

ICCA Support for the CWC on the Occasion of its 26th Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP)

Dear Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador José Zabalgaitia Trejo,
Dear Director General, Ambassador Fernando Arias,
Dear Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Council Secretary of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), I am pleased to reiterate our industry's unwavering support for the purpose and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Undertaking this session during the global COVID-19 pandemic is a significant achievement, which we support and applaud.

The global chemical industry accounts for more than 90 percent of global chemical sales, and more than 120 million people around the globe are employed directly or indirectly by our industry. The chemical industry and the States Parties to the CWC share a mutual interest in seeing that the international norms established by the CWC are applied fully by all governments.

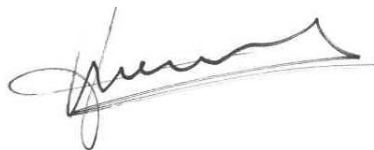
Our cooperation with the CWC implementation committee is stronger than ever, especially through the mutually established Joint Steering Committee and the Chemical Industry Coordination Group. Despite unprecedented conditions due to very strict sanitary and security measures in place in our facilities, the ICCA Member Companies and Federations have successfully adapted their procedures to keep the field inspections process open and fully compliant with the OPCW procedures.

Going forward and whilst the world recovers from the pandemic, we will continue our efforts to provide capacity building on general best practices, consistent with the terms of the CWC. We will enhance our support for the Associate Programme and for the ongoing activities of the OPCW, especially in activities under Art. VI and XI of the CWC.

ICCA and its member associations particularly appreciate the commitment of the CSP to regularly engage the chemical industry and scientific organizations. Your decision several years ago to extend industry a standing invitation to address the CSP plenary is an important indication of your continued interest in partnering with the chemical industry to promote the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and ensure that chemistry is used only for legitimate, peaceful purposes.

We look forward to engaging with the CSP and OPCW staff virtually soon and in person when conditions allow.

Sincerely,



Marco Mensink
Secretary General, International Council of Chemical Associations - ICCA
Director general, European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic

