

Thirtieth anniversary of the Convention

Statement by Martine Rohn-Brossard

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

This year the Convention celebrates its 30th anniversary. The Convention, which aims to protect human beings and the environment against the effects of industrial accidents by preventing such accidents as far as possible from occurring, encourages **active international cooperation which is a central element of the successful implementation** of the Convention.

Switzerland, party to the Convention since 1999, would like to **acknowledge and thank all the parties as well as the beneficiary countries of the cooperation and assistance programme for their unwavering commitment**. The efforts made by all contribute not only to **implement the Convention effectively but also to develop and strengthen it** in order to **meet the current challenges**. Indeed, the Convention provides an effective mechanism for supporting countries' progress towards sustainable development and disaster resilience by protecting their populations and the environment from industrial accidents occurring within and across national borders.

In terms of achievements, Switzerland particularly welcomes the **success of the cooperation and assistance programme** which **strengthen the capacities** of the EECCA countries to implement the Convention. The **multi-country projects** are expected to improve governance through **national policy dialogues on industrial safety** involving all relevant stakeholders and have already contributed to **improve cross-border cooperation** through sub-regional projects and activities.

Another important achievement is the **large number of guidance materials**, good industry practices, checklists, also related to tailings management facilities, that have been developed for **use by countries, competent authorities, operators and others stakeholders**.

Thus, in a constantly evolving global and regional context where many new challenges are emerging, the Convention should remain a flexible, reactive but also a proactive instrument. It will certainly **have to adapt its mechanisms** in order to take into consideration some major issues such as climate change and related natural disasters.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by conveying **the best wishes to the Convention** and to **reiterate Switzerland's willingness and motivation to further support the development and implementation** of the Convention in order to meet current and future challenges!