

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

1. The chemical industry has been recognised as a key stakeholder with regard to full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). As reported in the Note by the Director-General C-19/DG.14 (dated 3 October 2014), in accordance with the recommendations of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Director-General decided to strengthen the partnership between the OPCW and the chemical industry for the benefit of the object and purpose of the Convention, notably the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.
2. This Note complements and updates the information reported in Note C-19/DG.14.

FORMALISATION OF THE COOPERATION

3. As projected in the aforementioned Note (paragraph 6 of C-19/DG.14), the Director-General initiated an exchange of letters with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) in order to obtain a more structured and systematic dialogue between the two organisations. The two letters in question (one from the Director-General to the President of the ICCA, dated 20 November 2014, and one in response from the Council Secretary of the ICCA to the Director-General, dated 24 June 2015) were provided to States Parties in the Note by the Director-General S/1293/2015 (dated 1 July 2015).
4. As also suggested in the aforementioned Note, the letters proposed the establishment of a coordination mechanism for the implementation of joint projects through the creation of the OPCW–ICCA Steering Committee, as well as the establishment of the Chemical Industry Coordination Group (CICG). The organisation and functions of both the Steering Committee and the CICG were further discussed during a meeting between the ICCA and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) held on 5 March 2015.
5. The OPCW-ICCA Steering Committee is composed of three members representing the Secretariat and at least three members representing the ICCA (possibly including ICCA observers).¹

¹ Representation by experts will depend on the topics to be discussed and will be at the discretion of the Steering Committee members.



6. The tasks of the OPCW-ICCA Steering Committee are to identify areas of cooperation between the OPCW and the ICCA, to make decisions (and to prioritise) in respect of common initiatives and projects, and to oversee their execution. The OPCW-ICCA Steering Committee is responsible for preparing and delivering official statements, for example at regular sessions of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”).
7. The CICG is a working group that reports to the OPCW-ICCA Steering Committee. With the exception of the Head of the CICG, the composition of the working group (four to five individuals each from the Secretariat and the ICCA, with a maximum of 10 members) may vary depending on the issues to be discussed; education and outreach, chemical safety and security, and verification activities have been selected to be addressed initially² and may also be dealt with by CICG subgroups. In some cases, joint workshops involving representatives of National Authorities may be the preferred working method. The CICG is also in charge of identifying and exploring other areas of mutual interest.

STEPS TAKEN TO DATE

8. As suggested in Note C-19/DG.14 and following the adoption of a decision by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session concerning attendance and participation of the chemical industry at that session (C-19/DEC.2, dated 1 December 2014):
 - (a) Representatives of the ICCA and the China Controlled Chemicals Association addressed the Conference during the plenary sitting of its Nineteenth Session.
 - (b) The agenda of the regular sessions of the Conference will include an item dedicated to the chemical industry and the scientific community.
9. In order to provide an opportunity for chemical industry associations to interact directly with the States Parties, chemical industry representatives have been invited to participate in various meetings with National Authorities. Representatives of the ICCA and other chemical industry associations were invited to participate in, inter alia:
 - (a) the break-out session dedicated to industry outreach during the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of National Authorities on 28 November 2014; and
 - (b) the Annual Meeting of Chemical Industry Representatives and National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in Doha, Qatar, in November 2015.
10. In 2015, chemical industry associations have also continued to be involved in various other OPCW activities:
 - (a) The chemical industry had the opportunity to present views on a wide range of issues during the Twenty-Second Session of the OPCW’s Scientific Advisory

² The issue of advances in science and technology is another priority subject for the Secretariat. However, the group decided that this would be dealt with at a later stage, in order not to overload the agenda during the start-up phase.

Board (SAB) and two meetings of the SAB's temporary working group on verification.

(b) The ICCA Council Secretary is a member of the panel for selecting the winners of the OPCW–The Hague Award.

11. The Secretariat has also continued to develop practical tools that are accessible to the chemical industry. In this regard, six additional e-learning modules were made available on the OPCW website in March 2015, with the aim of facilitating the submission of declarations to the National Authority by facilities, as well as the preparation for and reception of an Article VI inspection by plant sites.
12. Following the formalisation of the cooperation between the ICCA and the OPCW, the first meeting of the CICG took place on 3 November 2015 in The Hague and involved four representatives of the ICCA nominated by the ICCA Council Secretary. Since the common understanding was that the first meeting should serve as an introduction, with the goal of organising further work, the Secretariat updated the ICCA representatives on three topics suggested by the ICCA: education and outreach, verification regime efficiencies, and resolving trade and transfer discrepancies.

THE WAY AHEAD

13. A second meeting of the CICG will be held in the near future, with the goal of submitting proposals for common initiatives and a list of issues for further discussion for approval by the OPCW-ICCA Steering Committee in the first quarter of 2016.
14. In accordance with decision C-19/DEC.2, the provisional agenda for the Twentieth Session of the Conference (C-20/1*, dated 9 July 2015) contains an agenda item dedicated to the chemical industry and the scientific community. Representatives of the global chemical industry are also expected to address the Conference.
15. The Secretariat will also continue to involve chemical industry associations in OPCW activities such as those mentioned above. Since the need to synchronise certain ICCA events (notably those related to Responsible Care®) with OPCW events was identified as an area for improvement, an increase in cross-participation in workshops or meetings organised either by the ICCA or the OPCW should be expected in 2016.
16. By giving representatives of the global chemical industry an active voice in the implementation of the Convention, including in meetings of the policy-making organs, the engagement of the chemical industry will be sustained and will become increasingly practical in nature.

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