

External evaluation of the project “**Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**” (June 2019)

Progress report as at 31 December 2019

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	The UNECE needs to support the Central Asian countries (CAC) in addressing the challenges linked to the implementation of and accession to the Convention with a long-term support which extend over a considerable number of years with each phase building on the results and lessons learned of the previous ones since the nature of the industrial safety related issues in Central Asia is complex and requires long-term efforts.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention’s workplan for 2019-2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/7) adopted at COP-10 includes respective activities aimed at helping the beneficiary countries address the subsequent difficulties and challenges linked to the implementation of and accession to the Convention.</p> <p>The Convention’s Working Group on Implementation (WGI), serviced by the secretariat, to continue monitoring closely the developments in each of the CAC, encourage countries to submit updated self-assessments and action plans reflecting any new developments as well as to submit project proposals aimed to address specific needs of individual countries and the subregion.</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Convention secretariat pursues the implementation of the Convention’s workplan, which has placed a great emphasis on helping CAC address the difficulties and challenges linked to the Convention’s implementation and accession to it. As such, the secretariat finalized and published the Guide on the implementation of the Convention for Central Asia in its original version (Russian), developed under the Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is implementing other projects under the Convention’s workplan to support CAC in addressing more specific industrial safety challenges, namely the Projects on improving mining/tailings safety in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia.</p> <p>The Working Group on Implementation will hold its next meeting, serviced by the secretariat, in January 2020 and will discuss, inter alia, next steps in addressing the needs of the CAC (and other beneficiaries of the Convention’s Assistance and Cooperation Programme), also taking into account the receipt (or lack thereof) of national implementation reports in 2019 (from among CAC only Uzbekistan has submitted its report to date), and other available</p>

					information (such as formerly submitted national self-assessments and action plans).
2	The UNECE Convention's secretariat needs to continue communications with the national authorities responsible for industrial safety and transboundary cooperation and has to involve all industrial safety actors in the future similar projects design and implementation to maintain the momentum for enhancing the commitment of the CAC in the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat to continue to include CAC in communication on the Convention's activities. The Project manager and the Convention's Secretary to continue fundraising efforts aiming to secure funding for the Project "National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Industrial Safety for Central Asia," which would meet CAC's needs for strengthened inter-institutional cooperation, enhanced governance and more coherent policy-making. NPDs are part of the Convention's long-term strategy until 2030, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 4-6 December 2018) and included in the Convention's workplan for 2019-2020 (see ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1).</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat has re-submitted (October 2019) the Project proposal "National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Industrial Safety for Central Asia" to the Russian Federation, and stands ready to implement such a follow-up Project, for the countries continue to express their needs, as of 2020. The Convention's secretariat continuously follows up with the donor on the proposal for a follow-up Project for CAC based on needs and challenges revealed in the process of the implementation of the project "Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the Implementation of and Accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents" (2016-2019). The secretariat stands ready to start implementing respective activities as soon as the extra-budgetary resources to this end are secured.</p> <p>In the meantime, the secretariat has been actively engaging with the CAC's national authorities and advocating for increased implementation of and accession to the Convention by the CAC, notably at such high-level event as the Regional Forum – Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Services of Central Asia held within the framework of the Dialogue "Central Asia plus Japan" (July 2019) and the XVII meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Interstate Council on Industrial Safety (September 2019), which the secretariat attended.</p>
3	The UNECE needs to promote the message that effective industrial accidents hazard and risk management is linked to development planning per	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat, through assistance activities, to continue increasing awareness and the level of implementation</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	<p>In progress</p> <p>In November 2019 the Convention's secretariat held a Subregional Workshop for CAC under the UNECE projects on improving mining/tailings safety in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia.</p>

