



Re: ICCA Statement in the Fifth CWC Review Conference, May 15-19, 2023

Dear Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador José Zabalgaitia Trejo, Director General Ambassador Arias, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues:

As Council Secretary of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), I am pleased to confirm the global chemical industry's steadfast and continuing support for the purpose and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Now more than ever, the global chemical industry is a key contributor to innovation and sustainability solutions, with more than 120 million people around the globe employed directly or indirectly by our industry.

The chemical industry and the States Parties to the CWC both wish to see the CWC's international norms accepted, and implemented, in full by all governments. We are pleased that our cooperation with the OPCW continues – and indeed, remains solidly grounded and strong.

The chemical industry's support of the CWC is integrally linked to the industry's leadership in our Responsible Care[®] Program. As our industry, and industries globally, successfully move past pandemic conditions, 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 dialogue 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.

Responsible Care is in place in over 70 economies and over 60 chemical associations around the globe. ICCA is currently executing an important expansion program in Africa in four countries, with the potential to expand beyond that. As an industry, we are committed to seeing that best practices embodied in Responsible Care are the basis for environmental, health, and safety performance. Responsible Care is an important capacity building mechanism, and one that complements the efforts of the OPCW to build national capacities to meet the obligations and responsibilities of the CWC.

We wish to make two specific verification comments that relate to challenges for continuing effective implementation for your consideration.

ICCA is an international non-profit association (AISBL) incorporated under the laws of Belgium with its registered offices in Brussels.

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First, we note that the current selection mechanism implemented by States Parties leads to too many repeated inspections in facilities that have demonstrated good performance. The scheduled inspections should favor those States Parties that have not hosted any inspections for a long time. By doing so, the National Authorities and chemical industry would be able to properly manage declarations and inspections.

Second, we note that the issue of transfer discrepancies remains a potential critical issue. The chemicals supply chain actors stand ready to help States Parties get a more leveled playing field that harmonizes the diverse and sometimes divergent reporting habits that the industrial actors have been asked to accommodate. The industry sees enhanced traceability of chemicals through digital passports or the call placed on DLTs technologies like blockchains as potential game-changer. As a recent example, we wish to outline the Stimson's Center project that the industry has been testing since the launch of its Beta version in 2022.

We appreciate the ongoing constructive relationship and stand ready to collaborate, continue dialogue, and continue constructive and scientific contributions as we move forward into the second half of 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Jahn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Jahn

Council Secretary, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)