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Tenth meeting

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Report of the Conference of the Parties on its tenth meeting

Addendum

Decisions taken

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Decision 2018/1 Amending the Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the adoption at its first meeting of the Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex IV, appendix, Decision 2000/3), containing paragraph 5 (Location criteria), which was amended at its third meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex II, Decision 2004/2),

Recalling also that the Conference of the Parties amended annex I to the Convention at its fourth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/15/Add.1, Decision 2006/2) and again at its eighth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/30/Add.1, Decision 2014/2) in order to bring it into line with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

Noting that some Parties reported confusion because the wording of paragraph 5 of the latest version of the Guidelines (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex II, Decision 2004/2) still corresponds to the original text of annex I,

Noting also that it is not clear from the current wording whether the substances mentioned in part II of annex I are to be considered,

Noting further that the experience gained from implementation of the Guidelines since 2004 suggests that a more thorough review of the Guidelines might be appropriate,

Decides to amend paragraph 5 (Location criteria) of the Guidelines (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex II, Decision 2004/2) as follows:

In paragraph 5 (a):

- (i) Replace “involving substances that” with “involving hazardous substances that: (i)”;
- (ii) Replace “involving toxic substances” with “(ii) fall under category 1, 2 or 3 of part I of annex I to the Convention (including any substance mentioned in part II of annex I that has any of these properties) and”;

In paragraph 5 (b):

- (i) After “involving”, insert “hazardous”;
- (ii) Replace “3, 4, 5 or 8” with “1, 2, 3, 9, 16, 17 or 18”;
- (iii) After “Convention”, add “(including any substance mentioned in part II of annex I that has any of these properties)”;

Also decides to task the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation and the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, to review the Guidelines (taking into consideration effect and risk assessment methodologies) and to prepare a draft decision containing the proposed amendments to the Guidelines for consideration at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 2018/2

Fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism under the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the sustainable financial mechanism adopted at its seventh meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I), paragraph 12 of which establishes that the primary responsibility for securing the necessary resources to implement the Convention's workplan lies with the Parties,

In light of the Bureau's review of implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, at its ninth meeting (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016),

Seeking to recall elements of the sustainable financial mechanism and to identify actions designed to strengthen its implementation and to support Parties' efforts to attract financial and in-kind contributions for implementation of the Convention's biennial workplans,

Acknowledging with great appreciation the financial and in-kind contributions made by some Parties in order to support implementation of the Convention's previous workplans,

Recognizing that both core activities — including activities to implement the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030 — and non-core activities — including the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme¹ and other assistance activities² — under the Convention's workplan are financed primarily through extrabudgetary resources,

Noting that during previous intersessional periods, the financial burden has not been evenly distributed with only a few Parties making financial and/or in-kind contributions and others contributing not at all or at a level below their economic strength,

¹ As stipulated in the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030, the Assistance Programme was rebranded into the Assistance and Cooperation Programme.

² The biennial workplans of the Convention are structured as follows:
Section I. Core activities; Section II. Non-core activities, including assistance activities to support countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. At its thirty-first meeting (3–4 December 2015), the Bureau established the following differentiation between core and non-core services of the secretariat (CP.TEIA/2015/B.3/Minutes, para. 52):

(a) Core services:

(i) General programme management, including of human and financial issues;

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

(iii) Preparation of documents and other deliverables, also including the facilitation of participation (travel, subsistence, etc.);

(iv) Information, liaison and communication, including with Parties, member States, other UNECE MEAs and committees and relevant international organizations;

(v) Facilitation of implementation (through implementation guidance, coordination, partnerships, sharing good practice);

(b) Non-core services:

(i) Capacity development on the ground and technical assistance;

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

(iii) Support to the industrial accidents notification system;

(iv) Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions;

(v) Other functions determined by Parties.

Believing that the financing of activities should be distributed among all Parties and encouraging non-Parties to make voluntary contributions to support as many specific activities as possible;

Aware of the need to secure funding for the engagement of secretariat staff as a prerequisite for the planning and delivery of activities,

Wishing to facilitate the participation of countries with economies in transition in activities under the Convention in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, and, where possible and as appropriate, that of developing and least-developed countries beyond the region,

Decides to enhance its efforts to ensure that the sustainable financial mechanism is implemented and requests that the Parties provide sufficient extrabudgetary resources to implement the biennial workplans adopted by the Conferences of the Parties and, in that regard:

(a) *Urges* all Parties to contribute to the sustainable funding of activities and to share the financial burden equitably and proportionately;

(b) *Encourages* the Parties to consider making predictable, and preferably multi-year, sustainable funding pledges prior to the adoption of the biennial workplans, at or in advance of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism;

(c) *Encourages* Parties that have previously made financial or in-kind³ contributions to the Industrial Accidents Convention to continue to do so and to consider increasing them, particularly where the contributions made are at a level below the economic strength of the Party concerned;⁴

(d) *Strongly urges* Parties that have not yet made any financial or in-kind contributions for implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention to do so;

(e) *Encourages* Parties to consider making financial contributions for implementation of the Convention from various financial sources within the national budgets;⁵

(f) *Invites* Parties to the Convention and other ECE member countries, international organizations and industry to provide their support and encourages the Parties to assist in exploring possibilities for involving different groups of stakeholders and in

³ In-kind contributions may include the hosting of meetings; organization of meals; financing of travel and accommodation in order to facilitate the participation of countries from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; layout and (re)printing of publications; provision of expertise at seminars and workshops; and planning and leadership of in-kind assistance activities under the Convention's workplan.

⁴ According to the Sustainable Financial Mechanism, "All Parties are encouraged to provide resources for the implementation of the workplan activities and they are invited to consider contributions that reflect their economic strength, or higher. [...] Should Parties request advice as to the amount of financial contributions or the nature of possible in-kind contributions, the secretariat will provide such advice" (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I, paras. 14 and 19, respectively).

⁵ Ministries of foreign affairs and development cooperation agencies may be able to provide funding for capacity development under the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme in countries eligible for official development assistance (ODA). The list of eligible countries may be consulted on the website of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dacelist.htm>.

establishing long-term partnerships with international organizations and programmes, particularly where Parties are able to influence decision-making by these stakeholders,

Requests that Parties make their contributions to the ECE Local Technical Cooperation Trust Fund under the Convention as early as possible in their budget year and that, to the extent possible, contributions for a given calendar year be made by the end of the preceding year in order to provide greater certainty for future financial and project management; and *invites* other stakeholders that would like to make voluntary financial contributions to do the same,

Recommends that, where this is not an option, contributions be made during the first quarter of the calendar year in order to ensure the coverage of staff costs with a view to the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and to the timely and effective implementation of priority activities under the respective workplan,

Encourages the Parties, when deciding on financial contributions, to bear in mind that each payment carries an administrative transaction cost and, to the extent possible, to consider making larger contributions, e.g. by grouping payments or increasing their amount,

Requests the secretariat to use extrabudgetary funding as appropriate in order to ensure proper staffing as an essential prerequisite for the implementation of workplan activities and the delivery of both core and non-core activities,

Requests Parties and other ECE member States that host meetings under the Convention, including meetings of its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups, to consider covering not only the costs of hosting the meeting, but those arising from its servicing by the secretariat,⁶

Invites the Parties to, where possible and appropriate, provide dedicated financing to support the participation of representatives of countries with economies in transition and of developing and least developed countries that have expressed an interest in the Convention's activities, whether intergovernmental or assistance-related,⁷

Also decides that, subject to the availability of funding for this purpose and in accordance with the budget adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat shall examine requests for financial assistance from eligible countries, giving priority — in descending order — to Parties; non-Parties in the ECE region; and representatives of developing and least developed countries beyond that region.

⁶ I.e., the costs of travel, accommodation and subsistence of secretariat staff in accordance with the applicable United Nations rules and regulations.

⁷ The decision on guiding principles for financial assistance, adopted at every meeting of the Conference of the Parties, establishes for each biennium the countries eligible, depending on the availability of funds, to receive financial assistance to support the participation of their experts and representatives in activities organized within the framework of the Convention (see ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/8).

Decision 2018/3

Guiding principles for financial assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

Decides that the countries of Eastern Europe (Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are eligible, depending on the availability of funds, to receive financial assistance to support the participation of their experts and representatives in activities organized within the framework of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, as follows: the secretariat will provide participants with financial support and airplane tickets to help them cover the expenses related to their participation, including accommodation,

Also decides that developing and least developed countries outside the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe having expressed an interest in the Convention are eligible, depending on the availability of funds, to receive financial assistance to support the participation of their experts and representatives in activities organized within the Convention's framework,

Agrees to apply these guiding principles for financial assistance in the biennium 2019–2020.

Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030

I. Introduction

1. Over the past few decades, numerous industrial accidents have reminded us that industrial facilities that produce, handle or store hazardous substances remain a serious threat to our societies and to the environment in which we live. While governments and industry (operators, business associations and others) have progressed in making these operations safer, the damage caused by past accidents is proof that their effects can be far-reaching, sometimes across borders. They cause severe harm to the environment, workers, communities, businesses and national economies with an overall deterioration in quality of life. Moreover, recovery from industrial accidents undermines development progress and is time-consuming and expensive. Many places still suffer from events that occurred years ago and for the severely injured and the victims' families, time offers no recovery at all. There is thus a constant need to reinforce safety measures at industrial facilities containing hazardous substances in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

2. The severe transboundary effects of the Sandoz (Schweizerhalle) accident in 1986 and the resulting pollution of the Rhine affecting Germany, France and the Netherlands led governments to realize that a legal framework for cross-border cooperation on industrial accident prevention and preparedness is vital. Following several years of negotiations under ECE auspices, the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 2000. It is designed to protect people and the environment from the effects of accidents at facilities that produce, handle or store hazardous chemicals. The Convention also applies to industrial accidents resulting from natural hazards, so-called 'NATECH' (natural-hazard-triggered technological disasters) events, such as earthquakes, floods and landslides, which are expected to become more frequent and intense due to climate change. The Convention provides an effective mechanism for supporting countries' progress towards sustainable development, disaster resilience and a green economy by protecting their populations, the environment and economies from industrial accidents occurring within and across national borders. As such, it is an important legal instrument in the context of the wider policy goals agreed by United Nations Member States, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework), particularly with regard to the management of technological hazards and the reduction of related risks.

3. The present long-term strategy is a holistic document that starts by recalling the Convention's history, strengths and achievements (chapters I and II). This narrative provides the context and rationale behind the vision and objectives to be achieved by 2030 in light of the key challenges, which indicate the desired direction and future development of the Convention over the next decade (chapter III). Finally, the strategy proposes mechanisms for its implementation with a view to achievement of its vision and objectives (chapter IV).

4. The present strategy is aligned with and supported by the communication, outreach and engagement strategy for the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, which has been prepared by the Bureau for review and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. The latter strategy seeks to raise awareness of the Convention, increase its visibility and promote the greater involvement of Parties, non-Parties, strategic partners, donors and other relevant stakeholders by setting out communication and engagement options and attracting more sustainable financing of its activities.

II. Strengths and achievements of the Convention

1. Industrial safety policy, governance and transboundary cooperation

Improved policymaking and governance

5. The Convention has led to the adoption and implementation of more effective industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response policies, driven industrial safety governance and inspired the development of mechanisms for coordination among public authorities within and across national borders.

Improved intergovernmental dialogue and cross-border relations

6. In the 25 years since its adoption, the Convention has provided a sound legal framework and an active intergovernmental platform for the promotion of cooperation and the advancement of industrial safety in the ECE region. This, in turn, has fostered mutual understanding of industrial-safety-related challenges and improved relations between neighbouring and riparian countries, thereby contributing to international peace and security.

Response to emerging developments

7. The Convention's scope has been revised and expanded to include the most prevalent chemical accident risks and to ensure consistency with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Strengthened water pollution prevention

8. The Convention has strengthened the prevention of accidental water pollution and its potentially far-reaching transboundary effects by supporting countries' preparedness through the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Joint Expert Group), established in cooperation with the secretariat of the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

Enhanced notification systems

9. The Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) system allows the Parties, through their points of contact, to notify each other promptly in the event of an accident or imminent threat thereof and to request mutual assistance.

Increasing the number of Parties

10. Since its adoption, the number of Parties to the Convention has been increasing steadily. As at May 2018, there are 41 Parties, including the European Union, 26 of its member States and a significant number of countries in Western, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

Ensuring coherence with other relevant policies and legislation

11. The Convention has maintained coherence with other relevant policies and legislation. Two amendments to its annex I have been adopted and entered into force, in 2007 and 2015, respectively, in order to align it with the amendments to the European Union Seveso Directive (Seveso-II, Directive 96/82/EC and Seveso-III, Directive 2012/18/EU) and the GHS.

2. Guidance and exchange of experiences

12. A major achievement of the Convention is the large number of guidance materials, good industry practices, checklists and other instruments that have been developed for use by countries, competent authorities, operators and others. This guidance has led to a common understanding of safety approaches and standards for specific sectors (e.g. pipelines, tailings management facilities (TMFs) and oil terminals) and areas of work (e.g. safety reports, hazard rating, land-use planning and siting). The guidance developed for Assistance Programme beneficiary countries includes benchmarks for measuring implementation of the Convention and national self-assessments and action plans. Most recently, guidance has been prepared in cooperation with other international organizations in order to help countries to meet their commitments under the Sendai Framework with respect to man-made and technological hazards.¹

13. Through its convening power, the Convention has enabled national authorities and stakeholders to exchange knowledge, experiences and good practices and benefit from innovative training formats such as online training on industrial accidents, developed jointly with the United Nations Environment / United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Unit.

3. Assistance Programme²

14. A key asset of the Convention is its Assistance Programme, adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Budapest, 27–30 October 2004) in order to support countries with economies in transition. At a High-level Commitment Meeting (Geneva, 14–15 December 2005), the majority of countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia undertook to implement it (CP. TEIA/2005/12). Today, all of the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are participating in activities under the Programme, which has become a key tool for improving cooperation between competent authorities and facilitating, documenting and measuring progress in implementing the Convention.

15. To date, over 60 assistance activities — including training sessions, workshops, emergency response exercises, advisory services and consultations — have been implemented and over 1,000 representatives of the competent authorities and industry of all beneficiary countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have received training that enhanced their administrative and institutional capacities.

16. Long-term projects implemented under the Assistance Programme, such as the Danube River Project (Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia) and the Danube Delta Project (Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine), the on-site inspection project (Croatia, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the Project on improving industrial safety in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan),

¹ *Words into Action guidelines: Man-made/technological hazards*, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/words-action-guidelines-man-madetechnological-hazards-2018-public-consultation-version>.

² The long-term strategy stipulates (see chapter IV, para. 25) that the Assistance Programme, established in 2004, be renamed the “Assistance and Cooperation Programme” in view of the changes in its mission over time and of the guidance provided at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014).

have strengthened subregional cooperation in preventing accidents and enhancing preparedness.

4. Strategic partnerships

17. The Convention has significantly increased the number of strategic partnerships on industrial safety. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents, established in 2013, helps to identify synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. The European Commission and its Joint Research Centre, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Environment/OCHA Joint Unit are among the Convention's key strategic partners.

III. The Convention's response to challenges: Its vision and key objectives until 2030

18. The Convention's overall vision until 2030 is to significantly increase industrial safety and reduce the risk of technological disasters by ensuring its full implementation, its wide recognition as a legal instrument for risk reduction under the Sendai Framework and its contribution to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. By building on its strengths, critically evaluating its role in the wider context and considering existing challenges and new opportunities, it will serve as an example of the prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents through transboundary cooperation, including beyond the ECE region.

19. The specific elements of this vision — its key challenges and objectives and the strategic priorities for implementing it — are set out below. Where relevant, linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework are provided.

1. Improving industrial safety

Key challenges

(a) In low — and middle — income countries, particularly those with economies in transition, industrial facilities and equipment are often ageing, institutional structures and enforcement capacities weak, administrative and expert capacities limited, legal frameworks incoherent and cooperation among competent national authorities, operators and other relevant actors lacking.

(b) In ECE-region countries with more developed industrial safety management, complacency is prevalent; continued emphasis on the need to invest in the prevention of industrial accidents is crucial in order to maintain and enhance industrial safety.

(c) Accidental water pollution can lead to far-reaching transboundary impacts and potential regional catastrophes. Serious hotspots such as TMFs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and hazardous activities along rivers and river basins pose a threat in the region and beyond.

Key objectives to be achieved by 2030

(a) The Convention will be fully implemented at the national and local levels throughout the ECE region. It will drive national efforts to minimize the occurrence and consequences of industrial accidents and to prevent deaths and illnesses from hazardous

chemicals (Goal 3), related damage to the environment and economic losses, particularly in a transboundary context. Through its intergovernmental framework, it will continue to provide a platform for policy dialogue, the exchange of experiences and the identification of good practices.

(b) Cooperation between riparian countries and the relevant river basin commissions will be well-established and implemented. Through the Joint Expert Group, the Convention, in cooperation with the Water Convention, will continue to promote the prevention of accidental water pollution and preparedness, thereby preventing and minimizing contamination and contributing to clean water (Goal 6).

