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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### **Eighth meeting**

Geneva, 3–5 December 2014

### **Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth meeting**

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## Introduction

1. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) was held from 3 to 5 December 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. The decisions adopted at the meeting can be found in an addendum to the present report (ECE/CP.TEIA/30/Add.1).

### A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by delegations from the following ECE members: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union (EU), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan.

3. Representatives of a number of United Nations organizations participated in the meeting, including: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the Joint UNEP/United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Environment Unit; and the World Health Organization (WHO). A representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also attended the meeting. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and industry associations were represented: Eco-Peace (Armenia); European Environmental Bureau (EEB); Zoï Environment Network; International HCH and Pesticides Association; the European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management; GCE Group (Russian Federation); Innovation Center “Ecosystem” LLC (Ukraine); and the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association.

### B. Organizational matters

4. The outgoing Chair of the Conference of the Parties, Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands), opened the meeting.

5. Mr. Christian Friis Bach, ECE Executive Secretary, welcomed delegates and made opening remarks.

6. The Conference of the Parties adopted its agenda (ECE/CP.TEIA/29).

7. The Conference of the Parties noted the status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/1), as well as the status of competent authorities and points of contact, as required under article 17 of the Convention. It noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had yet to designate a competent authority. The Conference of the Parties reminded all Parties of their obligation to designate points of contact for response and mutual assistance. It also reminded all Parties of the obligation to inform the other Parties, through the secretariat, of any changes regarding the designation of a point of contact or competent authority.

8. The secretariat informed the Conference of the Parties about the representation at the meeting and the credentials submitted by the representatives of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties accepted the report on credentials and noted that the number was sufficient to

take decisions at the meeting, while regretting the absence of representatives of Cyprus, Denmark, Monaco and Romania.

## **I. Report of the Bureau on the activities under the Convention since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

9. The outgoing Chair presented the report on the activities of the Bureau since the seventh meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/2). The Conference of the Parties took note of the report and the activities contained therein. It also thanked the outgoing Bureau for its work and requested the in-coming Bureau to report to the next meeting in a similar way on the activities of the Bureau to be carried out in the coming biennium (2015–2016).

## **II. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau**

10. In accordance with its rules of procedure (ECE/CP.TEIA/3), as amended at the fourth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/15, paras. 12–13), the Conference of the Parties unanimously elected Ms. J. Karba (Slovenia) as its Chair. It also elected Mr. P. Dadasiewicz (Poland) and Ms. S. Stirbu (Republic of Moldova) as its Vice-Chairs and elected or re-elected as Bureau members: Mr. Dijkens (Netherlands); Mr. P. Forint (Czech Republic); Mr. A. Kiriazis (EU); Mr. E. Kytömaa (Finland); Mr. I. Nasirov (Azerbaijan); Ms. T. Tandberg (Norway); and Mr. G. Winkelmann-Oei (Germany).

11. The Conference of the Parties thanked Mr. Dijkens (Netherlands) for his services as Chair, noting his outstanding contributions during the past three bienniums, in particular with regard to synergies among the different ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and partnerships with other organizations. It also thanked outgoing Bureau members: Ms. A. Alexandryan (Armenia); Mr. B. Gay (Switzerland); Mr. G. Hem (Norway); Ms. J. Michielssen (EU); and Mr. C. Piacente (Italy). In particular, it highlighted the long-standing contributions of Messrs. Hem and Gay to the implementation and development of the Convention.

## **III. Assistance to countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

### **A. Tenth anniversary of the Assistance Programme**

12. The Chair opened and moderated the high-level panel discussion organized on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Assistance Programme. The panellists and the secretariat reflected on key milestones, achievements and impacts of the Programme, and the future approach to the delivery of assistance to countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Ms. V. Tapis, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and Mr. V. Vashchenko, Minister for Emergency Situations of Belarus, regarded the Assistance Programme as an important vehicle for improving national legislation to ensure a high level of industrial safety nationally, and for strengthening transboundary cooperation with their neighbouring countries. Mr. R. Van Schreven, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization in Geneva emphasized the importance of multilateral cooperation to exchange knowledge and experience and foster the implementation of the Convention, recalling the solidarity among the ECE member countries witnessed since the Programme's inception. Mr. Bach, ECE Executive Secretary, stressed the importance of partnerships with other

international organizations and stakeholders in implementing assistance activities. Parties supporting the Programme, including Norway, the EU and Switzerland, as well as present and previous beneficiary countries, including Croatia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Serbia, highlighted the positive impact of assistance activities conducted and their continuing support and commitment to the Programme.

13. Representatives of international organizations, including UNEP, the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, WHO and OECD, expressed their interest in continuing to cooperate in the framework of the Assistance Programme and identified possible synergies. The coordinator of the National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management within the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) highlighted the partnership between the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions in the conduct of assistance activities and proposed its continuation.

14. The Conference of the Parties:

(a) Recognized the progress achieved during the 10 years of the Assistance Programme, and the continuous need to provide further assistance to the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(b) Highlighted the need to enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices among Assistance Programme beneficiary countries;

(c) Encouraged beneficiary countries to increase their ownership of the Programme, among others, through the preparation of self-assessment and action plans and the submission of project proposals;

(d) Agreed to build on and strengthen partnerships with international organizations and NGOs;

(e) Requested the secretariat to continue delivering activities under the Programme in a cost-efficient manner;

(f) Requested the Working Group on Implementation, with the support of the Bureau and the secretariat, to carry out an analytical review to determine whether the information available was sufficient to document and assess the Programme's effectiveness. In that context, it also requested the Working Group to assess whether there was a need for an independent external evaluation of the Programme, and to report its findings to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

(g) Called on Parties and other donors to make available financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Assistance Programme, and mandated the Bureau to make every effort to ensure the availability of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the Programme.

