




MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Evaluation Report 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”		
Period of Review:	1/04/2016 – 31/03/2019		
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Approved by	Catherine Haswell Chief, Programme Management Unit	Date	Signature
		24/07/2019	
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Recommendation 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.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

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”](#) (April 2016 – March 2019) was the first ever Project under the Convention targeting the entire region which allowed to provide tailored assistance to the beneficiary countries for increasing the level of implementation of the Convention. Under the Project all beneficiary countries have, for the first time, submitted self-assessments and national action plans under the Convention’s [Strategic Approach](#) which allowed to identify their further needs, challenges and priorities. 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

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

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 report on progress and 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. Timeline: 2019-2020.

Franziska Hirsch, Secretary to the Industrial Accidents Convention, TCS

Recommendation 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

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Given the nature of the Industrial Accidents Convention, its secretariat works closely with a broad range of national actors, including, but not limited to state and local authorities dealing with industrial safety, environmental protection, water management, chemicals management, emergency services, operators of hazardous facilities, NGOs and academia. It channels its communication with these actors through the nominated competent authority(-ies) in the Convention's Parties and Assistance and Cooperation Programme (ACP) beneficiary countries and their designated focal points. However, there is a considerable lack of communication among respective national authorities. The need to enhance such cooperation was voiced by the countries on numerous occasions, however, the possibilities for thorough communication with the full range of authorities responsible for industrial safety and transboundary cooperation without the dedicated resources (human, financial) are limited.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

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).

Franziska Hirsch, Secretary to the Industrial Accidents Convention, TCS.

Recommendation 3:

The UNECE needs to promote the message that effective industrial accidents hazard and risk management is linked to development planning per 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.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

The work of UNECE on industrial and chemical accidents prevention, preparedness and response contributes to achieving the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, primarily the Sustainable Development Goals (such as SDG 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16), as well as the priority actions set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, as reflected in the long-term strategy until 2030.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Convention's secretariat, through assistance activities, to continue increasing awareness and the level of implementation 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 implemented under the Convention's workplan. 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.

Franziska Hirsch, Secretary to the Industrial Accidents Convention, TCS.

Recommendation 4:

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.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Indeed, the secretariat of the Convention cooperates closely with various regional actors. Notably, an exchange of letters of cooperation with the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty (CESDRR) took place on the margins of the Convention's COP-10. The planned and on-going cooperation with the Center comprises, inter alia the holding of capacity building activities under the Convention in the premises and with substantive input of the Centre; participation of the staff of the Centre in capacity-building activities under the Convention and its ACP; mutual promotion of activities; participation of the Convention secretariat in the regional activities of emergency services of Central Asia; participation of the Centre representative(s) in the Conventions' COPs as an observer; mutual provision of expertise in the relevant areas; mutual support and cooperation for strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia and beyond etc. In particular, in the current year (2019) the staff of the Center was invited to benefit from activities under the Swiss-funded [Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities \(TMFs\), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia](#) as well as in the Subregional workshop in Kazakhstan, which the Center agreed to host. The Center invited the secretariat to participate in the meeting of the Heads of Emergency services of Central Asia (July 2019) and to contribute to future awareness raising of the Convention.

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.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

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. Timeline: 2019-2020.
Yelyzaveta Rubach, Environmental Affairs Offices, TCS

Recommendation 5:

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.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

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.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

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 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.

Franziska Hirsch, Secretary to the Industrial Accidents Convention, TCS

Recommendation 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.

Management Response: UNECE accepts the recommendation.

Indeed, The Convention's [long-term strategy until 2030](#) envisages the establishment of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs). The "Project for NPDs for Industrial Safety in Central Asia", included in the [workplan 2019-2020](#), is a means to realize this vision in Central Asia. It was designed as a follow-up project to the Project on strengthening implementation of and accession to the Convention in Central Asia and is aimed at further supporting the CAC in enhancing industrial safety. The Project proposal was submitted to the Russian Federation in 2018, however, in February 2019 the Russian Federation informed UNECE that the project proposal will be considered for funding only in 2020 and was not selected for funding in 2019.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

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.

Franziska Hirsch, Secretary to the Industrial Accidents Convention, TCS