the amount of CHF 100,000 each, benefiting Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, respectively, and one project to the amount of CHF 250,000, benefiting all Central Asian countries.

B. New record high in the biennium 2023–2024

28. The biennium 2023–2024 is set to see a new record level of financial contributions, projected to reach a level of \$1,813,692 at the end of the current year.¹⁸ This new peak is the positive results of two significant additional project contributions:

(a) A contribution of \$350,000 from SDC for the project entitled “Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change” is the largest single tranche of a project contribution ever received since the Convention's inception. The overall intended contribution of approximately \$717,550 for the three-year project represents the largest project contribution committed by a donor country to the Industrial Accidents Convention;

(b) A contribution of \$200,000 (€185,000) from the European Commission for the project entitled “Strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide” is the second largest tranche of a contribution to be provided thus far to the Industrial Accidents Convention. Similarly, the total committed contribution of €500,000 represents the second-largest contribution thus far committed as per a contribution agreement.

¹⁸ Provided that all committed contributions are forthcoming (see table 1, seventh and eighth columns, entitled, respectively “Amount expected” and “Amount in US dollars”).

29. Both contributions have provided not only vital support for the work in the current biennium, but have also laid a solid foundation for the continuity of workstreams and related activities in the next biennium 2025–2026.¹⁹

30. Moreover, during this biennium, three additional contributions were provided or pledged by the Netherlands for developing elements of a Guide of good practices for the Convention's implementation, along with one additional contribution from France for the organization a meeting of the Conference of the Parties and three additional contributions from Germany to support the activities of the Joint Expert Group and the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transition in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Gradual expansion of workplan activities, in line with the Long-term strategy, backed by strengthened secretariat team

31. The continuous increase in contributions over the years reflects the expansion of the activities under the Convention. Large, project-related, earmarked contributions have enabled the Convention's growth, in line with its Long-term strategy until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1), providing, among other things, vital funding for the following activities:

(a) Subregional workshops on the identification and notification of hazardous activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; support to countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia in implementing the Strategic Approach under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, and to accession by Ukraine (funded by Norway);

(b) Seminar and draft decision on natural hazard-triggered technological disaster (Natech) risk management, as well as contribution to Joint OECD/UNECE/JRC Guidance;²⁰ launch of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in Serbia; and subregional workshops on land-use planning and industrial safety in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (funded by France);

(c) Supporting the preparation of updated national self-assessments and action plans; national reviews/legislation analyses and the development of recommendations to align with the Convention for all five Central Asian countries (funded by Russian Federation);

(d) Subregional and national events to strengthen mine tailings safety in Central Asia, resulting in the establishment and operation of IIWGs on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (funded by Switzerland);

(e) Workshops to prevent accidental water pollution and meetings of the Joint Expert Group (funded by Germany).

32. Furthermore, the regular – mostly unearmarked – contributions from Parties, have largely funded the Convention's activities. Reliable donors who have financially contributed during most bienniums in the past decade include Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

33. Along with the increase in contributions over the years, in order to enable the development of activities corresponding to the Convention's long-term strategy, it was feasible to recruit and retain qualified staff in the secretariat, including those who had supported the work previously as consultants and, prior to that, as interns. The steps taken in the biennium 2023–2024 to recruit additional staff to the secretariat team were important to ensure the stability and continuity of the majority of the workplan activities, compared to the

¹⁹ For more information, please see para. 3 (a)–(b) in this report and information contained in the respective footnotes 3–4.

²⁰ *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* (forthcoming).

challenging situation in previous bienniums, during which consultants with time-limited contracts had supported new workstreams, which resulted in gaps and challenges to maintain continuity of the work.

34. At the same time, it should be pointed out that the engagement of additional staff was only made possible by the additional project contributions. Three of the five current extrabudgetary staff members in the secretariat are thus currently on temporary contracts, their extension being subject to the continuity of the respective projects. The regular pledges and contributions by Parties alone have not been sufficient to provide all the funding for the secretariat staff necessary to implement the respective workplan activities, including the servicing of all intergovernmental bodies and expert groups. This situation differs from that of other multilateral environmental agreements, where “assessed contributions” by Parties provide the necessary funding for the main secretariat team. A greater number of higher, non-earmarked contributions from Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention would thus enable the creation of more stable, fixed-term positions in the secretariat, which would be more attractive in terms of retaining staff in the long term, and more conducive to further supporting progress towards implementation of the Convention.

D. Contributing Parties: only half and few at economic scale

35. Whereas the first decade following the Convention’s entry into force saw a gradual increase in the number of Parties contributing financially, the number of Parties funding the Convention’s work has remained relatively stable at around 20 since the biennium 2015–2016. For the biennium 2023–2024, 21 Parties – exactly half of the 42 Parties overall – contributed financially (see table 1). While every contribution from each of the 21 contributing Parties is important and greatly appreciated, it is a matter of regret that about half of the Parties still do not contribute financially at all. The Convention and its workplan benefit all Parties and it is all Parties who adopt the workplan for the respective bienniums, along with its budget at the respective meetings of the Conference of the Parties. This is not consistent with 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), subparagraph (a) of the first operative paragraph of which “urges all Parties to contribute to the sustainable funding of activities and to share the financial burden equitably and proportionately”.