## **B. Progress report on Assistance Programme activities in 2013–2014**

15. Representatives of Albania, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia presented information on projects organized under the Assistance Programme in the biennium 2013–2014. They provided concrete examples of the impact of assistance activities and the progress achieved, such as the nomination of a national competent authority in Kyrgyzstan and the preparation of guidance on safety reports, to be formally adopted in early 2015 by the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. At the same time, country representatives stressed the need for continuing support from the Assistance Programme in their efforts to implement the Convention.

16. The secretariat presented the progress report for 2013–2014 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/5, sect. II), describing the following activities carried out under the Assistance Programme:

- (a) A project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta involving the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania (ongoing);
- (b) National follow-up projects on safety reports in Croatia (Zagreb, October 2013), Serbia (Belgrade, November 2013) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Skopje, February 2014);
- (c) A workshop on accession to and implementation of the Convention in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, October 2013);
- (d) A high-level awareness-raising meeting and expert workshop for Georgia (Tbilisi, November 2013);
- (e) A workshop on the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention in Montenegro (Podgorica, April 2014);
- (f) A high-level meeting to promote the implementation of the Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, May 2014);
- (g) A workshop on the Convention in Turkmenistan (Ashgabat, October 2014);
- (h) Capacity-building activities on the indicators and criteria for Azerbaijan (Baku, October 2014) and Albania (Tirana, October 2014).

17. Other capacity-building activities had also been carried out during the biennium with the participation of beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme including:

- (a) A project on risk assessment and the enforcement of cross-border obligations (Chisinau, September 2013), carried out in cooperation with WHO;
- (b) A training workshop under Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards (Seveso II Directive) and the Convention on accident analysis and risk assessment lessons learned (Ispira, Italy, November 2013) organized by the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC), in cooperation with the secretariat.

18. For each project, the secretariat mentioned the countries and organizations that had provided financial or in-kind support. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information presented, welcomed the activities and endorsed the progress report. It requested the secretariat to report in a similar manner at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### **C. Indicators and criteria for the Strategic Approach for the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme**

19. The Chair recalled that at its seventh meeting (Stockholm, 14–16 November 2012) the Conference of the Parties had entrusted the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation with reviewing the indicators and criteria for implementing the Convention with a view to finding ways to assist countries with their application.

20. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation and the secretariat presented the outcome of that review, namely the development of the benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (ECE/CP.TEIA/2010/6)<sup>1</sup> in a more user-friendly, flexible form. The new version, while

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<sup>1</sup> Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=4271#/>.

retaining the approach and content adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (The Hague, 8–10 November 2010), presented the information in a synthesized manner in a more user-friendly layout. As such, the elements and functioning of the Strategic Approach comprising the indicators and criteria and the preparation of self-assessments and action plans could be more easily understood and applied.

21. The development of the new version had been carried out thanks to a financial contribution from Switzerland. This contribution had also allowed for the testing of the working version of the document during training sessions in Albania and Azerbaijan.

22. The Conference of the Parties welcomed the work done to prepare the benchmarks document in a more user-friendly, flexible form. It invited Assistance Programme countries to use it and to provide feedback on its application at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Working Group on Implementation was also requested to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Approach and its tools and to report its findings at the ninth meeting. The Conference of the Parties further reminded committed countries to use the Strategic Approach (ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/5) and its tools. It also took note of the terms of reference for the preparation and implementation of projects under the Assistance Programme,<sup>2</sup> which it had mandated at its seventh meeting, and which had subsequently been prepared by the Working Group on Implementation and endorsed by the Bureau.

23. The Working Group Chair further informed participants about the self-assessments and action plans received in the last biennium, their review by representatives of the Bureau and the Working Group and the subsequent provision of feedback to the countries.

#### **D. Danube Delta project**

24. The national project coordinator of the Republic of Moldova reported on the implementation of the project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta between the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (Danube Delta project) during the period 2013–2014 on behalf of the three project countries. She highlighted key achievements, such as the development of a hazard map for the Danube Delta and the preparation of a comparative analysis of the national legal frameworks for hazard and crisis management of the countries involved.

25. The Conference of the Parties took note of the progress achieved under the Danube Delta project and welcomed its continuation, in particular the planned conduct of exercises to improve crisis management between the three countries. It also welcomed the continued support from Germany and the Netherlands, both financially and in-kind, as well as the recent involvement of Finland as a donor country.

26. The secretariat presented the *Safety Guidelines and Good Industry Practices for Oil Terminals* (ECE/CP.TEIA/28), which had been developed by an international expert group within the project and would shortly be published by ECE. The Conference of the Parties took note of the Safety Guidelines and Good Industry Practices and invited Parties to the Convention and other countries in the ECE region to use them.

27. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, to raise awareness about the Safety Guidelines among countries in the ECE region.

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<sup>2</sup> Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/ap/tools.html>.

## IV. Implementation of the Convention

### A. Activities of the Working Group on Implementation and seventh report on the Convention's implementation

28. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation reported on the Working Group's activities and meetings since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. She also presented the status of reporting on the implementation of the Convention by Parties and other countries of the ECE region, based on the findings from the seventh report on the implementation of the Convention (2012–2013) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/4), and introduced a draft decision on strengthening the implementation of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/11).

29. The Conference of the Parties expressed its gratitude to the Working Group for the work undertaken in the biennium 2013–2014, in particular the preparation of the seventh report on implementation. It noted with concern that four Parties and three committed ECE countries had failed to report.<sup>3</sup> It called on Parties and committed countries to submit their reports for the eighth reporting round in a timely manner to allow sufficient time for the Working Group to review and analyse the reports. The Conference of the Parties adopted the seventh report on the implementation of the Convention, with a corrigendum to acknowledge the notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries by Slovenia (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/4/Corr.1). The Conference of the Parties also requested the Working Group to prepare the eighth report on the implementation of the Convention (2014–2015) for review at its ninth meeting.

