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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY  
EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

First meeting, 22-24 November 2000  
(Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda)

**OVERVIEW OF THE TASKS UNDER THE CONVENTION  
Note by the secretariat**

Introduction

1. The present document is an overview of the tasks under the UN/ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents at the national, bilateral and intergovernmental levels. It also provides information on the related tasks for the UN/ECE secretariat – column 5.
2. The document was prepared in tabular format for easy reference. The tasks are listed according to subject areas – column 1. Reference to specific provisions of the Convention were included for all the tasks that are compulsory under the Convention. Other tasks that are not compulsory but that had been proposed by the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention are included in square brackets.
3. The tasks at the intergovernmental level – column 4 – requiring international efforts to be implemented constitute the long-term programme of work under the Convention (CP.TEIA/2000/9, Part One).

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**TASKS UNDER THE UNECE CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

	<b>NATIONAL TASKS</b>	<b>BILATERAL TASKS</b>	<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS a/ (Long-term programme of work b/)</b>	<b>RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT c/</b>
<b>Competent authority/ies</b>	<p><b>Designate or establish</b> one or more competent authority/ies for the purposes of the Convention (art. 17, para. 1)</p> <p><b>Provide information</b> on above authority/ies to other Parties through the secretariat within three months of the Convention's entry into force (art. 17, para. 3)</p> <p><b>Provide information</b> about changes concerning the above authority/ies to other Parties through the secretariat within one month of the date of such decision (art. 17, para. 4)</p>			<p>Communicate information to all Parties</p> <p>Maintain a list of competent authorities on the Convention's Internet home page</p>
<b>Identification of hazardous activities</b>	<p><b>Identify hazardous activities</b> within its own jurisdiction, in accordance with the categories of substances listed in annex I, and according to guidelines and criteria (see intergovernmental tasks – column 4) (art. 4, para. 1)</p>	<p><b>Notify</b> any potentially affected Party <b>of any existing</b> (no later than two years after the Convention's entry into force) <b>or proposed</b> (as early as possible but not later than when informing own public) <b>hazardous activity</b> (art. 4, para. 1, annex III, para. 2)</p> <p><b>Bilaterally discuss the identification of hazardous activities</b> (art. 4, para. 2; and procedures – annex III, inquiry commission – annex II)</p>	<p><b>Draw up guidelines and criteria</b> for the identification of hazardous activities and <b>adopt</b> them (art. 18, para. 6)</p> <p><b>Maintain a list of hazardous activities</b> (annex XII, para. 1 (e))</p>	<p>Support the drawing up of guidelines and criteria</p> <p>Support the maintenance of a list of hazardous activities</p>
			<p><b>Develop and maintain a map of hazardous activities</b> within the UNECE region]</p>	

	<b>NATIONAL TASKS</b>	<b>BILATERAL TASKS</b>	<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS a/ (Long-term programme of work b/)</b>	<b>RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT c/</b>
<b>Prevention</b>	<p><b>Take appropriate measures</b> for the prevention of industrial accidents (art. 6, para. 1, and annex IV)</p> <p><b>Require operators</b> to demonstrate the safe performance of the hazardous activities (art. 6, para. 2, and annex V)</p>		<p><b>Exchange experience and assist</b> in introducing preventive measures (annex XII, para. 3 (a))</p>	<p>Plan and service workshops and seminars</p>
<b>Points of contact for industrial accident notification</b>	<p><b>Designate or establish one point of contact</b> (art. 17, para. 2)</p> <p><b>Provide information</b> on above point of contact to other Parties through the secretariat within three months after the Convention's entry into force (art. 17, para. 3)</p> <p><b>Provide information</b> about changes concerning above point of contact to other Parties through the secretariat within one month of the date of such decision (art. 17, para. 4)</p> <p>Keep point of contact <b>operational at all times</b> (art. 17, para. 5)</p>		<p><b>Facilitate the exchange of experience and assist</b> in establishing and operating a point of contact (arts. 15, 16 and annex XI)</p> <p>Regularly <b>train the points of contact</b> (annex IX, para. 4)</p>	<p>Communicate information to all Parties</p> <p>Maintain a list of points of contact on the Convention's Internet home page</p> <p>Plan and service meetings and training sessions for the points of contact</p>

