

Session conclusions

EFDRR focused thematic discussion

Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspectives on risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework

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Past accidents and existing policy

- Prevention
 - Many past accidents could have been prevented if the risks had been identified and properly controlled;
 - Prevention is essential in working towards safety and resilience of chemical and industrial installations.
- Existing legal and policy instruments have the ability to integrate and contribute to industrial/chemical accident risk management and multi-hazard risk management strategies. Examples are
 - the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
 - the EU Seveso Directive and Union Civil Protection Mechanism
 - The OECD programme on Chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response
 - the Sendai Framework, in particular the Words into action guidelines on man-made/technological hazards
 - The ILO Conventions and recommendation, WHO International Health Regulations
 - The complementarity and gaps between (some of) these legal and policy instruments could be further studied
- International organizations work together to support governments in the implementation of legal and policy instruments, guidance developed under their auspices, to exchange experiences and good



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Policy coherence

- There is a need for increased coordination, cooperation and collaboration across different disciplines and institutions at the national, regional and local levels:
 - civil protection,
 - environmental protection,
 - state inspections;
 - land-use planning/siting,
 - critical infrastructure management,
 - etc.
- Natech risk management are multi-hazard risks, calling for a coordinated response
 - Understanding the potential natural phenomena that can trigger technological risks (recent example: the La Palma eruption hitting a cement factory);
 - Requiring natural hazard risk managers to be involved in technological risk reduction.
- Examples exist of integrated risk management governance
 - integrated national policy, strategies and governance can successfully address disaster risks and sustainable development
 - **but more needs to be done.**



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Transboundary cooperation

- Transboundary cooperation is crucial to address the key challenges of managing chemical and industrial risks, and considering the impacts on neighbouring countries, riparian states or regions.
 - Transboundary cooperation and inter-institutional and cross-sectoral cooperation are mutually reinforcing.
 - Legal and policy instruments help the national authorities and the private sector to cooperate on risk assessment and disaster risk management across borders.



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Recommendations for implementing the EFDRR Roadmap

Roadmap Area	Recommendation for implementation
<p>Understanding and communicating existing, emerging and future systemic risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders need to understand disaster risk to the level of their responsibility • Multi-hazard risk assessment is important to address the complexity of risks throughout activities, sectors and hazard types (Natech!)
<p>Inclusive and collaborative systems for governance and decision-making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed action to <i>Strengthen collaborative and transboundary systems for capacity-building and multistakeholder action at all levels</i> is key! <p>Transboundary cooperation in prevention, preparedness and response, financing, joint policies and governance demands a common approach across borders, involving all governance levels.</p>
<p>Supporting investments in resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical and industrial risk management: investing in prevention is a crucial step in achieving safety and resilience (and it's cheaper in the end!).
<p>Preparedness for response and resilient recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should have a strong transboundary approach to be fully effective – governance on transboundary level is needed; • There is an increased need for exercises, tests and use of different communication systems.



Thank you!



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