

**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, which has a cut-off date of 11 October 2022, complements and updates the information reported in the previous Note by the Director-General (C-26/DG.15, dated 5 November 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 twelfth and thirteenth CICG meetings took place. Both meetings were held in a hybrid format to accommodate participation of industry representatives from outside Europe, and of guest speakers. Participants continued discussions on issues such as the current trends and challenges in the global chemical industry, and exchanged information on capacity-development activities, focusing on promotion of best practices 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 2022, the 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. The twenty-third edition of the Associate Programme, held in 2022, was organised as an in-person activity for the first time since 2019. However, due to the remaining risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry component of the Programme had to be recalibrated once again. The component encompassed a field visit to a nearby chemical industry facility and was arranged with the support of the ICCA. ICCA and ICTA representatives also briefed the participants in the Associate Programme on the current trends in chemical industry and the role of their respective associations.
6. During the review period, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) engaged with international chemical industry associations with the aim of restoring the pre-pandemic level of cooperation regarding activities related to Responsible Care[®] workshops, the Associate Programme, and forums on peaceful uses of chemistry.
7. On 7 April 2022, the Secretariat convened an online forum on peaceful uses of chemistry. Among the 39 participating experts were nine from the chemical industry. The forum aimed at raising awareness and enhancing knowledge about chemical safety and security management, with a particular focus on the promotion of best practices.
8. In addition to the above-mentioned efforts, education and outreach activities involving the chemical industry continued to be addressed at sessions of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.

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 3,400 experts. Since 22 October 2021, the cut-off date of the previous Note (C-26/DG.15), nine capacity-building and networking events involving participants from the chemical industry have been conducted under the programme.
10. The Secretariat organised an online training course on legislative and regulatory issues in chemical security for States Parties in the Latin America and Caribbean (GRULAC) region from 8 to 14 December 2021. This course was the last in a series of online regional training courses that enhanced the capacities of States Parties in analysing their respective national legal and regulatory frameworks, including identifying gaps and possible approaches to addressing them, and developing appropriate chemical security measures. The course was attended by 53 participants from 23 States Parties. Technical experts from the ICCA and ICTA shared their expertise and discussed ongoing initiatives aimed at supporting States Parties in their efforts to develop legal measures on chemical security.

11. On 13 December 2021, the Secretariat organised, in cooperation with the National Authority of the Republic of Korea, an online “Seoul workshop” on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region. The course was aimed at building knowledge about advanced chemical safety and security among Asian Member States and focused on dual-use chemicals and process safety management audit methods, and was attended by four chemical industry representatives.
12. On 25 January 2022, experts from Bangladesh strengthened their knowledge and developed skills in chemical supply chain management. An online workshop delivered by the Secretariat concentrated on chemical supply chain security, security threat and vulnerability assessment, and risk management processes. Eight chemical industry representatives attended the seminar.
13. A representative from the ICTA contributed to a workshop on developing indicative guidelines for transportation of hazardous chemicals by road, which was held in Wuppertal, Germany, from 4 to 6 April 2022. The ICTA expert, together with other experts in chemical safety and security, shared best practices in the transportation of hazardous chemicals by road.
14. From 10 to 12 May 2022, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the National Authority of Zimbabwe, organised a seminar on chemical safety and security management for States Parties in the Africa region in Harare, Zimbabwe. The seminar aimed to raise awareness of the importance of chemical safety and security policy and guidelines to prevent chemical accidents and the potential misuse of toxic chemicals. Among the 35 participants were four chemical industry representatives.
15. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the National Authority of Peru, organised a seminar on chemical safety and security management for States Parties in the GRULAC region in Lima, Peru, from 12 to 14 July 2022. The main objective of the programme was to sensitise States Parties to chemical safety and security risks and to provide stakeholders with knowledge about modern safety strategies, chemical site security management, and process safety culture. Among the 36 participants were four chemical industry representatives.
16. Two regional workshops on best practices in the development of a legislative and regulatory framework for chemical security were organised in Bangkok, Thailand, from 19 to 21 July 2022 for States Parties in Asia, and in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 27 to 29 September 2022 for States Parties in the GRULAC region. The workshops provided a forum for sharing information on States Parties’ legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemical security, as well as for discussing approaches in the development of chemical security measures. Participants were informed about existing national legal and regulatory frameworks for chemical security, methodologies for assessing risks and gaps in existing legal regimes, and proven approaches to engaging different stakeholders. The workshop for States Parties in Asia was attended by 47 participants from 16 States Parties, while the workshop for States Parties in the GRULAC region was attended by 45 participants from 17 States Parties. Attendees included representatives of National Authorities, the chemical industry, and national chemical industry associations.

17. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay, held the second edition of the safety training programme e-learning course for Member States in the GRULAC region. The objective of the online training, which took place from 1 August to 7 October 2022, was to provide an update on the current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety, chemical hazards, handling, storage, and transportation of chemicals, as well as waste management. Four chemical industry representatives attended the course.
18. From 5 September to 7 October 2022, the Secretariat, in partnership with the University of Wuppertal, organised an online course on explosion protection and safety management in chemical process industries. The course focused on improving the capacity of the participants in the above-mentioned areas and was attended by six chemical industry representatives from the Africa, Asia, and GRULAC regions (two from each region).
19. From 6 to 8 September 2022, the Secretariat conducted a three-day chemical safety and security management seminar for Member States in Eastern Europe, in cooperation with Croatia's National Authority and the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Science. The seminar promoted safety and security standards for chemical facilities and laboratories to minimise the risk of safety incidents. Among the 26 participants were four chemical industry representatives.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VERIFICATION

20. ICCA and ICTA representatives were invited to participate as observers in meetings of the Industry Cluster held remotely on 7 March and 2 October 2022, during which States Parties discussed, inter alia, the functioning of the Article VI verification mechanism, as well as updates to existing databases of declarable chemicals.
21. During the reporting period, the Secretariat delivered three training courses on fulfilling declarations and inspections obligations under Article VI of the Convention. Two courses were held online from 7 to 25 February 2022 and from 25 April to 11 May 2022. The third took place in person in Quito, Ecuador, from 4 to 7 October 2022. The courses 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. Ninety-six participants, including 12 from chemical industry organisations and trade associations, completed their respective courses.
22. The Secretariat held a pilot forum on Article VI verification issues for States Parties with Schedule 2 plant sites from 19 to 21 September 2022 at OPCW Headquarters in The Hague. The pilot forum was conceived in response to the needs of States Parties with significant declarable and inspectable activities under Article VI of the Convention. It is part of the Secretariat's efforts to provide specialised and responsive capacity-building initiatives. The pilot forum provided an opportunity for delegates to exchange information, experiences, and good practices relating to Schedule 2 verification issues, as well as to receive insight directly from Secretariat staff on verification processes, procedures, and policies. Twenty-eight delegates attended the pilot forum, including an industry representative from BASF, who gave a presentation on the industry perspective of Schedule 2 verification.

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 jointly organised, together with the chemical industry, a collaborative workshop on emerging scientific trends and directions in the chemical industry. The workshop took place in Antwerp, Belgium, on 20 and 21 June 2022. As well as providing an update on ongoing developments in industry, the workshop also generated insightful discussions on these and other emerging concepts and technologies.

THE WAY AHEAD

24. 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-Seventh Session of the Conference (C-27/1, dated 19 July 2022) contains an agenda item dedicated to engagement with 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 Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference (C-27/DEC/CRP.3, dated 20 October 2022) will be submitted to the Conference for its approval at that same session.
25. By giving representatives of the global chemical industry the opportunity to express their views on the implementation of the Convention, including in meetings of the policy-making organs, the engagement of the chemical industry will be sustained and will become increasingly practical in nature. Against this background, chemical industry representatives have been invited by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference to participate in a working group meeting devoted to the engagement with external stakeholders.
26. The Secretariat will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the chemical industry within the current framework, in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference and with the goal of strengthening implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat plans to host two meetings of the CICG in 2023.

Annex: Events Organised Under the Chemical Safety and Security Management Programme and Attended by Chemical Industry Representatives Since 22 October 2021

Annex

**EVENTS ORGANISED UNDER THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND ATTENDED BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES SINCE 22 OCTOBER 2021**

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Training course on legislative and regulatory issues in chemical security for States Parties in the GRULAC region	Online	8 to 14 December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ICCA – ICTA
“Seoul workshop” on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region	Online	13 December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wah Nobel Group of Companies, Pakistan – CJSC “Tajik Azot” – Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO)
Workshop on mitigating chemical supply chain management for Bangladeshi experts	Online	25 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Ltd. – Rhymer Chemical Industries Ltd. – Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd. – Mahmuda Hai Chemi Ltd. – Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. – Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) – Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Mirpur Plant
Workshop on developing indicative guidelines for transportation of hazardous chemicals by road	Wuppertal, Germany	4 to 6 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ICTA – Dow Brazil
Seminar on chemical safety and security management for States Parties in the Africa region	Harare, Zimbabwe	10 to 12 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chemical and Construction Inputs Industry Development Institute – Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Bonny – Chemical and Allied Industries’ Association – Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Ltd.
Seminar on chemical safety and security management for States Parties in the GRULAC region	Lima, Peru	12 to 14 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – TRIQUIM S.A. – Santa Rosa Company – Dow Chemical Company

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Regional workshop on best practices in the development of a legislative and regulatory framework for chemical security (for States Parties in Asia)	Bangkok, Thailand	19 to 21 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dow Thailand – TATA Chemicals Kenya – Chemical Business Association of the United Kingdom – Do Huy Thai – Monsanto (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. – Archroma Pakistan Ltd. – Neochem Group of Companies – Dow Thailand
Safety training programme e-learning course for Member States in the GRULAC region	Online	1 August to 7 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay – Kemira Chemicals Brasil Ltda. – DuPont – Oxiquim S.A.
Wuppertal online course on explosion protection and safety management in chemical process industries	Online	5 September to 7 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Química Rhenium S. A. – EPE DIPROCHIM Spa.
Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States in Eastern Europe	Zagreb, Croatia	6 to 8 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Saponia d.d. – Petrokemija d.d. – INA d.d. – Xellia Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Regional workshop on best practices in the development of a legislative and regulatory framework for chemical security for States Parties in the GRULAC region	San Salvador, El Salvador	27 to 29 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bayer Brazil – Kemira Chemicals Brazil Ltda. – Química Rhenium S.A. – Chemical Business Association of the United Kingdom – Asociación Gremial de Industriales Químicos de Chile