

**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”).
2. The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”), held from 8 to 19 April 2013, made several recommendations pertaining to the chemical industry in its report (RC-3/3\*, dated 19 April 2013):
  - (a) In the political declaration (paragraph 9.16): “Desire to improve interaction with chemical industry, the scientific community, academia, and civil society organisations engaged in issues relevant to the Convention, and cooperate as appropriate with other relevant international and regional organisations, in promoting the goals of the Convention”;
  - (b) Under “Verification activities of the OPCW” (subparagraph 9.79(e)): “Encouraged the Secretariat through the National Authorities to continue to strengthen relations with respective national chemical industry. The Secretariat is also encouraged to strengthen its relationship with regional and international chemical industry associations”;
  - (c) Under “Activities not prohibited under the Convention” (subparagraph 9.95(h)): “In view of advances in science and technology, the development of the chemical industry, and the growth in the trade of chemicals, encouraged the Secretariat to continue to strengthen its relations with regional and international chemical industry associations”;
  - (d) Under “Assistance and protection against chemical weapons” (subparagraph 9.118(k)): “Encouraged the OPCW to engage in more active involvement and participation of relevant civil society organisations and chemical industry associations in the assistance and protection programmes”;
  - (e) Under “Economic and technological development” (subparagraph 9.131(l)): “Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to develop relations and partnerships as appropriate with relevant regional and international organisations, as well



as chemical industry associations, the private sector, academia, and civil society, in order to raise awareness of the activities of the OPCW”; and

- (f) Under “The general functioning of the OPCW” (subparagraph 9.155(n)): “Encouraged the Secretariat and the States Parties to improve interaction with the chemical industry, the scientific community, academia, and civil society organisations engaged in issues relevant to the Convention, and encouraged the Secretariat and States Parties to develop a more open approach, in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the policy-making organs with regard to such interaction.”
3. Pursuant to the above recommendations of the Third Review Conference, 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.

#### **STEPS TAKEN TO DATE**

4. In this respect and as reported by the Director-General in his opening statement to the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Eighteenth Session (C-18/DG.17, dated 2 December 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) has continued to engage with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), whose full-member associations cover approximately 50% of the facilities declared in accordance with Article VI of Convention.
5. A meeting held between the ICCA and the Secretariat in late 2013 identified a set of practical actions. Since then, action has been taken as follows:
  - (a) Two ICCA web pages ([www.icca-chem.org/en/Home/Newsroom/In-Focus/Chemical-Weapons-Convention](http://www.icca-chem.org/en/Home/Newsroom/In-Focus/Chemical-Weapons-Convention) and [www.icca-chem.org/en/Home/Responsible-care/Stakeholder-dialogue-and-partnerships-](http://www.icca-chem.org/en/Home/Responsible-care/Stakeholder-dialogue-and-partnerships-)) were posted on the ICCA website in July 2014 referring to the Convention and the OPCW, including links to several pages of the OPCW website.
  - (b) The ICCA’s basic presentation on the Responsible Care® programme includes slides on the Convention and the OPCW.
  - (c) The ICCA has been invited to participate in the “Regional Meeting of Chemical Industry Representatives and National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in Asia” in Doha (Qatar) in November 2014.
  - (d) The chemical industry has had the opportunity to present views on a wide range of issues during meetings of the OPCW’s Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and its working groups.
  - (e) Discussions on further augmenting the participation of the Secretariat and the ICCA in each other’s events and activities, as relevant, are at an advanced stage.

## **THE WAY AHEAD**

6. In order to institutionalise this relationship, with a view to obtaining a more structured and systematic dialogue between the two organisations, the Director-General will initiate an exchange of letters with the ICCA, defining each party's priorities and responsibilities, as well as the manner in which they will interact. This exchange of letters will include a list of common projects to be continued or initiated. As appropriate, such projects could be coordinated by a dedicated steering committee.
7. Bearing in mind the informal meeting between representatives of the chemical industry and States Parties on 24 September 2012, hosted by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Third Review Conference, the following topics could be further explored:
  - (a) Outreach and awareness raising to help ensure that chemicals are used only for legitimate purposes;
  - (b) Chemical safety and chemical security. Reference is made to the Note by the Secretariat on the contribution of the OPCW to chemical safety and chemical security (S/1129/2013, dated 30 September 2013);
  - (c) Implications of developments in science and technology, including participation in the meetings of the SAB and its temporary working groups by several individuals from or with understanding of the chemical industry; and
  - (d) Improvement of industry verification. It is notable that the OPCW has conducted more than 2,700 inspections at industrial facilities around the world with the full and active support of the global chemical industry.
8. With regard to the way of interacting on the topics described in paragraph 7 above, the Secretariat proposes that a "Chemical Industry Coordination Group" be established. This group, which should include representatives of the Secretariat and the global chemical industry (not limited to the ICCA), could meet twice a year to discuss issues of mutual interest.
9. In order to provide an opportunity for the chemical industry associations to interact with the States Parties, the Secretariat proposes that representatives of the chemical industry associations be invited to make a collective statement or give a presentation at the annual sessions of the Conference.
10. 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, engagement will be sustained and become increasingly practical in nature.