

SUMMARY NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

4TH MEETING OF THE INTER AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL AND CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS

15 April 2016, United Nations Palais des Nations, Geneva

1. **Welcome** and introduction by Emilia Wahlstrom, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU).

2. **Tour de Table**

Participating agencies provided an update on their on-going and upcoming activities and the main milestones of their programmes, setting the scene for a discussion on coordination of future activities (see item 4). The presentations made during the Tour de Table are available at the following dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oaib091h110zit7/AAA7seWtZyWJlhChL1OTeGS2a?dl=0>

An excel table showing ongoing and planned activities of the Group members is also available on the dropbox (Chem_Acc_InterAgency_Areas_of_activities_2016_13April.xls). Enhanced collaboration between the group members, more joint initiatives and enhanced communication were highlighted as priorities for future work of the group. Mapping of contaminated/hazardous sites, including the development of guidance for this, was indicated as one priority area. Here group members' can learn from, among others, WHO work in Georgia.

UNISDR and UNEP Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat were welcomed as new members to the group.

Action Items:

1. All agencies are urged to use the email-list more frequently to inform each other about planned and on-going work, ensuring that possibilities of cooperation and joint initiatives are not missed. Save-the-date messages for meetings and events should be sent out as early as possible.

3. **Policy update and discussion**

Chadia Wannous from UNISDR presented the links between industrial accidents and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)*, requesting the Group to contribute to the development of a practical guidance document on technological hazards. The document should assist governments and other stakeholders to implement the Sendai Framework – providing concise guidance on how to address technological hazards in overall disaster risk management. UNISDR also welcomes feedback from the Group on the current proposals for common

definitions, terminologies and classifications in the field of man-made disasters. These definitions are provided in the dropbox (4a. Practical guide-Technological Hazards.pdf). More information on the Open-Ended Working Group on Indicators and Terminology can be found on:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/open-ended-working-group>

Members of the group felt that the development of such a guide offers a unique opportunity to feed into the broader disaster risk reduction agenda. It also offers an opportunity for enhanced cooperation and advocacy. The involvement of all relevant organizations and technical experts in the development was seen as important in order to ensure that it is comprehensive and technically accurate. Finally, the importance of terminology was emphasized, and it was suggested that the development of the guide starts with the agreement on the terminology and proposed scope. Several Group members (UNEP, UNECE, WHO, European Commission, OECD) offered to contribute to the guide by providing inputs and reviewing drafts. The JEU offered to co-lead the development of the SFDRR guidance and to hire a consultant for this purpose. A separate meeting will be held with UNISDR to discuss the scope (technological vs. industrial) and timeline of the project.

Mohammed Omotola from UNEP outlined SAICM work, where it was noted that the Group's collaboration features as an example of best practice in terms of inter-agency collaboration. Franziska Ilg-Hirsch of UNECE outlined the work carried out by UNECE related to the linkages with the sustainable development goals and Sendai disaster risk reduction commitments, and on land-use planning, siting and related safety aspects. Background materials are available on the dropbox (documents 3a – 3d).

Action Items:

2. JEU to set up a task force under the Group for working on the UNISDR Technological Hazard Implementation Guide, and to collect and consolidate inputs on UNISDR terminology and classification on behalf of the group. JEU to discuss with UNISDR how to also reach out to other interested agencies, which are not members of the Group but interested in the terminology and classification topic.
 - Group members interested in being part of the task force on the Sendai Guide to indicate interest to JEU **by 1 May**.
 - Group members to submit comments on the suggested UNISDR terminology and classification of hazards to JEU **by 13 May**.
 - JEU to develop consolidated feedback on terminology and classifications by 20 May.
 - Group members to provide final feedback on terminology and classifications by 3 June.
 - JEU to submit Group's feedback on terminology and classifications to UNISDR by 8 June.
4. **Joint Initiatives and Collaboration: Options and next steps**

Organizations stressed the need to strengthen and reinforce collaboration among the group member and to jointly work for prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial chemical accidents. Closer communication will facilitate the discovery of synergies and help

avoid redundancies. Throughout the Tour de Table as well as in the discussions, present agencies discovered synergies and mentioned possible collaboration and joint activities:

