

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Franziska Ilg-Hirsch, Secretary,
UNECE Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

International workshop «Industrial Safety as an element of stability of national economy»
under the Russian Chairmanship of the BRICS countries,
11–12 November 2015, Moscow

Industrial Accidents Convention

- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- Negotiated by UNECE member countries in response to several major industrial accidents and their transboundary effects
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents
- Helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur
- Focuses on transboundary cooperation
- 41 Parties in the UNECE region
- Opening of the Convention to all UN Member States currently considered by governing body

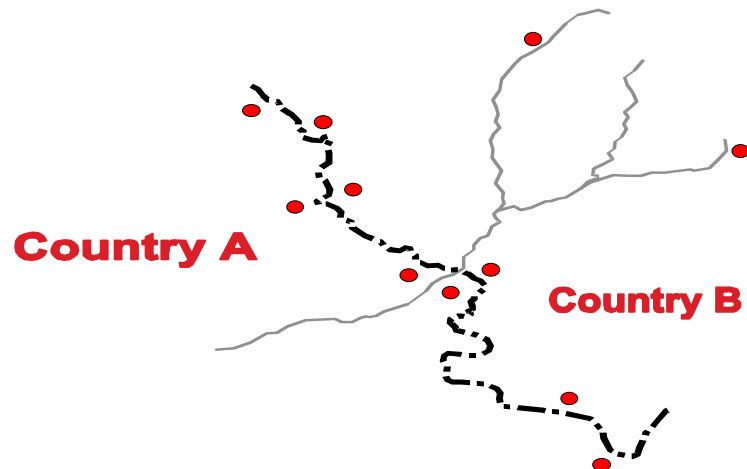


Available in English and Russian at

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=32831&L=0>

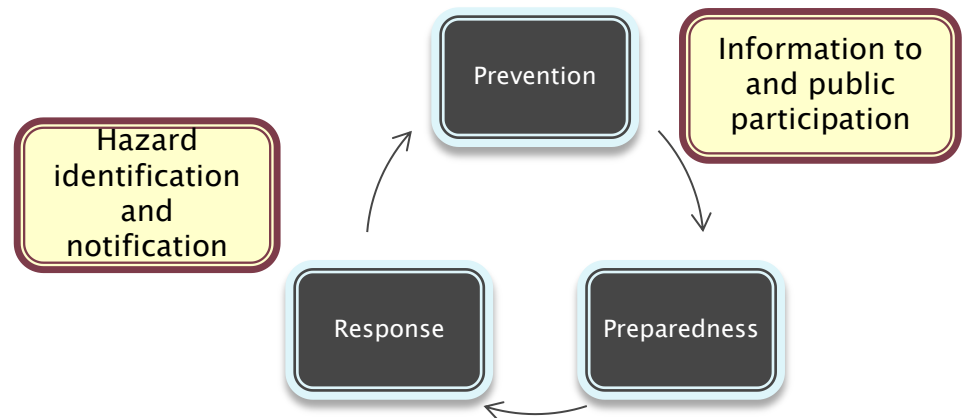
Application of the Convention

- Prevention, preparedness of and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects, including the effects of accidents caused by natural disasters
 - Focus on industrial safety policy and governance, coordination among institutions at the national level and across borders
 - International cooperation concerning mutual assistance, R&D, exchange of information & technology
- Pan-European legal framework for enhancing industrial safety and achieving a level playing field across countries



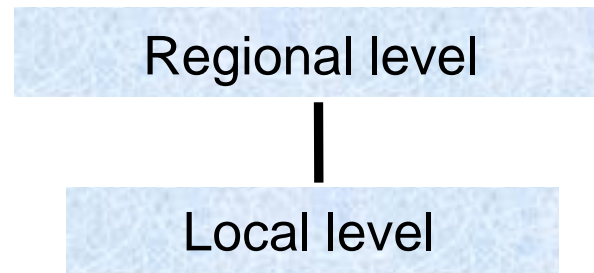
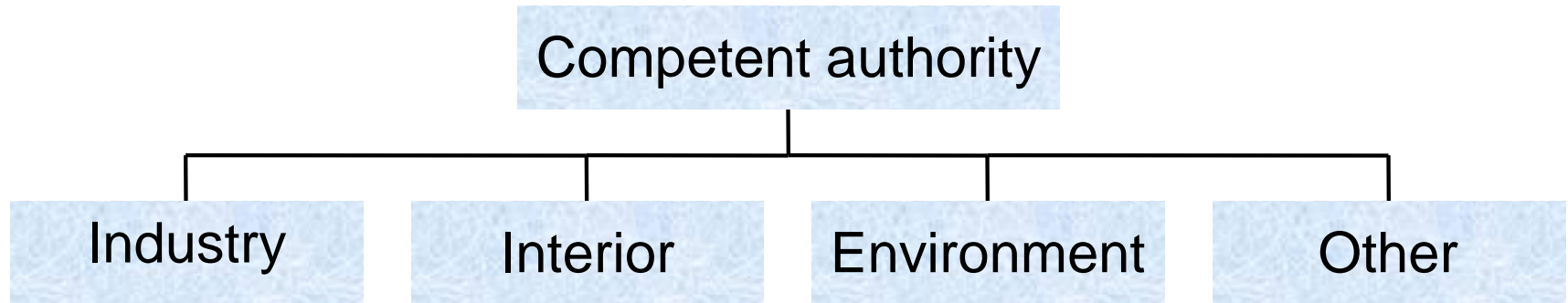
Key obligations

