

**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****ENGAGING THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS****INTRODUCTION**

1. The chemical industry has been recognised as a key stakeholder with regard to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention). In accordance with the recommendations made in the report of the Third Review Conference¹ (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), the Director-General decided to strengthen the partnership between the OPCW and the chemical industry to promote the object and purpose of the Convention, notably the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.
2. This Note, which has a cut-off date of 19 October 2023, complements and updates the information reported in the previous Note by the Director-General (C-27/DG.14, dated 20 October 2022), submitted to the Conference of the States Parties (the Conference).

ENGAGEMENT WITH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

3. As described in Note C-20/DG.15 (dated 16 November 2015), following an exchange of letters, a coordination mechanism was established in 2015 with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). This mechanism comprises the OPCW–ICCA Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and the Chemical Industry Coordination Group (CICG). The membership of the JSC consists of the Director-General and senior OPCW staff, and of the ICCA Secretary and senior ICCA staff. The CICG consists of technical staff of the OPCW, ICCA, and, since 2020, the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA), following an exchange of letters between the OPCW and ICTA (S/1880/2020, dated 25 June 2020).
4. During the reporting period, the CICG met twice: Its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings were convened in March and September 2023, respectively, and were held in a hybrid format to accommodate the participation of industry representatives outside Europe and guest speakers. Participants continued discussions on issues such as the current trends and challenges in the global chemical industry, and exchanged information on capacity-development activities, focusing on the promotion of best practices in chemical safety and security.

¹ Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



5. The engagement of chemical industry associations gained additional momentum last year in connection with the preparations for the Fifth Review Conference. ICCA and ICTA representatives contributed to the eighth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, (OEWG-RC), held on 8 November 2022. They gave presentations and interacted with States Parties, answering questions about engagement with the OPCW, including National Authorities. In addition, ICCA issued a non-paper within the framework of the OEWG-RC, outlining the chemical industry's position on the implementation of the Convention, specifically its verification regime. Furthermore, both international chemical industry associations made statements at the Fifth Review Conference, which was held from 15 to 19 May 2023.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

6. The chemical industry associations continue to make a major contribution to the OPCW's capacity-building activities. In 2023, ICCA continued to provide substantial support to the Associate Programme by facilitating the identification of potential industrial plant facilities located in OPCW Member States to host training programme participants. In addition, for the industry attachment, 17 industrial plant facilities from 14 States Parties (see Annex 2) supported the Programme by hosting and delivering training to 31 participants in total. The component also included a field visit to a nearby chemical industry facility, arranged with the support of ICCA. Representatives of ICCA and ICTA also briefed the participants of the Associate Programme on current trends in the chemical industry and the roles of their respective associations.
7. From 31 October to 4 November 2022, the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat), in collaboration with the National Authority of Morocco, the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, and the National School of Chemistry of Morocco, organised the second edition of the education and training programme on the peaceful uses of chemistry for youth in Kenitra, Morocco, with financial support from the European Union. The training programme was aimed at raising awareness of the Convention among the participating young academics and researchers in chemical-related scientific fields, and addressed educational and ethical issues such as The Hague Ethical Guidelines and the role of chemical safety and security management. For the 17 participating experts, a dedicated field visit to an industry-leading petrochemical plant was organised to provide a practical demonstration of chemical risk and incident management measures.
8. From 23 to 25 May 2023, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Malaysian National Authority, organised the annual Forum on Peaceful Uses of Chemistry in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Forum, targeting relevant professionals from government, international organisations, industry, and academia, was aimed at elevating awareness and deepening participants' understanding of chemical safety and security management. It also embraced the tenets of green and sustainable chemistry, highlighting its potential to mitigate risks associated with harmful by-products. Among the 39 participating experts, three were from the chemical industry. The Forum also benefitted from the rich experience and insights of the Chairman of the Malaysian Chemical Industries Association, who participated as a keynote speaker.
9. On 19 and 20 June 2023, the Secretariat organised the Symposium on Women in Chemistry, in close cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research,

and supported by a voluntary contribution from France. The two-day event brought together experts, scientists, and researchers from across the globe to address the challenges faced by women in science, particularly in the field of chemistry. It also featured panel discussions and presentations, including on empowerment in scientific research, strategies to enhance women's participation in chemistry-related professions, and the importance of mentorship and networking. Among the 17 experts who participated in person, two were from the chemical industry.

