

United Nations Global Seminar on Early Warning, Pollution Remediation and Environmental Liability

**Preparedness and Response in Case of
Technological and Natech Disasters**

**Online, 29 and 30 January 2026 (10am–12pm and 1–3pm CET)
In Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish**



Opening: Mobilizing action for stronger preparedness and response (10-10:55am)

Moderator, TBC

<i>Advancing preparedness through Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) fostering transboundary cooperation and technological disaster risk management (7 min)</i>	Dmitry Mariyasyn, Deputy Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
<i>Strengthening preparedness and response: WMO's role in risk detection, early warning and hazard forecasting (7 min)</i>	Ko Barrett, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
<i>Closing knowledge gaps for disaster preparedness (7 min)</i>	Paola Albritto, Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
<i>Strategizing for preparedness and water resilience (7 min)</i>	Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
<i>Enhancing national and international coordination against technological and Natech disasters (7 min)</i>	Miriam Haritz, Deputy Director-General, Directorate W I - Water Management & Water Protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
<i>Ensuring accessibility and inclusion in disaster preparedness(7 min)</i>	Marcie Roth, Executive Director of the World Institute on Disability, Member of UN Advisory Panel on EWS
<i>Leaving no one behind in protecting present and future generations(7 min)</i>	Joel B Kyndiah and Kishwar Jahan Chowdhury, Youth for Meghna (Y4M) Network

Coffee break (10:55–11:05am)

**Early warning and industrial accident notification systems:
Experiences, lessons learned and good practices worldwide (11:05am-2:45pm)**

Moderator, Heide Jekel

11:05am-12pm

<i>Introduction and overview of early warning (5 min)</i>	Heide Jekel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany and Member of the UNECE Water Convention's Bureau
<i>Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) (10 min)</i>	Bojan Srdic, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia and Co-Chair of the JEG from the Industrial Accidents Convention and Peter Kovacs, General Directorate of Water Management, Hungary and Co-Chair of the JEG from the Water Convention
<i>Interlinkages between early warning and technological and Natech disaster risk management (10 min)</i>	Elisabeth Krausmann, European Commission Joint Research Centre
<i>Early warning under the Emergency Response Coordination Centre and links to national systems (10 min)</i>	Esther El Haddad, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission
<i>Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) and links to national systems: A look at technological and Natech hazards (10 min)</i>	Lusajo Ambukege, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission
<i>Q&A (10 min)</i>	Heide Jekel, Moderator

Break (12-1pm)

**(continuation) Early warning and industrial accident notification systems:
Experiences, lessons learned and good practices worldwide**

1-2:45pm

<i>Connected for safety: Launch of the upgraded UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System (10 min)</i>	Joseph Orangias, Secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention, Environment Division, UNECE
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<i>Accident Emergency Warning and Hot-Spot Mapping in the Danube River Basin (10 min)</i>	Adam Kovacs, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
<i>Insights into Estonia's new national multi-hazard public warning system (10 min)</i>	Maret Põldveer, Estonian Rescue Services Agency, Estonia
<i>Interlinkages between the J-Alert and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) systems in Japan (10 min)</i>	Hiroaki Shibuya, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
<i>Q&A (10 min)</i>	Heide Jekel, Moderator
<i>From Source to Sea: How ICPE's Early Warning System Guards the Elbe against Industrial and Natech Pollution (10 min)</i>	Svenja Sommer, Federal Institute for Hydrology, Germany
<i>SRUUK – System for early warning and crisis management: Preparedness for major accidents (10 min)</i>	Matija Varović, Ministry of the Interior, Croatia
<i>Integrated Flood and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin (10 min)</i>	Mawuli Lumor, Water Resources Commission, Ghana
<i>Integrating technological hazards into early warning systems (10 min)</i>	Firdavs Saidzai Subhi, Service for State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision, Tajikistan
<i>Q&A (15 min)</i>	Heide Jekel, Moderator

Final remarks from Part 1 (2:45-3pm)

Conclusions and next steps (15 min) Heide Jekel, Moderator

Programme – Part 2

30 January 2026 (10am–3pm CET)

Pollution remediation: Lessons learned and good practices (10am–12pm)

Moderator, Maud Casier

<i>Introduction and overview of pollution remediation (5 min)</i>	Maud Casier, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission and Vice-Chair of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention's Bureau
<i>Operational Lessons from Grid-Scale Battery Energy Storage System Failures: US EPA Region 9 Emergency Response Case Studies (15 min)</i>	Justin Marquez and Ejan Petrie, Environmental Protection Agency, United States of America
<i>Protecting the Kafue River: Actions following the copper mine tailings dam accident (15 min)</i>	Chisanga Siwale, Water Resources Management Authority, Zambia
<i>Q&A (15 min)</i>	Maud Casier, Moderator
<i>Case Study: IPEL Accident – Oil Spill in the Polcevera Stream (15 min)</i>	Marco Falconi and Francesco Andreotti, The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)
<i>Dealing with accidental water pollution: lessons learned and best practices from the Cedre's on-the-ground experience (15 min)</i>	Nicolas Tamic, Cedre, France
<i>Lessons from the Tropics: How emergent pollutants are shaping new challenges for coastal wetlands (15 min)</i>	Sevvandi Jayakody, Vice-Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Sri Lanka
<i>Oil pollution of 2020 - mitigation and remediation (10 min)</i>	Tamás Kovács, Central-Danube-Valley Water Directorate, Hungary
<i>Q&A and Discussion (15 min)</i>	Maud Casier, Moderator

Break (12-1pm CET)

Environmental liability: Ensuring accountability and leveling the playing field (1-2:45pm)

Moderator, Maud Casier

Overview of environmental liability (5 min) Maud Casier, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission and Vice-Chair of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention's Bureau

Environmental Risk and Damage: Liability and Remedies under a Human Rights Lens (10 min) Marcos A Orellana, UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights

UNECE Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (10 min) Gábor Baranyai, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary

EU Environmental Liability Directive (10 min) Olga Kurpisz, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

OECD Recommendations on the implementation of the polluter pays principle (10 min) Eeva Leinala, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Q&A (10 min) Maud Casier, Moderator

International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Funds for accidents at sea: Liability and compensation (10 min) Mark Homan, International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds secretariat

National Committee for the Management of Environmental Liabilities: Developments to Cover Technological Disasters (10 min) Astrid Guerrero, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

HydroSOS's role in transboundary resilience planning: Leveraging WMO's Unified Data Policy for better prediction across scales (10 min) Angela Chiara Corina, National Civil Protection Department (Italy) and Vice-President of the WMO Commission for Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications

Assessing the Real-World Impacts of Environmental Damage: Enhancing Investigative Capacity and Cooperation through Specialized Multidisciplinary Teams and Joint Investigation Teams (10 min) Faustino Gudín, Vice-President, European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment

Q&A and Discussion (10 min) Maud Casier, Moderator

Final remarks from Part 2 (2:45-3pm)

Conclusions and next steps (15 min) Maud Casier, Moderator