- Identification and notification of hazardous activities
- Policies, strategies and measures for:
 - Prevention
 - Preparedness
 - Emergency Response
- Public information and participation



Governance & institutional structures

Cooperation and coordination between authorities, industry & the public



Components

PREVENTION

- Identification of hazardous activities
- Notification of existing or proposed hazardous activities
- Clear roles of competent authorities and operators
- Choosing the appropriate location: siting

PREPAREDNESS

- Availability of industry's on-site contingency plans and community's off-site contingency plans
- Sharing of responsibilities between authorities and operators
- Information sharing on contingency plans
- Joint off-site contingency plans to adopt adequate response measures

RESPONSE

- Ensuring capability of providing effective response and mitigation measures
- Notification of accidents or threat thereof to potentially affected Parties
- Mutual assistance
- Coordination of the response measures



Legal instrument to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



- **Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk**
 - Promotes collection, analysis and use of data/information on hazardous substances and activities
 - Encourages awareness and exchange of information, training of relevant stakeholders
- **Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance**
 - Setting of safety objectives, adoption of legislative provisions or guidelines concerning safety measures and standards
- **Priority 3: Investing in DRR for resilience**
 - Promote coherence across sectors
 - Promote and support public–private collaboration
- **Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response**
 - Defines emergency preparedness measures of countries that may be affected by an industrial accident.
 - Encourages Parties to assist each other and cooperate in their response to industrial accidents

Legal instrument to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

- SDG 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals
- SDG 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries (...) for early warning, risk reduction (...)
- SDG 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters
- SDG 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
- SDG 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals (...) throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks

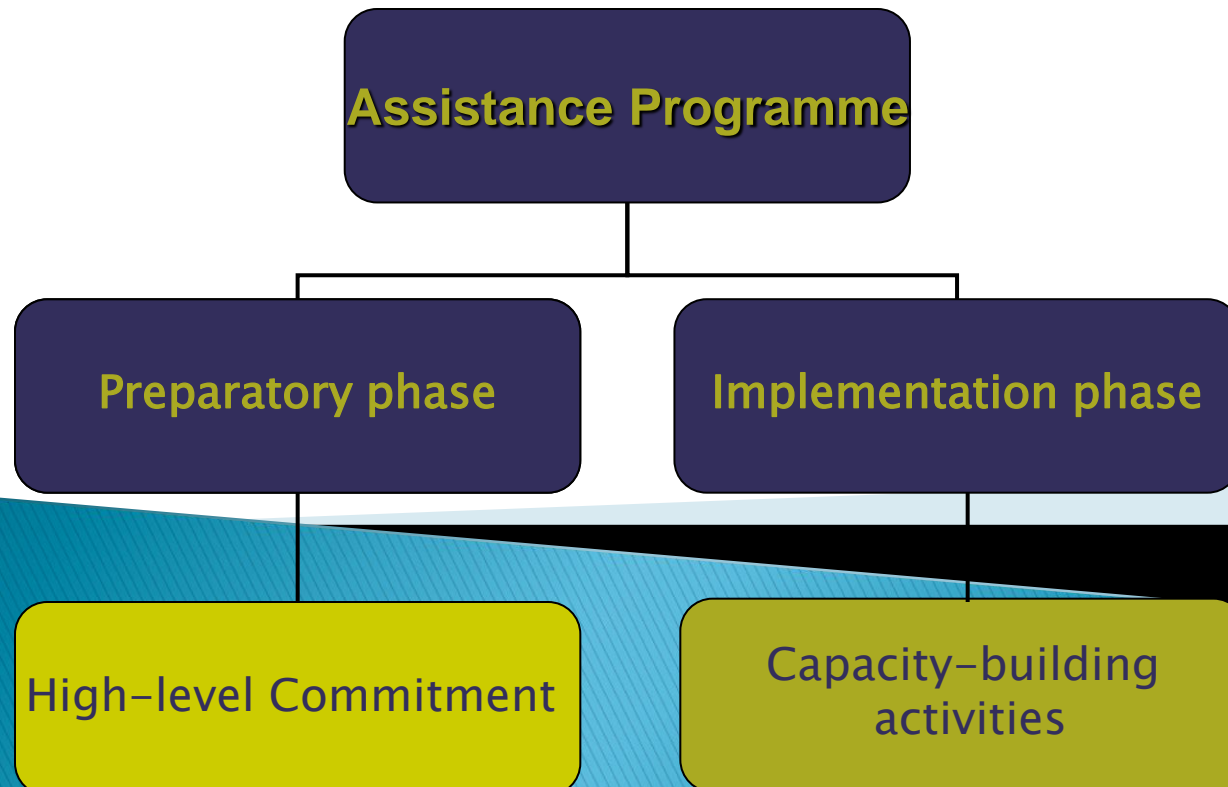
Recent changes: Amendment to Annex I on hazardous substances for defining hazardous activities