10. A representative from ICTA delivered a presentation at the subregional forum on national implementation of the Convention, held in Barbados from 3 to 5 October 2023. The forum highlighted, *inter alia*, that also in countries without a substantial chemical industry, robust transshipment controls are needed to prevent the illegal transfer of scheduled chemicals through their territories. These regulatory frameworks are also vital for safeguarding the environment and mitigating risks associated with the storage and handling of hazardous substances, thus preserving ecosystems and income sources linked to agriculture and tourism. A total of 44 delegates from 11 States Parties attended the forum.
11. In addition to the above-mentioned efforts, education and outreach activities involving the chemical industry continued to be addressed at sessions of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO). An ICCA representative participated as observer at the Fourteenth² and Fifteenth³ Sessions of the ABEO.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

12. Since 2009, the Secretariat, in cooperation with States Parties from all regions and in partnership with other international organisations, government agencies, and specialised centres, has carried out a chemical safety and security management programme that has trained approximately 3,600 experts to date. Since 11 October 2022, the cut-off date of the previous Note (C-27/DG.14), 12 capacity-building and networking events involving participants from the chemical industry have been conducted under the programme.
13. From 11 to 13 October 2022, the Secretariat, jointly with the Prime Minister's Office of Mauritius, conducted a seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for African Member States in Port Louis, Mauritius. The seminar, co-funded by the European Union, was aimed at providing tools and exchanging experience to prevent incidents and accidents involving toxic chemicals. The seminar was attended by three chemical industry representatives.
14. From 11 to 14 October 2022, the Secretariat, jointly with the Prime Minister's Office of Mauritius, organised the Executive Programme on integrated chemicals management. The Executive Programme is an advanced course intended for senior managers from industry, government institutions, and policymakers and is aimed at helping Member States develop in-depth knowledge and leadership skills in integrated chemicals management, with a focus on chemical safety, security, and sustainability. The course was attended by two chemical industry representatives.

² ABEO-14/1 (dated 9 February 2023).

³ ABEO-15/1 (dated 22 June 2023).

15. From 16 to 18 November 2022, in cooperation with the National Authority of the Republic of Korea, the Secretariat organised the Seoul workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Member States of the OPCW in the Asian region in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. The course was aimed at building knowledge about advanced chemical safety and security among Asian Member States and focused on dual-use chemicals and process safety management audit methods. The event was attended by two chemical industry representatives.
16. The Secretariat, in cooperation with and with the support of the United Arab Emirates Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation, organised a seminar on chemical safety and security management for Asian Member States in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 7 to 9 February 2023. The objectives of the seminar included providing tools to assess, mitigate, and respond to the risks associated with chemical accidents, as well as to prevent the misuse of dual-use chemicals in the Asian region. Three chemical industry representatives attended the seminar.
17. From 21 to 24 February 2023, the second workshop on developing indicative guidelines for the transportation of hazardous chemicals by road took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop provided a platform for cross-sector partnership in developing a non-binding guidance document on the transportation of hazardous chemicals by road. The workshop was attended by 11 representatives from chemical industry associations (ICCA, ICTA) and the chemical industry (Evonik and Petronas).
18. The Secretariat hosted a seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Asian Member States jointly with the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons of Qatar in Doha from 19 to 21 March 2023. The seminar was funded by Qatar and promoted the peaceful uses of chemistry, in addition to building the capacities of Asian Member States in chemical safety and security management. The seminar was attended by six industry representatives.
19. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay, organised the first edition of an online safety training programme on chemical safety from 17 April to 23 June 2023. The course provided an update on current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety, chemical hazards, the handling, storage, and transport of chemicals, and waste management. One chemical industry representative attended the seminar.
20. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Mexican National Authority for the implementation of the Convention, organised an advanced seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean States (GRULAC) in Mexico City, Mexico, from 20 to 22 June 2023. The course was aimed at building knowledge on advanced chemical safety and security. One chemical industry representative attended the seminar.
21. The Secretariat organised an online seminar on chemical safety and security management for African Member States on 11 October 2023. The objectives of the seminar were to provide tools to assess, mitigate, and respond to the risks of chemical accidents and prevent the misuse of dual-use chemicals in the African region. A representative from the European Chemical Industry Council contributed to the seminar.

22. From 17 to 19 October 2023, in cooperation with the National Authority of the Republic of Korea, the Secretariat organised the Seoul workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for OPCW Member States in the Asian region in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. The course built knowledge about advanced chemical safety and security among Asian Member States and focused on dual-use chemicals and supply chain security management. The workshop was attended by three chemical industry representatives.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VERIFICATION

23. Representatives from ICCA and ICTA participated as observers at meetings of the Industry Cluster held remotely on 16 June, 10 July, and 27 September 2023, during which States Parties considered topics related to the comprehensive review of the industry verification regime.
24. During the reporting period, the Secretariat conducted an online training course on fulfilling declaration and inspection obligations under Article VI of the Convention. The course gave participants an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of Article VI obligations and to share experiences and best practices related to Article VI implementation. Experts from the Secretariat provided delegates with subject-matter expertise, including on the submission of accurate and timely annual declarations under Article VI of the Convention, in addition to practical guidance on receiving and escorting OPCW industry inspections. A total of 35 participants from 24 Member States participated in the course, including from chemical industry organisations and trade associations.
25. The Ninth Annual Meeting of Representatives of the Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention was held from 18 to 20 October 2022 in Doha, Qatar. Participants shared information on their capacity-building needs and best practices in sensitisation and awareness raising about the Convention. They discussed challenges encountered by States Parties with small and medium-sized industries, as well as ways to enhance cooperation between National Authorities and the chemical industry to address transport security risks. At the end of the meeting, participants agreed to continue to engage with one another on Convention-related issues in order to facilitate the timely and comprehensive implementation of national obligations. A total of 70 participants from 26 Member States attended the meeting. Representatives of ICCA and ICTA participated in the meeting.
26. The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) continues to include chemical industry representatives among its members. The SAB continues to engage with industry representatives to ensure that scientific and technical advances in the industry are identified and that their potential impact on the Convention is understood.

THE WAY AHEAD

27. In accordance with decision C-19/DEC.2 (dated 1 December 2014) of the Conference, the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference (C-28/1, dated 11 July 2023) contains an agenda item dedicated to engagement with the chemical industry and the scientific community. A draft decision allowing representatives of the global chemical industry and the scientific community to attend and participate in the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference (C-28/DEC/CRP.4, dated 23 October 2023) will be submitted to the Conference for its approval at the same session.

28. By giving representatives of the global chemical industry the opportunity to express their views on the implementation of the Convention, including at meetings of the policy-making organs, the engagement of the chemical industry will be sustained. The engagement of the chemical industry is increasingly important given its expansion and the evolution of methods of chemical production resulting from developments in science and technology.
29. The Secretariat will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the chemical industry within the current framework, in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference and with the goal of strengthening the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat plans to host two CICG meetings in 2024. In addition to informing discussions held by States Parties on the adaptation of the industry verification regime, the Secretariat plans to conduct a workshop, in cooperation with IUPAC and the chemical industry, to review current trends in the production and handling of chemicals. This workshop will also contribute to expanding outreach efforts in the industry by engaging with representatives from all regions.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Events Organised under the Chemical Safety and Security Management Programme and Attended by Chemical Industry Representatives Since 11 October 2022
- Annex 2: Chemical Companies Hosting the Industry Attachment of the Associate Programme in 2023

