



Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Geneva and online, 29 November – 1 December 2022





AGENDA ITEM 14. OUTREACH, AWARENESS- RAISING AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Claudia Kamke, Environmental Affairs Officer
Secretariat of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents

TARGETED COMMUNICATION EFFORTS (1/2)

Press-releases

UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention CoP-12 will mark 30 years of transboundary cooperation and look ahead to strengthen safety amid growing risks

[Climate Change](#) [Environment](#) [Sustainable Development](#) [SDGs](#)
[Industrial Accidents Convention](#)

21 November 2022

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. This unique international legal instrument, signed on 17 March 1992 and in force since 2000, helps to protect people and the environment from the devastating effects of industrial accidents. At the upcoming twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-12) in Geneva on 29 November – 1 December 2022, Parties will take stock of progress made under the Convention and highlight ongoing and emerging challenges in preventing, preparing for and responding to industrial accidents.



Over the years, the Convention has established an active network among its 42 Parties and beneficiary countries of its Assistance and Cooperation Programme that have committed to the Convention's implementation. In particular, it has provided a policy forum for countries to discuss industrial safety law- and policy-making, exchange good practices and lessons learned and foster progress. Countries in the pan-European region have developed and improved their industrial safety policies, improved cooperation across borders, and consequently, enhanced their disaster risk governance. The Convention has fostered a "safety culture" across the UNECE region, supported by the development of numerous Safety Guidelines, such as for pipelines, oil terminals, tailings management facilities, the management and retention of firefighting water

UNECE, OECD, the EU and partners join forces to reduce chemical and industrial accident risks across borders and sectors

[Climate Change](#) [Environment](#) [Sustainable Development](#) [SDGs](#)
[Industrial Accidents Convention](#) [Aarhus Convention](#) [Water Convention](#)

24 November 2021

From the Sandoz chemical spill of 1986 in Schweizerhalle, Switzerland, to the rupture of a dam storing mine tailings containing cyanide in Baia Mare, Romania, 2000; and last year in Beirut, the explosion of ammonium nitrate stored in warehouse near residential areas, what these chemical and industrial accidents have in common is their devastating impact on people and the environment and that they could have been prevented.



Not only countries but also organizations need to work together to prevent accidents and reduce disaster risks now and in the future. Today, UNECE, OECD and the European Union, together with Slovenia and Norway, kicked off the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) (Matosinhos, Portugal) and online, 24-26 November 2021) doing exactly that: cooperating to share knowledge, good practice on Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspectives on risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework.

Co-moderated by Dmitry Mariyasin, the Deputy-Executive Secretary of UNECE and Ricardo Mens, the Director for UNDRR in Geneva, the session combined perspectives on how to manage risks of technological incidents and natural hazards, notably at the transboundary level.

Governments, research institutes and private sector stakeholders that face these risks in countries of the European Union, South-East Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, showed the

In the biennium 2021 -2022, the secretariat prepared 18 PRs, notably:

On Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Natech (5):

- [UNECE to showcase efforts to reduce natural and industrial disaster risk and strengthen transboundary cooperation at European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction at EFDRR](#)
- [UNECE, OECD, the EU and partners join forces to reduce chemical and industrial accident risks across borders and sectors](#)
- [At 2022 Global Platform for DRR, UNECE calls to build coherent resilience policies and governance and enhance transboundary cooperation to accelerate Sendai Framework implementation](#)
- [UNECE and partners showcase examples of integrated governance of climate and technological risks in transboundary water bodies at Global Platform on DRR](#)
- [Further action is needed to address natural hazards leading to accidental water pollution in transboundary river basins](#)

On mine tailings safety, IIWG and NPDs (4):

- [UNECE launches Online Toolkit and Training for Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety](#)
- [Serbia pioneers NPD to strengthen Industrial Safety under UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention](#)
- [Tajikistan launches IIWG to strengthen mine tailings safety and prevent water pollution, with UNECE support](#)
- [Kazakhstan to strengthen mine tailings safety and prevent water pollution, with UNECE support](#)

On land-use planning and AN risks (3):

- [Countries in South-Eastern Europe commit to strengthen "joined-up" land-use planning and industrial safety policies, harnessing UNECE instruments](#)
- [UN/OECD seminar to address ammonium nitrate risk management in follow-up to 2020 Beirut port explosion](#)
- [In follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion, UN/OECD seminar calls for action to better manage the risks of hazardous substances in port areas and beyond](#)