	NATIONAL TASKS	BILATERAL TASKS	INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS <i>a/</i> (Long-term programme of work <i>b/</i> )	RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT <i>c/</i>
<b>Industrial accident notification systems</b>	<p><b>Establish and operate</b> compatible and efficient <b>industrial accident notification systems</b> at appropriate (national, regional and local) levels (art. 10, para. 1)</p> <p>Immediately <b>notify</b> the affected Parties, at appropriate levels through the above industrial accident notification systems, in the event of an accident which causes or is capable of causing transboundary effects, or an imminent threat thereof (art. 10, para. 2, and annex IX - elements of notification)</p> <p><b>Notify</b> the affected Parties, at national level through the points of contact for the purpose of industrial accident notification, pursuant to article 10 (art. 17, para. 2, and art. 10, para. 2)</p> <p><b>Regularly test and review</b> the industrial accident notification systems, including the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System (annex IX, para. 4)</p> <p>Keep the industrial accident notification systems <b>operational</b> at all times (art. 17, para. 5)</p>		<p>[Harmonize and cooperate with other notification and alarm systems]</p> <p>[Develop a manual for the points of contact]</p>	<p>[Support harmonization process]</p> <p>[Support development of manual]</p>

	<b>NATIONAL TASKS</b>	<b>BILATERAL TASKS</b>	<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS a/ (Long-term programme of work b/)</b>	<b>RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT c/</b>
<b>Points of contact for mutual assistance</b>	<b>Designate or establish one point of contact</b> (art. 17, para. 2)			Communicate information to all Parties
	<b>Provide information</b> on above point of contact to other Parties through the secretariat within three months of the Convention's entry into force (art. 17, para. 3)			Maintain a list of points of contact on the Convention's Internet home page
<b>Provision of mutual assistance</b>	<b>Provide information</b> about changes concerning the above point of contact to other Parties through the secretariat within one month of the date of such decision (art. 17, para. 4)			
	<b>Keep point of contact operational at all times</b> (art. 17, para. 6)			
<b>Provision of mutual assistance</b>		<b>Promptly decide and inform</b> requesting Party whether assistance could be rendered and its scope (art. 12, para. 1)	<b>Facilitate the provision of technical assistance and advice</b> to Parties faced with an industrial accident (art. 18, para. 2 (b), and annex XII, para. 4)	
		<b>Cooperate</b> with Parties concerned to facilitate provision of assistance (art. 12, para. 2, and annex X)		
			<b>[Coordinate</b> with other international organizations on mutual assistance procedures]	<b>[Support coordination process]</b>

	<b>NATIONAL TASKS</b>	<b>BILATERAL TASKS</b>	<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS a/ (Long-term programme of work b/)</b>	<b>RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT c/</b>
<b>Emergency preparedness and response</b>	<p><b>Establish and maintain adequate measures</b> to respond to industrial accidents and mitigate their transboundary effects (art. 8, para. 1, and annex VII), including:</p> <p>(a) <b>Preparation, implementation and review of on-site contingency plans</b> (art. 8, paras. 2 and 4)</p> <p>(b) <b>Preparation, implementation and review of off-site contingency plans</b> (art. 8, paras. 3 and 4)</p> <p><b>Activate adequate response measures</b> and contingency plans in the event of an accident or imminent threat thereof (art. 10, para. 3, and art. 11, para. 1)</p>	<p><b>Provide information</b> on on-site contingency plans to Parties concerned (art. 8, para. 2)</p> <p><b>Exchange information and make off-site contingency plans compatible.</b> Where appropriate <b>draw up joint plans</b> (art. 8, paras. 1 and 3)</p>		
<b>Responsibility and liability</b>	<p><b>Support</b> appropriate international efforts to draw up rules, criteria and procedures on <b>responsibility and liability</b> (art. 13)</p>		<p><b>Exchange experience and assist</b> in establishing and implementing preparedness and response measures in the event of an industrial accident]</p> <p><b>Negotiate</b> a protocol or amendments to the Convention]</p>	<p>[Plan and service workshops and seminars]</p> <p>[Support negotiations of possible protocol or amendments to the Convention]</p>