30. The Conference of the Parties expressed its appreciation to the Working Group on Implementation for the latest revision of the reporting format and guidelines. It requested the Working Group to further simplify the format and guidelines, with a specific focus on: (a) updates from countries having previously provided full reports; and (b) the inclusion of specific criteria to help countries assess the effectiveness of their policies in implementing the Convention. It further requested the Working Group to consider engaging in a dialogue with reporting countries.

31. The Conference of the Parties also welcomed the collection of good practices through the implementation reports, and encouraged Parties to further provide such information, including weblinks, if available, in the next reporting round.

32. Regarding the Working Group's recommendation to consider producing common emergency plan guidelines to improve cooperation between neighbouring countries, the Conference of the Parties decided to review that topic at its ninth meeting, taking stock of the application of the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters elaborated by the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Joint Expert Group).

33. The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 2014/1 on strengthening the implementation of the Convention, as amended during the meeting.

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<sup>3</sup> By the time of the meeting at which the Working Group on Implementation reviewed the national implementation reports (Bucharest, 14–15 April 2014), seven Parties and three committed ECE countries had not submitted their implementation reports. Out of those 10 countries, Albania, Denmark and Kazakhstan submitted their reports before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014).

## **B. Election of the members of the Working Group on Implementation for 2015–2016**

34. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex III, appendix), the Conference of the Parties elected or re-elected 10 members of the Working Group from among the candidates nominated by Parties, for a term to last until its next meeting: Ms. S. Ashcroft (United Kingdom); Mr. E. Baranovsky (Belarus); Ms. L. Buciene (Latvia); Mr. H. Buljan (Croatia); Ms. H. Fridh (Sweden); Mr. L. Iberl (Germany); Mr. M. Merkofer (Switzerland); and Ms. S. Milutinovic (Serbia); Mr. P. Westerbeek (Netherlands). The Russian Federation also nominated a representative, whose name would be announced through the secretariat, as a tenth member of the Working Group.

## **V. Development of the Convention**

### **A. Activities of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention**

35. The Chair of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention (Working Group on Development) reported on the Working Group's activities and deliberations in the biennium 2013–2014, in particular on its third and fourth meetings (Geneva, 3–4 September 2013 and 28–29 April 2014, respectively) and the work of two small groups established to support its work. The Conference of the Parties took note of the deliberations of the Working Group on Development and expressed its gratitude for the work undertaken in the biennium 2013–2014.

### **B. Amendment of annex I to the Convention**

36. The Chair of the Conference of the Parties recalled that the Working Group on Development had been mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting to draft a revised annex I to reflect the adoption of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.4) and maintain consistency with the relevant EU legislation, notably Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso III Directive).

37. The Chair of the Working Group reported on the process of considering the amendments and presented the proposed revised annex I, unanimously agreed by the Working Group at its fourth meeting (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/8 and Corr.1). In accordance with article 26, paragraph 2, of the Convention, a notification containing the proposed amendment to annex I had been sent to Parties 90 days in advance of the eighth meeting by the secretariat on behalf of the ECE Executive Secretary.

38. The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 2014/2 amending annex I. It requested the secretariat to republish the Convention after the entry into force of the amended annex. It further recognized the need to support the countries with economies in transition in the implementing amended annex I.

## **C. Other possible amendments to the Convention and guidance by the Conference of the Parties**

39. The Chair of the Working Group on Development reported that, as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, the Working Group had evaluated other possible amendments to the Convention. That evaluation had resulted in recommendations for both the amendment of certain articles of the Convention and the development of guidance by the Conference of the Parties, as laid out, along with the rationale, in the report of the Working Group's fourth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2014/3, annex II). The Bureau had then proposed a prioritization of provisions and issues for guidance by the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/9).

### **1. Amendments to the Convention**

40. The Working Group proposed that revisions be made to articles 1 (definitions), 9 (information to, and participation of the public), 18 (Conference of the Parties), paragraph 1, and 29 (ratification, acceptance, approval and accession).

41. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Development to prepare a draft amendment revising the above articles, considering also related provisions, articles and annexes of the Convention, for adoption at its ninth meeting. Furthermore, it mandated the Working Group to prepare draft text to open the Convention for accession by United Nations Member States beyond the ECE region as part of that amendment (see sect. D below). It requested the secretariat to service the negotiation of the amendment, prepare relevant background information for the Working Group's meetings and support the Working Group in the elaboration of draft text for the amendment, in cooperation with a legal expert.

### **2. Guidance by the Conference of the Parties**

42. The Chair of the Working Group also presented the issues to be addressed through guidance by the Conference of the Parties, including suggestions for the subsidiary bodies to be mandated with the development of such guidance and the possible time frame for their development. The Conference of the Parties decided that guidance should be developed by its subsidiary bodies, as proposed by the Bureau, for its consideration at its ninth or alternatively, tenth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/9, annex I). The Conference of the Parties considered that the development of the amendment should have precedence over the development of the guidance, should there be a need to prioritize work.

#### *(a) Clarifying the scope of mutual assistance*

43. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Development to prepare a draft decision to clarify the scope of mutual assistance set out in article 12, outlining to what extent mutual assistance referred to any industrial accident or to industrial accidents with transboundary effects only, for review and possible adoption at its ninth meeting.

#### *(b) Reporting obligations with regard to periodicity, public accessibility and other issues*

44. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Implementation to prepare a draft decision on reporting obligations to clarify those requirements, including with regard to the periodicity and public availability of national implementation reports. The draft decision should be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ninth meeting.

*(c) Provisions on land-use planning*

45. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Development to review a guidance document on land-use planning, on the basis of a draft drawn up with external expertise, for possible adoption at the ninth (or, alternatively, tenth) meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The guidance document should be prepared in order to:

(a) Clarify the link between the general provisions of the Convention in article 3, paragraph 1, and the land-use planning/siting procedures in article 7 of the Convention;

(b) Explain how the notion of land-use plans and programmes used in other relevant international MEAs and legal instruments applied to the Convention's provisions on the siting of hazardous activities;

(c) Align the practice under the Industrial Accidents Convention with the provisions of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Seveso III Directive.