36. The financial mechanism stipulates that all Parties are encouraged to provide contributions that reflect their economic strength, or higher.²¹ Decision 2018/2, in subparagraph c of its first operative paragraph, encourages Parties that have previously made financial or in-kind contributions to the Convention to continue providing such contributions and “to consider increasing them, particularly where the contributions made are at a level below the economic strength of the Party concerned.” In subparagraph (c) of its first operative paragraph, said decision also strongly urges Parties that have not yet made any financial or in-kind contributions to do so.

37. Reviewing the implementation of the financial mechanism for this biennium as at August 2024, eight Parties had contributed close to, at or above levels of economic strength:²²

²¹ ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I, para. 14.

²² Economic strength is calculated for each Party – apart from the European Union – on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessments, considering the amount of the Convention’s workplan budget for the respective bienniums and the number of Parties. For the period 2023–2024, the scale of assessments is determined in General Assembly resolution 76/238 on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expense of the United Nations (A/RES/76/238)). As such, the level of economic strength of each Party varies every biennium. Upon request, the secretariat is available to share with Parties the amount of financial contributions, annually or per biennium, which correspond to economic scale. Given that, unlike its member States, the European Union is not included in the United Nations scale of assessment, it is consequently not possible to calculate the level of the European Union contribution on the same basis as with other Parties.

Cyprus, Hungary, Montenegro, Netherlands,²³ Norway, Serbia, Slovenia and Switzerland.²⁴ Five Parties had contributed at levels reaching about two thirds of economic strength, namely Bulgaria, Croatia,²⁵ Czechia, France and Lithuania. All other Parties that contributed this biennium (see table 1) have provided financing at levels far below economic strength, in most cases less than half economic strength. This analysis fully recognizes the efforts by all Parties that provided contributions to attract and provide such contributions to support the implementation of the Convention's workplan.

38. In subparagraph (e) of the first operative paragraph of decision 2018/2, the Conference of the Parties encouraged "Parties to consider making financial contributions ... from various financial sources within the national budgets". There are notable positive examples in this regard, where Parties have, over the course of the past decade, provided contributions from various national budget lines, funding instruments and institutions, including ministries of foreign affairs and their development cooperation agencies. Donors in this regard include the European Commission, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland.

E. Timing and levels of financial contributions

39. Decision 2018/2, in subparagraph (b) of its first operative paragraph, also encouraged the Parties to consider making predictable, and preferably multi-year, sustainable funding pledges prior to the adoption of the biennial workplan, at or in advance of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism. In its second operative paragraph, decision 2018/2 also requested that Parties make their contributions as early as possible in their budget year and that, to the extent possible, contributions for a given calendar year be made by the end of the preceding year in order to provide greater certainty for future financial and project management.

40. Reviewing the timing when contributions were received (see table 1, second column), it is noticeable that most pledged contributions were transferred by Parties in the first half of the respective calendar year. Only a few Parties paid their contributions in the preceding year or early on in the respective calendar year. The majority of the Parties that provided financial contributions in the second half of the year were those in a position to attract additional contributions, which are very welcome and important to advance in the workplan's implementation. Against this background, Parties are encouraged to provide their pledged contributions earlier on, where feasible, and to attract additional contributions as early as possible, in order to facilitate the predictability of the funding available.

41. The provision of larger additional project contributions early on, for example, as done by France, Norway, the European Union, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, is a good practice, as it allows for the planning of respective activities, including the continued engagement of staff members supporting said activities. In addition, from a project management perspective, sufficient advance funding is necessary for the longer-term planning of activities, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.

42. Moreover, decision 2018/2, in its fourth operative paragraph, "encourages the Parties, when deciding on financial contributions, to bear in mind that each payment carries an administrative transaction cost and, to the extent possible, to consider making larger contributions, [for example] by grouping payments or increasing their amount". Other ECE multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental

²³ Considering the additional pledged contribution of €40,000 by the Netherlands.

²⁴ Kazakhstan also pledged a contribution at economic strength, which has, however, not yet been received to date.

²⁵ Following the provision of its second intended contribution of \$3,000 for 2024.

Assessment, have adopted decisions on financial arrangements, establishing a minimum level of contributions at \$1,000.²⁶

F. In-kind contributions

43. Several of the Parties have provided in-kind contributions, which supported the implementation of activities. Particularly valued were in-kind contributions from countries for the hosting of activities, for example, in this biennium, the hosting by Georgia of the technical mission, the hosting by Slovakia of an international workshop under the auspices of the Joint Expert Group and the hosting by Tajikistan of the Subregional workshop on tailings safety for Central Asia. Significant co-financing for that Subregional workshop was provided by GIZ, which allowed for the enlargement of its participation, scale and reach. Co-financing was provided by several partners organizations, including the International Labour Organization, OSCE and OECD (see paras. 14–16 above). Engagement by Parties through in-kind contributions in the form of their expertise, and where feasible, physical presence, has also been of great value during this and in previous bienniums.

