Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents
10th February 2023

Meeting Report

I) Agenda

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group meeting was chaired by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and was held online. The following points were addressed:

    i. Opening remarks and tour de table

    ii. Debriefing of the last 2 IACG meetings (UNECE)

    iii. Discussion on enhancing coordination and collaboration – developing and applying common messages (OECD)

    iv. Partner presentations and upcoming events

II) Summary of discussions

The **UNDRR** Chief for Europe and Central Asia opened the meeting, reiterating the importance of coordination and cooperation around the theme of industrial accident risk. He underlined the relevance of this issue to the global DRR agenda and the priorities of the Sendai Framework. The meeting is particularly timely considering the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework.

The Head of the **Joint Environment Unit UNEP-OCHA** introduced the work of JEU and its priorities in the context of the deployment to Türkiye and Syria for site assessments and the mapping of facilities.

The **European Commission DG ECHO** was represented by teams working security and situational awareness as well as civil protection international cooperation. **DG HOME** was also present, from the angle of security research programming, with a focus on a number of relevant topics such as digital breakdown, operational capacities, NATCH disaster risk – an event of the CERIS network is taking place in May 2023. DG HOME underlined the potential for bilateral meetings with existing projects with agencies and frameworks: those not on the CERIS distribution list should approach Philippe. **DG INTPA** was also present in the meeting.

ILO introduced the work undertaken on occupational safety and health hazards, closely with ministries of labour and employer associations. ILO provided an update on the framework on chemical accidents and expressed an interest in NATECH risk and emerging trends. ILO referred to the work of the SIACM and underlined that major industrial accidents are so far not mainstreamed there – as part of the framework revision, considerations brought to the table to engage new challenges and risk - could IACG expertise help bring elements back to this framework? Could an information document to support the IOMC instrument be an idea to follow up on?

WHO presented the work undertaken in Ukraine around technological hazards and health risk, for which a number of guidelines and tools as well as a chemical information database are in place. WHO conducted a training on rapid risk assessment in chemical emergencies for health

professionals engaged in preparedness to chemical accidents. A publication on the impact of war on environment and health was released in September 2022. WHO raised the issue of other hazards, such as those related to non-acutely impacting chemicals with long term impacts (eg. Asbestos) and introduced guidelines for establishing a poison centre and organized multi-country (focus on 6 counties) training in Dec 2022, WHO expressed interest to see engagement of other partners on NATECH such as UNFCCC and The Strategic Approach to International Cehmicals Management (SAICM) and enquired about possible links of the IACG with existing chemical accidents strategic frameworks.

OECD delivered a presentation focusing on the 2023 revision of the Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response, as well as the consolidation of 3 legal instruments. In 2022, a brochure to raise awareness on NATECH risk was published. For 2024, a joint OECD-UN-JRC guide is planned for publication.

UNECE delivered a presentation on its 2021-2022 activities, including: participation to the DRR Global Platform and EFDRR; JEG seminar on emerging risk; development of risk assessment methodologies for chemical installations; COP12 co-organised with DSB for the 30th anniversary of the Convention , including a Seminar on Natech risk management and a segment on activities under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, including projects in Central Asia such as the Syr Darya project on the development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution in emergency situations. CoP-12 adopted a Decision on Natech risk management and endorsed a Roadmap for Action on TMF safety. UNECE underlined the importance of NATECH risk and the need to do more on raising awareness. Efforts should be made to bring institutions, private sector and civil society closer together – in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan for example, an inter-institutional working group was established; in Serbia, a national programme is being developed under the auspices of a "National Policy Dialogue," connecting institutions including a stakeholder consultation as next step.

III) IACG Debriefs

The 7th IACG was organised by OPCW with support from UNECE. Main follow up to the 7th IACG of September 2021 included on areas of common interest, including by engaging on respective revision processes; and through joint advocacy in engagement areas.

An extraordinary meeting of the IACG, triggered by ICRC, was organized by UNECE in March 2022 with presence of the UNRC Ukraine. The meeting allowed for an exchange of information on exposure in Ukraine and actions that could be taken by various organizations to support mitigating industrial accident risk. It was agreed to call as relevant for follow up meetings of this group.

IV) Collaboration and common messages

OECD proposed a light update to the information document, which could be launched in Q2 of 2023 for release in the course of 2023. A number of updates would be required by agencies, along with the addition of new examples (focus on NATECH based on ongoing discussions in the group).

The ICCM5 conference in September 2023 could be a relevant timing for release – could a common IACG event at the conference be considered?

The OECD will as a follow up to the meeting share the document, the key messages and launch the consultations.

V) Partner presentations

UNDRR presented its work on the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure, its dedicated handbook for which a public consultation took place in February 2023. UNECE underlined the links to UNECE activities and raised the question of the definition of 'infrastructure'.

The OECD informed of an upcoming webinar series on the management of hazardous materials (June 2023) and a technical workshop held in Kenya in March 2023.

VI) Follow up and next steps

A number of follow up action points came out of the IACG meeting, including:

- **Follow up on the revision of brochure, key messages and achievements, through a consultation of the group (OECD lead).**

- **Continuous efforts by the IACG members to connect events and enhance advocacy and visibility of the agenda – consideration of the ICCM5 conference (Sept 2023) for the release of the IACG brochure and possible IACG event (OECD lead).**

- **Efforts to cross-fertilise instruments and frameworks – possible synergies with the SAICM and support to the IOMC instrument (ILO lead); follow up to the Sendai Framework Midterm Review on reinforcing the linkages between DRR and the Convention agenda (UNDRR and UNECE lead).**

- **Follow up with DG HOME if interest by IACG members in the CERIS network and possible bilateral exchanges with relevant EU research projects.**

- **Identification of a new IACG host for 2024: partners are invited to express interest to UNECE (new UNECE focal point: Georgios Georgiadis), with a copy to OECD (Marie-Ange Baucher) and UNDRR (Andrew Bower)**

Annex 1 - List of participants

Name	Organisation
Octavian Bivol	UNDRR
Andrew Bower	UNDRR
Adam Rowland Fysch	UNDRR
Mathieu Verougstraete	UNDRR
Franziska Hirsch	UNECE
Claudia Kamke	UNECE
Bertrand Dagallier	OECD
Marie-Ange Baucher	OECD
Charlotta Benedek	UNEP-OCHA JEU
Tristan Simonart	European Commission DG ECHO
Ainara Casajus-Valles	European Commission DG ECHO
Philippe Quevauviller	European Commission DG HOME
Isabelle Daouste	European Commission DG INTPA
Halshka Graczyk	ILO
Irina Zastenskaya	WHO