

Brussels, 18 November 2022

Subject: ICCA Support for the CWC on the Occasion of its 27th Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP)

Dear Mr. Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela,
Dear Director General, Ambassador Arias,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,

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 unprecedented worldwide conditions 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 OPCW is stronger than ever. The chemical industry's support of the CWC is a natural extension of its globally recognized and award-winning Responsible Care Program. Despite the recent technical restrictions due to strict sanitary and safety measures in place in our facilities, the ICCA Member Companies and Federations have successfully adapted their procedures to keep the field inspection process open and fully compliant with the OPCW procedures.

In times of war across the globe, the relevance of the Convention remains undisputed. Going forward, we will continue our efforts to build capacity on general best practices, consistent with the terms of the CWC. We will further support the Associate Programme and the ongoing activities of the OPCW, especially its support role in implementing Article XI of the Convention.

As a partner and resource to Governments and the OPCW, the global ICCA community stresses the importance of a continuous dialog with States Parties. ICCA appreciates the commitment of the CSP to engage the chemical industry and scientific organizations. Your decision several years ago to extend the 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 further engaging with the CSP and OPCW virtually and in person when conditions allow.

Sincerely,



Marco Mensink
Council Secretary, International Council of Chemical Associations

