

## **OECD Statement - 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Industrial Accidents Convention (29 November 2022)**

Dear delegates, dear colleagues,

First of all, we would like to thank the UNECE for the rich and sustained cooperation with the OECD over the years. Our two programmes, the OECD chemical accidents programme and the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, started both in the early 1990's as a response to the massive chemical accidents occurred in Bhopal, India and Schweizerhalle in Switzerland. The issue of chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response took on a new level of urgency and political importance then. Our two programmes have grown in parallel and the work of the UNECE, with its particular emphasis on the transboundary aspects of industrial accidents, has brought an impressive amount of expertise to the community.

The OECD chemical accidents programme has been collaborating with UNECE over the past decades with a strong partnership that has allowed the development of the Inter-Agency Group on Industrial/Chemical Accidents, in which more partner Organisations have joined.

We have also been working closely with UNECE on specific projects, in particular the update of our flagship publication the Guiding Principles on Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response, the update and consolidation of the OECD legal instruments (one of which also addressing transboundary accidents), and also the work on Natech -the accidents triggered by natural hazards.

In addition, UNECE and OECD have organized jointly a number of events including the seminar on Natech risk management which is part of today's agenda, the previous event having been the seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion which was very successful. And we are now engaging in capacity building and assistance activities with a cooperation on the development of National Policy Dialogues on Industrial Safety.

In the name of the OECD let me wish you a great 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Industrial Accidents Convention, and we are looking forward to our continued fruitful collaboration.