44. For approximately the past decade, important in-kind contributions have also been made by EIB, providing funding for consultancies that addressed long-term strategic issues, such as land-use planning (development of the guidance and joint ECE/EIB information repository),²⁷ disaster risk reduction (organization of a thematic discussion in the framework of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction),²⁸ development of an information repository and video on hazardous substance management (ongoing, in follow-up to the United Nations/OECD seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion: Lessons learned, experiences and good practices in managing risks of ammonium nitrate storage, handling and transport in port areas, preventing accidents and mitigating their consequences (online, 14 December 2021)) and developing a road map for the Convention's implementation by Ukraine (ongoing).

45. In-kind contributions have varied over the years: They have been particularly high in the bienniums during which Germany directly financed in-kind projects on tailings safety in countries with economies in transition under the Convention's auspices, implemented through contracted consultants. The challenge in relation to such projects was that the secretariat, which did not receive funding from the donor for its engagement, had no capacity to take part in or support project activities, which were inherently linked to other parts of the workplan that the secretariat supports.

46. In-kind contributions are important in the context of the Convention's work, in particular when it comes to the organization and conduct of assistance activities and workshops or seminar to exchange expertise and knowledge, both in view of hosting the respective activities and contributing to them with experiences from other member States. As such, in-kind contributions supplement financial contributions, the latter being essential to safeguard the workplan's implementation and guarantee the engagement of secretariat staff supporting said implementation.

²⁶ See decisions VII/6 on financial arrangements under the [Aarhus] Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1), para. 1 (b), and IX/1-V/1 (under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment) on financial arrangements for 2024–2026 (ECE/MP.EIA/2023/1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/1), para. 10, respectively.

²⁷ ECE *Guidance on Land-use Planning, the Siting of Hazardous Activities and Related Safety Aspects* (ECE/CP.TEIA/35) and Information Repository of Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Land-use Planning and Industrial Safety, available at <https://unece.org/information-repository-good-practices-and-lessons-learned-land-use-planning-and-industrial-safety-0>.

²⁸ European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction focused thematic discussion – Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspective on risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework (Matosinhos, Portugal (hybrid), 24 November 2021).

G. Conclusions

47. Despite the positive evolution over the years, the financing of the work under the Convention remains a significant challenge. While the rise in financial contributions over the years is encouraging, and the new peak reached in this biennium 2023–2024 is particularly noteworthy, it is regrettable that still, 24 years after the Convention’s entry into force, only about one half of the Parties contribute financially to its work. Considering the levels of the contributions made by Parties, the implementation of the workplan still relies primarily on a few main donors and projects.

48. It is hoped that the positive trend of increasing contributions will continue in the future and that additional funding can be mobilized for the implementation of the workplan in the period 2025–2026. Ideally, said additional financing would be provided by those Parties that are not yet contributing financially, and those Parties who are not yet contributing at or close to levels of economic strength would be in a position to engage in efforts to increase their contributions, possibly from different national authorities.

49. The financing *tour-de-table* at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will provide an opportunity for all Parties to report on their efforts to implement the sustainable financial mechanism and decision 2018/2 fostering its implementation, as well as to communicate their pledges for the workplan 2025–2026. All Parties will be invited to deliver statements in response to the questions outlined in the provisional agenda,²⁹ and to engage in a strategic dialogue on enhancing commitments and future-proofing the Convention.

50. Following the statements by all Parties, the meeting of 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. In this regard, the Conference may wish to reiterate key elements of decision 2018/2, notably by:

(a) Urging all Parties to contribute to the sustainable funding of activities so as to share the burden equitably and proportionately;

(b) Encouraging the Parties to consider making predictable, and preferably multi-year, sustainable funding pledges prior to the adoption of the annual workplans;

(c) Strongly urging Parties that have not yet made any financial or in-kind contributions to do so in the future;

(d) Encouraging Parties that have previously made financial or in-kind contributions to continue providing such contributions and to consider increasing them, particularly where the contributions made are at a level below the economic strength of the Party concerned;

(e) Requesting Parties to make their contributions as early as possible in the budget year, aiming to transfer funds to ECE during the first quarter of the respective calendar year; or, if feasible, at the end of the preceding year;

(f) Encouraging Parties, bearing in mind that each contribution carries an administrative transaction cost, to consider making larger contributions, for example, by grouping payments or increasing their amount. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider recommending that Parties align their practices with that under the Aarhus Convention and the Espoo Convention, namely to provide, when feasible, a minimum amount of contributions of \$1,000;

(g) Also encouraging Parties to make contributions from various financial sources within the national budgets.

²⁹ See ECE/CP.TEIA/46, para. 21.