

**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 24 October 2024, complements and updates the information reported in the previous Note by the Director-General (C-28/DG.15, dated 6 November 2023), 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 once: Its sixteenth meeting was convened on 21 March 2024 and was held in a hybrid format to accommodate the participation of both industry representatives outside Europe and guest speakers. Participants discussed issues such as the current trends and challenges in the global chemical industry, and exchanged information on capacity-development activities, focusing on cybersecurity and 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.



COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

5. In 2024, the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) organised the twenty-fifth edition of the Associate Programme. The Programme is designed for chemists and chemical engineers to enhance their knowledge of the Convention and develop skills in the fields of chemical engineering, integrated chemicals management, and chemical safety and security within the context of the implementation of the Convention. After completing the theoretical modules of the training, which include the induction and university segment, participants took part in the industry attachment of the Programme, in which they were placed at chemical plants in OPCW Member States to gain exposure to modern practices in chemical industries, with a focus on chemical safety and research and development. In addition, for the industry attachment, 15 industrial plant facilities from 11 States Parties (see Annex 2) supported the Programme by hosting and delivering training to a total of 29 participants.
6. From 8 to 11 April 2024, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the National Authority of Brazil, organised the third edition of the Education and Training Programme on the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry for Youth in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 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 19 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. The training programme benefited from the insights of a representative of the Brazilian Chemical Industry Association, who participated as a keynote speaker.
7. On 22 and 23 May 2024, in Panama City, Panama, 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 16 experts who participated in person, one was from the chemical industry.
8. From 22 to 24 October 2024, the Secretariat, together with Morocco, co-organised the "Global Conference on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention" in Rabat, Morocco. The conference highlighted the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in advancing the peaceful uses of chemistry, enhancing verification capabilities, and strengthening chemical safety and security. The 200 attendees included delegates from 46 States Parties from all regional groups, representatives of international and regional organisations, as well as a large number of policymakers, scientific experts, and members of the chemical industry.

9. 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 Sixteenth Session of the ABEO.²

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

10. The Secretariat, with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) as partner and co-sponsor, organised an e-learning chemical safety training programme in Spanish for Member States in the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) from 25 September to 1 December 2023. The training course provided an update on the current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety, chemical hazard management, the handling, storage, and transport of chemicals, and waste management. The programme was attended by three participants and three keynote speakers from the chemical industry.
11. The Secretariat organised the Validation Workshop on the Indicative Guidelines for Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals by Road on 13 November 2023 under the Chemical Safety and Security Tools Development Programme. The workshop aimed to review the draft version of the Guidelines with a wider range of experts appointed by the Member States. The draft version of the Guidelines had been developed at two previous workshops under the Chemical Safety and Security Tools Development Programme. Two chemical industry representatives attended the programme as keynote speakers.
12. The Secretariat organised a workshop on developing indicative guidelines on “Know Your Customer” from 27 February to 1 March 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop was the third in a series within the framework of the Chemical Safety and Security Tools Development Programme, under which guidelines on chemical safety and security management for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and on the safe and secure transport of hazardous chemicals by road have been developed. The workshop aimed at enhancing the capacities of the Member States in chemical safety and security through the development of the “Know Your Customer” guidelines. Five chemical industry representatives attended the programme.
13. From 19 to 21 March 2024 in Lusaka, Zambia, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the National Authority of Zambia, organised a regional seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Africa region. The seminar, funded by the European Union, aimed at building knowledge on advanced chemical safety and security in the region. One chemical industry representative and one ICCA representative attended the seminar.
14. From 10 to 12 April 2024, the Secretariat organised a workshop on best practices in the development of a legislative and regulatory framework on chemical security for African Member States, in Pretoria, South Africa. The workshop included expert presentations from representatives of ICTA and the United Kingdom Chemical Business Association. The workshop provided a forum for sharing the experiences of participating Member States in developing chemical security legislation and further facilitated the sharing of best

² ABEO-16/1 (dated 18 April 2024).

practices in assessing risks and gaps in existing legal and regulatory regimes as a basis for reviewing, developing, or enhancing an existing legal framework on chemical security.

15. The Secretariat, in cooperation with IUPAC and the Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay, organised the second edition (in English) of the online safety training programme on chemical safety, from 8 April to 7 June 2024. The programme provided an update on current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety, chemical hazards, the handling, storage, and transportation of chemicals, and waste management. Five chemical industry representatives attended the seminar.
16. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the National Authority of Costa Rica, organised an advanced seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the GRULAC region in San José, Costa Rica, from 23 to 25 April 2024. 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 GRULAC region. Two chemical industry representatives attended the seminar.
17. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Sandia National Laboratories of the United States of America, organised a workshop on developing training materials for the Indicative Guidelines for Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals by Road in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the United States of America, from 29 April to 2 May 2024. The objective of the workshop was to improve stakeholders' accessibility to the recently developed Indicative Guidelines, with group sessions on developing training materials for them. The programme was attended by two keynote speakers from the chemical industry.
18. From 28 to 30 May 2024 in Doha, Qatar, the Secretariat hosted, jointly with the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons of Qatar, a seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Asian Member States. The seminar, funded by Qatar, promoted the peaceful uses of chemistry and built the capacities of Asian Member States in chemical safety and security management. The seminar was attended by one chemical industry representative.
19. The Secretariat organised on 15 October 2024 an online regional seminar on the Convention and chemical safety and security management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia region. The objectives of the seminar were to provide tools to assess, mitigate, and respond to the risks of chemical accidents and to prevent the misuse of dual-use chemicals in the Asia region. Four chemical industry representatives attended the seminar.
20. On 16 October 2024, the Secretariat organised a launching event for the Indicative Guidelines for Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals by Road, which was held in a hybrid format to accommodate the online and in-person participation of attendees, including guest speakers. The Guidelines have been developed by the participating experts in the fields of chemical safety and security management during two workshops under the OPCW Chemical Safety and Security Tools Development Programme. The Indicative Guidelines aim to provide accessible tools and guidance for the safe and secure transport of hazardous chemicals to Member States whose resources are limited or to SMEs. The Guidelines showcase best practices in safe and secure transportation across the globe. One chemical industry representative attended the launching event.