(c) The approximation of safety approaches and standards across subregions will be further advanced and the safety culture enhanced where appropriate. The Convention will lead the way in increasing knowledge of technological hazards at industrial facilities and related accident risks among public authorities, promoting enhanced management of those hazards and the taking of risk reduction measures by industry (e.g. operators and business associations) and ensuring proper communication of risks to the public, thereby helping to building safe and resilient societies (Goal 11).

(d) The Parties will ensure inclusive public information and participation by implementing article 9 of the Convention with the involvement of the population, regardless of age and gender (Goal 16). This will enhance awareness of the existing risks and of the emergency and response procedures needed in order to contain damage to human health in the event of an accident.

(e) The safety of hotspots in the ECE region will be improved, decreasing the risk of accidents that could lead to catastrophes with wide-ranging transboundary impacts. National efforts will focus on prevalent safety challenges, supported by capacity development activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme. Subject to the availability of resources, the Convention will also inspire countries beyond the ECE region to strengthen industrial safety and address their own hotspots.

2. Enhancing transboundary cooperation

Key challenges

(a) Only half of the Parties have notified potentially affected countries of their hazardous activities.

(b) Countries rarely take into consideration land-use plans and hazardous activities in neighbouring countries when taking decisions on siting or land-use proposals within their borders.

(c) Few countries have developed joint off-site contingency plans.

(d) Political priorities sometimes hamper effective transboundary cooperation with regard to chemical accident prevention and preparedness.

(e) Some of the Convention's provisions on transboundary cooperation are poorly understood. Countries have frequently expressed the need for further support in implementing the Convention and its provisions on transboundary cooperation.

(f) Transboundary cooperation before or after an accident is particularly difficult where one of the countries concerned is located outside the ECE region or is not a Party to the Convention and the growing number of United Nations Member States that have begun

to address industrial hazards as a result of awareness-raising activities under the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda could lead to a fragmentation of approaches and incompatible or parallel mechanisms.

Key objectives to be achieved by 2030

(a) Countries will cooperate in addressing transboundary risks and will fully implement the relevant provisions of the Convention with regard to prevention (notification of hazardous activities and land-use planning and siting), preparedness and response (joint or harmonized contingency plans, exercises and agreements on mutual assistance) and public participation. The Convention's role as a driver of cross-border cooperation and the transboundary focus of capacity development activities under its Assistance and Cooperation Programme will be enhanced. Preparedness and response exercises, particularly along transboundary rivers, will test and improve emergency and response policies and procedures³ and facilitate harmonization with other regional procedures and mechanisms.

(b) Countries will make use of established accident notification systems, including the IAN system, in order to notify each other of accidents, mitigate their consequences promptly and request and render mutual assistance. Transboundary cooperation could extend beyond the ECE region and, in particular, to countries that border on Parties to the Convention. United Nations Member States will increasingly share knowledge and expertise on transboundary cooperation in managing technological hazards and reducing chemical accident risks. To that end, subject to the availability of funding and giving priority to countries that border on Parties, the Convention will continue to facilitate the voluntary participation of United Nations Member States beyond the ECE region in policy and expert networks and activities under the Convention and in the application and dissemination of its guidance materials and good industry practices. It will continue to contribute its expertise to other regional and global initiatives and build on ongoing efforts to expand outreach through partnerships with, among others, OECD, the Water Convention, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other United Nations regional commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). In partnership with these organizations, the Convention should offer policy guidance, tools and good practices for prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents. By 2030, it should have developed a network of contacts in countries and key organizations beyond the ECE region, and particularly in neighbouring countries. Implementing the Convention will also help countries beyond the region to strengthen industrial safety and transboundary cooperation and to implement the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework commitments.

(c) Countries will improve international cooperation related to mutual assistance, research and development, exchange of information and technology in the field of preventing industrial accidents, ensuring preparedness for and mitigation of their consequences.

³ These include those established under the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism and its Host Nation Support Guidelines.

3. Supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework and other relevant policies

Key challenges

(a) Industrial accidents and their potential far-reaching consequences pose a threat to countries' ability to achieve sustainable development.

(b) Countries are engaged in the development of multiple policy initiatives, strategic documents and action plans⁴ and are not always fully aware of the linkages between related policy areas, including industrial and chemical safety, disaster risk reduction and efforts to mitigate the risks arising from i.a. chemical and explosive materials.

(c) Countries are not always fully aware of the linkages between the Convention and other regional or global policy commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and relevant national policies within the scope of the Industrial Accidents Convention (including Chemical ("C") and Explosives ("E") policies within CBRN-E in some member-countries).

(d) Countries are not fully aware of existing facilities (within and across borders) and lack access to programmes or resources designed, among other things, to increase their awareness, knowledge and skills and build their capacity for disaster risk reduction.⁵ This is particularly relevant because, unlike the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015), the Sendai Framework addresses the management of human-caused and technological hazards and the reduction of related risks.

Key objectives to be achieved by 2030

(a) Implementation of the Convention and its legal framework, tools and guidance materials will support countries' efforts under the 2030 Agenda and their pursuit of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets 3.9, 3.d, 6.3, 9.1, 9.4, 11.b, 12.4, and 13.1.⁶

⁴ E.g. the self-assessments and action plans that support implementation of the Convention and have been developed under its Assistance Programme; national disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans that support implementation of the Sendai Framework; and relevant national policies within the scope of the Industrial Accidents Convention (including Chemical ("C") and Explosives ("E") policies within CBRN-E in some member-countries) and action plans.

⁵ See the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's zero draft of the global capacity development strategy in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, available at <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/56922>.

⁶ 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"; and target 13.1: "Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries".

(b) The Convention will be a widely-recognized instrument for reducing technological disaster risks and fostering transboundary cooperation. Its implementation will also support national efforts to implement the Sendai Framework's four priority areas for action⁷ by:

- (i) Raising awareness of technological hazards and related disaster risks to manage disaster risks;
- (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance;
- (iii) Encouraging countries to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and
- (iv) Enhancing disaster preparedness with a view to effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and construction.

(c) Countries will, as appropriate, include in their national disaster risk reduction and relevant national policies within the scope of the Industrial Accidents Convention (including Chemical ("C") and Explosives ("E") policies within CBRN-E in some member-countries), strategies and action plans on the management of technological hazards at industrial facilities and transboundary risks and references to their relevant legal obligations, including under the Convention. The Convention through its capacity development activities, guidance and tools, will help countries to identify and develop linkages with the national disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans.

4. Emerging risks and developments

Key challenges

(a) Accidents, including those with transboundary consequences, occurring at facilities that are not within the Convention's scope (for example, pipelines, TMFs and in the transport of dangerous goods) may have significant economic and societal costs including fatalities, injuries, evacuation, damage to the environment, mobilization of emergency services, damage to buildings, business disruption and the costs of reconstruction, recovery and ecosystem restoration. These accidents that lie outside the scope of the Convention, while the related hazards and risks are regulated by other regimes,⁸ remain a challenge for policy coordination and may hamper sustainable development of countries.

(b) In cities, greater population density and decreasing distances to industrial facilities, together with the anticipated higher frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change and natural disasters, increase the risk and potential impact of an industrial accident and therefore pose a threat to sustainable development.

(c) The increasing frequency of extreme weather events as a result of climate change and their growing impact as a result of increased population density and industrialization make NATECH events more likely to occur.

⁷ The Convention's contribution to the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals is described in greater detail in the document "Fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030" (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/1), prepared for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016), available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41526>.

⁸ Such as the United Nations model regulations and recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods.

(d) The production of hazardous substances is being increasingly outsourced to countries beyond the ECE region, particularly in Asia, where accident risks have increased and prevention efforts and disaster management capacities may lag behind. This has potential spill-over effects on the ECE region, including an increased risk of transboundary accidents⁹ and reputational risks and economic losses for parent companies.¹⁰

Key objectives to be achieved by 2030

(a) The Convention will be a flexible and modern instrument capable of addressing new and emerging risks. The Working Group on Development will assess developments and, where relevant, make proposals to the Conference of the Parties on the need to review the Convention. New and emerging risks will be included in the Convention's workplan.

(b) The Convention will remain responsive and proactive in addressing developments at the regional and global levels, taking global megatrends such as climate change, related natural disasters and urbanization into account, and will develop and adjust its mechanisms with the necessary flexibility. Future discussions and guidance on land-use planning and siting will bear these factors in mind (Goal 11).

(c) The increased risk of NATECH events will be considered in risk assessment and evaluation, safety measures and contingency planning and reflected in the relevant guidance, policy and expert dialogues. The Convention will support national efforts to adapt and strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (Goal 13).

IV. Mechanisms for implementation of the Convention

20. The following mechanisms are required in order to pursue the Convention's vision until 2030 and the key objectives thereof.