- ▶ Negotiated during 2013 and 2014
- ▶ Adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, December 2014, Geneva
- ▶ Harmonization with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
- ▶ Entry into force expected on 15 December 2015

Assistance Programme

- To assist countries of South–Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to enhance industrial safety and address the challenges in implementing the Industrial Accidents Convention
- Experience of one decade (adopted in 2004)



Strategic Approach of the Assistance Programme

- Cyclic mechanism
- Indicators and Criteria
for National Self-Assessment
- National action plans

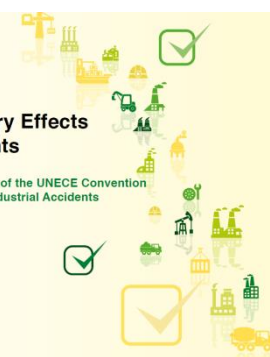


Available in English and Russian at
<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/ap/tools.html>

Self-assessment based on Indicators & Criteria

UNECE Convention
on the Transboundary Effects
of Industrial Accidents

Benchmarks in the implementation of the UNECE Convention
on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
Self-assessments and action plans



Working area	Indicator	Explanation of the Indicator
1. Identification of hazardous activities	I. Mechanism for data collection	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the relevant authorities to collect adequate data for the identification of hazardous activities (HA) from the operators, the type of data to be collected, schedules and procedures for data collection.
	II. Mechanism for data analysis and validation	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that the authorities and HA operators correctly apply the system for the classification of substances compliant with Annex I of the Convention and use the relevant criteria, recommended by the Convention, in a cross-border context. Collected data should be complete and adequate to identify HA and correspond to the real situation in the country. The country establishes an official HA list and ensures its availability at the national level and to neighbouring countries.
	III. Mechanism for data review and revision	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions for review and revision of the official HA list.
2. Notification of hazardous activities	I. Mechanism for transboundary consultation on hazardous activities	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions to ensure that affected Parties have an opportunity to inform Parties of origin of their views on the list of HA, regardless of its status (unofficial, official/validated), and to pursue a settlement of differences.
	II. Mechanism for notification of hazardous activities	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the competent authorities to notify potentially affected neighbouring countries of existing and/or planned HA.
3. Prevention	I. Mechanism for responsibility for safe operation to HA operators	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the competent authorities to unambiguously identify HA operators as responsible for the safe operation of activities and to oblige HA operators to demonstrate the safe operation to competent authorities and the public using defined methodologies, methods and models.
	II. Mechanism for control regime	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions allowing the competent authorities to manage industrial accident hazards, by setting safety goals, identifying the scope of major accident hazards in the country and organizing the monitoring of hazardous activities (review of safety documentation, licencing, inspection control and prohibitions, for instance).
4. Preparedness	I. Mechanism for responsibility for emergency preparedness of HA operators	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that HA operators prepare, coordinate, test, review and revise on-site emergency plans.
	II. Mechanism for responsibility for emergency preparedness of competent authorities	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that the competent authorities prepare, coordinate, test, review and revise off-site emergency plans and sets of procedures giving the competent authorities the right to impose responsibility on HA operators.
	III. Mechanism for transboundary emergency plans	Set of procedures, implementation rules and actions ensuring that the competent authorities of the concerned parties cooperate with each other and coordinate emergency plans to make them compatible.

