

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL TRADE ASSOCIATION**

1. In a Note presented to the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties entitled “Engaging the Chemical Industry Associations” (C-24/DG.17, dated 4 November 2019), it was reported that the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) had been approached by the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA¹), which expressed its desire to formalise cooperation with the OPCW.
2. The Secretariat analysed ICTA’s request and concluded that ICTA can be a valuable partner to the OPCW, through sharing its chemical security expertise and informing the OPCW’s capacity-building activities. Moreover, given the growth in the global trade of chemicals, ICTA can also facilitate outreach to chemical distributors to sensitise them to the challenges posed by the misuse of toxic chemicals. Closer engagement with ICTA would be in line with the relevant recommendations of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (paragraphs 9.16; 9.79 (e); 9.95 (h); 9.131 (l)9.155 (n) of RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013). In light of the above, the Director-General decided to establish a formal partnership with ICTA, as the OPCW has done with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).
3. Annexed to this Note are two letters, one from the Director-General to the President of ICTA (dated 27 May 2020), and one in response from the Secretary-General of ICTA to the Director-General (dated 29 May 2020); these constitute the exchange of letters and lay the foundation for cooperation between the OPCW and ICTA.
4. The Secretariat will continue to inform the States Parties about its cooperation with ICTA.

¹

ICTA is the union of chemical distributors established in 2016 to represent the interests of over 1,300 companies worldwide. It has both direct company and association members. Companies include formulators, wholesalers, distributors, resellers, importers, exporters, producer-commissioners, sales offices of the chemical industry, and logistics service providers.



Annexes:

Annex 1: Letter addressed from the Director-General to Mr Nordmann, President of ICTA, dated 27 May 2020

Annex 2: Letter addressed from Mr Stuyt, Secretary-General of ICTA, on behalf of Mr Nordmann, President of ICTA, to the Director-General, dated 29 May 2020

Annex 1

LETTER ADDRESSED FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO MR NORDMANN,
PRESIDENT OF ICTA, DATED 27 MAY 2020

OPCW

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Director-General

The Hague, 27 May 2020
L/ODG/223017/20

Dear Mr Nordmann,

I have the honour to refer to the meeting between the representatives of the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA) and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on 10 September 2019 at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, at which a proposal to institutionalise the relations between our two organisations was discussed, pursuant to preliminary exchanges on the matter. The meeting demonstrated that both the OPCW and ICTA share a common interest in promoting chemical security, preventing chemical terrorism, and supporting the peaceful uses of chemistry.

The OPCW is firmly committed to strengthening its relationship with the chemical industry, which is a key stakeholder with regard to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). As part of the larger chemical industry sector, chemical distributors represent a vital link between producers and consumers of chemicals and play an important role in the promotion of global chemical safety and security. Given ICTA's role as an international voice of the chemical distribution industry, I see ICTA as an important partner for the OPCW to advance the implementation of the goals of the CWC.

In order to establish a more structured and systematic dialogue between our two Organisations, I would like to propose the following:

1. **Invitation to join the "Chemical Industry Coordination Group"**: As part of the OPCW's efforts to strengthen its cooperation with the chemical industry, the OPCW has established the Chemical Industry Coordination Group (CICG) for the purpose of discussing issues of common interest and to coordinate joint activities. In the interest of a coordinated approach and streamlined collaboration, I would like to invite ICTA to become a member of the CICG alongside the representatives of the International Council of Chemical Associations and the OPCW Technical Secretariat.

Mr. Edgar E. Nordmann
President
International Chemical Trade Association

CC: Mr. Willem van Lanschot
Secretary
International Chemical Trade Association

The CIGG meets twice a year to discuss topics relevant to the full implementation of the CWC, such as:

- i. Education and outreach,
 - ii. Chemical safety and security,
 - iii. Implications of developments in science and technology, and
 - iv. Exchange of views on the OPCW's verification activities.
2. **Interaction with OPCW Member States:** The Conference of the States Parties to the CWC (Conference), in its decision entitled "Attendance and Participation of the Chemical Industry and Scientific Community at the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties" (C-19/DEC.2, dated 1 December 2014), decided to introduce, at every session of the Conference, an agenda item dedicated to the chemical industry and the scientific community. In this regard, ICTA representatives may be invited to attend and participate at future sessions of the Conference in accordance with established procedures. The foregoing is without prejudice to additional interactions such as the participation of ICTA representatives in other OPCW meetings.

Should you find the above acceptable, I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply in the affirmative shall constitute the basis for the future cooperation between our two Organisations. Details about common projects, responsibilities, and communication could be addressed in further correspondence between the respective focal points. From the OPCW side, I have designated the Office of Strategy and Policy for this purpose.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

and my best regards


Fernando Arias

Annex 2

**LETTER ADDRESSED FROM MR STUYT, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ICTA,
ON BEHALF OF MR NORDMANN, PRESIDENT OF ICTA,
TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DATED 29 MAY 2020**



Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons
p/a H.E. Mr Fernando Arias
Director-General
Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR The Hague
The Netherlands

Sent by email and regular post

SUBJECT Mutual cooperation between OPCW and ICTA
DATE 29 May 2020

Dear Ambassador Arias, *Dear Director-General*

Thank you for your letter to our President Edgar Nordmann dated 27 May 2020. ICTA wholeheartedly shares your view that our organisations share common interests with regard to promoting chemical security. Through joint training sessions and participation in several OPCW meetings, ICTA has already seen first-hand the valuable and indeed indispensable role of your organisation. Further cooperation between ICTA and OPCW will support the global endeavour to eliminate chemical weapons.

ICTA welcomes your proposal to establish a structured and systematic dialogue between ICTA and OPCW. As such I am pleased to accept your invitation to formalise our engagement in the Chemical Industry Coordination Group where ICTA is already represented by Peter Newport, chair of our Transport and Security Committee, allowing our organisations to coordinate their activities in the chemical supply chain.

We are also honoured by your invitation to interact with the CWC States Parties at the Conference of the States Parties. Given the growing emphasis of your organisation on the role of the chemical supply chain for toxic substances, open exchange of information between State Parties and the chemical distribution industry is increasingly important.

I look forward to expanding the pragmatic cooperation between ICTA and the OPCW Office of Strategy and Policy. In doing so, ICTA is confident we can reduce the risk of diversion of chemical weapons and their precursors at chemical distributors. Furthermore, we can jointly raise awareness and build capacity further down the supply chain. During the next meeting of the Chemical Industry Coordination Group next steps towards follow-up actions and joint projects can be discussed further.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Stuyt
Secretary-General ICTA, *on behalf of Edgar Nordmann*

CC Peter Newport, chair of Transport and Security Committee ICTA
CC Szymon Bochenski, Senior Policy Officer, Office of Strategy and Policy, OPCW

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