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English only

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Thirty-sixth meeting

Warsaw, 4-5 July 2017

Annotated provisional agenda of the thirty-sixth meeting

To be held at the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, 52/54 Wawelska street, Warsaw, Poland, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 4 July and from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on 5 July. Room no. 434 (4th floor).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Review of the long-term strategy
3. Proposed amendment to the Convention
4. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders
5. Exchange of information
6. Strategic partnerships
7. Financing and review of the sustainable financial mechanism
8. Non-core activities, including assistance activities to support countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe
 - (a) Assistance Programme
 - (b) Other assistance activities
 - (c) Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions
 - (d) UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System
9. Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
10. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2017-2018
11. Other business
12. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Bureau. The Bureau will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Review of the long-term strategy

The Bureau will dedicate the first day of its meeting to determining elements for the revised and extended long-term strategy, including a vision for the Convention.

At the end of that discussion, the Bureau will decide on a mechanism and schedule for the full drafting of the revised strategy. It will also discuss the development of a communications and marketing strategy.

3. Proposed amendment to the Convention

In the light of the decision taken to re-visit the proposed amendment to the Convention at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau decided at its thirty-fourth meeting to make informal enquiries regarding the proposal and to re-visit the matter at the present meeting. The members of the Bureau will be invited to report on any such enquiries to date. The Bureau may then decide on next steps.

4. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders

The secretariat will provide an update on recent publications and targeted communication with Parties and other stakeholders. Members of the Bureau and the secretariat will be invited to report on any working visits and high-level missions to Parties and other stakeholders. The Bureau may wish to decide on further working visits to be undertaken.

5. Exchange of information

The secretariat will report on the outcomes of the recent meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Minsk, 13-16 June 2017) that relate to the cooperation on land-use planning and industrial safety. The secretariat will also report on related contacts with Belgium (Flanders) and the European Investment Bank of the European Union. The Bureau will be invited to decide on next steps, specifically with respect to the possible holding of a seminar that would bring together land-use planners and industrial safety experts.

Members of a small group established for the purpose are expected to present a concept paper for the planned seminar on risk assessment methodologies, expected to be held within the framework of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau will then decide on next steps in preparation for the seminar.

The member of the Bureau representing Germany, who is also Co-Chair of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, will be invited to report on activities being led by the Joint Expert Group: the development of safety guidelines and good practices for fire-water retention; and the organization of two transboundary response exercises.

He will then be invited to report on an activity being led by Germany: enhancing knowledge on industrial safety at universities (in Ukraine).

6. Strategic partnerships

The secretariat will report on its cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the provision of inputs to a publication entitled *Words into Action Guide on Man-made/Technological Hazards*, being produced under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Members of the Bureau and the secretariat will be invited to report on any meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities, including inter-agency coordination meetings and 15th International Forum on Industrial Safety.

7. Financing and review of the sustainable financial mechanism

The secretariat will report on the receipt of financial contributions to the Convention's trust fund. The Bureau is expected to consider this information and discuss how to ensure adequate financing for the implementation of the adopted workplan.

In accordance with decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties, and in the light of the deliberations on a revised long-term strategy, the Bureau is expected to discuss both the implementation of the Sustainable Financial Mechanism and its possible review.

8. Non-core activities, including assistance activities to support countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

(a) Assistance Programme

The secretariat will report on the implementation of the project on strengthening implementation of and accession to the Convention in Central Asia, including on any development of an implementation guide within the project.

The secretariat will also report on its efforts to initiate a follow-up to the Danube Delta project.

Members of the Bureau and the secretariat will be invited to report on the holding of two subregional workshops on chemicals management and the identification and notification of hazardous activities, in cooperation with partners, for the countries of South-Eastern Europe (Zagreb, 21-23 February 2017) and the Caucasus and Eastern Europe (Minsk, 11-13 April 2017). The Bureau may wish to discuss possible follow-up actions related to the workshops, including the update of the location criteria and inconsistencies in the terminology of annex I to the Convention compared with the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

The secretariat will report on any feedback received in response to the letters sent to Assistance Programme beneficiary countries regarding the effectiveness of the Programme. Members of the Bureau and the secretariat will be invited to report on informal bilateral discussions with beneficiary countries. The Bureau will then consider the further development of the Programme with regard to its design and appeal for both beneficiary countries and donors, including the possibility to organize a high-level meeting in the framework of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Bureau may also discuss other activities to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach through national and subregional expert and high-level meetings and support to the development of self-assessments and action plans.

(b) Other assistance activities

The member of the Bureau representing Germany will be invited to report on an additional activity being led by Germany to address risk management at tailings management facilities in Georgia and Armenia.

The secretariat will report on its efforts to garner support for other assistance activities foreseen in the workplan.

(c) Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions

Members of the Bureau and the secretariat will be invited to report on any activities to promote and raise awareness of the Convention within and beyond the UNECE region, including with regard to CHEMSS2017 (Shanghai, China, 19-20 September 2017).

(d) UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System

The Bureau is expected to consider again the planned consultation for Points of Contact to review the effectiveness of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System and discuss preparedness and response for disaster risk reduction. The secretariat will provide information regarding its efforts to organize the consultation.

9. Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau will again discuss the possible identification of a host country for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

At its thirty-fourth meeting, the Bureau had regretted that a better balance between different geographic subregions of UNECE had not been achieved in its membership. The Bureau decided that it should begin the identification of possible candidates for the Bureau earlier than in the previous biennium and that contacts could also be made at subregional events during the biennium. The members of the Bureau will be invited to report on any such contacts to date.

10. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2017-2018

The Bureau will elaborate its schedule of meetings in 2017-2018.

11. Other business

Members of the Bureau wishing to raise other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Closure of the meeting

The Chair is expected to close the meeting on 5 July 2017 at 5.30 p.m.
