

SUMMARY NOTES AND ACTIONS ITEMS

3RD INTER AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

7 May 2015, OECD Headquarters, 2 Rue André Pascal, Paris

1. Welcome and introduction by the OECD Secretariat

Peter Kearns from the OECD Secretariat welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda of the day. The list of participants at the meeting is in Annex of the paper.

2. Tour de Table

Participating agencies provided an update on their respective projects and the main milestones of their programme. The presentations made during this Tour de Table are available at the following dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p8zp1thjkw5xd7p/AACdgEsatFcakktZThncHFQCa?dl=0>.

Through this round of presentations, agencies were able to discuss and coordinate programmes. In particular, discussion raised the importance of coordinating capacity building activities within countries to make best use of resources and facilitate the comprehension and coordination by countries of the programmes of each agency. The message conveyed to countries from the agencies should be “*we come together to support you*”. Opportunities for further collaboration were seen between a number of agencies. Discussions also highlighted the sometimes missing communication between the national focal points of the different agencies. This should be improved.

Action items:

- To all agencies: agencies are invited to share information between one another on activities being carried out in specific countries (follow-up teleconferences on Armenia and Georgia were agreed in this regard, involving in particular UNECE, WHO, UNEP/OCHA and the EU JRC). Some further thought should be put into the development of a platform/system to support sharing of information on these country-specific activities. Also, there is a specific opportunity to engage with OPCW on a number of their activities, considering their broadened mandate on chemicals management, – bilateral communication should be engaged in that matter;
- The EU JRC will investigate the possibility to set up a webpage that will compile the contact details of the national focal points of the different agencies and may become a platform for sharing information on country-specific activities by the different organisations.

3. Policy update and discussion

a) *Feedback and follow-up to the World Disaster Risk Reduction Conference, Sendai*

Charles Baubion from the Public and Territorial Development Directorate of the OECD presented some of the main outcomes from the Sendai World Disaster Risk Reduction Conference. He highlighted in particular the introduction of the concept of governance within the new adopted framework.

The meeting participants agreed that the follow-up activities to Sendai might be a good opportunity to give more visibility to the work of the agencies on accidents.

Action item:

- To all agencies: further discussions might take place in the future for engaging in the follow-up to Sendai.

b) *Feedback from the 2nd SAICM OEWG and from the Side Event on International Efforts for Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response/ Preparations for ICCM4*

The short report from the side event on chemical accidents, which was organised at the occasion of the 2nd SAICM OEWG meeting in December 2014, was presented. The agenda for this side event and the presentations made are available at the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ntjj4lrndpuzqls/AAC-JwF29B6l-gZGf6LVm8uZa?dl=0>.

Participants highlighted the importance of organising this type of side event in the framework of the SAICM's programme. This will help to raise the importance of the prevention, preparedness and response to chemical accidents as being among the key elements associated with the sound management of chemicals. In particular, the fact that this side event was organised by a number of agencies together helps carrying a common and strong message to the international community.

Participants pointed out the value of joint activities between the agencies. In particular activities that will clarify the commonalities and specificities of the different programmes and that will convey a unique message on important concepts, and on the challenges faced. In this sense, participants agreed to the development of a number of joint documents.

Action items

- The OECD will prepare a first draft of a joint brochure. This brochure will aim to present some key concepts linked to industrial accidents (e.g. what is prevention, what is response, what is preparedness). It will also aim to present the programme of the different agencies and highlight the specificities and commonalities of those, referring to the inter-agency coordination group. The goal is to have the joint brochure ready for ICCM 4 (28 September – 2 October 2015). A first draft of the brochure will be circulated to the agencies for input toward mid-June 2015;
- The OECD will share with other agencies the power point presentation that was prepared for the side event at the 2nd OEWG meeting. This presentation gives a quick overview of the programme of the different agencies and, in particular, one slide consists in a table showing the specificities and commonalities of each agency's programme. It was agreed that further work could be done to enhance this joint presentation so that it can be used by the secretariat of the agencies when necessary;

- The OECD should investigate the possibility to organise another side event on chemical/industrial accidents at the occasion of ICCM 4 (28 September – 2 October 2015, Geneva). If this is possible, agencies will be invited to discuss via teleconference the topics that this side event could cover.

c) *Looking upon ICCM5 and the SAICM's 2020 Goal*

Participants agreed that contributions to ICCM5 could be discussed at a later stage and might be the subject of another Inter Agency Coordination Meeting.

