

Remarks to the OPCW Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

December 2, 2014

Time: before lunch (1 pm)

World Forum Convention Center (WFCC), Churchillplein 10, The Hague
Hubert Mandery, Secretary General, ICCA

Draft: 5/ FINAL [1109 words. 8 minutes. Reflects final edits by Hubert Mandery.]

Practical cooperation with chemical industry

Madame Chair, Director General, Excellencies, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all I would like to thank the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for inviting ICCA – the International Council of Chemical Associations. As secretary general of the ICCA, it's an honour to attend the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties.

Representing ICCA means representing a truly global chemical industry association. The International Council of Chemical Association (ICCA) is the worldwide voice of the chemical industry, with a membership (including observers & Responsible Care members) that accounts for more than 90 percent of global chemical sales.

The ICCA fully supports the objective and purpose of the Convention, notably the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons. ICCA members must subscribe to the Chemicals Weapons Convention (CWC) as a condition for membership.

That said, the chemical industry is a key stakeholder with regard to full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

ICCA focuses on safety and security issues for the chemical industry through our industry-initiative – Responsible Care – which I hope to give you a better understanding of how it works in my remarks today.

We see safety and security as an integral part of Responsible Care, so we should work to ensure that the industry and OPCW efforts complement each other.

Cooperation between ICCA and OPCW

Given ICCA's role as an international voice of the chemical industry, the partnership with OPCW is a natural fit.

ICCA agrees with the note by the OPCW director general on engaging the Chemical Industry Associations. So my remarks will also focus on the importance of building up cooperation between the chemical industry and OPCW.

Before continuing on, ICCA would like to acknowledge and congratulate the OPCW in winning last year's Nobel Prize for Peace. The Norwegian Nobel Committee noted at the time that disarmament "figures prominently in Alfred Nobel's will" and that "The conventions and the work of the OPCW have defined the use of chemical weapons as a taboo under international law."

Setting direction

Moving forward, we agree with OPCW to **establish a "Chemical Industry Coordination Group"**. It should include representatives of the Technical Secretariat and the global chemical industry (not limited to the ICCA member associations and companies). This group should meet once or twice a year to discuss topics of mutual interest such as:

- i. Education and Outreach,
- ii. Chemical Safety and Security,
- iii. Implications of developments in science and technology, and
- iv. Improvement of Verification.

Interaction with OPCW Member States is also important. We welcome the opportunity today to address the Annual Conferences of States Parties for the first time.

Responsible Care and "Safety and Security"

Now let me tell you more about Responsible Care. For almost 30 years, the Responsible Care programme has promoted safety and security practices that safeguard our workplaces, communities and the environment. Responsible Care has since its launch in 1985 spread to nearly 60 economies throughout the world.

Responsible Care companies have management systems in place that are robust, well documented and most often verified or certified. Employees and contractors are quite clear about what to expect regarding products present on the CWC schedules. Ideally, for declarable and "inspectable" plant sites a single company policy on record-keeping, declarations and export controls should cover CWC and all other related restrictions to trade.

Additionally, the health, safety and environmental performance of companies that endorse the Responsible Care ethic generally exceeds that of companies that do not implement the programme. Governments see the difference.

One major step forward could be for OPCW to recognise this by clearly assigning a lower inspection frequency to Responsible Care companies. Especially if they are involved with national authorities to improve the effectiveness of inspection, help with the training of inspectors and are proven "good" RC-performers.

An important aspect to Responsible Care is the introduction of the Security Codes of Conduct. The codes have been introduced during the past four years in major parts of the world. The codes help companies to achieve continuous improvement in security performance using a risk-based approach to identify access and address vulnerabilities, prevent or mitigate incidents, enhance training and response capabilities, and maintain and improve relationships with key stakeholders and local

and national authorities. Under the codes, Responsible Care companies require senior leadership commitment and companies are encouraged to undertake periodical analysis of threats and vulnerabilities.

If security weaknesses are revealed then security measures must be developed and implemented. Maintaining open and effective lines of communication with industry partners and law enforcement officials is evident. The security code will be implemented with the understanding that security is a shared responsibility requiring actions also by other parties such as downstream customers, suppliers, service providers and governmental security agencies. Effectively assessing and reducing the global threat of international terrorism can only occur with the competent support of the responsible national and international counterterrorism agencies.

Supply chains and Responsible Care

Responsible Care also addresses security within the supply chain. Here, transport security and export and trade controls are especially important. The Responsible Care Security Code is intended to complement commitments already existing in those areas and aims to raise awareness of all involved parties. Only close interaction and regular assessment of security-related practices will improve the overall security performance. Responsible Care is about making sure that chemicals do not fall into the wrong hands and guidance is increasingly becoming available from a number of national chemical trade associations and States Parties national authorities.

The Responsible Care Leadership Group of the ICCA discussed the collaborative opportunities with the OPCW. All participating national associations and companies agreed that the opportunities should be explored. Allocation processes for Responsible Care capacity building and outreach to new non-ICCA member countries have begun and will be explored in more detail following the approval of the Director General's note. May I add that China, India and Russia are now actively implementing the Responsible Care programme.

We agree with OPCW's proposed actions to further investigate public-private partnerships and thus strengthening the link with the regional and global chemical associations. We think it's the most effective way to raise awareness, share information and disseminate best practices to all interested parties.

Conclusion

I would like to thank the director general for his efforts in crafting the note and we support its contents. I'm confident that follow up actions, based on the outcome of this conference, will guide companies, national and regional chemical industry associations to develop pragmatic cooperation with the OPCW. Follow up actions will need to support the outreach of responsible behaviour by industry that is the key to non-proliferation.

The global chemical industry welcomes the next steps it will take with OPCW. We both see responsible behaviour within industry as a primary objective to stop commercially available chemicals from getting into the wrong hands.