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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**COLLABORATION BETWEEN NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRY HELD FROM 2014 TO 2018****Introduction**

1. The annual meeting of representatives of chemical industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) has been held in Doha, Qatar since 2014. The event began as a regional forum for States Parties and their chemical industry counterparts in Asia, and gradually evolved into a global discussion forum open to States Parties from all regions. Today, the annual meeting remains a unique avenue of direct interaction between the National Authorities and the chemical industry. This Note is intended to serve as an overview of the outcomes of the five annual meetings held between 2014 and 2018.¹
2. The chemical industry has been recognised as a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Convention. The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Review Conference”) held in 2013 highlighted the important role that the chemical industry has to play in the implementation of the Convention, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to strengthen its relations with regional and international chemical industry associations. The same principles were highlighted during the proceedings of the Fourth Review Conference in 2018.
3. This Note has been informed by, and partially builds on, the annual Notes by the Director-General entitled “Engaging the Chemical Industry Associations”.² These Notes have highlighted the important role that chemical industry associations have played in the implementation of the Convention. They also acknowledge the contribution made by the annual meetings in strengthening collaboration between the National Authorities and the chemical industry.

¹ In preparation of this Note, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) considered feedback provided by the participants in the annual meetings held between 2014 and 2018. In addition, the Secretariat conducted an online survey targeting all participants in the past five events, from which a number of responses and inputs were received.

² C-19/DG.14 (dated 3 October 2014); C-20/DG.15 (dated 16 November 2015); C-21/DG.15 (dated 3 October 2016); C-22/DG.18 (dated 10 October 2017); and C-23/DG.14 (dated 13 November 2018).



4. The main objectives of the annual meeting have been to:
 - (a) foster collaboration and cooperation between National Authorities and the chemical industry and facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices at the subregional, regional, and global levels;
 - (b) raise awareness of the specific requirements of the relevant provisions of the Convention among representatives of the chemical industry and the National Authorities;
 - (c) review current practices and challenges in selected issues concerning the implementation of the Convention for which collaboration between the chemical industry and National Authorities is crucial; and
 - (d) further enhance the general capacity both of National Authorities and chemical industry to implement the relevant provisions of the Convention in order to improve the quality and timeliness of the fulfilment of obligations.

Annual meetings from 2014 to 2018

5. The Government of Qatar has financially supported the annual meetings, which have been held under the auspices of the Doha Regional Centre for CBRN³ Training in Doha. The Qatar National Committee for Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW) has hosted the events, provided logistical and administrative support, and made practical arrangements for the annual meetings. The Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat has implemented the events in close collaboration with the NCPW, while the Industry Verification Branch of the Verification Division and the Office of Strategy and Policy, among other branches of the Secretariat, have contributed to the implementation of the events.
6. The first to fifth annual meetings between 2014 and 2018 were attended by a total of 178 international participants from both National Authorities and chemical industry. In addition, the events have been attended by over 100 national participants from Qatar, representing its National Authority, chemical and relevant industries, educational institutions, and other stakeholders. The meetings have been attended by representatives from 49 States Parties from all regional groups, namely: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar (Host Country), the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, and Zambia.

³ CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

7. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has also consistently supported the event by providing the expertise of its representatives in different topics addressed at each annual meeting.
8. As a condition for the nomination of participants in the meetings, State Parties must nominate two representatives—one from the National Authority and another from the chemical industry. States Parties have also been encouraged to submit nominations for participants who have not taken part in the same event in the past. These conditions have been applied in a flexible manner, taking into account the challenges encountered by States Parties, such as the difficulty in identifying two suitable representatives who meet all the requirements and, at the same time, are both available on the dates of the event.
9. Discussions in the annual meetings have focused on the following three broad themes:
 - (a) Theme 1: Views of the National Authorities and chemical industry on ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and consistency in the implementation of the Article VI verification regime;
 - (b) Theme 2: Tools to enhance communication and collaboration between National Authorities and chemical industry in raising awareness of the Convention nationally, particularly on Article VI requirements; and
 - (c) Theme 3: Chemical security management practices: the role of Article VI in the light of emerging threats and chemical terrorism.
10. Each year, the above themes have been further broken down into a few specific questions, taking into account updates and recent developments from relevant forums, such as the Industry Cluster Meetings and reports of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.
11. In recent years, the programme of the annual meetings has been structured to allow significant time for breakout group discussions among the participants, which usually follow, under each theme, a subject-setting presentation by the Secretariat or other experts and several presentations by States Parties. Groups are asked to answer questions and prepare and make presentations on the discussion outcomes. Feedback from the past five annual meetings has indicated that the participants particularly value the interaction with participants from other States Parties, the ideas expressed, and the experiences shared during the group discussions.
12. Each year, the outcomes of the discussions have been collected and subsequently recorded at the Secretariat. During the 2018 event, participants agreed that an outcome report of the fifth annual meeting (held from 2 to 4 October 2018) would be prepared and shared with the participants and their National Authorities (see Annex hereto). All participants were involved in the drafting process. Key aspects of the 2018 meeting were highlighted during the Industry Cluster Meeting on 11 March 2019, during which a summary of the outcome report was shared.