Assistance Programme

Activities organized



Practical assistance activities (ex. training on safety reports)



Assistance activities towards governance improvement (ex. training on legal and institutional framework)

Capacity building activities

- ▶ **Sub-regional workshop on industrial accident prevention for countries in Central Asia, Astana, 26–28 May 2015**
 - Focus on chemicals management (GHS), identification and notification of industrial hazardous activities
 - Support to implement the Convention's amended Annex I
 - Addressed also accidental water pollution

- ▶ **Workshops on preparation and evaluation of safety reports in South-Eastern Europe, 2012–2014**

- ▶ **Project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta, 2010–2015**
 - Table-top and field exercises, joint visits, training activities

UNECE Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of
Industrial Accidents

**Assistance
Programme**



Capacity building activities

- ▶ **Strengthening industrial safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan, Astana, 8–9 September 2015**
 - In cooperation with UNECE Water Convention under National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management

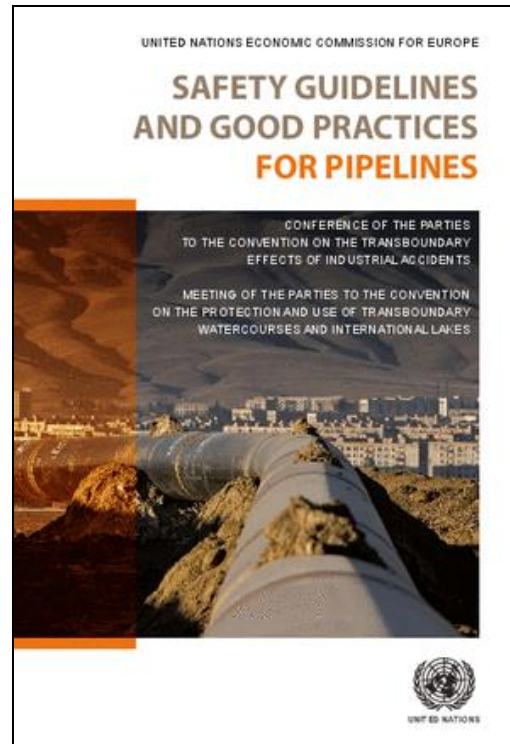
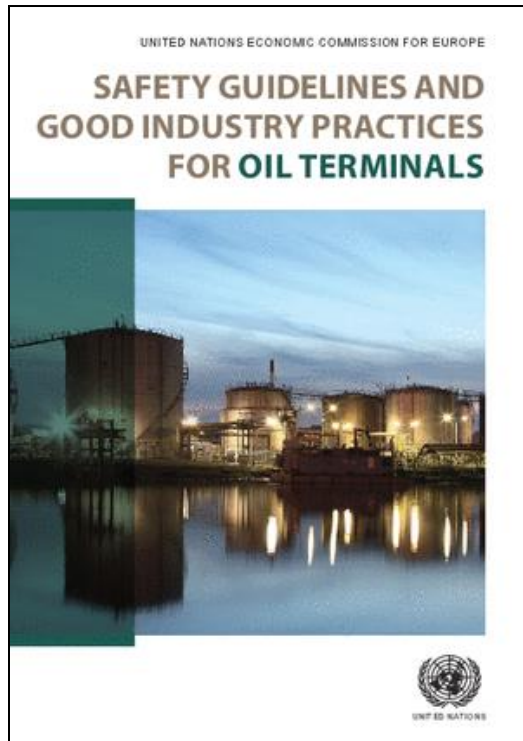
- ▶ **Workshop on environmental safety of gas and oil pipelines of Belarus, Minsk, 17–18 September 2015**
 - In partnership with UNDP, UNEP and Zoi Environment Network
 - Assessment "Environmental safety of main pipelines in Belarus"; Recommendations for improving the legal framework and practices in the field of pipeline safety, international good practices for pipeline safety

UNECE Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of
Industrial Accidents

**Assistance
Programme**



Safety Guidelines and good industry practices



Available in English and Russian at <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/publications.html>

Sectoral checklist and guidelines for the preparation of safety reports

- ▶ Checklist to support the preparation, auditing and inspection of safety reports
- ▶ Guidelines to provide detailed guidance and instructions on use of a checklist system



Available in English and Russian at:
<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/publications.html>

Checklist on contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters

- ▶ Developed by the UNECE Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (under the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions)
- ▶ Aims to contribute to mitigating the severity of the consequences of industrial accidents affecting transboundary watercourses for human health and the environment



Available in English and Russian at:
<http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop7.html#/>

Your engagement and our cooperation

- ▶ Make use of the Convention's framework to inspire progress in enhancing industrial safety regulation and transboundary cooperation
 - *Opportunity for CIS and BRICS countries to implement Sendai commitments and SDGs*
- ▶ Make use of the Assistance Programme and its tools – submit national self-assessment and action plan
 - *Opportunity for countries in transition to enhance industrial safety*
- ▶ For government and industry representatives to make use of the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Industry Practices, checklists and tools
- ▶ For representatives of government, industry or academia, opportunity share your experiences in the framework of Convention's meetings
 - UNECE Workshop on Safety and Land-use Planning, 13 April 2016, Geneva
 - UNECE/OECD Seminar on «Going global with prevention, preparedness and response to industrial accidents» in the framework of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 28–30 November 2016, Ljubljana, Slovenia

For more information please visit:
www.unece.org/env/teia
or please be invited to contact me:
franziska.ilg@unece.org

Thank you for your
attention