4. Upcoming events of interest and cooperation opportunities

a) *Environmental Emergencies Forum, 1-3 June, 2015, Norway*

The Joint Environmental Unit presented the Environmental Emergency Forum that will be held on 1-3 June 2015 in Oslo - <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/topics/environment/event/2015-environmental-emergencies-forum>. It will be dynamic forum to showcase experiences and innovations in improving prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies, and for advocating the integration of environmental concerns into humanitarian action. The Forum will bring together representatives from governments, industries, academia, aid agencies, and civil society who have the common mission to help countries become better prepared, more resilient, and able to effectively respond to environmental emergencies

A number of agencies are participating in this forum. Outcomes will be presented at a later stage.

b) *Industrial Accidents Convention CoP-9, Fall 2016*

UNECE and OECD will be working on a joint seminar to be held back to back with the COP-9 in autumn 2016. The seminar will aim to be looking at the policy/institutional side of the prevention, preparedness and response to chemical accidents. Topics to be addressed during the seminar will be discussed during the coming months.

Action items:

- The UNECE and OECD secretariat will circulate more information on the seminar in the coming months;
- To all agencies: agencies are invited to indicate interest for partnership and contribution to this seminar.

5. Enhancing Inter-agency coordination: Options and next steps

a) *Information sharing and accessibility*

Agencies were invited to discuss ways and means to make their information materials and resources more easily accessible to their different constituencies. It was agreed that the different actions approved in the precedent agenda items constitute already a good set of activities for supporting information sharing among the agencies.

b) *Framing Terms of Reference for the Inter-Agency Group*

Participants discussed draft terms of reference for the group, which had been put together by colleagues from UNECE. Participants acknowledged the preparation of this document. A number of editorial comments were made on the text, in particular regarding the objectives of the group. One of the main objectives being to assure coherence between the work of the organisations. Also it was agreed that the framework of the group should remain on chemical/industrial accidents. Participation in the group should remain targeted to the international organisations having a programme on industrial/chemical accidents. Other agencies may be invited on an ad-hoc basis if there is a need for discussing specific topics.

Action item:

- The OECD will be revising the Terms of Reference according to the comments made, in consultation with UNECE, and circulate to the agencies for a final set of comments.

c) *Private sector engagement in the Inter-Agency work*

Participants agreed that further private sector engagement in the Inter Agency Coordination Meeting should be discussed on an ad hoc basis. Participation should be considered from non-political/technical industry organisations.

d) *Chemical accident response: existing networks and set up of interface procedures*

Participants highlighted that a major gap exists in terms of the clean-up, monitoring and recovery after an accident. It was agreed that further investigation should be made to engage experts involved in the follow-up and recovery stage. Organisations were mentioned such as the International Firefighters Organisations and the Crisis Management Centers. It was agreed that the topic of recovery/clean-up/monitoring should be further discussed at the next Inter Agency Coordination Meeting.

It was mentioned that the OECD will be investigating as part of its next programme of work 2017-2020 the possibility to start setting up a network of experts across countries, in particular for supporting follow-up and long term recovery.

Action items

- To all agencies: participants are invited to look for agencies/organisations that are specifically involved in the clean-up and recovery stages;
- To the next Inter Agency host: the topic of cleaning up and recovery should be included in the agenda of the next Inter Agency Meeting.

6. Closing of the meeting

The next meeting of the Inter Agency Coordination group will be hosted by the Joint Environmental Unit in Geneva, in spring 2016.

ANNEX: PARTICIPANTS LIST FOR 3RD INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

7/5/2015

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