46. The European Investment Bank offered to act as the lead organization for the guidance document and to finance its preparation by a consultant, including to address issues related to synergies between the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).

*(d) Provisions on the review of compliance*

47. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Development, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation, to consider the introduction of a compliance mechanism and to prepare a possible draft decision on the matter for review and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, paying due regard to the mandate and functioning of the Working Group on Implementation.

*(e) Terms of reference of the subsidiary bodies*

48. The Conference of the Parties requested the Bureau to review the terms of reference of the Convention's subsidiary bodies, and to prepare revised terms of reference for review and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting. The draft terms of reference should reflect the current practice and roles of the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation, as set out in documents previously adopted by the Conference of the Parties.<sup>4</sup>

49. With regard to article 2 of the Convention (scope) and the possible inclusion of a provision on derogation, the Conference of the Parties agreed with the Working Group's recommendation neither to amend that article nor to prepare guidance by Conference of the Parties.

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<sup>4</sup> I.e., Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2004/2); Strategic Approach for the Assistance Programme (ECE/CP.TEIA/2008/5); benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2010/6); Long-term Strategy for the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/22, annex I); sustainable financial mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I); and tasks and division of work between the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation set out in the report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/24).

## **D. Accession by Member States of the United Nations from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

50. The Chair of the Conference of the Parties recalled that, at its fourth meeting, the Working Group on Development had considered the issue of opening the Convention for accession by Member States of the United Nations outside the ECE region and had agreed that, due to the strategic nature of the issue, a thorough discussion should take place at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The secretariat presented information on the possible benefits and challenges associated with the Convention's opening (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/6 and ECE/CEP/2014/6). It further informed the Conference of the Parties that several countries from outside the ECE region had expressed an interest in the Convention, including Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

51. The Conference of the Parties discussed the issue of opening the Convention to accession by Member States beyond the ECE region, taking into account the possible benefits and challenges, as well as the experiences of other ECE MEAs. Several Parties expressed their support for opening the Convention. Some Parties expressed concerns about the budgetary implications. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group to continue thoroughly considering all aspects related to the opening of the Convention, including possible budgetary implications, and to present the outcome of its considerations to it at its ninth meeting. To support that process, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to prepare relevant background information on financial implications, and to maintain its contacts with the other United Nations regional commissions and international organizations to promote awareness of the Convention.

52. The Conference of the Parties stressed the importance of addressing the issue of opening the Convention at the same time as the revisions to the other provisions of the Convention, as part of the same package, and requested that a draft amendment to the Convention covering those issues be presented for its review and possible adoption at its ninth meeting.

## **VI. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders**

53. The secretariat provided information about the activities carried out in cooperation with the Bureau during the previous biennium in order to promote and further increase the understanding of the work under the Convention among competent authorities and other stakeholders. Such activities included participation in international forums and other events of interest and publicizing activities and developments related to the Convention using various communications tools, including press releases. The secretariat also reported on the publication of safety guidelines and good practices for tailings managements facilities in a more attractive and user-friendly form (ECE/CP.TEIA/26),<sup>5</sup> as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

54. The secretariat further reported on the development of targeted communication materials: a book of cartoons on the Convention;<sup>6</sup> an online introductory training course on industrial accidents, developed jointly with UNEP and the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit; and a film on the Convention. The film was subsequently launched at the meeting through a video message by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36132>.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36970>.

<sup>7</sup> Available from <http://bit.ly/17jzNV8>.

The production of cartoons and the film had been made possible thanks to financial support from Switzerland and Germany, respectively.

55. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided on the activities undertaken to involve Parties and other stakeholders and welcomed the targeted communication materials developed. It called on Parties and national focal points to promote the Convention at the national level, including through the use of existing communication products.

## **VII. Exchange of information**

### **A. Seminar on enhancing industrial safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

56. A seminar on enhancing industrial safety in the ECE region was held within the framework of the eighth meeting, on the morning of Friday, 5 December, to exchange experiences and good practices among Parties, as stipulated by article 15 of the Convention. The seminar was chaired by the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation (see annex I).

57. Parties and other organizations present at the seminar recognized the value of the event, which allowed for different stakeholders in the field of industrial safety to provide their own perspectives. The seminar demonstrated that the exchange of information and experience was beneficial to all Parties of the Convention and should be further promoted.

### **B. Raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities**

58. The President of the Armenian NGO “Eco-Peace” reported on the organization of a workshop on aspects of risk management and ensuring environmental safety in industrial enterprises for students at universities, financed by Germany (September/October 2014, Perm, Russian Federation).

59. The Conference of the Parties took note of the activity and invited Parties to consider how to further raise the awareness of students on industrial safety. It considered that a follow-up activity could be organized (financed by Germany) in countries other than Armenia or the Russian Federation. The Czech Republic reported that it had implemented a similar project in cooperation with the Republic of Moldova.

## **VIII. Strategic partnerships**

60. The secretariat informed the Conference of the Parties that during the biennium 2013–2014 strategic partnerships had been enhanced. The inter-agency coordination meetings, initiated by the secretariat in 2013, had become a vehicle for developing and enriching institutional partnerships with UNEP, the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, OECD, WHO, the European Commission and other international organizations working on chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response. Such meetings were organized on an annual basis, hosted by different organizations.

61. Furthermore, partnerships with other ECE Conventions and programmes had also been enhanced: with the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA and the Committee on Housing and Land Management with regard to the development of guidance on land-use planning; with the National Policy Dialogues with regard to assistance activities; with the

Aarhus Convention through activities to reach out to the public in countries in transition; and with the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development in organizing trainings for students at universities. Moreover, the secretariat had been part of an internal coordination group on disaster risk reduction, coordinating the ECE contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

62. Partnerships with other governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations had also been strengthened. Notably, representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States Interstate Council on Industrial Safety and EEB were participating in the seminar on enhancing industrial safety in the ECE region.

