

Agenda Item 2 Thirtieth anniversary for the Convention (Tuesday 29.11.2022, 10:20-11:20)

Statement delivered from Norway, DSB on the 30th anniversary of the Convention

Norway was one of the signatory countries to the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Since the work on the shaping of the Convention started, our country has continuously supported the work, both financially and in-kind.

Norway is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), which in this context means that the Seveso III directive is adopted and implemented in our country. The strong linkages between the Convention and the Seveso III directive are important for us, even if we are a non-EU member country.

Since the implementation of the Convention, we have neither identified nor notified hazardous activities with the potential to cause transboundary effects. Why then is the Industrial Accident Convention important for us?

Accidents caused by natural or technological disasters do not respect the borders. This has unfortunately been illustrated/proven during the Covid-19 pandemic, floodings, wildfires etc. In addition, industrial accidents that have affected neighbouring countries have occurred in the ECE-region. The Convention underlines the principles of international laws and builds on the principles of good neighbourliness. In case of crisis, mutual assistance and information exchange are critical. When an industrial accident strikes in one or more countries, the agreement calls upon the international community to show solidarity and provide mutual assistance if necessary. The three C's - Cooperation, Coordination and Communication are essential and important for our work, also at the national and local levels. When we add commitment and transparency, I think we are at the heart of the Convention. These values are essential to build on and maintain trust in communities and societies. We share these values.

The Convention also helps achieve the goals of other international treaties and global frameworks, like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and it contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development goals related to water, industry, cities, climate change and disaster. Representing the Civil Protection authority which also is tasked with the role to be the Focal Point to the Sendai Framework, we consider the Convention to be a legal instrument for further strengthen prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents and enhanced technological disaster reduction.

We have found the Convention's work on risk assessment and land use planning to fit very well in our own work at the national level, and we appreciate very much that the community of the Convention is an active arena for sharing experiences and good practice.

Lastly, I will mention the Assistance and Cooperation Program. This has been a good and valuable programme for many of the beneficiary countries. We hope that we in the nearest future will see more countries that become parties of the Convention. This requires sustainable activities in the workplan, and that all Parties provide resources for the implementation of the Convention.

A safe and robust society where everyone takes the responsibility is the vision of the work on civil protection in my country. I hope that this can be helpful in our joint efforts in reaching the Convention's over all vision until 2030 which is to *significantly increase industrial safety and reduce the risk of technological disasters by ensuring its full implementation.*

We will continue our support to the work under the Convention. Thank you for your attention.