



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY TO THE 26TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES, OPCW

Prof. Christopher Brett, President, IUPAC

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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 26th Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

A year has passed in which the world has faced, and continues to face, tremendous challenges, particularly with respect to health and with respect to evidences of climate change. Chemistry is inevitably part of the solution to these challenges and represents the peaceful uses of chemistry. The impetus of chemical industry in Europe in the founding of IUPAC in 1919, with the aim of promoting a common language and easier and better communication of chemistry and the chemical sciences to all, is just as important now. Our influence in the worldwide chemistry community is due to our being able to provide objective scientific expertise, developing the essential tools for the application and communication of chemical knowledge for the benefit of humankind and the world.

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 emphasize scientific excellence, communication, transparency, diversity, and ethical behaviour. We currently have 53 National Adhering Organizations and over 2000 highly qualified volunteer experts who offer their service to IUPAC, in scientific and governance bodies and in IUPAC-funded projects.

The backdrop to the collaboration between OPCW and IUPAC is the peaceful applications of science and their promotion.

The collaboration between IUPAC and OPCW and the history of our relationship and achievements was highlighted in one of the "IUPAC stories" published on the occasion of the IUPAC centenary in 2019, entitled "A Partnership of Science and Diplomacy to Eliminate Chemical Weapons". Collaboration started informally at OPCW's inception and through formal contacts beginning in 2001. The organization of workshops by IUPAC experts and the

OPCW Scientific Advisory Board has provided scientific input for the OPCW “Review Conference” held every 5 years, with outcomes being published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, the IUPAC journal.

IUPAC and OPCW have a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in informing on the latest developments in chemistry, promoting responsibility and ethics in science, plus education and outreach. In 2016, IUPAC endorsed the Hague Ethical Guidelines that have been promulgated and disseminated in many conferences and symposia. OPCW representatives are involved in IUPAC activities. A representative of the OPCW Technical Secretariat is an ex-officio member of the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education, 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.

The areas of education, green chemistry and Responsible Care continue to be important collaboration areas. IUPAC has developed and endorsed tools and materials for education and outreach, produced teaching modules on the dual uses of chemicals, and addressed relevant ethical issues. International IUPAC conferences have been venues for special symposia and workshops.

IUPAC was honoured to be one of the recipients of the prestigious 2019 OPCW-The Hague Award. This is being used for capacity building projects and courses in less developed countries to promote development and improve safety and security in the use of chemicals, to disseminate the courses and reach a broader audience in industries, academic institutions and the public in general.

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 has led to broader collaboration in areas such as environmental and analytical chemistry, and nomenclature, and we seek to widen this further.

We are looking forward to cooperate with the OPCW Technical Secretariat in the preparation of the 5th Review Conference to be held in 2023. We plan that this will include the realisation of a joint workshop in 2022 with lectures from internationally-renowned experts related to emerging trends in chemistry, identification of hazardous materials and the synthesis of non-toxic chemicals.

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 make a statement at the annual Conference of States Parties.