Annex 1

**EVENTS ORGANISED UNDER THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND ATTENDED BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES SINCE 11 OCTOBER 2022**

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for African Member States	Port Louis, Mauritius	11 – 13 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Industry and Mine Leadership – N'Djamena Refinery Company Ltd, Chad – CHIMTEC S.A., Côte d'Ivoire
Executive Programme on integrated chemicals management	Port Louis, Mauritius	11 – 14 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Limited, Bangladesh – GTM Guatemala – Unilever Kenya Ltd
Education and training for youth on peaceful uses of chemistry	Kenitra, Morocco	31 October – 4 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fédération de la Chimie et de la Parachimie, Morocco – National Society of Electrolysis and Petrochemistry (SNEP), Morocco
Seoul workshop on the peaceful development and uses of chemistry for Asian Member States	Seoul, Republic of Korea	16 – 18 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Sri Lanka – LOTTE Chemical Pakistan Ltd, Pakistan
Seminar on chemical safety and security management for Asian Member States	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	7 – 9 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Federation of the Indonesian Chemical Industry – The Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia – Research Institute of Petroleum Industry, Islamic Republic of Iran – US Cargo Freight Services, Sri Lanka
Workshop on developing indicative guidelines for the transportation of hazardous chemicals by road: chemical safety and security tools development programme	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	21 – 24 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ICCA – ICTA – Evonik Operations GmbH, Germany – Petronas, Malaysia

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for Asian Member States	Doha, Qatar	19 – 21 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wah Nobel Group of Companies, Pakistan – Nippon Shokubai Indonesia – Beijing Whale Technology Corporation Ltd, China – IOI Pan-Century Oleochemicals Sdn Bhd, Malaysia – PTT Asahi Chemical Company Limited, Thailand – Sadara Chemical Company, Saudi Arabia
The Forum on Peaceful Uses of Chemistry	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	23 – 25 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Harumi Holdings Private Ltd, Sri Lanka – Falconheit Ltd, Kenya – Henkel Adhesive Technologies, Malaysia
Safety training programme on chemical safety in cooperation with IUPAC	Online	17 April – 23 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – TRIQUIM S.A., Argentina
Symposium on Women in Chemistry	The Hague, Netherlands	19 – 20 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Armscor SOC Ltd (Protechnik Laboratories), South Africa – Geothermal Development Company, Zimbabwe
Advanced seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the GRULAC region	Mexico City, Mexico	20 – 22 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Camara de la Industria Química y Petroquímica, Argentina
Seminar on chemical safety and security management for African Member States	Online	11 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ICCA / the European Chemical Industry Council
Seoul workshop on the peaceful development and use of chemistry for Asian Member States	Seoul, Republic of Korea	17 – 19 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dipped Products PLC, Sri Lanka – Fatimafert Ltd, Pakistan – LOTTE Chemical Pakistan Ltd, Pakistan

Annex 2**CHEMICAL COMPANIES HOSTING THE INDUSTRY ATTACHMENT
OF THE ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME IN 2023**

	Company	State Party
1.	State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR)	Azerbaijan
2.	Janssen Pharmaceuticals	Belgium
3.	Ambipar	Brazil
4.	Rhodia, Solvay	Brazil
5.	OXIQUIM S.A.	Chile
6.	Shanghai SECCO Petrochemical Company Limited	China
7.	STACHEMA CZ s.r.o.	Czech Republic
8.	Viswaat Chemicals Limited	India
9.	Solvay	Italy
10.	Vinavil S.p.A.	Italy
11.	IOI Pan-Century Oleochemicals Sdn Bhd	Malaysia
12.	Asia Pacific; Bayer Co. (Malaysia)	Malaysia
13.	Grupa Azoty S.A.	Poland
14.	Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC)	Saudi Arabia
15.	Sasol Secunda Operations	South Africa
16.	Ercros S.A.	Spain
17.	Dipped Products PLC	Sri Lanka