

## DECISION 2000/1 ON THE UN/ECE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of articles 10, 12, and 17 of the UN/ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Stressing the importance of prompt and effective notification of all potentially affected countries in the event of an accident in order to activate adequate response measures immediately,

Acknowledging the work done under the auspices of the Signatories to the Convention to develop the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Signatories to the Convention made in this respect, at their sixth meeting on 12-14 March 1997 (CEP/WG.4/6, para. 23 (b)),

1. Accepts the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System, as contained in CP.TEIA/2000/5, for notifying, at the national level, a major accident, which causes or is capable of causing transboundary effects or an imminent threat thereof;

2. Requests the Parties to the Convention and invites other UN/ECE member countries to:

(a) Ensure that points of contact, designated or established according to article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention, use the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System or an equivalent system for the transmission of early-warning, information and assistance request reports, at national level, in the event of a major accident or during tests;

(b) Transmit the above reports by facsimile and/or e-mail and acknowledge receipt by facsimile or telephone, using preferably English or one of the two other official UN/ECE languages, taking into account which of these languages the authorities in the affected countries are most likely to understand, unless the countries concerned have agreed otherwise;

(c) Address the early-warning and information reports, as appropriate, to UN/ECE member countries having an interest in the accident, whether affected or not, and to the UN/ECE secretariat;

3. Encourages and supports the establishment, at local and regional levels, of bilateral or, as appropriate, multilateral agreements for industrial accident notification as a supplement to the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System;

4. Invites the Parties to the Convention and other UN/ECE countries to use, when needed, the Environment Emergency Notification/Request for International Assistance form of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit 1/ to supplement the above assistance request report;

5. Recommends that regular consultations among the points of contact should be held in order to:

(a) Coordinate the testing and review the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System;

(b) Develop a manual for the points of contact and organize training for its personnel;

(c) Work towards harmonization of the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System with other systems, in particular those which are operational within the framework of the UN/ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit;

6. Requests the UN/ECE secretariat to maintain a list of points of contact on the Convention's Internet home page with restricted access.

#### Note

1/ To avoid unnecessary duplication of work and save resources, both at the national and at the intergovernmental levels, the UN/ECE secretariat and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit have reached an agreement on the interface procedures between the two entities concerning cooperation and information exchange.