

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****ENGAGING THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS****INTRODUCTION**

1. The chemical industry has been recognised as a key stakeholder with regard to full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). In accordance with the recommendations made in the report of the Third Review Conference¹ (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), the Director-General decided to strengthen the partnership between the OPCW and the chemical industry for the benefit of the object and purpose of the Convention, notably the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.
2. This Note complements and updates the information reported in the previous Note by the Director-General (C-25/DG.14, dated 12 November 2020). The cut-off date for this document was 22 October 2021.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

3. As described in Note C-20/DG.15 (dated 16 November 2015), following an exchange of letters, a coordination mechanism was established in 2015 with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). This mechanism is comprised of the OPCW–ICCA Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and the Chemical Industry Coordination Group (CICG). The membership of the JSC consists of the Director-General and senior OPCW staff and of the ICCA Secretary and senior ICCA staff. The CICG consists of technical staff of the OPCW, ICCA, as well as the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA) since 2020, following an exchange of letters between the OPCW and ICTA (S/1880/2020, dated 25 June 2020).
4. During the reporting period, the tenth and eleventh CICG meetings took place. Owing to restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, both meetings were held remotely. Participants discussed issues such as the impact of COVID-19 and current trends and challenges in the global chemical industry, and continued to exchange information on capacity building, in particular in the area of chemical safety and security.

¹ Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

5. The chemical industry associations continue to make a major contribution to OPCW capacity building. In 2021, ICCA has continued its substantial support of the Associate Programme by facilitating the identification of potential industrial plant facilities located in OPCW Member States to host participants of the Programme for training. Despite the challenges faced, seven companies from seven Member States confirmed their willingness to host participants from the Associate Programme. However, because of the evolving nature of the pandemic and the need to ensure the safety of participants for the entirety of this capacity-building programme, the Associate Programme 2021 was subsequently rescheduled and recalibrated to offer an online training programme. Two representatives from the chemical industry participated in the online session.
6. In addition, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) organised, from 14 to 18 June 2021, the Responsible Care[®] Workshop for Russian-speaking chemical industry professionals. The event was organised in conjunction with the Russian Chemists Union in cooperation with the Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia, and supported by ICCA and the European Chemical Industry Council.
7. Education and outreach activities involving the chemical industry continue to be addressed during the sessions of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO).²
8. ABEO member Professor Alastair Hay gave a presentation to the security subcommittee of ICTA about The Hague Ethical Guidelines on 7 July 2021. Following this presentation, ICTA decided to fully endorse these guidelines.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

9. Since 2009, the Secretariat, in cooperation with States Parties from all regions and in partnership with other international organisations, government agencies, and specialised centres, has carried out a chemical safety and security management programme which, to date, has trained more than 3,200 experts. Since 16 October 2020, the cut-off date of the last Note (C-25/DG.14), 10 capacity-building and networking events involving participants from the chemical industry have been conducted under the programme.
10. Five representatives from the chemical industry joined the advanced course on chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Latin America and Caribbean region (GRULAC), which was held online on 22 October 2020. The course offered a critical evaluation of audit methodologies for chemical facilities to minimise the risk of safety incidents. Moreover, the participants studied methods for safeguarding the security of the chemical plant supply chain against both external and internal threats.
11. Six representatives from the chemical industry attended the advanced course on chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in East Asia, which was held online on 17 November 2020. The programme focused on the scenario-based approach in safety and security management and on supply chain security management strategies, with an emphasis on hazardous chemicals.

² See ABEO-10/1 (dated 10 February 2021) and ABEO-11/1* (dated 27 July 2021).

12. Thirteen chemical industry representatives attended the “Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia Region”, which was convened online on 23 February 2021 by the OPCW and the Qatar National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons. The programme focused on chemical security management for chemical plants and on mechanisms to prevent the diversion of scheduled chemicals for malicious use.
13. On 1 April 2021, the Secretariat also convened an online “Forum on the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry: New Norms on OPCW Capacity-Building Programmes after the COVID-19 Pandemic” for the Africa Region. Among the 37 participating experts, there were two chemical industry representatives. The forum aimed to provide a platform for the States Parties to share best practices and lessons learned in connection with capacity-building efforts, particularly in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
14. On 29 June 2021, the Secretariat organised an online event to launch the “Indicative Guidelines for Chemical Safety and Security in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises to Foster the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry”, an outcome of the workshops on developing tools for chemical safety and security organised in 2019. This non-binding document, the first of its kind, contains best practices in this field, to which the chemical industry may refer in its endeavour to enhance safety and security management and, ultimately, prevent and reduce incidents and accidents at chemical facilities. Representatives from Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, and the United States of America, as well as from the United Nations Environment Programme and ICCA, shared their experience during the launch.
15. Eight chemical industry representatives participated in the online “Symposium on Women in Chemistry” held on 1 July 2021. The symposium illustrated, inter alia, the strength and depth of the contributions of women to peaceful uses of chemistry, including chemical safety and security. In addition, the symposium raised participants’ awareness of opportunities for capacity and knowledge development for women in chemistry. It also contributed to the promotion of international solidarity and cooperation aimed at developing human capital for the future of peaceful chemistry.
16. A representative of ICTA participated in the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism held on 5 July 2021, which concentrated on the capacity-building activities of the Secretariat to assist States Parties in strengthening their legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemical security, and also examined the role of ICTA as a stakeholder in this regard. Delegations were briefed, inter alia, on ICTA’s role in the chemical industry supply chain and on the challenges facing the global chemical distribution sector with regard to the illicit use of chemicals.
17. On 16 July 2021, the Secretariat also organised an online training programme on advanced chemical safety and security management for OPCW Member States in the GRULAC region. The training assisted participating countries in creating national action plans on chemical safety and security management. A principal focus was hazard communication, a key area in the chemical safety management framework dealing with the identification and communication of chemical hazards at the workplace. Three industry representatives took part in the training.

