



OPCW

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THE NETHERLANDS

CONNECTING WITH THE WIDER ENVIRONMENT FOR BETTER OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands submits the following considerations, based on activities to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention.

1. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has to connect with a wider international environment. The work of the OPCW contributes to greater responsiveness of other multilateral mechanisms for disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. The verification regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) can provide inspiration to other such mechanisms.
2. The interlocking nature of all provisions of the Convention is an important feature. The fulfilment of these provisions by each State Party inspires confidence in the fulfilling of all obligations by any other State Party. The interaction by different stakeholders, each having their respective roles in the fulfilling of the Convention’s interrelated provisions, helps the Convention to be implemented as an organic whole.
3. Stakeholder involvement in the operation of the Convention and work of the OPCW requires more awareness by these stakeholders and the wider public of all benefits and requirements of the Convention. Adoption of appropriate codes of conduct, by scientists and technological communities, can help prevent the use of toxic chemicals for prohibited purposes. This also strengthens conditions for the peaceful use of chemistry.
4. The OPCW needs to systematically exchange views with both the chemical industry and the scientific community in all States Parties, for the promotion of the object and purpose of the Convention. The Technical Secretariat should be encouraged to keep in close contact with relevant experts from all States Parties. This is a good way to keep pace with scientific and technological developments pertaining to the operation of the Convention.



5. Exchanges between National Authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and scientific actors at tenth anniversary events, including those organised by many States Parties, constitute—as a dialogue—an inspiration to continue this interaction, which contributes to an engaged, wider environment for the Convention's operation.
6. The broadest possible geographical basis should be the aim in order for such a cooperative dialogue to help the operation of the Convention. Participants should be considered as “Partners of the OPCW”. If needed, these partners should be offered support to be able to participate in this dialogue. Due regard needs to be paid to the primary role and the responsibilities of States Parties and their National Authorities under the Convention.
7. In light of scientific and technological developments in chemistry, there is increased potential for cooperation and dialogue among States Parties and with industry as it develops globally. Such activities, along with the involvement of trade and industry, help strengthen the operation of the Convention.

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