- UNECE and OECD would welcome the participation in and contribution of other organizations to the Joint seminar “Fostering the implementation of the sustainable development agenda for industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response”
- IMPEL would welcome closer collaboration with the OECD with regards to its project “Inspection Approaches”.
- WHO would welcome exchange on existing assessment tools such as IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management:
<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org/default.aspx?idExec=10c8ecdb-b4cc-48f3-91df-67eb648660ec>
- JEU and WHO Collaborating Centre to share information on online trainings and explore possible opportunities for collaboration.
- JEU welcomes peer reviewers for the Environmental Emergencies Guidelines and the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool Pocket Guide.
- The links between industrial accidents and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness work was raised. There is increased interest and funding available for CBRN work, and synergies with these activities should be ensured.
- WHO Europe to share information on the outcomes of the WHO Europe project “Health and chemicals in sustainability perspectives” with UNECE

Action Items:

3. Organizations interested in acting as peer reviewers for WHO’s guidance on health implications of natechs should indicate their interest to Joanna Tempowski (tempowski@who.int).
4. UNECE encouraged the group members to contribute to the first draft of the guidance document for land-use planning, siting and related safety aspects of hazardous activities (available at: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41522#/,](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41522#/) preferable Deadline: 2 May 2016, send to Lorenzo@risktech.eu, jerzy.jendroska@jib.com.pl, jiri.dusik@integracons.com, with a copy to teia.conv@unece.org and eia.conv@unece.org.

5. Communication

6. Information-Sharing

Marie-Ange Baucher of OECD presented the Joint Brochure in its current format. All organizations agreed on the value of the brochure and agreed to try to finalize it as soon as possible. OECD offered formatting and design support, once the text is agreed upon.

Ms. Elisa Tonda from UNEP stressed the importance of showcasing best practices and lessons learned more frequently on different platforms. Not only can this raise awareness for industrial accidents but it can also contribute to consolidate the role of the working group through their member agencies’ efforts.

Franziska Ilg-Hirsch from UNECE recalled the Group’s terms of reference: to identify synergies and opportunities for cooperation among the agencies, resulting possibly in the design and

implementation of joint projects and activities and whenever possible, undertake jointly projects and activities in the field of industrial and chemical accidents prevention, preparedness and response, in particular when the regional and substantive coverage of activities match. Jasmina Karba, Chair of the Industrial Accidents Convention and Chris Dijkens, Bureau member of the Industrial Accidents Convention and observer for IMPEL, stressed the importance of enhancing inter-agency cooperation, related information sharing and joint efforts.

In terms of information-sharing modalities, JRC had previously informed the Group that they were unable to set up a dedicated Group web page. Although some organizations present offered to do this, it was felt that email communication would be sufficient at this time, as a dedicated web page would demand resources and time – and additionally create questions around Group “ownership”. UNECE mentioned that information on relevant meetings of partner organizations was made available on its online meetings list (<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/meetings-and-events.html#/>) and invited other organizations to provide such information, thus facilitating an overview and meeting planning. JEU mentioned the Environmental Emergencies Centre as a platform for posting information and news pieces also from other agencies, inviting others to contribute information.

Action Items:

5. All agencies are invited to refer to other group members’ activities and best practices on their respective websites / platforms (especially relevant since the idea of setting up a dedicated web page on the group was put on hold for the moment).
6. **Overarching comments on the current format and content of the brochure** to be sent to JEU (wahlstrom@un.org) and OECD (Marie-Ange.BAUCHER@oecd.org) **by 6 May**. In case of large discrepancies in the views of the brochure, a separate teleconference will be organized. OECD to separately share draft brochure for final comments.
7. All agencies to increasingly share information via email on upcoming events, activities, projects, related meetings and publications on industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response.

7. Clean up and recovery

Muralee Tummarukudy from UNEP’s Post-Conflict Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) held a presentation on clean-up and recovery from industrial accidents (available on the dropbox under Presentations). The presentation sparked a discussion among the Group, who felt that the inclusion of “emerging issues” or “special topics” into the Group’s meetings provides added value.

8. Closing and Next Meeting

The Group chairmanship is rotating, and a secretariat/Chair/host for the next meeting is needed. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for April/May 2017.

Action Item:

8. Volunteers for hosting next year’s meeting to be in touch with JEU **by end May**. The European Commission / DG Environment has since offered to host the next meeting in Brussels, Belgium. Details to follow.

Upcoming Events

- End April 2016: APELL workshop
- 24-27 Oct. 2016, Paris: OECD - WGCA meeting
- 28 Nov. 2016, Ljubljana: UNECE/OECD seminar on “Fostering the implementation of the 2030 development agenda for industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response” followed by the formal segment of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Conventions (28-30 November 2016)
- Week starting 12 June (TBC) 2017, Nairobi: Environmental Emergencies Forum 2017

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