18. From 6 September to 8 October 2021, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the University of Wuppertal in Germany, held an online course on explosion protection and error management. The course, funded by the German Federal Government, included e-learning and live sessions with experts from the University of Wuppertal, and benefited 24 participants from OPCW Member States in Africa, Asia, and GRULAC. A wide range of stakeholders representing governments, National Authorities, academia, and the chemical industry (three representatives) participated in the event.
19. Sixteen chemical industry representatives attended the “Workshop on the Chemical Supply Chain: Regional Road Transport Safety and Security Management for Participants from the Asia Region”, which was held online from 4 to 8 October 2021 and was conducted by the Secretariat in partnership with the University of Nottingham Malaysia. The workshop focused on land transportation and benefitted both experienced professionals from the chemical industry and governmental institutions. The participants gained knowledge and a better understanding of risk assessment, risk mitigation measures, and performance auditing, as well as of the latest research and development, including technical solutions, in monitoring and control related to the chemical supply chain.
20. Separately, the Secretariat organised a series of online training courses on legislative and regulatory issues on chemical security. The events were held for States Parties in Asia from 13 to 20 November 2020 (49 participants from 19 States Parties), for English-speaking African States Parties from 19 to 22 April 2021 (49 participants from 12 States Parties), and for French-speaking African States Parties from 16 to 21 October 2021 (36 representatives from 12 States Parties). Representatives from ICCA and ICTA participated in the training course and gave presentations on the voluntary chemical security measures being implemented by the chemical industry and chemical distributors, including issues and challenges encountered and how they were addressed.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VERIFICATION

21. ICCA and ICTA representatives were invited to participate as observers in meetings of the Industry Cluster held remotely on 25 February, 5 July, and 4 October 2021, during which States Parties discussed, inter alia, the ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of inspections as well as the update of the Declaration Handbook.
22. During the reporting period, the Secretariat delivered two online training courses on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Convention. The courses, held globally in English from 1 March to 15 April 2021 and subregionally in Arabic from 13 to 30 September 2021, equipped participants with the knowledge and skills required for the accurate and timely submission of annual declarations under Article VI of the Convention, and provided them with practical guidance on receiving and escorting OPCW inspections. Eighty-two participants, including 20 from chemical industry organisations and trade associations, successfully completed the courses.
23. The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) continues to include chemical industry representatives among its members. The SAB continues to actively look to partner with industry representatives to ensure that scientific and technical advances in industry are identified and to best understand how these advances may have an impact on the Convention. During the reporting period, the SAB and ICCA discussed modalities for holding a joint scientific workshop to exchange best practices in the determination of the hazardous properties of toxic chemicals and the possibility of phasing out these harmful substances.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

24. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article VII of the Convention, the National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention are to “serve as the national focal point for effective liaison with the Organization and other States Parties”. Their primary function is to coordinate the activities relating to the implementation of the Convention at the national level, with all relevant stakeholders within and outside the structure of the National Authority. With the chemical industry as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Convention, the Secretariat has been supporting National Authorities’ engagement with national chemical industries.
25. During the reporting period, two annual meetings of National Authorities and chemical industry representatives were held. This forum of interaction has taken place in Doha, Qatar since 2014. Owing to the pandemic restrictions, both the 2020 and 2021 events were conducted online, as follows:
 - (a) the Seventh Annual Meeting of Representatives of Chemical Industry and National Authorities took place on 17 and 18 November 2020 and was attended by 65 participants from 37 States Parties, including 16 representatives from the chemical industry. The event focused on the collaborative actions among national stakeholders and pertinent modalities in light of the pandemic, chemical safety and security, and chemical production, storage, and transport issues. Both ICCA and ICTA supported this event by sharing expertise in the above-mentioned areas; and
 - (b) the Eighth Annual Meeting of Representatives of Chemical Industry and National Authorities was held on 12 and 13 October 2021. In total, 113 delegates from 52 States Parties participated in the meeting, including 28 representatives from the chemical industry. Participants discussed regulatory compliance and how to enhance the engagement of the chemical industry in the development of regulatory measures. They also exchanged information on approaches to education and outreach among the chemical industry and ways to raise awareness of the Convention at the national level. A representative of ICTA participating in this event shared information on outreach to chemical distributors to promote adherence to chemical industry security measures.

