

**UNECE/OECD Seminar on effective management of technological risks of accidents  
triggered by natural hazards  
(29 November 2022)**

**Statement by Mr. Davit Hambaryan, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of the  
Republic of Armenia**

**Dear Chair, Excellencies, dear distinguished delegates,**

It is my honor to represent Armenia at this high-level panel on the effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards. On behalf of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, I would like also to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all participants of the Industrial Accidents Convention with its Thirtieth anniversary.

I represent a country prone to a large number of natural hazards, which threaten to affect also industrial objects of varying sizes and types that can impact the well-being of the society in different dimensions. From this perspective, the Government of Armenia has taken over the utmost need for a change of the paradigm of disaster risk reduction, which should be seen more as a complex approach to possible complex and interconnected events. The definition of “Natech hazards”, as technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards cannot be perceived among emerging risks as far as the industrial objects that can possibly be affected by unprecedented natural phenomena exist over many decades.

Recently, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia elaborated a new law on Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection in line with the recommendations and requirements of the Sendai Framework Priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of this activity was to create the necessary background for a complex and more efficient Disaster Risk Management addressing both natural and technological accidents applying the principles and approaches of better disaster data management, risk-informed policy-making, inter-agency cooperation, involvement of all layers of the civil society, private sector and the academia, leaving no one behind. We understand that the full achievement of this goal needs time and a change of mindset, which perceived disaster risk management solely as the responsibility of the state organizations and mostly realized in form of disaster response. On the other hand, it is our role to take all measures to better advocate the urge and necessity of timely and targeted actions in order to diminish and eliminate the risks threatening the sustainable development of our countries.

This is where international cooperation and experience sharing are critical and undoubtedly efficient. It is worth mentioning the tremendous significance and the role of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, which provides a real background and possibility to create new partnerships, including with international organizations, industry representatives, experts, academia, and non-governmental organizations.

Co-chairing the elaboration of the Roadmap of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction and its further endorsement, Armenia performed its strong commitment towards enhanced international cooperation for more active sharing of best practices and ways to overcome the challenges in the actively changing realities.

We have to admit, that the constantly evolving, urbanizing and a technology-based world undergoing endless climate changes is facing disastrous challenges far beyond our former perceptions of disasters and hazards. Multi-level, multi-dimensional approaches are needed to overcome combined, complex, existing, and unexpected emergent risks, where the Natech hazards must be regarded in the first place.

Given this opportunity to address all of the participants of this Seminar dedicated to the effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards, I would like to say that the thorough investigations and professional approach to understanding these risks, using proper mechanisms and tools, sharing the best practices and also failures are of key importance. I encourage the countries to accept that on our way to overcoming these challenges we need the stronghold of shared knowledge, wise governance, and cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.