

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Statement on Item 2

Thank you Madam Chair for this opportunity to reflect on the 30th Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention and the achievements we as a group have made to date. The UK has been closely involved in the Convention for many years; many of you will remember my colleague and former chair of the WGI Sandra Ashcroft and the contribution she made to the work of this Convention, and I'm very pleased that my colleague Gill Smart has been nominated to join the Bureau for this biennium continuing that strong association.

Although less impacted by potential transboundary accidents than some of our fellow Parties the UK has long seen the TEIA Convention as a crucial part of the international commitment to drive up standards in chemical accident prevention, preparedness, and response to the benefit of us all. We have welcomed the opportunity to learn from our colleagues, and also to share our own expertise particularly in areas such as land use planning and risk assessment. It has been my pleasure since I've been involved with the Convention to see the commitment and efforts from parties, and particularly committed countries to implement the Convention. As we will see in our meeting this week our challenge is not over with new technologies and changes to our climate affecting how we manage the risks of hazardous installations. I look forward to trying to address these together in future years.

In my role as Chair of the OECD's Working Party on Chemical Accidents I am particularly appreciative of the close cooperation between our two groups and particularly the seminars and events we've been able to carry out together. As our Convention tells us accidents do not see borders and it is crucial we continue to work together in this area within all the multinational organisations available to us. Thank you.