THE WAY AHEAD

26. In accordance with decision C-19/DEC.2 (dated 1 December 2014) of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”), the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference (C-26/1, dated 22 July 2021) contains an agenda item dedicated to the chemical industry and the scientific community. A draft decision allowing representatives of the global chemical industry and the scientific community to attend and participate in the sessions of the Conference (C-26/DEC/CRP.6, dated 26 October 2021) will be submitted to the Conference for its approval at that same session.
27. The Secretariat will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the chemical industry within the current framework and in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference. The Secretariat plans to host two meetings of the CICG in 2022.

Annex: Events Organised Under the Chemical Safety and Security Management Programme and Attended by Chemical Industry Representatives Since 17 October 2020

Annex

**EVENTS ORGANISED UNDER THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND ATTENDED BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES SINCE 17 OCTOBER 2020**

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Advanced Course on Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the GRULAC Region	Online	22 October 2020	– ANDI – Protécnica Ingeniería S.A.S – Sociedad Nacional de Industrias
Training Course on Legislative and Regulatory Issues on Chemical Security for States Parties in Asia	Online	13 to 20 November 2020	– ICCA – ICTA
Advanced Course on Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in East Asia	Online	17 November 2020	– Federation of the Indonesian Chemical Industry – PT BASF Indonesia – Responsible Care® Indonesia – PT. Nippon Shokubai, Indonesia – Atlantic Coatings, Inc, Philippines
Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia Region	Online	23 February 2021	– Qatar Petroleum – Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC) – Oriental Trading Company (OTC) – Qatar Detergent Company (QDC)
Forum on the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry: New Norms on OPCW Capacity-Building Programmes after the COVID-19 Pandemic, for the Africa Region	Online	1 April 2021	– HSE Department / CNPC Niger Petroleum S.A., Niger – Mask Manufacturing, Morocco
Training Course on Legislative and Regulatory Issues on Chemical Security: for States Parties in Africa (in English)	Online	19 to 22 April 2021	– ICCA – ICTA

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Launching Event: Indicative Guidelines for Chemical Safety and Security in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises to Foster the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry	Online	29 June 2021	– Advanced Chemical Industries LTD. – Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation – Lonsen Kiri Chemical Industries Ltd. – Best Value Chem Pvt Ltd. – Bakersville India Pvt. Ltd. – Navin Fluorine International Ltd. – UPL Limited – Responsible Care® Indonesia – Federation of the Indonesian Chemical Industry – Chemical Industries Council of Malaysia – Myanmar Chemical Industry Association – Fauji Fertilizer Company Ltd. – Lotte Chemical Pakistan Ltd. – Atlantic Coatings, Inc – Qatar Petrochemical Company – INA, d.d. – Petrokemija, Plc. Fertilizer Company – Corporate Security DuPont – Asociación Nacional de la Industria Química, A.C. – Braskem Idesa
Symposium on Women in Chemistry	Online	1 July 2021	– Anhui Research Institute of Chemical Industry, China – BASF SE – Distribuidora del Caribe de Guatemala S.A. – Bakersville India Pvt. Ltd. – PT Evonik, Indonesian Federation of Chemical Industry (FIKI) – Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines – Oil and Gas Development Company Limited – Compañía Cibeles SA

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Advanced Course on Chemical Safety and Security Management for the GRULAC Region	Online	16 July 2021	– EDESAC – Asociación de Industrias Químicas (ASIQUR) – Sociedad Nacional de Industrias (SNI)
Wuppertal Online Course – Explosion Protection and Error Management in the Chemical Process Industries 2021	Online	6 September to 8 October 2021	– IMBEL-FE – OXIQUM S.A. – Chemical and Allied Industries Association (CAIA)
Workshop on the Chemical Supply Chain: Regional Road Transport Safety and Security Management for Participants from the Asia Region	Online	4 to 8 October 2021	– Fauji Fertilizer Company Ltd. – Chemical Industries Council of Malaysia – Petronas – USAHA RADAN SDN BHD – E-Response Alert Sdn. Bhd. – Monsanto (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. – Henkel (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. – Wah Nobel Group of Companies – Indian Chemical Council – Lotte Chemical Pakistan Ltd.
Training Course on Legislative and Regulatory Issues on Chemical Security for States Parties in Africa (in French)	Online	16 to 21 October 2021	– ICCA – ICTA