On Convention's implementation, Ukraine's accession and other topics (6):

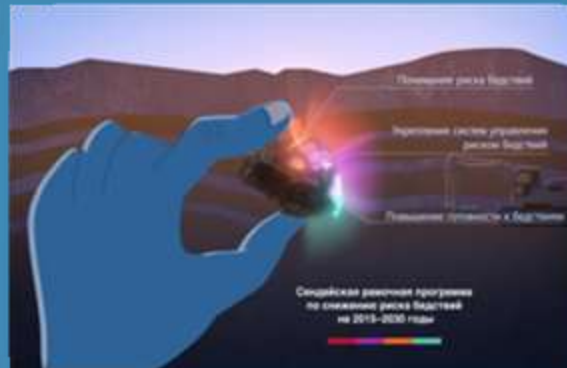
- [Industrial accident in Leverkusen is reminder of continuous need to invest in prevention and preparedness for response](#)
- [Parties exchange good practices and lessons learned to overcome gaps in implementation of the Convention](#)
- [UNECE warns of high risks of industrial accidents in Ukraine and recalls need for prevention](#)
- [Ukraine joins UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents](#)
- [Executive Secretary visits Kyiv to discuss UNECE support to Ukraine reconstruction](#)
- [The Convention CoP-12 will mark 30 years of transboundary cooperation and look ahead to strengthen safety amid growing risks](#)

TARGETED COMMUNICATION EFFORTS (2/2)

Online Toolkit and video promotion

- To assist countries in strengthening mine tailings safety an [Online Toolkit](#) has been set up
- The Toolkit is divided into 4 sections, including:
 1. Background information
 2. **Practical 3-step training:**
 - a) Watch video (available in [ENG](#) and [RUS](#))
 - b) Read Safety Guidelines for TMFs
 - c) Apply the TMF methodology
 3. UNECE's work on TMF safety and partners
 4. Other information resources on TMF safety

→ Promotion of other UNECE guidance materials too, creation and maintenance of website, etc.



PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS AND FORUMS (1/4)

European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), 24-26 November 2021 and Roadmap 2021-30



EFDRR Roadmap 2021-30:

- Adopted in November 2021
- Convention secretariat also contributed
- Highlights the Convention as an instrument for providing guidance
- Alludes to issues of strategic importance to UNECE and its MS

Thematic Session on IA risk: “Preventing another Beirut, Sandoz and Baia Mare accident: Perspectives on risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework” (24 Nov 2021, online)

- Co-organized by **UNECE, OECD, EIB, Norway and Slovenia**, guided by UNECE Bureau’s small group on DRR and Natech
- **Conclusions and presentations available at [UNECE webpage](#)**

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS AND FORUMS (2/4)

UNECE side event at Global platform on DRR,
27 May 2022, Bali and online

The screenshot shows the UNECE website page for the side event. The page title is "Governance of climate and technological risks in transboundary water bodies". The page includes a navigation menu with "ABOUT", "PRACTICAL INFORMATION", "PROGRAMME", "HELP", "NEWSROOM", and "ACCESSIBILITY". The main content area features a sub-header "Governance of climate and technological risks in transboundary water bodies" with tags for "Risk governance", "SDGs and climate action", and "Stocktaking". The text describes the importance of understanding multi-hazard and multi-sector risks in the context of climate change and technological hazards. It mentions the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030. The session aims to enhance understanding of best practices, present examples of governance, discuss the Sendai Framework and EFDRR Roadmap, identify challenges and good practices, and highlight law actions for strengthening governance and transboundary cooperation.

Session objectives
The session aims to:

1. Enhance understanding of how good practices and multi-hazard/multi-risk approaches can be mainstreamed into DRR strategies and governance structures, notably national platforms and river/basin organisations.
2. Present examples on how governance can be enhanced through implementation of international legal instruments, notably the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions.
3. Discuss how the Sendai Framework and the EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030 can inspire further actions to strengthen governance and risk management.
4. Identify challenges and good practices in countries developing transboundary cooperation mechanisms.
5. Highlight law actions strengthening governance and transboundary cooperation can support the cross-fertilisation of SDGs.

