

Long-term strategy for the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Long-term strategy for the Convention

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Background

CoP-5 mandated the Bureau to review the long-term programme of work

A joint meeting of the Bureau and WGI (Geneva, 13-14 July 2009) discussed the modalities for review of the long-term strategy

Conclusion of the discussion:

No need for a long-term programme of work

instead

Need for a **long-term strategy** that gives a framework to build on successes and for addressing challenges and gives directions for further work under the Convention. The further work will be specified in yw-year workplans

Modus Operandi

Joint meeting of the Bureau and WGI (Geneva, 13-14 July 2009) established a task force to elaborate the long-term strategy

Members of the task force:

- Chris Dijkens (Chair, Bureau)
- Bernard Gay (Vice-chair, Bureau)
- Gunnar Hem (Chair, WGI)
- Massimo Cozzone (member, WGI)

Participation in one of the brainstorming session – Nikolay Savov, (Bulgaria)

Modus Operandi /2

Working approach

- Task force's brainstorming in Sofia (19-20 November 2009)
- Review and discussion on the strategy outline in joint meeting in Bratislava (27-28 January 2010)
- Task force's brainstorming in Geneva (19 March 2010)
- Review and acceptance of an advanced draft of a long-term strategy at Harstad Bureau meeting (14-15 June 2010)
- Task force's meeting to finalize the strategy in Geneva (12 August 2010)

Basis for the Strategy, Convention's objective

Prevention of industrial accidents from occurring,
Reduction of their frequency and severity, and
Mitigation of their transboundary effects

Requirement to the Parties to establish and maintain a high level of safety in industrial activities and to seek continuous improvement through:

- (a) Enhancing preventive measures;
- (b) Strengthening preparedness for industrial accidents;
- (c) Improving mechanisms for response and mutual assistance to mitigate the effects of accidents; and
- (d) Exchanging information and cross-border cooperation.

Basis for the Strategy /2

Activities carried out until 2010:

- (i) raise awareness and increase understanding about industrial safety;
- (ii) improve national legislation on industrial safety; and
- (iii) enhance institutional capacities

Results of these activities:

- improvement of industrial safety in many countries
- a more safety-conscious culture within their authorities and industries
- facilitated cooperation between different authorities in working together on industrial safety, both in the national and international contexts

Many of the results were achieved also by the beneficiary countries of the Convention's Assistance Programme (South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)

Strategy

Objective for the future (for the years to come):

‘ The Conference of the Parties needs to prevent complacency and facilitate further improvement for countries with a high level of industrial safety and to continue providing support to countries less advanced in implementing the Convention’

Strategy

Way for reaching the objective:

Conference of the Parties needs **to build on** its experience and achievements and be ready to address effectively any challenges that may arise

Long-term strategy is to **give directions** for further work under the Convention

Strategy

Strategic, priority areas under the Convention

- I. Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders
- II. Exchange of information
- III. Assistance Programme
- IV. Strategic partnerships
- V. Financing

Strategy, Priority area I

Involvement of Parties and other stakeholders

Objective: *to achieve comprehensive involvement of all Parties and other stakeholders*

Past: Parties and other stakeholders have been involved in the Convention's work, **the involvement was not always sufficient, some Parties failed to be involved fully**

Directions:

- use of **targeted communication** to reach all Parties and stakeholders and promote and build understanding on the Convention;
- **working visits and high-level missions** for activation of the less active Parties and stakeholders

Strategy, Priority area II

Exchange of information

Objective: *to consolidate and enhance the exchange of information*

Past: Activities have been organized under the Convention to exchange knowledge since exchange of information is crucial to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention across the UNECE region.

The number and scope of the activities should be further extended

Directions:

- Organize, on a needs-driven basis, the exchange of information between competent authorities and other stakeholders by **organizing seminars, consultations, and round tables** on relevant topics ;
- **Stimulate cross-border exchange** of information among Parties

Strategy, Priority area III

Assistance Programme

Objective: *to facilitate the implementation and ratification of the Convention by the beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme*

Past: Assistance Programme, since it was launched, was necessary to support the efforts of the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in implementing the Convention.

There is a need to continue and further provide efficient assistance on a needs-driven basis.

Directions:

- Ensure an **adequate use of the Strategic Approach** by the means defined therein
- Facilitate **transfer of knowledge** by providing the countries with relevant and **needs-driven capacity-building activities**

Strategy, Priority area IV

Strategic partnerships

Objective: *to enhance the Convention's relevance through strategic partnerships*

Past: Occasionally work has been carried out jointly with other organizations in the past. Since strategic partnerships are necessary to improve effectiveness and efficiency and to avoid duplication of work, **the strategic partnerships should be enhanced.**

Directions:

- **Formation of strategic partnerships** for organization of **joint activities** aimed at strengthening industrial safety and for **complementing each other's work** (United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, other United Nations Convention bodies, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Commission (EC) and industrial associations)

Strategy, Priority area V

Financing

Objective: *to ensure sustainable financing*

Past: Financing for activities under the Convention has come from only a few of the Parties and on an ad hoc basis.

Sustainable financing (regular financial and/or in-kind support from big number of Parties/ stakeholders) is necessary, including for human resources in the secretariat

Directions:

- **Establishment of a mechanism** through which financial and in-kind support is obtained from Parties and other stakeholders, where the mechanism **differentiates** between **funding for the core activities** of the Convention and its **assistance activities** and which **ensures adequate secretariat capacity**

Way forward

- Adoption of the strategy
- Implementation of the strategy - concrete actions/activities in the biennial workplans
- Elaboration of the sustainable financial mechanism
- Appropriate response to the developments in the context of the Convention