Considerations

13. Feedback gathered from participants in the annual meetings over the past five years and from an additional survey conducted recently by the Secretariat both confirm that attendance of the events has elevated participants' understanding of the role of the chemical industry in the implementation of the Convention. In their comments, past participants have indicated that participation in this annual meeting marked the beginning of an important journey of understanding of Article VI obligations and the role of chemical industry in helping to fulfil them, as well as an appreciation of the contributions made by the industry in this process.
14. The thematic approach introduced over the last five years has proven effective. Specific topics and carefully defined questions not only invited States Parties to share experiences and practices, but also stimulated participants to do a self-assessment of current situations for further consideration and possible modification. On the other hand, since discussion topics at the annual meetings were framed around the three themes mentioned above, much more thought needs to be put into other issues, such as how the discussion outputs of each event were interlinked and whether they were followed up with measurable impact at the national level. Past participants suggested in their comments that the meeting objectives should be geared towards stimulating dialogue and meaningful collaboration among these two primary stakeholders in Convention implementation, rather than listing what each State Party does in terms of Article VI implementation.
15. While nominations of chemical industry representatives made from the national chemical industry associations have been encouraged, the Secretariat has often not been informed of whether the nominees held any role in the industry association, apart from their functions at individual chemical companies. This situation is compounded by the fact that the Secretariat positively considered the nominations as long as they fulfilled a set of requirements, chief among which was an endorsement by the National Authority. The Secretariat is also aware that national associations are likely to be more established and functioning in countries with large chemical industries compared to countries with industry that is still developing. Given this situation, representatives from individual companies may be welcome to participate in the annual meetings so long as follow-up engagement with the national associations is sought by the participants, or their participation contributes to developing or enhancing the work of the associations.

The way forward

16. As the objectives of the annual meeting of representatives of the chemical industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention have consistently been met for five years, there is no doubt that the forum should be continued and that the avenue of direct interaction between the National Authorities and chemical industry should be maintained. The event has also provided an important opportunity for the Secretariat to directly gain the views of the chemical industry actors at the national level. The next step for the Secretariat would be to consider how to best take advantage of the synergies created through the interaction between all these actors, in order to improve Convention implementation generally.
17. As the annual meeting became more global in scope, participation and engagement by States Parties at varying degrees or stages of Convention implementation were

observed. The Secretariat considered it important for this annual event to serve as a platform to foster interactions not only among States Parties with similar scales of industry, but also across countries and chemical industries at different levels of Convention implementation.

18. The Secretariat has been encouraging the participation of a wide spectrum of national stakeholders, including the chemical industry, in its capacity-building events. These events are held at global, regional, subregional, and national levels. While the engagement of chemical industry representatives and their direct interaction with the National Authorities have increased, it is important to put in place mechanisms not only to compile outcomes but also to ensure respective follow-up actions by the States Parties—both at the level of National Authorities and the chemical industry.
19. In addition, it is important to systematically and periodically appraise the impacts of events, including these annual meetings held for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of States Parties to fulfil their obligations under Article VI, against the actual performance of States Parties vis-à-vis their obligations. Cross-divisional engagement and collaboration need to be sought and supported for that purpose.
20. As the recommendations made at the annual meetings are not only for the States Parties but also for the Secretariat, another important consideration should be whether and how to ensure that the outcomes of the discussions at the annual meetings are appropriately considered in the Organisation's policy-making processes.

Annex:

Outcome Report: Fifth Annual Meeting of Representatives of Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Doha, Qatar, 2–4 October 2018

Annex

OUTCOME REPORT

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION DOHA, QATAR, 2–4 OCTOBER 2018

The primary objective of this annual meeting, held since 2014, is to enhance the collaboration between the chemical industry and the CWC National Authorities, through more engagement of the chemical industry in the national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The expected outcome of the meeting is to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Convention. Acknowledging the objective of the meeting mentioned above, the participants and facilitators of the Fifth Annual Meeting have agreed to summarise hereunder the discussions held in the Fifth Annual Meeting and produce this outcome report.

The discussions on the three-day meeting were focused around the three principal themes below, as to how the cooperation between the National Authority and the chemical industry could contribute to these efforts. This outcome report has derived mainly from the key points of the discussions made by four breakout groups, into which all participants were divided. Specific questions under the three themes are annexed to this report.

