
Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Implementation

Thirty-Fourth meeting

Stockholm, 26-27 September 2017

Annotated provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth meeting

To be held in Stockholm, at Clarion Hotel Amaranten, Kungsholmsgatan 31 on 26 September, starting at 9.30 a.m. and at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Fleminggatan 14 on 27 September, ending at 4 p.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Implementation of the Convention, including reporting.
3. Engaging with countries on implementation issues.
4. Collection of good practices and exchange of information.
5. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme.
6. Meeting schedule for 2018.
7. Other business.
8. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair will open the meeting and invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Implementation of the Convention, including reporting

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| According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall: |
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- (a) Monitor the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Prepare the report on the implementation of the Convention, including conclusions, on the basis of the individual country reports, in line with article 23 of the Convention;
- (c) Make draft recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the basis of the above report and submit these, through the Bureau, to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;

The Working Group at its thirty-third meeting requested the secretariat to present a proposal on the establishment of an online reporting mechanism with a range of possible off-the-shelf, freely-available solutions. The secretariat will introduce the document “Ideas for improving the reporting on the implementation of the Convention with freely-available solutions”, shared with the Working Group in advance of the meeting. The Working Group may wish to express its position in view of the proposed options.

In the light of the change from a two-year to a four-year reporting cycle and to be better prepared for the national implementation reports for the ninth reporting period (2016-2018) to be submitted by countries by 31 October 2019, the Working Group might wish to take decisions in respect of updating the format and guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the Convention at this meeting.

In addition, the Working Group at its thirty-third meeting agreed to analyse the implementation reports submitted after the deadline. The members of the Working will be invited to share their findings from analysing these reports.

Documentation:

- Ideas for improving the reporting on the implementation of the Convention with freely-available solutions

3. Engaging with countries on implementation issues

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

- (d) Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries where the Working Group becomes aware of possible difficulties in the implementation of the Convention, to understand the situation in these countries more accurately and to provide advice and make recommendations on the implementation of the Convention, share good practices and draw attention to existing guidance and tools.

According to paragraph 5, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries will respond to requests by the Working Group further to item 4 (d) on a voluntary basis.

The Working Group may wish to discuss the establishing of a modus operandi for the engagement with countries defining criteria/triggers for selecting countries to be approached, procedures for engaging and following-up with countries. Members of the Working Group will be invited to make proposals for such engagement and in respect of priority countries to be approached. The Working Group may wish to discuss the background document prepared by the secretariat “Elements for inclusion into the modus operandi for the Working Group engagement with Assistance Programme beneficiary countries, committed countries and other reporting countries” and consider some of the approaches presented therein.

In line with its decision to hold regular video-/teleconferences with focal points, the Working Group will be invited to discuss and decide, which county(-ies) to invite for a video-/teleconference at its next meeting, taking into consideration also the information under agenda item 5.

Documentation:

- Elements for inclusion into the modus operandi for the Working Group engagement with Assistance Programme beneficiary countries, committed countries and other reporting countries

4. Collection of good practices and exchange of information

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

- (e) Engage with Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries, based on the review of the national implementation reports, to gather information about innovations, good practices, national guidelines and other materials of interest;
- (f) Identify good practices and facilitate the exchange of information among Parties and other countries.

According to paragraph 5, Parties, committed countries and other reporting countries will respond to requests by the Working Group further to item 4 (e) on a voluntary basis.

The secretariat will inform of its message to all focal points informing them that the good practices collected through the 8th implementation report were made available online and inviting them to share further good practices, innovations, national guidelines and other materials of interest, including their web links, in English or by providing a short summary in English. The Working Group may wish to discuss how to further identify information from Parties and committed countries on their good practices and how to facilitate the exchange of information between them on these.

In line with the decision to form a small group preparing the risk assessment seminar for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to draft a concept paper for it, a member of the small group from the Working Group (Mr. Gonzalez) will be invited to provide an update on any progress made in this respect since the last meeting.

5. Monitoring of the Assistance Programme and other assistance activities

According to paragraph 4 of the updated terms of reference of the Working Group on Implementation, the Working Group shall:

- (g) Monitor the Convention's Assistance Programme, including the application of the Strategic Approach, and review national self-assessments and action plans;
- (h) Review the substance and eligibility of project proposals submitted within the framework of the Assistance Programme and its Strategic Approach;
- (i) Monitor the progress of assistance activities within the programme of work under the Convention and, if no progress is made in the implementation of the Convention, request the countries benefitting from such activities to provide an explanation;

(a) Effectiveness of the Assistance Programme

The secretariat will report on any feedback received in response to the letters sent to Assistance Programme beneficiary countries regarding the effectiveness of the Programme. The Working Group may wish to discuss the feedback and consider the further development of the Programme with regard to its design and appeal for both beneficiary countries and donors, including the possibility to organize a high-level meeting in the framework of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(b) Subregional division of work for monitoring the Assistance Programme

At its meeting in February 2017, the Working Group exchanged some ideas for its organization of work in the next four-year term and agreed on the subregional division of responsibilities among its members. The representative(s) of each subregional group will be invited to provide an update on any progress made since the last meeting, point out possible difficulties of countries in their subregion and make recommendations how to engage with those countries. In particular, the members will be invited to provide feedback on the following:

- (a) Action Plan by Albania, submitted in April 2016
- (b) Self-assessment by Azerbaijan, submitted in June 2016
- (c) Self-assessment and action plan by Kyrgyzstan, submitted in August 2017
- (d) Self-assessment and action plan by Kazakhstan, expected in September 2017

The Working Group will review the progress made in the subregions assigned to its members for their monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and decide on further steps to be taken.

(c) Assistance Activities implemented since the last meeting of the Group

The secretariat will provide an update on implemented assistance activities in the period February – August 2017, in particular on two subregional workshops and two national expert group meetings under the Central Asia Project.

Documentation:

- Key conclusions from 2017 subregional workshops on industrial accident prevention: chemicals management, identification and notification of industrial hazardous activities
- Assistance Programme tracking table

(d) Other assistance activities

The secretariat will provide an update on planned assistance activities in 2017-2018. It will also inform participants whether any reply from Armenia has been received to the feedback on its self-assessment provided by the Working Group.

6. Meeting schedule for 2018

The Working Group may wish to discuss and agree on its meeting schedule for 2018.

7. Other business

Members of the Working Group wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

8. Closing of the meeting

The Chair will close the meeting at about 4 p.m. on 27 September 2017.