<p>se and requires the streamlining of industrial safety risk and prevention throughout development and environment programming. The way forward would be by enhanced mainstreaming of the objectives of the UNECE Convention, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement.</p>	<p>of relevant international legal instruments, such as the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In 2019-2020 this will be done, notably through the Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia, and similar Project for Tajikistan. It will also continue to raise awareness of the linkages to Agenda 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety, through the subregional workshops on Land-use Planning and Industrial Safety (for Eastern Europe and Caucasus, May 2019, Chisinau; for South-Eastern Europe, spring 2020, Belgrade (tbc); and for Central Asia (tbc, if funding becomes available). The implementation of National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in CACs would enable enhanced mainstreaming of the Convention's objectives with the policy commitments under Agenda 2030.</p>		<p>Among the workshop objectives were fostering of implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, both serviced by UNECE and improving of awareness of linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with dedicated sessions/discussions and all 5 CAC attending and actively participating in the workshop.</p> <p>The Sub-Regional Workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (May 2019) raised awareness of the linkages to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety. A representative of Kyrgyzstan who attended the workshop expressed the need for a sub-regional workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for countries of Central Asia and offered to host such an activity. Such an activity for the CAC will be held once the dedicated funding becomes available and is envisaged to be included in the Convention's workplan for 2021-22. A subregional workshop for countries of South-Eastern Europe will take place in March 2020 and will also highlight linkages to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 in the context of land-use planning and industrial safety.</p> <p>Further streamlining of industrial safety risk and prevention throughout development and environment programming can be fostered through NPDs on Industrial Safety planned for the sub-regions of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, South-Eastern Europe</p>
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					and Central Asia, as part of the Convention's long-term strategy until 2030 and the workplan (subject to availability of funding).
4	<p>The UNECE Convention's secretariat should maintain a continued dialogue with the sub-regional Centre for Emergency Situation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), CIS ICIS and other relevant regional and sub-regional partners and donor organizations for the joint effort aimed at sustaining the results achieved and coordinate further support to the countries concerned. In the longer term the feasibility of a suitable sub-regional organization acting as a sub-regional hub or platform for the exchange of lessons learned, best practices and advanced knowledge in industrial safety could be explored.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat is an official observer at the meetings of the CIS Interstate Council on Industrial Safety (CIS ICIS) and regularly participates in its meetings since 2014. The secretariat will participate in the upcoming meeting of the Council in September 2019 and the presentation of the results of the Central Asian Project is included in the meeting's agenda. Moreover, the secretariat of the Convention actively engages in cooperation with the Chairs of the Council to encourage the country holding the chairmanship (rotating) to actively promote the accession to the Convention among non-Parties members of the Council and an increased implementation among all Members of the Council.</p> <p>The secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention to continue to actively engage with a broad range of relevant actors for increased industrial safety and transboundary cooperation in 2019-2020.</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Industrial Accidents Convention cooperates closely with a number of regional organizations striving to reduce the risk of technological disaster risks and prevent industrial accidents from happening. Such organisations include the Centre for Emergency Situation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) in Almaty, the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety, Regional Environmental Centre for Asia (CAREC).</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat has exchanged the letters of cooperation with the CESDRR (December 2018) and is cooperating with the Center closely. The Center has participated in the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) and its Director was a part of a panel discussion on the provision of assistance to countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. At the Centre's invitation, the secretariat participated in the Regional Forum – Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Services of Central Asia (July 2019) through which the awareness of the emergency services of the CAC on the Convention and its Assistance and Cooperation Programme was raised. The Centre also hosted the Subregional Workshop for CAC under the UNECE projects on improving mining/tailings safety in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and beyond in Central Asia (November 2019). A cooperation meeting with the Centre was held in the</p>

					<p>margins of the meeting, during which further areas for enhancing cooperation were identified. Close partnership with the CIS ICIS is on-going with the secretariat's regular attendance of its annual meetings and presentation of the on-going and planned assistance activities, notably under technical cooperation projects for the CAC (latest meeting – September 2019).</p>
5	<p>For the future similar projects UNECE should encourage and promote the development and/or improvement of existing industrial safety governance arrangements in the way which could facilitate the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention. Industrial safety, including its transboundary dimension, has to be clearly conceptualized by appropriate governance (legislation, policy, strategy, standards etc.) in the countries of Central Asia.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE has designed a follow-up project based on the remaining needs of the CAC following the implementation of the 2016-2019 Central Asia Project. This follow-up project intends to address the need to strengthen industrial safety in Central Asia, by improving the respective governance mechanisms and policy making. The objective is to effectively assist countries by providing a platform for dialogue in view of advancing policy reforms and enhancing their environmental governance, disaster resilience and industrial safety. The main impact will be the improved national, regional and transboundary coordination, governance arrangements and management of industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response in CAC.</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat to continue its outreach to potential donors and efforts to raise necessary funds for the implementation of the project aiming at improving the existing industrial safety governance. The project activities will be</p>	<p>Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p>December 2020</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat has re-submitted (October 2019) and is following up on the Project proposal "National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Industrial Safety for Central Asia" submitted to the Russian Federation (see above).</p> <p>Furthermore, the follow-up the TMF safety projects for the CAC has been agreed upon with the respective donor country (Switzerland), based on the needs and interests expressed by the CAC to continue this work in view of its importance for enhanced industrial safety and reduction of technological disaster risks in Central Asia. While this work addresses a very specific aspect of industrial safety risk, the Project of NPDs on Industrial Safety for CAC would allow strengthen governance and policy-making in the field of industrial safety more comprehensively in all CAC.</p>

		tailored to country-specific needs which are tracked by the secretariat and the Convention's WGI. The Russian Federation appears to be the obvious partner for the implementation of a follow-up project, given the geographical proximity and the transboundary dimension as well as the experience gained by experts, which have participated in the first phase of the project.			
6	The establishment and continuous holding of National and Sub-regional Policy Dialogues for industrial safety could be an effective way to provide support to countries in coherent and risk-informed policy-making for industrial safety across different sectors in direct follow-up to the completion of the Project and to support the implementation of activities set out in the national action plans developed during the Project.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Indeed, The Convention's long-term strategy until 2030 envisages the establishment of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs).</p> <p>The Convention's secretariat to actively pursue the mobilization of funding for the launch of NPDs for Central Asia as of 2020 and the establishment of a steady and sustainable process of consultations on industrial safety, accident prevention, disaster risk reduction and emergency response with relevant national institutions, non-governmental organizations, industry representatives, parliamentary bodies, and other national stakeholders thereon.</p>	Secretariat to the Industrial Accidents Convention	December 2020	In progress As per its workplan for 2019-2020 adopted at the COP-10, the Convention's secretariat remains ready to start implementing the Project on national policy dialogues for industrial safety in Central Asia as soon as the dedicated funding is received.