1. An inclusive policy forum for dialogue among authorities, industry, academia and civil society

21. With its convening power, the Convention will continue to provide a platform for dialogue on industrial safety and the challenges faced by countries in its implementation. It will provide a forum for exchanging experiences, identifying good practices and considering their applicability to a variety of national circumstances. Prevalent and emerging safety issues will be addressed at the policy and expert levels at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, dedicated seminars, workshops and expert group meetings.

22. The Convention will continue to be at the centre of a policy network on industrial safety and will aim to intensify its linkages with policy circles addressing wider disaster risk reduction and relevant national policies within the scope of the Industrial Accidents Convention (including Chemical ("C") and Explosives ("E") policies within CBRN-E in some member-countries) and strategies. Further to its natural policy cooperation, it will strive to increasingly involve all stakeholders, including representatives of industry, academia and civil society, in its networks. It will expand its outreach and consider new and innovative

⁹ In 2005, for example, a chemical plant accident in Jilin, China, created an 80 kilometre toxic slick in a tributary of the Amur River, polluting it and ultimately affecting the territory of the Russian Federation.

¹⁰ As, among others, the headquarters of major companies' operations are often located in the ECE region.

activities (university curriculums, case studies, webinars, industrial safety applications, TEDx¹¹ and others) in order to strengthen cooperation with a broader range of stakeholders.

2. A centre of excellence for guidance development and implementation

23. The development of guidance documents to support implementation of the Convention will be pursued by policymakers and national experts in close cooperation with industry representatives and academia. The Convention will continue to be a centre of excellence for the development of guidance, technical knowledge and expertise through its expert networks. Future guidance will take better account of countries' needs, broader policy developments, emerging challenges to industrial safety, the Sendai Framework and national efforts to pursue its implementation.¹² Once guidance has been developed, efforts will focus on the exchange of experience and capacity development so that countries can implement it. The Joint Expert Group will continue to play an active role in that regard and, in the context of the Water Convention, could reach out to countries beyond the ECE region and consider their experience and good practices when disseminating safety guidance.

3. Cooperation through strategic partnerships

24. The Convention will continuously aim to be a driver of strategic partnership development. It will seek synergies to complement its core competencies when addressing current or emerging policy issues and to broaden the range of policymakers and stakeholders involved in the development of recommendations and approaches and the delivery of capacity-building activities. It will pursue cooperation through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents and contribute to the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Chemicals Management. It will also aim to enhance its traditional strategic partnerships and to develop new partnership arrangements with other relevant organizations, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Environment, ESCAP and the other United Nations regional commissions, OECD, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and regional institutions such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety. Synergies with other ECE Conventions and programmes will continue to be sought.

4. The Assistance and Cooperation Programme

25. The Assistance Programme will be revised and rebranded to ensure that it remains an effective instrument for delivering assistance and building capacity at all levels. It will be renamed the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, through which beneficiary countries will increasingly cooperate and support each other and take full ownership of activities. The multi-year, multi-country projects implemented through the Programme are expected to lead to enhanced governance through national policy dialogues on industrial safety involving all

¹¹ TEDx Talks is a website on which previously-recorded live TED (a non-profit organization devoted to spreading ideas) conferences are posted and shared with the community. TEDx events are planned and coordinated at the community level and are normally available at no cost (<https://www.ted.com/watch/tedx-talks>).

¹² This will include the development of national and local risk reduction strategies and plans; regional and subregional mechanisms for cooperation on disaster risk reduction; and disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes at the national and local levels.

relevant stakeholders and to improved transboundary cooperation through subregional projects and activities. The Working Group on Implementation will continue to provide oversight of assistance activities and guidance of national efforts to prepare self-assessments and action plans under the Programme's Strategic Approach.

5. Enhanced visibility through networking and communication

26. The Convention will enhance its visibility within the ECE region and beyond in line with its communication, engagement and outreach strategy. This will be achieved by drawing attention to linkages with the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework and ensuring the participation of office-holders, focal points and the secretariat in high-level events organized at the regional and global levels. To that end, the Convention will enhance its partnership with and involvement in networks on related issues (e.g. disaster risk reduction, crisis management and relevant national policies within the scope of the Industrial Accidents Convention (including Chemical ("C") and Explosives ("E")) policies within CBRN-E in some member-countries). Communication products such as brochures, postcards, press releases and notes will highlight these linkages. Thus, while substantive work at the expert level will continue, it will gain wider recognition in policymaking, among industry representatives, at academic institutions and in other circles.

6. Workplan

27. The Convention's workplan will remain the primary instrument for achieving its vision and the objectives and strategic priorities set out therein. Parties and strategic partners will lead workplan activities both substantively and financially. Countries will participate actively in intergovernmental and expert group meetings and contribute to a rich exchange of experience and expert knowledge and to guidance development and review. Beneficiary countries will assume ownership of assistance activities and endeavour to ensure their continuity and provide in-kind support. The workplan will address countries' implementation challenges and needs as set out in their national implementation reports and in the final reports on the conclusions of assistance activities and will aim to address current and emerging issues while ensuring continuity of effort. Through the workplan, the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau will clearly prioritize objectives in light of the available and anticipated resources.

7. Sustainable financing and capacity development

28. Sustainable and predictable financing is crucial for the Convention's future. It is a prerequisite for the continuity of its activities, including the servicing of intergovernmental bodies, organization of policy and expert meetings, coordination of guidance development and maintenance of the Convention's networks. It is also essential for sustainable capacity development and for the assistance provided to countries so that they can make safety improvements and harmonize standards across subregions and potentially beyond. Predictable financing is essential to the effective planning and implementation of activities and retention of a stable secretariat with qualified staff.

29. As stated in the Convention's Sustainable Financial Mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/24, annex I)¹³, the primary responsibility for securing the resources needed to implement the workplan lies with the Parties, which are invited to consider contributions that reflect their economic strength, or higher (para. 12); other stakeholders are also encouraged to provide contributions (para. 14). Parties will continue to pledge or indicate, prior to adoption of a biennial workplan, their annual voluntary financial and in-kind contributions and will take an active part in ensuring additional contributions (para. 24). They will also continue to provide support through in-kind and expert contributions. Focal points will reach out to their national authorities, including development cooperation agencies, and the Bureau will prepare an affordable workplan (para. 24 (c) (i)).

¹³ The Sustainable Financial Mechanism was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (Stockholm, 24–26 November 2012) and is available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=29023>.

Communication, outreach and engagement strategy for the Convention

Introduction

1. Since the early 1990s, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has focused on preventing industrial accidents — and especially their transboundary effects — in its region, which extends from Canada and the United States of America in the west to the Russian Federation in the east. In 1992, its work led to the adoption of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), which was signed by 26 ECE member countries and the European Union and entered into force on 19 April 2000.

2. The Convention aims to protect human beings and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing them to the extent possible, reducing their frequency and severity and mitigating their effects. It provides a framework for enhancing the Parties' prevention and preparedness efforts with a focus on transboundary cooperation before, during and after an accident.

3. As of 2018, the Convention has 41 Parties in Western Europe, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It cooperates closely with the Parties and other United Nations Member States, industry, academics and other stakeholders through activities such as high-level and expert meetings (seminars and workshops), guidance development and capacity-building through its Assistance and Cooperation Programme.¹ The Convention's greatest achievements include:

(a) Facilitating industrial safety governance and horizontal and vertical coordination among government institutions;

(b) Promoting transboundary cooperation among neighbouring and riparian countries and beyond;

(c) Becoming a Centre of Excellence to provide guidance and facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices among countries, stakeholders and partner organizations;

(d) Providing capacity-building and assistance to countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through its Assistance and Cooperation Programme with a structured strategic approach that includes national assessments and action plans;

(e) Enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation between related policy domains such as environmental protection, civil protection, emergency situations, water resources management, land-use planning and disaster risk reduction (DRR); and

(f) Developing strategic partnerships (e.g. with the secretariats of other ECE multilateral environmental agreements, the European Union, the Organisation for Economic

¹ The long-term strategy for the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents until 2030 renamed the Assistance Programme, established in 2004, the "Assistance and Cooperation Programme" in view of the changes in its mission over time and of the guidance provided at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014).

Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) and institutional linkages (e.g. with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals) in order to promote and implement the Convention.

4. The focus now should be on continued and enhanced engagement of the Parties and Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries, through their national focal points, in implementing the strategy and raising awareness of the Convention, its strengths and achievements; ongoing cooperation with strategic partners in order to bring about synergies and avoid duplication of effort; and outreach to the relevant international organizations and other stakeholders in the fields of industrial safety, environmental assessment, land-use planning and DRR in order to increase the relevance and impact of the Convention.