Agenda
27 May 2022
15:00 - 16:30 (Bali UTC+8)

Location
Managi & T, II
SDCCC 2-Ground Floor

Participation
Open to those registered for the conference

Interpretation
EN, FR, RU

Details
International sign

Contact
Armine Hayrapetyan
Armine.Hayrapetyan@unesco.org - Xosha.Nachumova@unesco.org
Xosha.Nachumova@unesco.org - Marina.Petrova@unesco.org
marina.petrova@unesco.org

Share this

- **Side event on “Governance of the climate and technological risks in transboundary water bodies”**
- Showcasing concrete multi-hazard/risk approach, in relation to IWRM, tech. hazards, climate change:
 - ✓ Armenia on EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030 in relation to governance in multi-hazard risk management
 - ✓ Integration of multi-hazard risk management into river basin Management Plans in EU Strategy for the Danube Region
 - ✓ Mekong CC Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan and their application for DRR
 - ✓ Challenges in mining and accidental water pollution in transboundary basins in Ghana Commission, Ghana
- Session report, Video Recordings (ENG, FRE, RUS), PR available on [UNECE webpage](#)

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS AND FORUMS (3/4)

WORKING GROUP ON TRANSFORMING THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



- Set up by the SG on 26 January 2022 with the aim to:
 - ✓ Coordinate extractives-related work across the UN and beyond;
 - ✓ Serve as an information and knowledge hub;
 - ✓ Provide policy advice and technical assistance;
 - ✓ Assist in integrating the extractive industries' work into other UN-wide initiatives.
- Currently coordinated by UNECE (led by Energy Division)
- The Convention contributes to the meetings of the WG and cooperates closely with ECE Sustainable Energy Division

9TH ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (NICOSIA, CYPRUS, 5-7 OCTOBER 2022)

- Gathered over 900 participants from >60 countries
- Culminated in ECE [Ministerial Declaration](#) → **industrial safety and the mitigation of technological (and natural) disaster risks** are highlighted



**PARTICIPATION IN
INTERNATIONAL AND
REGIONAL MEETINGS AND
FORUMS (4/4)**



MEETINGS WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS: INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP ON CHEMICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS (IACG)

SEVENTH IACG MEETING (17 NOVEMBER 2021)

- Organized by OPCW, with support by UNECE
- Attended by EU, EPSC, ILO, OECD, OPCW, UNECE, UNEP/OCHA JEU, UNDRR, UNITAR and WHO
- Outcomes:
 - a) Exchanged information about priorities, ongoing/planned activities and projects
 - b) Highlighted areas of common interest/cooperation:
 - Provision of comments during the development of technical guidelines and policy guidance
 - Invitation/contribution to regional workshops and capacity building events
 - Co-development of e-learning materials
 - c) Defined common messages/themes

EIGHTH IACG MEETING (9 MARCH 2022)

- UNECE-led extraordinary IACG meeting on the industrial threats that Ukraine faces and opportunities for cooperation in prevention and preparedness
- Attended by EU, ICRC, ILO, OECD, UNECE, UNEP/OCHA JEU, UNDRR, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and the UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine
- **Outcomes:**
 - a. Information exchange about chemical/industrial facilities/hotspots and organization's related activities in Ukraine
 - b. Stressed the consequences for people and environment in case of an IA, highlighted transboundary threats and importance of measures to prevent accidental water, air and soil pollution;
 - c. Considered options to coordinate action among international environmental and humanitarian organizations to protect people and the environment from the effects of industrial/chemical accidents

WORKING VISITS, MISSIONS
TO PARTIES AND OTHER
STAKEHOLDERS; DONOR
MEETINGS

In the current biennium the Convention secretariat also participated in:

- 19 January 2021 – “How to strengthen MRG in 2021”, organized by Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), UNEP-GRID and UNEP’s International Resource Panel (IRP)
- 2 March 2021 – OSCE Press Conference on Tailings storage facilities: threats to transboundary waters in Ukraine
- 24 June 2021 – Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety in Kazakhstan through Nature Based Solutions, organized by Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute (SKRI)
- 7 October 2021 – Environment Management Group (EMG), 27th Senior Officials Meeting
- 12-13 October 2021 – OECD Green Action Task Force → Item 6: MRG in EECCA countries
- 1-3 March 2022 – The CBSS Baltic Excellence Programm
- 28 September 2022 - Awareness-raising meeting with the EU on the Convention and linkages with EU policy and legislation
- 11 October 2022 – Meeting with the EU Environmental Counsellors on CoP-12
- 26 October 2022 – Knowledge exchange workshop within the framework of the UNDP regional project on «Stakeholder engagement in remediation of Uranium Legacy Sites in CA. Phase 2»
- 26 October 2022 – 32nd meeting of OECD Working Party on Chemical Accidents

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



IOMC



UNECE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!