

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Implementation

Twenty-ninth meeting

Geneva, 30 November 2015

Annotated provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth meeting

To be held in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations,* on 30 November, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Role of the Working Group on Implementation in the development of the Convention. Report to the Working Group on the Development (WGD) on:
 - (a) Compliance
 - (b) Notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries and notification of accidents with possible transboundary effects.
3. Implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Arrangements and timeline for the assessment of national implementation reports
 - (b) Information about the presence of areas for follow-up – identified in the Seventh report on implementation – in the 2015-2016 workplan.
4. Assistance Programme management.
 - (a) Feedback on self-assessment and action plans received and future organization of work
 - (b) Discussion on follow-up to the communication with Georgia
 - (c) Other items for discussion on the Assistance Programme
5. Schedule of meetings.
6. Other business.

* The meeting will be held in room S4.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe secretariat to the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in agreement with the Chair and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Implementation.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 9–9.20 a.m.

2. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation (WGI) will open the meeting and invite the WGI to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

3. In view of the nomination of a member from the Russian Federation and her first participation in meetings under the Convention, the Chair will invite WGI members to present themselves in a tour de table.

4. The Chair will briefly summarise the WGI mandate for the biennium.

2. Role of the Working Group on Implementation in the development of the Convention.

Tentative timing: 9.20 a.m.–11.05 a.m. (10.15 Coffee break)

Report to the WGD on:

(a) Compliance

5. The Chair will recall (i) the decision by the CoP that the Working Group on Development (WGD), with the WGI, consider whether to introduce a compliance mechanism and, in the affirmative, prepare a draft decision; (ii) previous discussions and conclusions in the WGI; (iii) discussions in the Bureau, and (iv) the presentation, which she will deliver to the WGD.

The WGI is invited to

(a) Confirm their support to introducing a compliance mechanism and to share the positions of the respective countries

(b) Brainstorm on how to report to the WGD.

(b) Notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries and notification of accidents with possible transboundary effects

6. The Chair will recall the decision taken at the meeting on 30 June – 1 July 2015 on whether an amendment to the definitions would be the way forward to prevent misunderstanding between “notification of hazardous activities” and “notification of an industrial accident” by several countries. She will then share with the WGI the content of her planned statement to the WGD.

3. Implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: 11.05–11.35 a.m.

(a) **Arrangements and timeline for the assessment of national implementation reports**

7. The secretariat will present a proposed division of work for assessing the national reports on implementation, which countries need to submit by the end of January 2016. The WGI is expected to finalise the division of work and to decide on a timeline for assessing the reports, in time to prepare the overall report on implementation as United Nations official document.

(b) **Information about the presence of areas for follow-up – identified in the Seventh report on implementation – in the 2015-2016 workplan**

8. The Vice-Chair and the secretariat will briefly present the result of an assessment about the presence of areas for follow-up - identified in the Seventh report on implementation – in the 2015-2016 workplan.

4. Assistance Programme management

Tentative timing: 11.35 a.m.–12.50 p.m.

9. The Chair will recall previous discussions on the Assistance Programme during its meeting in July and introduce the following items:

(a) Feedback on self-assessment and action plans received and future organization of work

10. The Chair will recall the decision to provide feedback to Albania and Uzbekistan on the documents sent as part of the implementation of the strategic approach. Members of the WGI - Hrvoje Bulian and Helena Fridh on the self-assessment from Albania - and Martin Merkofer and Peter Westerbeek on the self-assessment and action plan from Uzbekistan – will present their feedbacks.

11. The WGI is invited to discuss the feedback on the two countries and decide on the content of the message to the countries.

12. The secretariat will inform the WGI about new self-assessments and action plans received. Ms. Milutinovic might wish to briefly present the updated documents by Serbia. The WGI is invited to discuss the division of work and timeline to provide feedback.

(b) Discussion on follow-up to the communication with Georgia

13. The Chair will recall the teleconference with Georgia held at the previous meeting of the WGI in June-July and the conclusions reached by the WGI. The WGI is invited to consider a message to the country, after seeing the Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense action plan, which Georgia circulated in follow-up to the last meeting.

(c) Other items for discussion on the Assistance Programme

14. The WGI might wish to consider, for future discussions: (i) whether there is a need to introduce a methodology to prepare feedback to documents under the strategic approach; (ii) the way forward for the assessment of the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme; (iii) how to consider that the complexity of the strategic approach could be one of the reasons for its low rate of implementation.

5. Schedule of meetings and other business

Tentative timing: 12.50 p.m. –1.00 p.m.

15. The Working Group is expected to decide on the dates and venues of its next meetings. They might consider organizing two other meetings before CoP 9 in November 2016: (i) in April for the assessment of the national implementation report; (ii) in late May /June (depending on the date of the Bureau meeting)¹ on the finalization of other activities, and especially on the Assistance Programme management.

16. Members of the WGI wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

¹ The WGI may wish to meet before the last meeting of the Bureau, before the CoP in 2016, to present the documents to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.