- 1) Efforts to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Article VI verification;**
- 2) National awareness raising of the Convention; and**
- 3) The role of Article VI verification in light of emerging threats and chemical terrorism.**

1. Efforts to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Article VI verification

Participants were reminded of and acknowledged the improvements made to the verification process in the last 21 years of the Convention implementation. The improvements included the results from pre and post-inspection as well as on-site efficiency measures such as the use of electronic communication tools and concise reporting templates. Retention of full-time National Authority personnel with accumulated experience, re-hiring of former OPCW inspectors and generally well-trained inspectors contributes to the better management and transfer of knowledge which is consistent with the pragmatic approach to inspection procedures. National Authority's continued engagement with the chemical industry, including trade associations, with clear and detailed information and guidance about the CWC and the objectives and purpose of the verification regime, is another important factor that contributes to the efficiency of the inspection process.

More efficiency measures could be taken through an increased focus on the inspection mandate and optimisation of time and resources to the best extent possible. At the same time, the use of open source material for inspection planning and the introduction of modern technologies such as drones and artificial intelligence could increase the efficiency of

inspections as well as enable National Authorities to develop (and support) advanced national mechanisms such as national inspections. Help desks for chemical companies would also help increase the efficiency of the inspection process. Amongst the suggestions made was the establishment of a regional hub to dispatch inspectors within the same region and more state-to-state cooperation in the area of industry verification/inspection. Participants also suggested that inclusion of a chemist or other specialist in chemistry in the National Authority structure would ensure the technical integrity and accuracy of the declarations prepared. An ability and space for the National Authority to double-check and revise the declarations if necessary, ahead of the OPCW inspection, will help increase the efficiency of inspections. More user-friendly electronic declaration tools were also suggested by the participants, next to additional guidance by the TS by providing a list of typical errors in declarations and difficulties encountered during inspections using anonymised case studies.

Participants expressed that the current methodology for the site selection for inspections could be improved, some felt that there are simply too many/frequent inspections of the same sites without obvious advantages, while others found that the current interim methodology is working well. So that the Article VI verification regime serves its purpose, participants felt that the system needs to enhance the compliance of all States Parties, which will lead to the increased confidence in the system. Participants expressed that more efforts need to be made with regards to identifying sites with declarable activities and including them in the national declarations made by States Parties. This means that it is important for National Authorities to work closely with their industries and maintain up to date lists of declarable plant sites. Addressing the risks of activities prohibited under the Convention and considering the potentially evolving role of the Article VI industry verification regime in the light of emerging threats, participants discussed that some declared sites perhaps pose no or very little risks. Thus, more efforts need to be made to support and cooperate with those States Parties that have potentially declarable activities but have not yet declared them. In turn, a suggestion was made to the Technical Secretariat to modify the verification regime in such a way to focus on these activities to support States Parties, rather than focusing on the (sometimes repeated and frequent) inspection of the same, possibly no/low-risk, declared sites.

2. National awareness raising of the Convention

A need for increased engagement with relevant stakeholders representing the entire value chain of chemicals was highlighted. The participants particularly emphasised the need to involve chemical traders, transportation and storage companies, as well as import/export authorities, such as customs, security, intelligence and law enforcement authorities. This point relates to, especially, the considerations of the risk and prevention of chemical weapons re-emergence, particularly by Non-State Actors.

With regards to the role of national chemical industry associations in ensuring fulfilment of Convention obligations, participants proposed the establishment of a system, administered by the national association, which could recognise or reward companies that operate in the territory in recognition of their good practices. Good practices may include, for example, good collaboration with the industry help desks, establishing a CWC focal point in the company, the introduction of a CWC training module within the association and the company. The system could reward the company with a public announcement in the media and other means such as a financial benefit, a study visit outside the country, etc.

On the outreach to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), participants proposed to establish a national inventory of relevant SMEs which should be added to the list of large industries. The SME could be clustered in the areas relevant to the CWC, those which produce or use Scheduled chemicals or produce discrete organic chemicals (DOCs). Such clustering could comprise users of Schedule 2 flame retardants (textile, leather, furniture, construction) or Schedule 3 additives (personal care products, construction). Participants also suggested that in order to engage SMEs, the use of existing mechanisms for the chemical industry, such as the Responsible Care® Programme should be maximised. It was noted that the Technical Secretariat could be requested to inform National Authorities of typical consumer industry (textiles, leather, personal care products, construction etc.) for the NAs to be able to identify relevant SMEs more easily.

3. The role of Article VI verification in light of emerging threats and chemical terrorism

Regarding further assistance that the Technical Secretariat may provide to States Parties to enhance chemical security, further facilitation of information sharing between States on import/export and transit of goods, provision of capacity building in these specific areas, including through a trust fund for technical cooperation between States, were amongst recommendations made. The chemical industry, as well as other actors in the chemical value chain (as already noted in the Question 2 above), need to be involved and the national authorities (including import/export control and law enforcement authorities) need to strengthen their communication and information sharing with those actors. It was also highlighted that the OPCW Technical Secretariat needs to enhance their follow-up, evaluation and impact of the training activities they organise.