63. The former Chair of the Bureau briefed the Conference of the Parties on the informal coordination meetings held among the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE MEAs and the Committee on Environmental Policy. Key conclusions of the three meetings held during the biennium pertained to the strong interdependency between the subjects covered by the MEAs, the potential for enhanced synergies and the need to address sustainable extrabudgetary financing in a coordinated manner. MEAs were also invited to contribute to the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, to take place in Georgia in June 2016, which would cover the themes of greening the economy in the pan-European region and improving air quality for a better environment and human health.

64. The Conference of the Parties took note of the activities organized with strategic partners and encouraged the maintenance and strengthening of strategic partnerships with other international organizations, NGOs, industry associations as well as other ECE MEAs and programmes.

#### **A. Hazard rating methodologies**

65. The representative of the EU provided information on the development, methodology and content of the publication, *An Overview of Methodologies for Hazard Rating of Industrial Sites*, co-authored by JRC and the Convention secretariat.<sup>8</sup> The Conference of the Parties took note of the development of that publication and welcomed the partnership with JRC.

66. The secretariat reported on the webinar held to provide information on hazard rating methodologies, organized on 25 November 2014, in cooperation with JRC and with the support of Belgium and Switzerland which had presented case studies. The webinar had raised interest from a wide range of countries, including from representatives from beyond the region. The Conference of the Parties took note of the webinar as an innovative and cost-effective mechanism to transfer knowledge and build capacity.

#### **B. Checklist on the safety of tailings management facilities.**

67. The coordinators of the project “Improving the safety of industrial tailings management facilities based on the example of Ukrainian facilities” (financed by Germany) reported on events held and outputs produced, such as the checklist on the safety of industrial tailings management facilities. The Conference of the Parties took note of the outcome of the work carried out under the project and welcomed its continuation.

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<sup>8</sup> JRC Science and Policy Reports (Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2015).

## **IX. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System**

68. The Chair recalled the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting to carry out further tests and exercises using the Industrial Accident Notification System (IAN system) and to evaluate the system at its next meeting.

69. The secretariat reported on measures undertaken to improve the functioning of the IAN system, thanks to a financial contribution by Switzerland. A communications exercise using the system had been carried out on 7 November 2014, performed by Azerbaijan and Bulgaria. Electronic consultations of the Points of Contact had taken place subsequently on 19 and 20 November 2014 in order to take stock of the communication exercise and discuss next steps. The results of the exercise showed that, while there were improvements in both the response rate and response times, there remained potential for improved communication between the Points of Contact.

70. The Conference of the Parties took note of the upgrade of the IAN system and thanked Switzerland for its support. It requested the Points of Contact to perform tests and exercises, to discuss the results at their next consultation (either electronically or in person) and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

## **X. Prevention of accidental water pollution**

### **A. Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

71. The co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group reported on the activities undertaken in the biennium. Particular emphasis had been placed on the development and finalization of the checklist for harmonized contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary watercourses.

72. The Conference of the Parties took note of the checklist and recommended its application as a tool for harmonized contingency planning between neighbouring States. It further requested the secretariat to publish the checklist in the three official languages following the testing of its application in the framework of the Danube Delta project and its review by the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention at its seventh session (Budapest, 17–20 November 2015). Sweden announced that it would act as a lead country for the publication, promotion and application of the checklist in the biennium 2015–2016.

73. The co-Chair also presented the workplan of the Joint Expert Group, informing the Conference of the Parties that the Bureau to the Industrial Accidents Convention had agreed on it at its twenty-eighth meeting (Geneva, 2 December 2014). The Conference of the Parties took note of the workplan and decided to include the Group's activities into the Convention's workplan for the biennium 2015–2016.

### **B. Activities related to the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters**

74. The Chair reminded the Conference of the Parties that, at its sixth meeting, it had agreed on three actions to assist countries with economies in transition to ratify the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of

Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties had been informed about the implementation of the first step and, in agreement with the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, had agreed to continue with the second of the three steps subject to the availability of funds. However, no funds had been made available for that purpose and no expressions of interest had been received.

75. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information received and requested an update on the situation at its next ordinary meeting.

## **XI. Use of financial resources in 2013–2014**

76. The secretariat introduced the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources during the period 2013–2014 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/3). It highlighted that overall, 17 Parties, including 7 new Parties, had contributed to the Convention's trust fund for the biennium 2013–2014, representing a significant increase in the number of Parties contributing as compared with previous bienniums. In addition to the financial contributions, significant in-kind contributions had also been received in the form of expertise or direct financing of meetings or activities under the Convention by Parties, partner organizations, NGOs and industry.

77. The overall expenditures during the biennium exceeded the contributions received during the same period, leading to a reduction in the balance of the trust fund. At the same time, total expenditures were below the planned budget. The Conference of the Parties endorsed the report on the use of the financial resources 2013–2014. It requested the secretariat to prepare for its ninth meeting a similar report on the use of resources covering the biennium 2015–2016.

## **XII. Financing**

78. The former Chair of the Conference of the Parties reported on the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism and its results so far. While there had been numerous contributions by new Parties, in line with their economic strength, that had, overall, not yet led to a significant increase in the resources available.

79. The former Chair further reported on the work of the small group on financing, a subsidiary group of the Bureau. In line with the sustainable financial mechanism, he had encouraged Parties to provide financial support at least at a level reflecting their economic strength. The Group had further discussed actions to build awareness on the need for sustainable financing and possible financing opportunities, including with the EU and national development cooperation agencies. A webpage on financing opportunities for the Assistance Programme had been developed by the secretariat.<sup>9</sup> He invited Parties to actively use that information and to provide the secretariat with information on additional financing sources which could be added. Beneficiary countries in particular should apply for support for the implementation of activities through the sources listed.

