



Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

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**Georgios Georgiadis,
Secretary to the Convention**



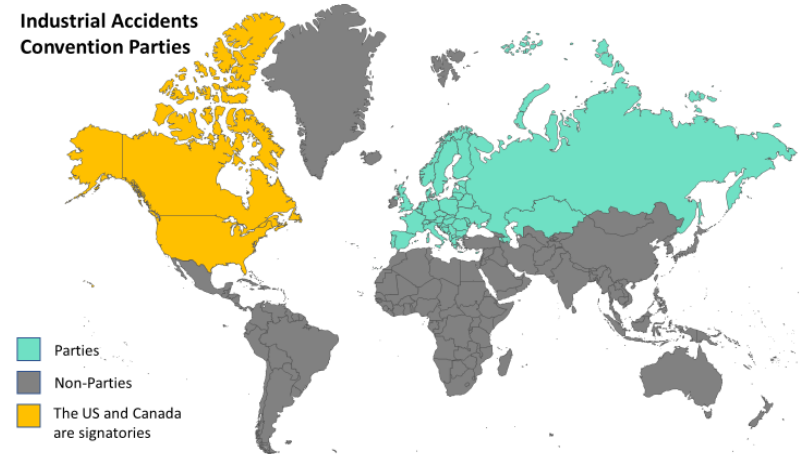
Industrial Accidents Convention Status



ENVIRONMENT

- Triggered by the 1986 Sandoz accident; adopted in 1992; in force since 2000
- 42 Parties (UNECE region), incl. EU and 25 of its Member States; 2 signatories (Canada and USA) & Global activities, incl. with Water Convention
- Protects people and the environment against industrial accidents by strengthening prevention, preparedness and response
- Focus on transboundary cooperation, and horizontal coordination in public policy
- Covers Natch (natural-hazard triggered technological) events and tailings facilities
- Key in ensuring safe energy transition – essential component in surge global demand for critical minerals

Industrial Accidents
Convention Parties



Industrial Accidents Convention Developments and achievements



ENVIRONMENT

- 2022 – 30th anniversary of the Convention, Ukraine's accession
- 2024 – 20 years Assistance and Cooperation Programme:
 - NPDs on Industrial Safety (Serbia); Inter-Institutional Working Groups on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution (Kazakhstan & Tajikistan)
- Ground-breaking work on the safety of Tailings Management Facilities (TMF): 2030 Road Map & Decision, Mapping of >1000 TMFs in UNECE region, TMF Safety Guidelines & Methodology, Online Toolkit & Training
- Recent seminars on: 2020 Beirut Port Explosion, Good Practices & Lessons Learnt in Implementation, Effective Natech risk management
- JEG: Safety Guidelines on Fire-fighting water Retention, Transboundary Exercises and Seminars (e.g. on Natech for TMFs)
- Major Publications on Risk Assessment Methodologies (2023/2024) and on OECD/UN/JRC Guidance on Managing Natech Accident Risks (2024)

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Lessons and challenges



ENVIRONMENT

- Climate Change, NATECH and Integrated Risk Management
- Decarbonization agenda, energy transition and industrial safety
- Safe and efficient integration of new technologies in the Convention's work
- 2003 Civil Liability Protocol (joint with the Water Convention) – 1 Party to date, not in force
- Convention not open for accession to all UN MS, although unique and of global relevance
- Sustainable and predictable resources management (despite Sustainable Financial Mechanism)
- Implementation issues: Identification and notification of Hazardous Activities (incl. TMFs, etc.), transboundary cooperation, public participation

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Plans and prospects



ENVIRONMENT

- CoP-13 in Nov/Dec 2024 → venue tbd
 - Seminar on Industrial Safety of the Energy Transition
 - Launch of UN/OECD Natech Guidance
 - Round-table on TMFs, Exchange on InSAR
- Capacity-building activities: mission to Georgia (Nov), on-site training in Uzbekistan (Dec, tbc); project supporting implementation in Ukraine
- ILO World Congress on Safety & Health at Work (Nov)
- UNEA-6 (Feb/Mar 2024)
- JEG Workshop to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailings facilities (Bratislava, 23-24 April 2024)
- Update of Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System: UNECE hosts this mechanism for notifications & mutual assistance requests

**ENVIRONMENT**

Thank you!

**Georgios Georgiadis, Secretary
Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial, UNECE**