With regard to the adoption of the “necessary measures” under Article VI (2) of the Convention, participants noted that a variety of measures have already been put in place; most importantly the national legislation and regulatory framework. As additional measures that could provide benefit in addressing the threat of chemical weapons use, tools such as the Standard Operating Procedures on chemical emergencies, including national emergency response plans, national or internal industry inspection schemes as well as implementation risk analysis were amongst the recommendations made.

On the “risk-based approach” to the verification activities, participants agreed that there might be advantages in such an approach, especially in relation to resource savings through the reduction of inspection activities. Participants also expressed that there are available tools and benchmarks that are already utilised by some States Parties which other States and the Technical Secretariat could make use of. There was also a suggestion that States Parties make use of the challenge inspection mechanism under Article IX, should any such needs arise. Participants also identified potential disadvantages of a risk-based approach and highlighted the need to define the risk clearly, while taking into account the regional, not only national, security and other context, establish a set of qualitative and quantitative risk assessment tools that objectively measure the risk, and most importantly, for States Parties to agree on the definition, tools and the approach beforehand. Participants expressed that the approach to be considered should not lead to any modification of the verification system that will increase the number of declarable sites and cause an additional burden on the industry. Participants emphasised that any modification of the verification system, with a risk-based approach, should be introduced if that leads to significant advancement in the efficiency and

effectiveness of the verification regime, which in turn increase the confidence in the system by the States Parties.

The representatives of the National Authorities of the States Parties mentioned below and the chemical industry based in the respective States Parties took part in the discussions: Algeria: Nadia Bouadem of ENAVA Analytical Laboratory, Lies Bounadjat of Ministry of Energy, Angola: Jose De Paula of Ministry of Industry, Manuel Odenã of Ministry of National Defence, Bangladesh: Md. Hamidul Hoque of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), S M Abul Kalam Azad of Bangladesh Navy, Brazil: Fernando Tibau of Brazilian Chemical Industry Association (ABIQUIM), Sérgio Frazão Araujo of Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications, Chile: Juan Pablo Gazmuri Lyon of Panimex Quimica, Colombia: Diego Acosta of Protecnic Ingenieria SAS, Alvaro Gomez Ocampo of Ministry of Foreign Relations, Croatia: Mirela Mavrinac of INA, d.d. Croatia, Mirna Maravic of Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Craft, El Salvador: Ismael Villacorta Gavidia of Universidad José Matías Delgado- (UJMD) El Salvador, Francis Vladimir González Navas of Ministry of National Defense, Ghana: Joseph Edmund from Environmental Protection Agency, Kwamena Quaison of Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Guatemala: Herlindo Herrera Bolaños of GREQUIM, Jacqueline Melgar of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, India: Santosh Hule of M/S NOCIL LTD, Iran: Abdolazim Aminiam of Organization of Industry, Mine and Trade in Khuzestan Province, Seyed Mahdi Parsaei of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan: Koichi Kurokawa of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Kenya: Mwakida Ngati of Unilever Kenya Limited, Stephen Weibe of Ministry of Interior and Co-ordination of National Government, Malaysia: Armizal Azdwan Alias of IOI ACIDCHEM SDN. BHD., Mohd Nazri Mustafa of National Authority for Chemical Weapons, Myanmar: Yee Yee Myint of Myanmar Chemical Industry Association, Win Min Phyoe of U Yan Naing Tun, Nigeria: Timothy Samuel of Chemical Society of Nigeria, Rita Adeji of National Authority on Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, Pakistan: Noman Irshad of Fatima Fertilizers Company Limited, Khalid Aziz Chughtai of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru: Rosa Maria Del Castillo Rosas of Sociedad Nacional de Industrias, Gustavo Julio Eduardo Francisco Laurie Escandon of Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Philippines: Romeo Imperial of Pigmentex Incorporated, Vene Seane Aljas of Anti-Terrorism Council - Program Management Center, Qatar: Salwan K.J. Abbood of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, Sierra Leone: Alie Jalloh of Environment Protection Agency, Patrick Koroma of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Sri Lanka: Henadira Appuhamilage Don Upananda Gamini Gunasekera of Union Chemicals Lanka PLC, Daniel Ashok Mariya Innasi of Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ukraine: Roman Kaschyshyn of Fine Organic Synthesis Plant 'Barva'JSC, Yevhen Osadchyi of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Kingdom: Craig Wallbank of CWC UK National Authority, Zambia: Simwayi Webby of Zambia Environmental Management Agency, Dyriss Simasiku of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Detlef Maennig participated in the discussions as the representative of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). Alexander Kelle, Arjan Louter and Chizu Matsushita from the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) facilitated the discussions.