80. The former Chair also outlined the discussions on sustainable extrabudgetary financing at the informal meetings of the governing bodies of ECE MEAs and the Committee on Environmental Policy, and the agreement to enhance cooperation to encourage Parties to provide predictable, long-term sustainable financing.

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<sup>9</sup> Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/areas-of-work/assistance-programme/financing.html>.

81. The Director of the Environment Division reported on a recent study to determine ways to enhance the secretariat functions of the ECE MEAs, which had resulted in a note on the need for sustainable, predictable extrabudgetary financing by Parties. The note had been shared with the Chairs of the MEA Bureaux for comment and would be subsequently presented to the ECE Executive Committee, consisting of representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The secretariats of each MEA had to define core tasks for which financing needed to be ensured for the continued servicing of intergovernmental bodies with longer-term staffing security. Other secretariat tasks, including assistance activities, could be supported through additional extrabudgetary resources.

82. Switzerland indicated that it would welcome the establishment of mandatory contributions by the Parties in line with the United Nations scale of assessments.

83. The Conference of the Parties welcomed the sustained financial contributions by a number of countries to support the work under the Convention through financial contributions, while also recognizing the in-kind contributions provided by Parties. It particularly welcomed the contribution by those countries having contributing financially for the first time during the current biennium and encouraged them to maintain their engagement. It also encouraged Parties not yet contributing financially in line with their economic strength, or higher, to consider such contributions, including for ensuring adequate human resources in the secretariat.

### **XIII. Plan of action for the Convention**

84. The Chair of the Conference of the Parties presented the Bureau's proposal for the Convention's workplan for 2015–2016 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/7), including priorities and resources for funding the activities.

85. The following countries pledged financial contributions: Bulgaria pledged US\$ 2,600 for the biennium; the Czech Republic pledged US\$ 11,600 annually; France pledged €40,000 annually; Lithuania pledged US\$ 4,000 for the biennium; Norway pledged US\$ 40,000 annually, in addition to its contribution to support the capacity building on Annex I; Poland pledged US\$ 10,000 for the biennium; and Switzerland indicated that it would maintain the same level of support as in 2013–2014. Finland indicated that it would support activities in 2015 through a previous contribution and was investigating the possibility of providing further contributions. Greece indicated that it would provide a contribution for the biennium, the exact amount of which would be confirmed later. The EU pledged €35,000 annually.<sup>10</sup> Further to those pledges, two countries had communicated their intention to provide the financial contributions prior to the meeting: Austria €6,000 annually; and Serbia US\$ 1,300 for 2015 and US\$ 1,400 for 2016. Furthermore, the EU/European Investment Bank, Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden had confirmed that they would act as lead Parties for specified workplan activities, while stressing that the workplan was ambitious and encouraging other Parties to take the lead for activities set out therein.

86. The Conference of the Parties discussed a draft decision on guiding principles for financial support (COP.TEIA/2014/INF.3). Adjusted guiding principles had been proposed

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<sup>10</sup> With regard to its contribution, the EU noted its general commitment to contribute at a level of 2.5 per cent of the cost of the core activities not covered by the United Nations regular budget. However, in order to support financial sustainability and predictability, as well as the effective implementation of the 2015–2016 workplan, the EU confirmed its intention to maintain its annual contribution of €35,000 during the period 2015–2016, subject to the annual endorsement of that sum by the EU budgetary authorities.

to help overcome the weaknesses evident through the application of the principles adopted for the biennium 2013–2014, such as the lack of participation from countries of South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus in meetings organized under the Convention's subsidiary bodies. Representatives of the EU and Georgia expressed concern that the proposed adjusted guiding principles might not prove to be always efficient in allowing for the participation of representatives from countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the guiding principles for financial support should be amended to indicate that they would be tested in the biennium 2015–2016 and reviewed at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2016. The Bureau was entrusted with monitoring the application of the guiding principles.

87. The Conference of the Parties adopted the workplan for 2015–2016 and its corresponding budget (annex II). In doing so, it:

(a) Requested Parties, and invited the Governments of other ECE member States, to participate actively in the implementation of the workplan for 2015–2016, including through taking the lead in specific projects and/or activities contained in the workplan;

(b) Welcomed the contributions to the budget pledged at the meeting by Parties and strategic partners to the Convention, and at the same time urged other Parties and ECE member States to provide voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the budget of the Convention, including for ensuring adequate human resources in the secretariat;

(c) Mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to monitor the implementation of the workplan for 2015–2016, including raising the remaining funds necessary for its full implementation;

(d) Further mandated the Bureau and the Working Group on Implementation, with the support of the secretariat, to raise additional funds, in particular for the activities under the Assistance Programme;

(e) Adopted decision 2014/3 on guiding principles for financial assistance, as amended at the meeting, to allow for the participation of experts in meetings under the Convention, in particular from countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, depending on the availability of funds.

88. Furthermore, the Conference invited the secretariat to organize the activities in the workplan, including providing the related official United Nations documents and publications. In addition, the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Requested Parties to make every effort to provide financial contributions in accordance with their economic strengths, in line with the sustainable financial mechanism, in order to share the burden of financing the implementation of the programme of work equally;

(b) Requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions and, at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to report on the use of resources for the period 2015–2016, including in its report a comparison between planned and actual expenditures;

(c) Requested the Bureau to draw up, with the support of the secretariat, a budget for 2017–2018 for adoption at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Invited the secretariat to continue supporting the work under the Convention, including by:

(i) Organizing planned workplan activities;

(ii) Preparing formal documentation required for the implementation of workplan activities, including the translation of official documents into the three official ECE

languages (English, French, Russian), to service the intergovernmental meetings under the Convention, including for the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties and three meetings of the Working Group on Development.

#### **XIV. Date and venue of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

89. The Conference of the Parties unanimously agreed to hold its ninth ordinary meeting in autumn 2016. The Chair invited Parties to inform the Bureau, through the secretariat, if they wished to host the ninth meeting.