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VERIFICATION

21. 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 62 participants from 32 Member States participated in the course, including from chemical industry organisations and trade associations.
22. The Tenth Annual Meeting of Representatives of the Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention was held from 24 to 26 October 2023 in Doha, Qatar.
23. The meeting was jointly organised by the Secretariat and the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons of Qatar. In keeping with established practice, the discussions focused on three priorities, namely: identifying declarable industry activities—challenges and best practices; coordination between National Authorities, the chemical industry, and customs authorities; and the importance of comprehensive implementing legislation for guiding industry declarations and compliance with obligations under the Convention. Representatives of both ICCA and ICTA participated in the meeting.
24. The Eleventh Annual Meeting of Representatives of the Chemical Industry and National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention was held in Doha, Qatar from 15 to 17 October 2024. The meeting focused on sharing lessons and raising awareness on transfer discrepancies related to the trade in scheduled chemicals, impact and challenges of emerging technologies on the Convention, and on fostering synergies between chemical security legislation and global chemical industry trends. The meeting included the active participation of both ICCA and ICTA representatives.
25. 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

26. In accordance with Conference decision C-19/DEC.2 (dated 1 December 2014), the provisional agenda for the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference (C-29/1, dated 9 July 2024) 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-Ninth Session of the Conference (C-29/DEC/CRP.2, dated 21 October 2024) will be submitted to the Conference for its approval at the same session.

27. 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.
28. 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 2025. 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 20 October 2023
- Annex 2: Chemical Companies Hosting the Industry Attachment of the Associate Programme in 2024

Annex 1

**EVENTS ORGANISED UNDER THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND ATTENDED BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES SINCE 20 OCTOBER 2023**

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
E-learning Safety Training Programme in Spanish	Online	25 Sept – 1 Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sur Química S.A. (Costa Rica) – Air Liquide S.A. (France) – Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. (United States of America) – AkzoNobel (Uruguay) – Asociación de Industrias Químicas del Uruguay (ASIQR) (Uruguay)
Validation Workshop on Indicative Guidelines for Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals by Road	Online	13 Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ICTA – Evonik (Germany)
Workshop on Developing Indicative Guidelines on “Know Your Customer”	Colombo, Sri Lanka	27 Feb – 1 Mar 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chemical Business Association – BASF (Mexico) – BASF (Brazil) – Evonik (Germany) – Indian Chemical Council (India)
Regional Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Africa Region	Lusaka, Zambia	19 – 21 Mar 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Burundi Brewery (Burundi) – ICCA
E-learning Safety Training Programme in English	Online	8 Apr – 7 Jun 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dow Química de Colombia (Colombia) – Falconheit Limited (Kenya) – Lotte Chemical Limited (Pakistan) – Brenntag (Romania) – Flexsys (Brazil) – ASIQR (Uruguay)

Programme	Venue	Dates	Participating Industry Associations and Companies
Regional Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the GRULAC Region	San José, Costa Rica	23 – 25 Apr 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cámara de Industria de Guatemala (Guatemala) – Henkel (Brazil)
Workshop on Developing Training Materials for the Indicative Guidelines for the Safe and Secure Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals by Road	Albuquerque, United States of America	29 Apr – 2 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chemical Business Association (United Kingdom) – Evonik (Germany)
Seminar on the Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Asian Member States	Doha, Qatar	28 – 30 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Watercare technologies (Pvt) Ltd (Sri Lanka) – Sadara Chemicals (Saudi Arabia)
Online Regional Seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management for Member States of the OPCW in the Asia Region	Online	15 Oct 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (Bangladesh) – Canon Prachinburi Ltd. (Thailand) – Covestro (Thailand) – Petronas (Malaysia)
Launching Event for the Indicative Guidelines for Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals by Road	Hybrid, OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology	16 Oct 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chemical Business Association (United Kingdom)

Annex 2**CHEMICAL COMPANIES HOSTING THE INDUSTRY ATTACHMENT
OF THE ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME IN 2024**

	Company	State Party
1.	Ambipar Response Ltd.	Brazil
2.	Bayer	Brazil
3.	Shanghai Fujia Fine Chemical Co. Ltd.	China
4.	BASF-YPC Company Limited	China
5.	Evonik	Germany
6.	Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL)	India
7.	BASF Italia S.p.A.	Italy
8.	DOW Italia S.r.l.	Italy
9.	Oleon Port Klang Sdn Bhd	Malaysia
10.	Ancom Crop Care Sdn Bhd	Malaysia
11.	Grupa Azoty Zakłady Azotowe Kędzierzyn S.A.	Poland
12.	Sasol Secunda Operations	South Africa
13.	BASF Española, S.L.	Spain
14.	Dipped Products PLC	Sri Lanka
15.	Robinson Brothers Ltd.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland