

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

### **Working Group on Implementation**

#### **Twenty-eighth meeting**

Geneva, 30 June and 1 July 2015

### **Annotated provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth meeting**

**To be held in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations,\* starting at 10 a.m. on  
30 June 2015 and ending at 4 pm on 1 July 2015**

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Assistance Programme management.
  - (a) Assistance activities;
  - (b) Strategic Approach;
  - (c) Assessment of the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme.
3. Implementation of the Convention:
  - (a) Preparations for the initiation of the eighth reporting round;
  - (b) Additional actions concerning the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.
4. Role of the Working Group on Implementation in the development of the Convention:
5. Schedule of meetings.
6. Other business.
7. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

#### **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

1. This provisional agenda was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the

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\* The meeting will be held in room S1 on 30 June and in room C-529 on 1 July.

Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in agreement with the Chair and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Implementation.

## **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 30 June, 10–10.15 a.m.

2. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will open the meeting and invite the Working Group to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.
3. The secretariat will provide information concerning the nomination of a representative from the Russian Federation as tenth member of the Working Group, recalling that at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Russian Federation indicated that it would propose a member for the Group.

## **2. Assistance Programme management**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 30 June, 10.15 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2.30–3.30 p.m.

### **(a) Assistance activities**

*Tentative timing:* 10.15 a.m.–11.15 a.m.

4. The secretariat will brief the Working Group on activities carried out under the Assistance Programme since its previous meeting (Geneva, 29–30 January 2015). In this regard, it will highlight updated information contained in the Assistance Programme tracking table. The secretariat will also share information on future planned activities and their financing. The Working Group will be invited to share its views on the activities carried out and those envisaged for the future.

### **(b) Strategic Approach**

*Tentative timing:* 11.15 a.m.–1.00 p.m.

5. The Chair, with the support of the secretariat, will report on the updated self-assessments and actions plans received. At the time of writing, no project proposals had been received. The Working Group will be invited to decide on the timing and modality of assessing the documents submitted by countries beneficiaries of the Assistance Programme.
6. Representatives of Georgia and Montenegro will be invited to report, through remote connection, on national progress achieved since the assistance missions carried out in their countries and the next steps foreseen in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The Working Group will be invited to engage with the country representatives in its review of progress in the implementation of the recommendations arising from the assistance missions.
7. The secretariat will report on its actions to encourage beneficiary countries to implement the Strategic Approach, including official letters sent, as decided at the previous meeting of the Working Group.
8. In view of the above, the Working Group is expected to continue its discussion on the application of the Strategic Approach and its tools by beneficiary countries and to provide substantive guidance on its further implementation.

(c) **Assessment of the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme**

*Tentative timing:* 2.30 p.m.–3.30 p.m.

9. The Chair will recall that the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting requested the Working Group on Implementation, with the support of the Bureau and the secretariat, to carry out an analytical review of whether the information available was sufficient to document and assess the Programme's effectiveness. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Working Group to assess whether there was a need for an independent external evaluation of the Programme and to report its findings to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. The Chair will recall previous discussions on this matter by the Working Group. The secretariat will present the template for a matrix it has developed containing relevant information sources on the Convention and the Assistance Programme and possible progress indicators following the request by the Working Group. The secretariat will also present comments received from Working Group members on the matrix. The Working Group will be invited to discuss next steps towards the possible adjustment, completion and use of the matrix and the different roles of Working Group members in this regard.

11. As previously agreed, the members of the Working Group are expected to use the matrix as a basis to discuss whether the existing documentation would be sufficient in order to assess the effectiveness of the Assistance Programme.

**3. Implementation of the Convention**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 30 June, 3.30–6.00 p.m.

12. The secretariat will report on the circulation of the information note on the role and tasks of a country's focal point.

(a) **Preparations for the initiation of the eighth reporting round**

*Tentative timing:* 3.30–4.30 p.m.

13. The Chair will recall the decisions taken at the previous meeting of the Working Group concerning the modification of the reporting format and the guidelines for reporting, as mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014).

14. The secretariat will present proposed changes to and comments on both documents received from members of the Working Group. The Working Group is expected to share its views on the reporting format and guidelines and to agree on the final version of both documents, to be sent to Parties and reporting countries in September 2015.