#### **XV. Final statements and closing of the meeting**

90. The Conference of the Parties agreed on the main decisions taken at the meeting. It entrusted the secretariat to finalize the report after the meeting, in consultation with the Bureau.

91. The Conference of the Parties expressed its thanks to the delegation of Slovenia for hosting a reception on the first day of the meeting.

92. The Chair thanked the delegates for their active participation and the secretariat for its meeting preparation and support, before officially closing the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## Annex I

### **Chair's summary of the seminar on enhancing industrial safety in the Economic Commission for Europe region**

1. Session I of the seminar was about mechanisms for exchanging information between neighbouring countries and selected good practices:

(a) Mr. M. Merkofer, Federal Office for Environment, Switzerland, spoke about consultation with neighbouring countries and notification of hazardous activities, stressing:

(i) The importance of consultations involving national and local level authorities when identifying hazardous activities in view of notifying them to neighbouring countries;

(ii) The need to consider annex I and the location criteria as a first reference, as well as other methods in the country;

(b) Mr. E. Baranovsky, Ministry for Emergency Situations, Belarus; presented transboundary response exercises involving Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania, highlighting:

(i) The importance of transboundary exercises to train the joint units (composed of personnel from the participating countries) to work together in an emergency, to test all the logistical aspects and identify possible loopholes in case of a real emergency;

(ii) The need to consider border crossing both for personnel and for the response material, also in light of the elements contained in annex X of the Convention;

(iii) Funding available through the relevant Directorate-Generals of the European Commission could be fundamental to organize exercises of such larger scale;

(c) Mr. I. Nasirov, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Azerbaijan, representing the Presidency of the Commonwealth of Independent States Interstate Council on Industrial Safety, presented on the Council's activities and suggested, as decided by the Council at its twelfth meeting (September 2014), that cooperation with the Convention be enhanced.

2. Session II was organized as a panel discussion on "Exchanging information, identifying good practices on enhancing industrial safety and considering their applicability in the ECE region". The following panellists spoke: Mr. A. Isakov, GCE Group (Russian Federation); Mr. A. Roberts, United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association; Ms. J. Michielssen, European Commission; Mr. O. Kalusch, EEB; and Mr. V. Novikov, Zoï Environment Network.

3. Key points highlighted by the speakers included:

(a) Industry associations can act as an intermediary between government authorities and industry, and can support the identification of good practices and their translation into legislation;

(b) It is important for public authorities and operators to provide simple and clear information to the public on industrial safety and possible consequences;

(c) Concerns expressed by some countries with regard to the disclosure of information, which might adversely affect the relationship between operators and authorities;

(d) While the Convention and the Seveso Directive provided framework directions on public information, countries could themselves decide the level of information to disclose;

(e) Linking the work under the Convention to issues such as climate change and disaster risk reduction could raise its visibility and awareness, and might provide access to further financing possibilities.

4. It was noted that good practices could be identified through:

(a) Guidance prepared by national authorities. Sharing such guidance internationally and being able to compare results achieved during its implementation can provide a means to identify good practices;

(b) Dialogue among authorities and civil society both at the national and international levels. Such dialogues should be organized in a way to consider issues from the perspective of the Convention and other international entities, including the European Commission, its Joint Research Centre, and others.

5. Speakers and participants agreed that:

(a) As good practice, countries could translate key guidance materials into at least one of the official ECE languages to allow for further distribution;

(b) It would be useful to discuss good practices at a common forum at the international level to benchmark and streamline them;

(c) More work needs to be done to identify and exchange good practices for preparedness and response measures, especially those that involve the public.

6. The last part of the seminar consisted of a general discussion on jointly working towards improved industrial safety in the region. Representatives of the European Virtual Institute for Integrated Risk Management, OECD, UNEP and Poland made statements about their activities and how they fostered the exchange of information and good practices.

## Annex II

## Workplan and resources for 2015–2016

Table 1  
Workplan and resources for 2015–2016

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources in work-months of Professional (P) and General Service (G) secretariat staff to support the planned activities	
			P	G
<b>I. Activities to implement the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (other than assistance activities)</b>				
Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders	Targeted communication (newsletters, press releases, leaflets, website, promotion of online training on industrial accidents, cartoons and film on the Convention, participation in forums)	15 000		
	Working visits and high-level missions to Parties	9 000		
	Working visits to other stakeholders	6 000		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>30 000</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Exchange of information	Exchange of experience and good practices among Parties <sup>a</sup> and to promote the continuous organization of bilateral exercises for preparedness	30 000		
	Guidance on the implementation of the Convention with regard to amended annex I on hazardous substances for the purpose of identifying hazardous activities <i>Lead country: Norway</i>	30 000		
	Raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities (follow-up to pilot project at Perm summer school, Russian Federation, possibly in cooperation with the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development) <i>Lead country: Germany</i>	90 000		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>150 000</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Strategic partnerships	Sharing of good practices on safety and land-use planning; development of guidance on safety and land-use planning (in cooperation with the ECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management) <i>Lead organization: EU/European Investment Bank<sup>b</sup></i>	35 000		
	Activities to raise awareness of the risk of complacency, to ensure prevention and to maintain a high level of safety, with partners <i>Lead country: Finland</i>	50 000		
	Publishing and promotion of the checklist or methodology for harmonized contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary waters and its application <i>Lead country: Sweden</i>	20 000		

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources in work-months of Professional (P) and General Service (G) secretariat staff to support the planned activities	
			P	G
	Meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities	30 000		
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>135 000</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>2</b>
Financing	Donor meetings and bilateral visits <i>Support: Bureau</i>	15 000		
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15 000</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Servicing intergovernmental bodies and expert groups	Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	80 000		
	Meetings of the Bureau (estimated 4)	20 000		
	Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation (estimated 4)	20 000		
	Meetings of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention <sup>c</sup> (estimated 3)	60 000		
	Provision of legal advice to support the drafting of amendments	30 000		
	Meetings of the Joint Expert Group (estimated 2)	15 000		
	Consultation for Points of Contacts to review the effectiveness of the ECE IAN system and discuss preparedness and response for disaster risk reduction (possibly in cooperation with the EU)	45 000		
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>270 000</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>
	<b>Subtotal section I</b>	<b>600 000</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>