5. At its ninth Meeting, the Conference of the Parties mandated the Bureau to develop a targeted communications strategy to facilitate ensuring robust and sustainable financing of the Convention's activities (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, para. 92). Pursuant to that request, the present communication, outreach and engagement strategy was prepared by a small group on communications within the Bureau, constituted for that purpose, in cooperation with the secretariat. Its long-term goals are to increase awareness of the Convention within the ECE region and beyond and to support implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents until 2030 (long-term strategy), with which it is aligned, and possibly beyond that date.

6. It is designed to be used by governments (including Parties, non-Parties and Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiaries), the secretariat of the Convention and those of other ECE treaties and United Nations bodies, industry, operators, business associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and other international organizations.

I. Purpose and key objectives of the strategy

7. The strategy provides an agreed set of messages and the tools, together with the actions required for their dissemination to a wide range of audiences.

8. Its overall purpose is to:

(a) Raise awareness of the Convention's relevance and of the tools for its implementation in accordance with the long-term strategy;

(b) Focus communication on priority constituencies while making best use of existing resources;

(c) Create a common understanding of the key messages to be communicated to the various stakeholder groups and constituencies;

(d) Set out key actions for implementing the strategy.

9. The following objectives have been identified for ongoing and future communication, outreach and engagement:

(a) Increase awareness of industrial safety obligations and of complementarities between the Convention and national legislation and European Union legislative approximation processes;

(b) Enhance communication about the Convention's tools (e.g. benchmarks, safety guidelines and good practices) in order to strengthen its implementation and promote industrial safety in the ECE region and beyond;

(c) Emphasize the Convention's role as a centre of excellence and a platform for a community of shared technologies and knowledge;

(d) Highlight linkages between the Convention and regional legislation or approaches (e.g. European Union legislation and the work of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety) and its added value as a bridge between the European Union and countries with economies in transition);

(e) Present the Convention as a legal instrument with guidance materials that support implementation of the Sendai Framework and of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, thus helping countries to achieve sustainable development as part of the United Nations family;

(f) Enhance outreach to related areas of policymaking, including chemical ("C") and explosives ("E") (as part of CBRN-E policies in some member countries) issues, civil and environmental protection, land-use planning, water resources management and accidental water pollution (e.g. the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction);

(g) Draw attention to the Convention as an instrument of diplomacy (increasing trust between countries and promoting economic exchange, trade and investment) and to its role in preventing and resolving conflicts (through peacebuilding and peacekeeping) and fostering transboundary cooperation between countries, especially at the regional and subregional levels;

(h) Enhance outreach to and awareness by industry, communities and the general public;

(i) Share knowledge and experience from beyond the ECE region.

II. Key messages for strategic communication, outreach and engagement

10. In order to achieve the Convention's objectives and strengthen its role in fostering effective industrial accident prevention, its key elements and strengths must be strategically and effectively conveyed to various target audiences.

11. The overarching general message concerning the Convention is:

The ECE Industrial Accidents Convention aims to protect human beings and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing them to the extent possible, reducing their frequency and severity and mitigating their effects. It provides a sound legal framework and an active intergovernmental platform for the Parties' efforts to prevent industrial accidents from occurring and to enhance preparedness with a specific focus on transboundary cooperation.

12. Outlined below are an agreed set of key messages that should be communicated to, and broadly disseminated by, the target audiences:

(a) Industrial accident prevention: The Convention aims to prevent such accidents, reduce their frequency and severity and mitigate their effects;

(b) Preparedness and response: The Convention promotes rational, economic and efficient use of industrial accident preparedness and response measures, within and across borders, preparation of joint or harmonized contingency plans and accident notifications, and mutual assistance among Parties as needed;

(c) Transboundary cooperation: The Convention focuses on active transboundary cooperation between Parties before, during and after an industrial accident. It requires countries to identify hazards and evaluate and reduce risks within and across national borders by sharing information on industrial risks and agreeing on ways to mitigate their potential effects;

(d) Informing potentially affected Parties: The Convention requires that potentially affected Parties (i.e. neighbouring and riparian countries) be informed of hazardous activities that might have transboundary effects ;²

(e) Accident notification: The Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) system allows Parties to notify each other promptly in the event of an accident or imminent threat and to request and render mutual assistance;

(f) Health and environmental protection: The Convention protects current and future generations and the environment from the effects of industrial accidents;

(g) Scope: The Convention covers prevention, preparedness and response in the context of:

(i) Industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects;

(ii) Industrial accidents caused by natural disasters; and

(iii) International cooperation concerning mutual assistance, research and development and exchange of information or technology;

(h) Key activities: The Convention, through its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat assists and collaborates with Parties and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to implement the Convention by providing training (including seminars and guidance documents) and encouraging international cooperation through the exchange of information and good practices;

(i) Checklists, safety guidelines, examples of good practice and online training: These have been developed under the Convention and are available to the public;

(j) The Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme: The Programme enhances the capacity of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to implement the Convention and requires them to prepare national self-assessments and action plans as part of the Programme's Strategic Approach);

(k) Assistance vs. enforcement: The Convention focuses primarily on helping countries to prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents rather than enforcing compliance with their obligations. Its Working Group on Implementation advises and supports Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiaries in their efforts to improve industrial safety;

² "Transboundary effects" means serious effects within the jurisdiction of a Party as a result of an industrial accident occurring within the jurisdiction of another Party, as defined in Article 1 of the Convention.

(l) The Convention as the first and only legally binding multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) on industrial accident prevention in a transboundary context: It provides a legal framework on transboundary cooperation and industrial safety and promotes industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response in a transboundary context. As such, it can inspire other regions to strengthen their countries' governance, legislation and transboundary cooperation;

(m) Public information and participation: Article 9 of the Convention provides that adequate information must be given to the public in the areas capable of being affected by an industrial accident arising out of a hazardous activity and that the public must be given an opportunity to participate in decision-making processes on industrial accident prevention and preparedness;

(n) The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: The Convention helps to prevent and reduce environmental pollution and to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development, thereby contributing to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of its Sustainable Development Goals;³

(o) The Sendai Framework: The Convention supports implementation of the Framework across its four priority areas, particularly in relation to technological hazard management, by encouraging countries to identify hazards, set up governance mechanisms for regional cooperation to address transboundary risks, promote investments in preventive measures and ensure the preparation and regular updates of disaster preparedness and contingency planning strategies;

(p) Complementarities and linkages to other legislation and frameworks:

(i) The Convention supports countries' efforts to achieve the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework;

(ii) It also has strong linkages to other disciplines and policy areas, such as technological DRR, land-use planning and environmental assessment;

(iii) It helps countries to meet their obligations under other MEAs, such as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA);

(iv) It promotes coordination with regional legislation and approaches (e.g. European Union legislation, such as the Seveso Directive, and the experiences exchanged through the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety);

(q) A centre of excellence: The Convention provides a platform for technology- and knowledge-sharing;

(r) An instrument of diplomacy: By fostering transboundary cooperation, the Convention increases trust between countries, and therefore economic exchange, trade and investment.

³ Of particular relevance are Goals 3 (Good health and well-being), 6 (Clean water and sanitation), 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action) and 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

III. Target audiences

13. In order to maximize the impact of work under the Convention and in light of the resource limitations of governments, the secretariat and other stakeholders, there is a need to set priorities among communication efforts and to recognize that some target audiences can also serve as channels for the dissemination of information to others. Each of the following section describes one of these audiences and the key messages that should be communicated to it.

A. Governments

14. Governments (Parties, non-Parties, including United Nations Member States beyond the ECE region, and particularly neighbouring countries, Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries; and donor countries) are the top-priority audience in terms of obligations and donations.

15. The authorities responsible for industrial safety and other related issues, such as environmental protection, environmental impact assessment, land-use planning and DRR, at the national, regional, city and local levels are key to successful implementation of the Convention.

16. When working with governments, it is important to highlight the Convention's relevance and usefulness to the country at the national and international levels.

1. Parties

17. This target audience includes national policymakers, regulators, practitioners and enforcers in the field of industrial safety, preparedness and response, and in related fields such as water resources management, environmental protection (specifically Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)) and land-use planning.

18. Communication with Parties should focus on:

(a) Enhancing implementation of the Convention's provisions and monitoring and reporting on its implementation;

(b) Encouraging countries to coordinate their policies and legislation with regional instruments (e.g. the Convention and the Seveso Directive);

(c) Fostering cooperation between experts in the field of industrial safety and those in related policy areas and formally coordinating their procedures;

(d) Enhancing institutional coordination and linkages between industrial safety policies and procedures and other relevant platforms (e.g. land-use planning, environmental protection (specifically EIA and SEA) and DRR);

(e) Raising awareness and coordinating with high-level decision-makers, such as federal government ministers and city mayors, on industrial safety procedures and other matters relevant to the Convention.

