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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2019–2020

Priorities, workplan and resources for the Convention for 2019–2020

Proposal by the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties, prepared in cooperation with the secretariat

Summary

The present document sets out the proposed activities under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents for 2019–2020 (workplan) and the resource requirements to implement them, as proposed by the Bureau based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Further to the request by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, para. 96 (h)), the proposal is being submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and possible revision.

The Conference of the Parties is invited to review this proposal, make revisions as necessary and adopt the draft workplan for the biennium 2019–2020.

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1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents developed the present document, setting out the proposed activities under the Convention for 2019–2020 (workplan) and the resource requirements to implement them, in cooperation with the Convention secretariat. The workplan was prepared based on the draft long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (ECE/TEIA/2018/5); the outcomes of events held and activities carried out under the Convention; the strategic approach taken under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme (formerly known as the Assistance Programme, renamed as proposed in the draft long-term strategy); the needs expressed by beneficiary countries during the programme's implementation and in response to high-level letters sent (see the summary of responses contained in the report of the Working Group on Implementation (ECE/TEIA/2018/11)); donors' and beneficiaries' proposals to the Bureau, the Working Group on Implementation and the secretariat; the priority needs identified by the Bureau; and the suggestions made by the secretariat and supported by the Bureau.
2. The workplan includes activities for which continued implementation and follow-up are needed; those related to implementation of the draft long-term strategy; and those that the Bureau considers necessary in order to maintain the high profile of the Convention in order to enhance industrial safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region in light of the goal of significantly increasing industrial safety and reducing technological disaster risks by 2030 through full implementation of the Convention; to broaden recognition of it as a legal instrument for technological disaster risk reduction under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and to strengthen its contribution to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and particularly targets 3.9, 3.d, 6.3, 9.1, 9.4, 11.b, 12.4 and 13.1.¹
3. The workplan also includes elements intended to maximize synergies with other ECE multilateral environmental agreements – for example, the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters – and with other ECE activities, including with regard to housing and land management. Further synergies with other organizations active in the field of industrial safety are also envisaged.
4. Since implementation of the activities set out in the workplan will require extrabudgetary resources, Parties, other ECE member countries and other stakeholders are invited to support the Convention's activities in 2019–2020 by contributing to the Convention's trust fund, financing activities directly and making in-kind contributions. In accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I), prior to the adoption of the biennial workplan, Parties are expected to pledge and indicate the level

¹ Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals; Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries (...) for risk reduction; Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, (...) and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials (...); Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure (...); Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable; Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards (...) resilience to disasters and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels; Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals (...) throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks; Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

of their annual voluntary financial and in-kind contributions and to take an active part in ensuring additional contributions. They are also invited to take the lead in supporting specific activities substantively. In the draft version of the workplan, the names of some potential lead parties are identified or placed in square brackets; the final workplan will include the names of leading and supporting countries. Other countries with an interest in leading activities are invited to contact the secretariat in advance of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. The workplan has been divided into two parts: the first includes core activities essential for the functioning of the Convention and the second includes non-core activities. As agreed by the Convention's Bureau, the core activities are:

(a) Convening and preparing meetings of the Parties, including servicing the meetings of the Bureau and the subsidiary bodies and substantive input to meetings;

(b) Preparation of documents and other deliverables, also including the facilitation of participation (airplane tickets, travel and subsistence);

(c) Information, liaison and communication, including with Parties, member States, other ECE multilateral environmental agreements and committees and relevant international organizations;

(d) Facilitation of implementation through, for example, the development of implementation guidance, coordination, partnerships and the sharing of good practice;

(e) General programme management, including with regard to human resources and financial issues, and related reporting to member States within the United Nations framework.

6. Non-core activities include:

(a) Capacity development on the ground and technical assistance, including within the Assistance and Cooperation Programme;

(b) Reporting to donors providing funding for assistance activities;

(c) Supporting the ECE Industrial Accidents Notification system;

(d) Awareness-raising in and outreach beyond the ECE region;

(e) Other functions determined by Parties.

7. Table 1 sets out the draft workplan and resources for 2019–2020. It includes activities for which financial resources are expected to be available during the biennium based on expected pledges by Parties at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and further financial and in-kind contributions during the biennium that have not yet been confirmed. Table 2 sets out the total projected resources for the biennium, including expenditures for secretariat staff (not included in Table 1). Table 3 sets out the activities for which, as at the time of preparation of this document, lead countries and/or associated resources have not been identified. Additional resources (beyond those set out in Table 2) for the period leading up to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be required for implementation of the activities included in Table 3. Should the respective pledges be made and lead countries identified in advance of the eleventh meeting, the activities in question can be moved to Table 2 in the final workplan adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Table 1
Workplan and resources for 2019–2020