15. Furthermore, the secretariat will highlight the main elements to be included in the official letter initiating the eighth reporting round. The Working will be invited to comment and agree on the key elements to be included in the letter.

16. In view of the large amount of tasks assigned to the Working Group and on the number of new members, the Group might decide to start discussing on how to organise their work when assessing national implementation reports.

(b) **Additional actions concerning the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention**

*Tentative timing:* 4.30–6.00 p.m.

17. The secretariat will present a draft table indicating respective actions for each of the areas for follow-up identified in the Seventh report on implementation (2012–2013) (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/4), prepared upon request by the Working Group.

18. The members of the Working Group will be invited to provide feedback and comments on:

- (a) Its structure;
- (b) The envisaged implementation of the areas previously identified.

19. The secretariat will provide additional information on the risk-assessment software being prepared by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, as requested at the previous meeting.

20. The Chair will recall previous discussions concerning the collection of good practices and the possibility of developing, in the medium-long term guidance, for the implementation of the Convention that could include good practice examples. She will also recall the decision that members of the Working Group were to provide to the secretariat electronic links to and presentations on good practices. She will encourage Working Group members to follow-up on this request.

21. With reference to the above, the Working Group is expected to continue its discussions and to provide comments and information on, among others:

- (a) The identification of good practices by members of the Working Group to be merged with the good practices collected through the assessment of the national reports on implementation;
- (b) The identification of good practices in presentations from previous activities organized under the Convention.

#### **4. Role of the Working Group on Implementation in the development of the Convention**

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 1 July, 9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. and 2–3 p.m.

22. The Chair will recall the decisions by the Conference of the Parties concerning the involvement of the Working Group on Implementation in the development of the Convention. On this basis, the Working Group will be invited to discuss the following:

(a) The preparation of guidance by the Conference of the Parties by means of a draft decision on reporting obligations with regard to periodicity, public accessibility and other issues, for submission to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: The Chair will recall previous discussions by the Working Group and the secretariat will present the outcomes of an electronic consultation. Working Group members are expected to identify in greater detail the elements to be included in the draft decision. They are also invited to agree on the next steps towards its finalization, on the basis of additional information provided by the secretariat following the Working Group's previous meeting;

(b) Compliance: The Conference of the Parties decided that the Working Group on Development, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation, should consider whether to introduce a compliance mechanism and, in the affirmative, prepare a draft decision. As a contribution to this discussion, the Chair will report on the meeting of the Informal Network of the Chairs of the Compliance and Implementation Bodies under the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (Geneva, 29 June 2015) and, in particular, the views exchanged on this matter. The members of the Working Group on Implementation are expected to exchange further views regarding the possible introduction

of a compliance mechanism and to decide what recommendations to give to the Working Group on Development at its sixth meeting (Geneva, 30 November–2 December 2015);

(c) Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Implementation: the Chair will recall that the Conference of the Parties mandated the Bureau to prepare revised terms of reference for the Convention's subsidiary bodies, in cooperation with the bodies concerned. The Working Group on Implementation, in view of its involvement in the discussions on compliance (including on increasing the number of members from 10 to 12), is invited to review its updated terms of reference (on the basis of the version circulated by the secretariat on 10 April 2015; and to share its comments on the draft with the Bureau;

(d) Notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries and notification of accidents with possible transboundary Effects: the Chair will recall that, in view of hesitation expressed by some delegations during the meeting of the Working Group on Development as to whether an amendment to the definitions would be the way forward to prevent misunderstanding, the Working Group on Development requested the Working Group on Implementation to assess the confusion between "notification of hazardous activities" and "notification of an industrial accident" by several countries and to inform subsequently the secretariat and the Working Group on Development of its conclusions.

## **5. Schedule of meetings**

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 1 July, 3–3.15 p.m.

23. The Working Group is expected to decide on the dates and venues of its next meetings.

## **6. Other business**

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 1 July, 3.15–3.30 p.m.

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

## **7. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 1 July, 3.30–4 p.m.

25. The meeting is expected to agree on the main decisions taken.

26. The Chair is expected to close the meeting at about 4 p.m. on 1 July 2015.

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