19. The Convention's focal points and competent authorities, in cooperation with other national counterparts, have an important role to play in facilitating the dissemination of information on the Convention at the national level, supporting its implementation and raising awareness of it with a view to accession or ratification. The Guidance on the role and

tasks for focal points to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,⁴ prepared under the auspices of the Convention's Working Group on Implementation, establishes their role in communication and awareness-raising.

20. As focal points and competent authorities often focus primarily on obligations related to implementation of the Convention and have limited resources for promotion and communication activities, the strategy and its key messages can help them to improve their outreach and advocacy. Furthermore, the 2017 brochure, "Cross-border concerns, shared strategies: Why transboundary cooperation matters in preventing industrial accidents",⁵ highlights the Convention's approach, successes, products and key achievements and the video⁶ on the Industrial Accidents Convention stresses the importance of continued investment in preventing accidents and mitigating their transboundary effects.

21. Focal points and competent authorities also contribute to the Convention's trust fund for implementation of the workplans agreed at the Conference of the Parties. Donors may contribute either regular resources for, among other things, core activities under the Convention or project-related resources to support the implementation of specific Assistance and Cooperation Programme activities. It is therefore important that they are involved in implementation of the Convention and preparation of its workplans and are aware of its achievements.

2. Non-Parties

22. Non-Parties are countries that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention. They include States in the ECE region that are not Parties to the Convention, some of which are Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries, and United Nations Member States beyond the ECE region.

23. This target audience is critical in expanding the Convention's relevance and impact.

Non-Parties in the ECE region

24. Communication with non-Parties in the ECE region should focus on:

- (a) Encouraging them to accede and ratify the Convention by focusing on its strengths and the benefits of its implementation;
- (b) Raising awareness of the advantages of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme for non-Parties in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (c) Addressing country- and subregion-specific needs identified in national action plans or at subregional workshops.

⁴ Available at: <https://www.unece.org/env/teia/contact.html>.

⁵ Available at <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/publications/official-publications/2017/cross-border-concerns-shared-strategies/docs.html>.

⁶ Available at <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/videos.html>.

United Nations Member States beyond the ECE region, and particularly neighbouring countries

25. These States, and particularly neighbouring countries where industrial accidents might have transboundary effects on ECE member States or vice versa, should be made aware of work under the Convention.

26. Communication with United Nations Member States beyond the ECE region should focus on:

(a) Highlighting the Convention as the only legal framework for industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response in a transboundary context and its ability to inspire other regions to strengthen national legislation and transboundary cooperation;

(b) Explaining that the Convention's tools, guidelines and good industry practices are available to all United Nations Member States;

(c) Emphasizing that accidents do not stop at borders and that transboundary cooperation is key to prevention and preparedness;

(d) Encouraging involvement in the Convention's expert and knowledge networks;

(e) Promoting the sharing of experiences and good practices under the Convention in order to achieve the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and to implement the Sendai Framework, particularly with regard to technological hazards.

3. Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries

27. The Assistance and Cooperation Programme, developed in order to build the capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to implement the Convention, currently has 15 beneficiary countries. It is important to maintain their interest and engagement in the Programme.

28. Communication with Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries should focus on:

(a) Enhancing industrial safety and implementation of the Convention in all beneficiary countries;

(b) Emphasizing the need for further progress in meeting commitments under the Programme by, for example:

(i) Assessing needs and identifying priority actions;

(ii) Drafting assistance project proposals;

(iii) Increasing ownership of assistance activities;

(iv) Ensuring sustainable outcomes;

(v) Identifying synergies between the Programme and the assistance programmes and initiatives of other regional and international organizations;

(c) Promoting linkages between the Convention and relevant European Union and other legislation in order to support implementation and ratification;

(d) Strengthening linkages with capacity-building efforts in related policy areas (e.g. DRR strategies and action plans and national platforms under the Sendai Framework).

4. Donors

29. Fundraising is essential to the continued development of the Convention, and engagement with and outreach to donors (both countries and foundations) is crucial in that regard. The primary responsibility for fundraising lies with the Parties who adopt the Convention's biannual workplans and budgets, as reaffirmed by the sustainable financial mechanism adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (Stockholm, 14–16 November 2012). Other stakeholders are also encouraged to provide funding and the Parties are encouraged to reach out to them. The Bureau has a special responsibility to meet and correspond with representatives of stakeholders, raise awareness of the Convention and its Assistance and Cooperation Programme and explore possibilities for financial or in-kind contributions and other forms of cooperation, e.g. the coordination of joint efforts to strengthen industrial safety. The secretariat supports these efforts by sending official correspondence, preparing project proposals, responding to questions from donors and engaging in related exchanges.

30. It is critical to strengthen the engagement of the Parties and other interested countries by identifying countries to be approached and developing a customized donor strategy (e.g. for implementation by the Bureau).

31. Donors must be confident that activities are managed properly and produce the desired outcomes. Ensuring that information is readily available increases the likelihood of funding for future work. In the interests of transparency, the secretariat prepares regular reports on implementation of the Convention's workplans and posts on its website the agenda and minutes of meetings and the text of presentations delivered.

32. Communication with donors should focus on:

(a) Promoting the added value that the Convention provides and its linkages with other policy areas of donor interest (e.g. land-use planning, environmental protection, chemicals management, DRR, public information and participation);

(b) Emphasizing strong linkages with donor priorities in initial approaches and project proposals;

(c) Highlighting the desired outcomes and expected success of Convention activities that will enhance the donor's reputation.

B. Industry, operators and business associations

33. Ongoing efforts to ensure that operators take all necessary measures to ensure the safe performance of hazardous activities and the prevention of industrial accidents require effective communication with industry and business associations.

34. Communication with industry, operators and business associations should focus on:

(a) Increasing the involvement of industry associations in helping countries to implement the Convention;

(b) Promoting the distribution, use and development of the Convention's safety guidance and good industry practices;

(c) Encouraging the involvement of industry and operators in training, exercises and capacity-building.

C. International organizations and forums

35. The representatives of the Convention's Parties, in particular its focal points, office holders, and the secretariat will endeavour to make the Convention a driver of strategic partnership development. Its priority strategic partners include:

- (a) The European Commission, including the Seveso expert group, the European Investment Bank and the Joint Research Centre's Major Accident Hazard Bureau;
- (b) The CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety;
- (c) OECD;
- (d) The United Nations Environment and the United Nations Environment /Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Unit;
- (e) The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (f) International river basin commissions (including the International Commission for the Protection of the Oder (ICPO), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR));
- (g) The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
- (h) Other ECE Conventions, committees and programmes, including the Water Convention, the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS);
- (i) The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other United Nations regional commissions.

36. In 2011, ECE co-founded the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents, which meets annually to discuss synergies among organizations, avoid overlapping and agree on common activities. The Convention's engagement in these inter-agency processes is an important means of sharing information on recent developments and providing input into global processes such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework (e.g. through the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction) and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

37. International forums may include any multilateral international organization or environmental decision-making process related to the environment and safety, such as the secretariats of treaties, United Nations institutions and other international organizations. These forums provide opportunities for governments, the secretariat and stakeholders to promote the work of the Convention at major international events.

38. Communication with international organizations and forums should focus on:

- (a) Highlighting the relevance of industrial safety to numerous policy areas and the need to incorporate safety considerations into strategies, action plans and national or regional platforms, particularly with regard to land-use planning, environmental protection (specifically EIA and SEA), DRR and sustainable development;
- (b) Promoting the Convention as a key instrument for achieving technological DRR with regard to industrial accident prevention and preparedness;

(c) Enhancing awareness of the Convention's contribution to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, which are addressed at seminars and meetings and in guidance documents and are integrated into the Convention's workplan and communication products.

D. The general public

39. Members of the public need to be aware that they have specific rights under the Convention, including the right to be informed and to participate in decision-making procedures relating to industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response.

40. When communicating with the public (at public forums and meetings, via social media or in other ways), it is important to keep the content relatively simple by using direct and everyday language, focusing on smaller parts of the bigger picture and making clear distinctions between the issues covered by the Convention.

41. Communication with the general public should focus on:

(a) Raising awareness that the Convention supports governments, industry and stakeholders in their efforts to protect human health and the environment;

(b) Emphasizing that it contains provisions on public information and participation and its role in ensuring adequate prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents;

(c) Promoting its efforts to encourage industry safety authorities to cooperate with regard to industry and public preparedness;

(d) Encouraging community involvement in the development of off-site contingency plans through cooperative dialogue with industry and other relevant authorities with a view to effective accident preparedness.

