

**STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED
CHEMISTRY TO THE 25TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES, OPCW**

Prof. Christopher Brett, President, IUPAC

Mr. Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honour for me, as President, to represent the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, IUPAC, at the 25th Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Last year IUPAC celebrated its centenary as well as the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. The International Year of the Periodic Table enabled the scientific community and society in general to realise better what are their benefits and important positive applications of the elements in our lives and in our civilisation. The impetus for the founding of IUPAC in 1919, was mainly by chemical industry in Europe. The objectives of promoting a common language and enabling easier and better communication of chemistry and the chemical sciences are just as relevant now at the end of 2020. IUPAC's unique and powerful influence in the global chemistry community is due to the fact that we can provide objective scientific expertise and be a driving force in developing the essential tools for the application and communication of chemical knowledge for the benefit of humankind and the world.

We currently have 54 National Adhering Organizations and over 2000 highly qualified volunteer experts who offer their service in IUPAC's scientific and governance bodies and in IUPAC-funded projects. IUPAC's mission of fostering sustainable development, providing a common language for chemistry, and

advocating the free exchange of scientific information are all geared towards the vision of IUPAC being an indispensable worldwide resource for chemistry. Our core values, associated with our strategic plan emphasize scientific excellence, communication, transparency, diversity, and ethical behaviour.

The peaceful applications of science and their promotion is key to both OPCW and IUPAC, which is the backdrop to the collaboration between the two organisations in a number of important areas.

Last year's IUPAC centenary was celebrated with special events and activities, and publications. In particular, one of the "IUPAC stories" entitled "A Partnership of Science and Diplomacy to Eliminate Chemical Weapons" concerned the collaboration between IUPAC and OPCW and the history of our relationship and achievements. This began informally at OPCW's inception and through formal contacts that began in 2001. Since then, IUPAC experts and the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board have organized workshops together to provide scientific input for the OPCW "Review Conference" held every 5 years. Outcomes of these conferences have been published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, the IUPAC journal. To celebrate this, a special virtual issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry* was issued in April 2020 that brings together all these publications.

Collaboration between IUPAC and OPCW has been principally in the areas of education, green chemistry and Responsible Care, in which we have developed and endorsed tools and materials for education and outreach, and produced teaching modules to inform students about the dual uses of chemicals and to address relevant ethical issues. Symposia and workshops have been organized at international IUPAC conferences.

Representatives from OPCW are involved in IUPAC activities. A representative of the OPCW Technical Secretariat is an ex-officio member of the IUPAC

Committee on Chemistry Education since 2014, and there is an OPCW Delegate to the IUPAC Interdivisional Committee on Green Chemistry for Sustainable Development. An IUPAC representative is permanent observer on the OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. We have a memorandum of understanding to further cooperate in keeping abreast of developments in chemistry, promoting responsibility and ethics in science, and education and outreach. In 2016, we endorsed the Hague Ethical Guidelines “Achievements in the field of chemistry should be used to benefit humankind and protect the environment”, that have been promulgated and disseminated in many conferences and symposia.

More recently, in the 4th Review Conference in 2018, delegates from various IUPAC bodies organized a side event to enable Review Conference participants and OPCW Technical Secretariat staff to learn more about IUPAC and its activities. This is leading to a broader collaboration in areas such as environmental, analytical, and nomenclature areas. Unfortunately, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic our joint efforts during the last year have not advanced as we had planned but we look forward to deepening and widening our collaboration to include areas, such as assessment of computational chemistry and Big Data, that were listed as part of the advice on the advancement of Science and Technology. IUPAC is ready to give its expertise and knowledge regarding engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community, and to fostering international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities, which were focussed on in the 24th Conference of the States Parties last year.

Last year, IUPAC was honoured to be one of the recipients of the prestigious 2019 Hague Awards, which recognised our long-standing collaboration with OPCW. It has given us renewed impetus to carry on with our work to serve the

chemistry and scientific communities and society. I am happy to inform you that we will be using the prize money for capacity building projects in less developed countries to promote development and improve both safety and security in the use of chemicals. One such project is the development of an industrial safety training programme that includes courses for mid-career chemists and chemical engineers to enable them to improve safety performance. Award money will be used to disseminate these courses and their results widely, making use of internet and other dissemination tools to reach a broader audience in industries, academic institutions and the public in general, and help to change attitudes with respect to both safe and secure practices.

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 speak at the annual Conference of States Parties.

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