



**OPCW**

**Review Conference**

Fifth Session  
15 – 19 May 2023

RC-5/NAT.64  
15 May 2023  
ENGLISH only

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY**

**STATEMENT BY MR CHRISTOPHER BRETT PAST PRESIDENT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY (IUPAC) AT THE  
FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me, as past president, to represent the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) at the OPCW's Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Fifth Review Conference).

The whole world continues to face tremendous challenges, particularly with respect to health and climate change. Chemistry, a core basic science, is inevitably part of the solution to these challenges. The impetus of chemical industry in Europe in the founding of IUPAC in 1919, with the aims of promoting a common language and easier and better communication of chemistry and the chemical sciences to all, is just as important now as then. We are able to provide objective scientific expertise to the worldwide chemistry community, developing the essential tools for the application and communication of chemical knowledge for the benefit of humankind and the world and fostering sustainable development. IUPAC's vision is as an indispensable worldwide resource for chemistry, emphasising scientific excellence, communication, transparency, diversity, and ethical behaviour. We currently have 53 national adhering organisations and over 2000 highly qualified volunteer experts who offer their service to IUPAC, in scientific and governance bodies as well as in IUPAC-funded projects.

The fruitful collaboration between the OPCW and IUPAC has been in the peaceful applications of science and their promotion. An "IUPAC story" published on the occasion of the IUPAC centenary in 2019, entitled "A Partnership of Science and Diplomacy to Eliminate Chemical Weapons" described how collaboration started informally at OPCW's inception and then through formal contacts beginning in 2001. The organisation of workshops by IUPAC experts and the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board has provided scientific input for the OPCW sessions of the Review Conference, with outcomes being published in 'Pure and Applied Chemistry', the IUPAC journal.



A Memorandum of Understanding between IUPAC and the OPCW to cooperate in informing on the latest developments in chemistry, promoting responsibility and ethics in science, education and outreach was signed and in 2016, and IUPAC endorsed the ‘Hague Ethical Guidelines’ that have been promulgated and disseminated in many conferences and symposia. OPCW representatives are involved in IUPAC activities. A representative of the OPCW Technical Secretariat is an ex-officio member of the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education, and there is an OPCW delegate to the IUPAC Interdivisional Committee on Green Chemistry for Sustainable Development. An IUPAC representative is a permanent observer on the OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.

The areas of education, green chemistry and responsible care continue to be important collaboration areas. IUPAC has developed and endorsed tools and materials for education and outreach, produced teaching modules on the dual uses of chemicals, and addressed relevant ethical issues. International IUPAC-endorsed conferences are venues for special symposia and workshops.

As a recipient of one of the prestigious 2019 OPCW-The Hague Awards, IUPAC has fomented capacity building projects and courses in less developed countries to promote development and improve safety and security in the use of chemicals, using electronic means to further disseminate the courses and reach a broader audience in industries, academic institutions, and the public in general.

At the Fourth Review Conference in 2018, delegates from various IUPAC bodies organised a side event to enable participants and the OPCW Technical Secretariat staff to learn more about IUPAC and its activities. This led to wider collaboration in areas such as environmental and analytical chemistry, and nomenclature, in joint projects.

We have cooperated with the OPCW Technical Secretariat in the preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. Together we organised a successful workshop in 2022 on “Artificial Intelligence Assisted Chemistry” to provide insight into current and future applications of artificial intelligence in chemistry and better understand the potential impacts, both positive and negative, on the chemical sciences and society. A side event entitled “Science for Diplomats, Science and Technology: Adapting to the Future” has been organised, during the Fifth Review Conference, to be held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 which addresses and focusses on opportunities and challenges resulting from recent developments in science and technology—particularly chemistry—for the effective implementation of the Convention.

Finally, I would like to thank the Technical Secretariat, and all of you, the representatives of the States Parties to the Convention, for your kind invitation to make a statement at the Fifth Review Conference.

I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Fifth Review Conference and posted on the OPCW public website.