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
I. Core activities, including activities to implement the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 (other than assistance activities)				
<i>Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships</i>	Targeted communication (newsletters, press releases, leaflets, postcards, website, social media, promotion of brochures and online training on industrial accidents and participation in international and regional meetings and forums)	15 000	3	1.5
	Working visits and high-level missions to Parties	9 000	1	0.25
	Working visits to other stakeholders	6 000	1	0.25
	Follow-up to the United Nations/ OECD workshop on natural-hazard- triggered technological accidents (Natech) risk management [to be confirmed]: dissemination of outcome, good practices, and information sharing on Convention's role with respect to Natech	5 000	2	0.5
	Meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities, including inter-agency coordination meetings	10 000	2	0.5
	Donor meetings and bilateral visits	5 000	1	0.5
	<i>Supporting body:</i> Bureau			
Subtotal		50 000	10	3.5
<i>Facilitation of implementation</i>	Follow-up to the exchange of experience and good practices among Parties on risk assessment methodologies, perhaps through the development of a publication/repository of good practices and/or the holding of a follow-up seminar [to be determined in light of the outcome of the 2018 seminar on risk assessment] ^a <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, to be confirmed]	30 000	2	1
– Risk assessment				
– Sustainable Development Goals / Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Support for countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Goals, and of the Sendai Framework with a focus on industrial accident prevention and preparedness by contributing to the relevant reports on the Goals and to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction and to meetings and platforms	20 000	3	0.5

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
– Land-use planning and industrial safety	Follow-up to the exchange of information on land-use planning and industrial safety (2016 and 2018 seminars): [repository of good practices; seminar for exchanging experiences, and involving role-playing with a focus on public information and participation and/or development of guidance, to be confirmed] ^a <i>Lead/supporting countries/organizations:</i> [European Union/European Investment Bank, to be confirmed] and [Belgium (Flanders Region), to be confirmed], in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, the ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and the ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	70 000	2	3
– Fire-fighting water and retention strategies	Follow-up to the development of safety guidelines and good practices for fire-fighting water retention under the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents: finalization of publication <i>Lead country:</i> Germany	20 000	1	1
– Transboundary exercises	Transboundary response exercises overseen by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents [to be confirmed] <i>Lead countries:</i> [Germany and Hungary, in cooperation with the respective river commissions, to be confirmed]	100 000 (estimate)	0.5	0.25
Subtotal		240 000	8.5	5.75
<i>Servicing intergovernmental bodies and expert groups^b</i>	Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties	90 000	4	4
	Meetings of the Bureau (estimated 4)	44 000	8	2
	Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation (estimated 4)	38 000	8	4
	Meetings of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention (none foreseen in this period)	-	-	-
	Meetings of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (estimated 2)	19 000	2	0.25
Subtotal		191 000	22	10.25
<i>General programme management</i>	Other secretariat activities, including human resources, financial and other management-related functions, administrative actions needed to ensure the functioning of the ECE industrial safety unit and, as part of the ECE secretariat, reporting on substantive and administrative issues.	-	4	1
Subtotal		-	4	1

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
Subtotal section I		481 000	44.5	20.5
II. Non-core activities, including assistance activities to support countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe				
<i>Assistance and Cooperation Programme^c</i>	Activities to support implementation of the Strategic Approach through national and subregional expert and high-level meetings and support for the development of self-assessments and action plans [in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and other countries, to be determined] (estimate based on 2 national activities) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, possibly other Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries, to be determined], with funding through the Assistance and Cooperation Programme	60 000 (estimate)	5	2.5
	Project on Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia (ongoing) <i>Lead/supporting country:</i> Russian Federation	-	1	0.25
	Project on national policy dialogues for industrial safety in Central Asia <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [Russian Federation, to be confirmed, with possible support for national expert meetings from others]	240 000	10	2.5
	Project on strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Kazakhstan, and beyond in Central Asia (ongoing) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Switzerland [with a financial contribution from Germany for organization of the subregional workshop, to be confirmed, in view of the synergies with the Project on Improving the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities in the Caucasian Region – Training and Legislative Options]	110 000	6	2
	Launch of the national policy dialogues on industrial safety in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus and in South-Eastern Europe in countries that have expressed interest (estimate based on 3 national meetings) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Azerbaijan, Serbia, Republic of Moldova, in cooperation with the OECD and with financial support through the Assistance and Cooperation Programme	90 000	6	1
	Subregional workshops on land-use planning and industrial safety in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia <i>Lead/supporting countries/organization:</i> [European Union/European Investment Bank, to be confirmed, and Belgium (government of Flanders), to be confirmed, in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management]	200 000	3	1