## II. Assistance activities to support countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Assistance Programme <sup>d</sup>	Activities under the preparatory phase (e.g., in Bosnia and Herzegovina, <sup>e</sup> Montenegro, <sup>e</sup> Turkmenistan) <sup>f</sup>	210 000 (indicative)		
	Activities under the implementation phase further to action plans approved by the Bureau (e.g., in Georgia, <sup>g</sup> Serbia, <sup>e</sup> the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <sup>e</sup> and Uzbekistan <sup>e</sup> ) <sup>h</sup>	400 000 (indicative)		
	Subregional workshops or meetings for feedback and training on the self-assessments and action plans developed by the beneficiary countries	90 000 (estimate)		
	Danube Delta project involving the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania — hazard management (continued) <i>Lead country</i> : Germany	50 000 (estimate)		
	Danube Delta project involving the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania — crisis management (continued) <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> : Finland, Netherlands	100 000 (estimate)		
	Two advisory missions	20 000		

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources in work-months of Professional (P) and General Service (G) secretariat staff to support the planned activities	
			P	G
	Activities to build capacity for the implementation of amended annex I in countries of Eastern <sup>i</sup> and South-Eastern Europe <sup>e</sup> , the Caucasus <sup>g</sup> and Central Asia through 3 subregional workshops on chemicals management and the identification and notification of hazardous activities, in cooperation with partners, including the ECE Transport Division as the custodian of the GHS <i>Lead countries:</i> Germany, Norway	186 500 (estimate)		
Other assistance activities	Activities to address risk management at tailings management facilities (e.g., in Armenia and Ukraine) including at the subregional level <i>Lead country:</i> Germany	270 000		
	Activities of the Joint Expert Group to support the use/application of safety guidelines and checklists developed under its auspices and provide assistance in organizing workshops, seminars and exercises			
<b>Subtotal section II</b>		<b>1 326 500</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>
<b>III. Other secretariat activities<sup>j</sup></b>		—	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Total activities (sections I+II+III)</b>		<b>1 926 500</b>	<b>84.0</b>	<b>32.0</b>

*Abbreviations:* GHS = the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; RB = regular budget; tbc = to be confirmed; XB = extrabudgetary.

<sup>a</sup> Should the exchange of experiences and good practices be carried out in the framework of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, cost implications would be minimized.

<sup>b</sup> Co-funding might be sought through the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention.

<sup>c</sup> Including financial support for representatives of Parties in up to three open-ended meetings, in accordance with the decision by the Conference of the Parties, to support the participation of experts and representatives from countries with economies in transition.

<sup>d</sup> Activities under the Assistance Programme are demand-driven. Implementation depends on the submission of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals by beneficiary countries as well as the availability of financial resources for their implementation. The Working Group on Implementation evaluates the substance of assistance requests and the Bureau takes decisions on approving activities vis-à-vis the available funds.

<sup>e</sup> This activity can be carried out under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) project “Transforming Environmental and Security Risks into Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe”.

<sup>f</sup> The cost of assistance activities under the preparatory phase are estimated at US\$ 70,000 per country.

<sup>g</sup> This activity can be carried out under the ENVSEC project “Support to Georgia for accession to the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and strengthen the Convention’s implementation in the South Caucasus”.

<sup>h</sup> The cost of assistance activities under the implementation phase are estimated at US\$ 100,000 per country. The activities are listed on the basis of indications of countries’ needs received by the ECE secretariat.

<sup>i</sup> This activity can be carried out under the ENVSEC project “Strengthening industrial safety and transboundary cooperation in Eastern Europe”.

<sup>j</sup> Other secretariat activities include financial and other management related functions, as well as administrative actions needed to ensure the functioning of the ECE industrial safety unit. They also comprise reporting on substantive and administrative issues as part of ECE secretariat.

Table 2  
**Total resources for 2015–2016**

<i>Items/activities</i>	<i>Amount in United States dollars</i>
Activities to implement the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (other than assistance activities)	600 000
Assistance activities to support countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia	1 326 500
Staff:	
Regular budget (RB), Professional (21 work months)	<i>a</i>
RB, General Service (21 work months)	<i>a</i>
Extrabudgetary (XB), Professionals (42 work months)	810 888
XB, Professional (financing through the trust fund until end-October 2015 assured) (21 work months)	325 440
XB, General Service (11 work months)	140 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 202 828</b>

*Note:* One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 21 work-months per biennium. Therefore, in terms of human resources, the implementation of the workplan requires financing from XB resources for three additional Professional posts and a programme assistant post (General Service) for one year, or for two years on a cost-sharing basis. At its twenty-fifth meeting in June 2013, the Bureau agreed to review the extrabudgetary resources for staffing of the secretariat in 2015. Staff resource estimates as indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates.

<sup>a</sup> Provided by United Nations regular budget.

Table 3  
**List of activities needing additional resources for their implementation for the period up to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)</i>
Strategic partnerships	Distribution and awareness-raising on the guide on methodology for hazard rating with partners, e.g., through follow-up webinar, in cooperation with the EU JRC <i>Lead/supporting countries</i> [to be determined]	15 000
Assistance Programme (Exchange of information) <sup>a</sup>	Development of training modules (including train-the-trainer modules, manuals, guidance documents, e-learning and interactive tools) on the implementation of the Convention and its linkages with other legal instruments, including on institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms, public information and participation and land-use planning (possibly in cooperation with the EU)	400 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>415 000</b>

<sup>a</sup> Whether this activity would be placed under the “Assistance Programme” or “Exchange of information” areas is dependent on its scope. The estimated budget is based on the development of training materials specifically for countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The scope could be enhanced to address the needs of all Parties, with respective budgetary implications.