	NATIONAL TASKS	BILATERAL TASKS	INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS <u>a/</u> (Long-term programme of work <u>b/</u> )	RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT <u>c/</u>
<b>Scientific and technological cooperation</b>	<b>Research and development</b> <b>Initiate and cooperate</b> in research and development of technologies for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents. Promote scientific and technological cooperation (art. 14 and annex XII, para. 2 (b))  <b>Exchange of technology</b> Facilitate the exchange of the above technology (art. 16)  <b>Promote</b> education and training (annex XII, para. 2 (b))		<b>Consider</b> procedures to create more favourable conditions for the exchange of the above technology (art. 18, para. 5)  <b>Establish a register of experts</b> to provide consultative and other kinds of assistance regarding preventive, preparedness and response measures, including restoration measures (annex XII, para. 1 (d))  At the request of a Party, <b>inspect</b> hazardous activities and provide assistance (annex XII, para. 3 (b))	Plan and service workshops, seminars and training sessions   Maintain a register of experts
<b>Exchange of information</b>		<b>Exchange reasonably obtainable information</b> on legislative and administrative measures, policies, objectives and priorities for prevention, preparedness and response to industrial accidents (art. 15 and annex XI)		



	NATIONAL TASKS	BILATERAL TASKS	INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS <u>a/</u> (Long-term programme of work <u>b/</u> )	RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT <u>c/</u>
Information to and participation of the public	<p><b>Provide adequate information</b> to the public in areas (in the country of origin and neighbouring countries) potentially affected by an industrial accident (art. 9, para. 1, annex VIII and annex V, para. 2 (1) to (4) and (9))</p> <p><b>Provide an opportunity to participate</b> for the potentially affected public in relevant procedures concerning prevention and preparedness measures (art. 9, para. 2)</p> <p><b>Provide access to and treatment in the relevant administrative and judicial proceedings</b> in accordance with the country's legal system (art. 9, para. 3)</p>	<p>The opportunity to participate as well as the access to and the treatment in the above proceedings have to be <b>equivalent</b> to those given to the public in the country of origin (art. 9, paras. 2 and 3)</p>		
Past industrial accidents		<p>[<b>Exchange</b> experience in developing policies on the siting of new hazardous activities and on significant modifications to existing ones]</p>	<p><b>Establish and operate a data bank</b> for the reception, processing and distribution of information on past industrial accidents (annex XII, paras. 1 (b) and 2 (a))</p>	

	NATIONAL TASKS	BILATERAL TASKS	INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASKS <u>a/</u> (Long-term programme of work <u>b/</u> )	RELATED TASKS FOR THE UNECE SECRETARIAT <u>c/</u>
Hazardous substances			<b>Draw up and maintain a list of hazardous substances</b> , including their relevant characteristics and information on how to deal with them (annex XII, para. 1 (c))	Help to maintain the lists and make the information readily available
			<b>Produce and maintain a list of hazardous substances covered by annex I, part I</b> (annex XII, para. 1 (f)) [Revise and possibly amend annex I]	[Support revision process]
Implementation of the Convention	<b>Report on implementation</b> to the Conference of the Parties (art. 23)		<b>Review implementation</b> (art. 18, para. 2 (a))	Develop a reporting format and coordinate the reporting procedure
			[Assist Parties in implementing the Convention and other UN/ECE member countries in ratifying it]	[Plan and service workshops and seminars]

a/ The intergovernmental tasks constitute the long-term programme of work under the Convention.

b/ some of the tasks will be included in the work plan for 2001-2002, according to the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting.

c/ The related tasks for the secretariat in *italics* require extrabudgetary resources.