Area	Activities, lead/supporting countries, bodies or organizations	XB financial resources (in cash and in kind, in United States dollars)	RB/XB human resources to support the planned activities (in work-months of P and G secretariat staff)	
			P	G
Other assistance activities	Project on Improving the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities in the Caucasian Region – Training and Legislative Options (ongoing) <i>Lead/supporting organization/countries:</i> EcoPeace and Armenia with financial support from Germany	130 000	1	0.25
	Project on the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities along the Danube – Training and Legislative Options <i>Lead/supporting organization/country:</i> International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) with financial support from Germany	100 000	1	0.25
Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions	Promoting and raising awareness of the Convention, including beyond the ECE region (production of information materials and establishment of a network of contacts) <i>Supporting bodies/organizations:</i> ECE and possibly other regional commissions, UNEP and lead countries	10 000	0.5	0.25
IAN system	Electronic consultation for points of contact on the ECE Industrial Accident Notification System <i>Lead countries/organization:</i> [to be determined]	10 000	1	0.25
Subtotal section II		950 000	34.5	10.25
Total activities (section I + II)		1 431 000	79	30.75

Abbreviations: G= General Service staff; OECD = Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; P = Professional staff; RB = regular budget; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; XB = extrabudgetary.

^a Should the exchange of experiences and good practices be carried out within the framework of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the financial implications would be minimized.

^b Estimates for the servicing of intergovernmental bodies are based on the indicative amount for hosting such meetings as set out in the sustainable financial mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I), in addition to costs arising from the participation in the work of these bodies by members from countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and by the secretariat. An estimate of USD 1,500 is assumed for two Bureau members from countries eligible for financial support (in accordance with Decision 2018/8) and for two members of the secretariat to service the Bureau meetings and one member to service meetings of the Working Group on Implementation and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.

^c Activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme are demand-driven; their implementation depends on the submission of self-assessments, action plans and project proposals by beneficiary countries and on the availability of financial resources for their implementation. The Working Group on Implementation evaluates the substance of assistance requests and the Bureau decides whether to approve the activities in light of the available funds.

Table 2
Total resources for 2019–2020

(in United States dollars)

Items/activities	Core	Non-core	Total
Activities	481 000	950 000	1 431 000
Staff:			
RB, Professional (core: 21 work-months)	^a	—	—
RB, General Service (core: 10.5 work-months)	^a	—	—

XB, Professional (core: 23.5 work-months)	393 460	—	393 460
XB, General Service (core: 10 work-months)	127 500	—	127 500
XB, Professional (non-core: 34.5 work-months)	—	577 634	577 634
XB, General Service (non-core: 10.25 work-months)	—	130 688	130 688
Total	1 001 960	1 658 322	2 660 282

Abbreviations: RB = regular budget; XB = extrabudgetary.

Note: One post (Professional or General Service) translates into 21 work-months per biennium. The staff resource estimates indicated above are based on the United Nations standard rates. In terms of human resources, implementation of the workplan will require additional financing from XB resources for two or possibly three Professional posts and a short-term Programme Assistant post (General Service), depending on the non-core workplan activities that receive funding.

^a Provided under the United Nations regular budget. The RB, Professional post involves oversight of the Industrial Safety Unit, the Convention secretariat and workplan implementation, including core and non-core activities.

Table 3

Activities that would require lead Parties and additional resources for implementation during the period leading up to the eleventh 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)^a</i>
<i>Assistance and Cooperation Programme</i>	Danube Delta-II Project (including completion of the joint contingency plan, exercises and drafting of a protocol by the three concerned countries) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine [with financial support to be determined]	600 000
	Project on supporting Central Asian countries' efforts to strengthen the safety of tailings management facilities <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined]	500 000
	Project on national policy dialogues for industrial safety in South-Eastern Europe <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Serbia [and other countries in South-Eastern Europe with financial support to be determined, in cooperation with OECD]	250 000
	Project on national policy dialogues for industrial safety in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova [with financial support to be determined, in cooperation with OECD]	300 000
	Support for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the prevention of and preparedness for accidental water pollution <i>Lead /supporting countries:</i> [to be determined, in cooperation with the ECE Water Convention, including through the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents]	300 000
<i>Assistance and Cooperation Programme (Facilitation of implementation)^a</i>	Development of training modules (including train-the-trainer modules, manuals, guidance documents, e-learning and interactive tools) on implementation of the Convention and its linkages with other instruments and policies, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction <i>Lead /supporting countries:</i> [to be determined, in cooperation with the members of the Inter-agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents]	400 000
<i>Facilitation of implementation</i>	Guide to Implementation of the Convention <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> [to be determined]	45 000
<i>Facilitation of</i>	Exchange of information and experience on public information, participation and	45 000

<i>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)^a</i>
<i>implementation</i>	access to justice in order to support the implementation of article 9 of the Convention <i>Lead/supporting countries: [to be determined]</i>	
Total		2 440 000

^a This activity would be placed under “Assistance and Cooperation Programme” or “Facilitation of implementation”, depending 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. Its scope could be enhanced to include all Parties with its budgetary implications adjusted accordingly.