E. Non-governmental and civil society organizations

42. Non-governmental and civil society organizations play an important role in facilitating dialogue with local communities and citizens within and across borders. They also help governments to understand and meet their obligations and can shape attitudes and behaviour.

43. Communication with non-governmental and civil society organizations should focus on:

(a) Encouraging them to engage with citizens, governments and the private sector (within and across borders) in dialogue on industrial safety and related matters such as DRR, land-use planning and environmental assessment;

(b) Emphasizing that their active involvement is particularly important in ensuring the sustainability of projects and activities, sharing information and exchanging best practices;

(c) Increasing awareness of the Convention and other ECE multilateral environmental agreements.

F. Academia

44. The education provided by academic institutions is an essential tool for good governance, informed decision-making and the promotion of multilateral agreements such as the Convention. Academics and other educators are a powerful force in building knowledge and influencing attitudes and are therefore an important audience.

45. Communication with academia should focus on:

(a) Providing information and updates on the Convention's provisions and activities relating to research, development and the promotion of scientific and technological cooperation;

(b) Raising awareness of the Parties' needs and seeking support for efforts to address them;

(c) Encouraging academic institutions to incorporate the Convention into their curriculums, invite ECE experts to give guest lectures and offer special programmes on the Convention and industrial safety;

(d) Referring academics and other educators to a standard online presentation on the Convention and industrial safety, which could be mentioned in or incorporated into university documents and papers.

IV. Communication, outreach and engagement methodologies and channels

46. A wide range of methodologies and channels can be used for communication, engagement and outreach. However, in light of the budget and resource limitations of governments, the secretariat and other stakeholders, the present strategy focuses on a few of the available options for communicating on matters related to the Convention.

A. Important events

47. Attendance at important events by office-holders, focal points, other representatives of Parties and non-Parties and the secretariat is crucial in raising awareness of the Convention to different audiences (e.g. technical experts, other organizations and countries beyond the region) and building relationships with strategic partners.

48. It is also important to involve these partners, country (both Party and non-Party) representatives, academics, local and international organizations, and the general public in activities under the Convention. Other regional economic commissions, environmental NGOs, private experts, international river commissions, the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, Zoï Environment Network and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Programme can also help to raise awareness of its provisions.

49. The events and meetings of partner organizations with which the Convention should continue to engage include, among others:

(a) Meetings organized under the auspices of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents;

- (b) Meetings of the Seveso Expert Group and of the European Union Community of Users on Safe and Resilient Societies;
- (c) Meetings of the Environment and Emergencies Forum of the United Nations Environment/OCHA Joint Unit;
- (d) Annual meetings of the CIS Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety;
- (e) United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction global and regional platform and expert meetings;
- (f) Meetings and events organized by partner organizations and donors, e.g. the European Investment Bank;
- (g) Meetings of the relevant international river basin commissions;
- (h) The Loss Prevention Symposiums;
- (i) Other meetings involving academics and the research community.

50. Many of these meetings take place via webinars and other online discussion forums.

51. Side events can also be used to promote the Convention and its activities; however, ensuring their inclusion in the official meeting agendas often requires contacts within the host organization as there is usually strong competition for the available time slots. It may also be possible to set up stands and displays at major events.

B. Outreach through partners

52. Key opportunities for communication with countries outside the ECE region include:

- (a) Outreach and awareness-raising beyond the ECE region through partners such as ESCAP and other United Nations regional commissions, as well as United Nations and international offices, agencies and organizations (e.g. the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, OECD, United Nations Environment and United Nations Environment/OCHA Joint Unit);
- (b) Outreach through the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, jointly with the Water Convention, open for accession beyond the region and involving United Nations Member States broadly in its activities and events of other ECE MEAs open for accession to United Nations Member States outside the region;
- (c) Ongoing communication with other communities through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents;
- (d) Ongoing cooperation through the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

C. Written and electronic products (guidelines, brochures and similar materials)

53. Printed and electronic products such as publications, brochures and similar materials provide opportunities for disseminating information about work under the Convention, including ways to access and use its tools. The graphics and content should focus on the topic of the publication and, where possible, be updated in order to maintain their relevance.

54. The secretariat has issued a number of publications, brochures, postcards and other materials (printed and electronic) on the Convention and its key achievements in English, French and Russian. It is important to distribute and update them and to develop others as resources allow.

55. In particular, the following materials should be promoted:

(a) “*Cross-border concerns, shared strategies: Why transboundary cooperation matters in preventing industrial accidents*”. This brochure highlights the key provisions and achievements of the Convention and can be used for awareness-raising with focal points, stakeholders and Party and non-Party donors;

(b) “*Guidelines on safety and good industry practices*”.⁷ These provide guidance and awareness-raising for the technical community and can serve as a mechanism for outreach to industry, business associations and other organizations. These include, for example, Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects, and Safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities, pipelines and oil terminals;

(c) Postcards. Small (normally A5) postcards on the Convention’s linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals and DRR have been produced and additional ones on other topics, such as natural-hazard-triggered technological accidents (NATECHs), might be envisaged with a view to distribution at meetings and events;

(d) “*Benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention*”.⁸ These can be used by Assistance and Cooperation Programme beneficiary countries in preparing their national self-assessments, action plans and project proposals;

(e) Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents communication products. A brochure on the Group’s work on preventing accidental water pollution will be developed jointly with the secretariat of the Water Convention, and the lead countries. Other materials, including a postcard on the forthcoming safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water, are envisaged.

D. Innovative and interactive tools

56. A wide range of innovative and interactive tools for promoting the Convention are available and should be widely disseminated and updated in order to maintain their relevance:

(a) Videos on the Convention and industrial safety are available on the Convention’s webpage.⁹ The most recent video, entitled “The benefits of enhanced coordination and cooperation between land-use planning and industrial safety,” was launched at the Seminar on Land-Use Planning and Industrial Safety (Mechelen, Belgium, 16–17 May 2018) and should continue to be widely disseminated to other United Nations bodies, international organizations, countries and the general public;

⁷ Available at <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/envteiaaguidelines/listing-of-guidelines.html>.

⁸ Available at: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40233>.

⁹ Available at: <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/videos.html>.

(b) Cartoons¹⁰ are an effective way of conveying a process or situation to the audience in a visual, user-friendly manner in order to make it more widely accessible to all interested stakeholders. They are particularly useful in communicating with audiences that are relatively unaware of the Convention, such as non-Parties and the general public;

(c) Online training helps to promote the Convention and the integration of industrial safety into other platforms and disciplines. Further education and training tools on the Convention — such as online training on legal obligations under the Convention and guidance on land-use planning and industrial safety — might be developed, subject to the availability of resources;

(d) Newsletters are an effective mechanism for informing and updating focal points and contacts on events, activities and other news and should be developed, subject to the availability of resources. Follow-up e-mails with updates on activities should also be sent;

(e) The web platforms of partners (e.g. the Environmental Emergencies Centre of the United Nations Environment/OCHA Joint Unit¹¹ and the European Commission's Community of Users on Secure, Safe and Resilient Societies¹²) could be used to promote the Convention's safety guidance and other materials and events;

(f) Social media plays an increasingly important role in communicating information on the Convention, especially to young people. Simplified messages and slogans can be disseminated to a broader public through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The secretariat and the Convention's focal points should continue to post strategically on key dates, such as World Environment Day;

(g) Consideration should be given to attending or recording messages promoting the Convention at events (e.g. TEDx talks).

V. Implementation of the strategy

57. The key messages, target audiences and communication, outreach and engagement methodologies and channels described above in sections 2, 3 and 4, respectively, should be considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the following activities:

(a) Awareness-raising and exchange of information: Attending high-level meetings, and relevant conferences and seminars will provide opportunities for awareness-raising on the Convention and for the identification of links and synergies with a view to cooperation with partners. Involving senior decision makers in national governments will keep the Convention high on countries' policy agendas and ensure support for activities while outreach to related policy areas (e.g. DRR) will avoid duplication and ensure the efficiency of activities and projects;

(b) Capacity-building and the Assistance and Cooperation Programme: Capacity-building provided through the Assistance and Cooperation Programme will emphasize the added value of the Convention for beneficiary countries and highlight linkages with related policy areas and national efforts to reduce disaster risks under the Sendai Framework. Involving relevant organizations and other stakeholders active in their respective regions will expand outreach to additional beneficiaries and attract new resources;

¹⁰ Available at: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36970>.

¹¹ Available at: <https://www.eecentre.org>.

¹² Available at: <https://www.securityresearch-cou.eu/node/1>.

(c) Transboundary exercises: Transboundary exercises facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation and allow countries and hazardous facility operators to communicate with each other, thus enabling efficient mutual assistance and coordinated action in the event of an emergency;

(d) Past accidents and lessons learned: Past accidents and lessons learned will inspire communication about the Convention's importance, particularly to audiences less familiar with it and to the general public, and will guide decisions on the involvement of countries and partner organizations in its activities;

(e) Communication with strategic partners: Strategic partnerships will be maintained and new ones sought in order to reach the Convention's long-term strategic goals and extend its outreach. Partners will be updated regularly on ongoing and planned activities in order to expand the scope of potential cooperation and avoid duplication;

(f) Targeted dialogue with potential donors: The Convention's focal points, in particular the members of its Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, will engage in targeted dialogue with potential donors, bearing in mind their priorities in terms of subject and geographical regions and highlighting the role of the Convention in supporting countries' efforts to implement the Sendai Framework and achieve the relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

(g) Cooperation with business associations and industry: The Convention will cooperate increasingly with business associations and industry by inviting their representations to attend events, contribute to the development of safety guidelines and good practices and engage in information-sharing;

(h) Promotion of flagship projects: The Convention's focal points, office holders and the secretariat will promote flagship projects, such as the Project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta (Danube Delta Project) and the Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, by publicizing their achievements and working with partners to plan future activities;

(i) Awareness-raising, promotion of the Convention's products and enhancement of its visibility. Subject to the availability of resources, the Convention will continue to promote its existing products and develop new ones, including:

- (i) Brochures;
- (ii) Flyers;
- (iii) Infographics;
- (iv) Videos;
- (v) Webinars;
- (vi) Newsletters;
- (vii) Celebration of international days;
- (viii) Commemoration of the anniversaries of accidents;
- (ix) Press releases and articles;
- (x) Social media posts.

Template for the notification of hazardous activities in accordance with article 4 of and annex III to the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Sender:

Receiver:

Date:

- 1. Please use the following form to provide notification of hazardous activities (proposed or existing)**

NOTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES

No.	Hazardous activity ¹	Full name and address of the operator of the hazardous activity (proposed or existing)	Location (address) of the hazardous activity and distance from the border of the potentially affected country (air or water path, as appropriate) ²	Name of the hazardous substances / categories of substances or mixtures in quantities at or in excess of the threshold quantities listed in Annex I to the Convention	Possible transboundary effect ³ in the event of an industrial accident, pursuant to annex III, paragraph 3 (a), to the Convention	
1		1.1	1.1.1	A)		
				B)		
				...		
				1.1.2	A)	
					...	
					...	
	1.2	1.2.1	A)			
				
				
2		2.1	2.1.1	A)		
				B)		
		2.2	2.2.1	A)		
				...		
...				
...			

2. Please reply to the sender within [1/2/3] months of receipt of this notification, acknowledging its receipt and indicating whether you intend to enter into consultation pursuant to paragraph 4 of annex III to the Convention.

¹ Article 1 of the Convention defines “hazardous activity” as “any activity in which one or more hazardous substances are present or may be present in quantities at or in excess of the threshold quantities listed in Annex I hereto, and which is capable of causing transboundary effects” and “operator” as “any natural or legal person, including public authorities, in charge of an activity, e.g. supervising, planning to carry out or carrying out an activity”.

² Location criteria for identification of possible transboundary effects of industrial accidents are provided in the Guidelines for Location Criteria, adopted through decision 2000/3 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2, annex IV) as amended by decision 2004/2 (ECE/CP.TEIA/12, annex II). The criteria should be applied without prejudice to article 5 of the Convention on voluntary extension, which stipulates that “[...] Where the Parties concerned so agree, this Convention, or any part thereof, shall apply to the activity in question as if it were a hazardous activity”.

³ Article 1 of the Convention defines “effects” as “any direct or indirect, immediate or delayed adverse consequences caused by an industrial accident on, inter alia:

(i) Human beings, flora and fauna;

(ii) Soil, water, air and landscape;

(iii) The interaction between the factors in (i) and (ii);

(iv) Material assets and cultural heritage, including historical monuments”

and “transboundary effects” as “serious effects within the jurisdiction of a Party as a result of an industrial accident occurring within the jurisdiction of another Party”.

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

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 per the 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 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

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.

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 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. 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 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.

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: dissemination of outcome, good practices, and information sharing on Convention's role with respect to Natech	5 000	2	0.5
			2	
			1	0.5
	Meetings with partner organizations to coordinate joint activities, including inter-agency coordination meetings	10 000 5 000		0.5
	Donor meetings and bilateral visits			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	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 (financed); seminar for exchanging experiences, and involving role-playing with a focus on public information and participation and/or development of guidance (not yet financed) <i>Lead/supporting countries/organizations:</i> European Union/European Investment Bank, in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, and in consultation and possible cooperation with 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 ^b	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 countries:</i> to be determined	20 000	1	1
– Contingency planning	Seminar to support implementation of the checklist on contingency planning <i>Lead country:</i> Hungary, in cooperation with ICPDR and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	30 000	1	0.25
Subtotal		170 000	9	5.75
<i>Servicing intergovernmental bodies and expert groups^c</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		411 000	45	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^d</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 Ukraine and other countries, to be determined (estimate based on 2 national activities) <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> 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 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 country:</i> Switzerland, in cooperation with the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	45 000	4	2
	Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Tajikistan, and Central Asia <i>Lead country:</i> Switzerland (with financing of CHF 100,000), in cooperation with the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	65 000	5	2.5

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
	<p>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)</p> <p><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^e</p>	90 000	6	1
	<p>Subregional workshops on land-use planning and industrial safety in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and, the Caucasus</p> <p><i>Lead/supporting countries/organization:</i> France, in cooperation with Belgium (government of Flanders) through an in-kind contribution, and with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, in consultation and possible cooperation with the Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA</p>	200 000	3	1
<i>Other assistance activities</i>	<p>Project on Improving the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities in the Caucasian Region – Training and Legislative Options (ongoing)</p> <p><i>Lead/supporting organization/countries:</i> Armenia and Georgia, in cooperation with the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, financed by Germany</p>	130 000	1	0.25
	<p>Project on the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities along the Danube – Training and Legislative Options</p> <p><i>Lead/supporting organization/country:</i> Serbia and Romania, in cooperation with ICPDR and the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, financed by Germany</p>	100 000	1	0.25
	<p>Project on the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan^f</p> <p><i>Lead/supporting organization/country:</i> Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (to be confirmed), financed by Germany</p>	200 000	2	0.5
<i>Awareness-raising in and outreach to other regions</i>	<p>Promoting and raising awareness of the Convention, including beyond the ECE region (production of information materials and establishment of a network of contacts)</p> <p><i>Supporting bodies/organizations:</i> ECE and possibly other regional commissions, UNEP and lead countries</p>	10 000	0.5	0.25
<i>IAN system</i>	<p>Electronic consultation for points of contact on the ECE Industrial Accident Notification System and update of the IAN system^g</p> <p><i>Lead countries/organization:</i> to be determined</p>	10 000	1	0.25

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 II		1 150 000	39.5	13.25
Total activities (section I + II)		1 561 000	84.5	33.75

Abbreviations: G = General Service staff; ICPDR = International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River; 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 €35,000 have been pledged by the European Union/European Investment Bank for the development of a repository of good practice on land-use planning and industrial safety.

^c 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.

^d 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.

^e Additional financing is required in order to follow-up on the demand by countries to implement the National Policy Dialogue (NPDs) on Industrial Safety, launch the process and carry out the respective projects in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

^f This project is envisaging to build on the results of the *Project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular TMFs, in Kazakhstan, and beyond in Central Asia*, and previous and other ongoing activities on tailings safety under the Convention.

^g USD 10,000 are related to the resources necessary for the update of the IAN system.

Table 2

Total resources for 2019–2020

(in United States dollars)

Items/activities	Core	Non-core	Total
Activities	411 000	1 150 000	1 561 000
Staff:			
RB, Professional (core: 21 work-months)	^a	—	—
RB, General Service (core: 10.5 work-months)	^a	—	—
XB, Professional (core: 24 work-months)	401 832	—	401 832
XB, General Service (core: 10 work-months)	127 500	—	127 500
XB, Professional (non-core: 39.5 work-months)	—	661 349	661 349
XB, General Service (non-core: 13.25 work-months)	—	168 938	168 938
Total	940 332	1 980 286	2 920 618

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>Facilitation of implementation</i>	Transboundary response exercises overseen by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents <i>Lead/supporting countries:</i> to be determined	100 000
<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, 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>Area</i>	<i>Activities, lead/supporting countries</i>	<i>XB financial resources (cash and in kind, in United States dollars)^a</i>
<i>Facilitation of implementation</i>	Exchange of information and experience on public information, participation and access to justice to support the implementation of article 9 of the Convention <i>Lead/supporting countries: to be determined</i>	45 000
Total		2 540 000

^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.