



TOWARDS GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

RIO+20 VISION SHARED BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The chemical industry contributes significantly to a more sustainable society by developing innovative technologies and products while ensuring the safe, responsible and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has been an active participant in the global drive to sustainability preceding the 1992 Global Summit in Rio and it has played a significant role in the subsequent intergovernmental initiatives to promote safe chemicals management worldwide.

The chemical industry contributes to international programs focused on chemicals management such as the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions and takes an active role in multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) launched by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

Roadmap to Green Economy

Innovation and deployment of new products and technologies are critical to ensuring transition to a green economy so society can make best use of scarce resources as the global population grows. Policy frameworks must accelerate development, production and dissemination of these products and technologies. Chemistry is relevant to nearly all manufacturing sectors. In fact, ninety-six percent of all manufactured goods rely on it. Chemical innovations enable the use of renewable energies such as wind and solar power. They are likewise essential to increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, in transportation and in the industrial sector. The greenhouse gas emissions saved through chemicals are more than double the emissions that occur during their manufacturing process. And it is estimated that this ratio could increase to four to one by 2030.



RIO+20

Safe Management of Chemicals

The chemical industry is committed to ensuring the safe production, use and disposal of chemicals. Through the global Responsible Care® initiative and the Global Product Strategy it is making an essential contribution to reaching the SAICM goal of enhancing the safe management of chemicals worldwide. SAICM has made significant progress, but more remains to be done. Therefore, Rio+20 should focus on assessing the progress of SAICM toward the 2020 goal and facilitating further progress. To build and strengthen SAICM, ICCA is partnering with UNEP to undertake capacity building activities in emerging regions, particularly Africa and China. ICCA and UNEP also cooperate to develop guidance for governments on how chemical management systems can be strengthened and harmonized.

Millennium Development Goals

With regard to the goals of poverty eradication and improving public health the chemical industry contribution is enormous. World hunger is alleviated through the development of eco-efficient fertilizers, plant protection products, and food packaging materials that enhance agricultural production, reduce food spoilage, and improve food safety.

The chemical industry enables economic growth which is the basis for social and environmental improvement and sustains direct or indirect employment of 20 million people worldwide.

Medical breakthroughs are made possible by chemistry and result in the successful prevention and treatment of infectious and chronic diseases, enabling people to live longer, healthier lives. Likewise, access to clean drinking water is improved through the use of chemicals in water purification systems and in new water transport technologies.

Global chemical industry

ICCA is the worldwide voice of the chemical industry, a sector with 2011 turnover of just under €3,000 billion. ICCA members (incl. observers & Responsible Care members) account for more than 90 percent of global chemical sales. ICCA focuses on key issues such as the promotion of Responsible Care®, the Global Product Strategy and the progress in international climate negotiations.

Responsible Care® Initiative

Responsible Care is the global chemical industry's commitment to:

- ◆ Continuously improving environment, health & safety (EH&S) performance through community awareness & emergency response; employee health & safety; process safety; pollution prevention; transportation safety; product safety; and security
- ◆ Effectively managing chemicals through the value chain
- ◆ Improving global harmonization of EH&S standards and practices
- ◆ Maintaining open and transparent communications with stakeholders
- ◆ Employing an increasingly rigorous system of performance indicators and verification procedures

More than 50 national and regional associations and over 90 percent of the largest chemical companies worldwide have renewed and extended this commitment by signing the Responsible Care Global Charter.

Global Product Strategy

The Global Product Strategy (GPS) is the global chemical industry's commitment to:

- ◆ Ensuring a "base set of information" for chemicals in commerce adequate to assess safety for their intended uses
- ◆ Sharing relevant information for safety assessment between companies
- ◆ Promoting a tiered process for evaluating risk and identifying appropriate risk management actions for chemicals in commerce and working with value chain partners to ensure these "safe use conditions" are met
- ◆ Measuring industry performance and publicly reporting the results
- ◆ Improving product stewardship cooperation with downstream customers
- ◆ Supporting partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and others to enhance product stewardship
- ◆ Enhancing outreach and dialogue with customers, the public and other stakeholders
- ◆ Conducting fundamental research to improve the science and practice of chemical safety assessment

GPS is a best practice example and the basis for model legislation in developed countries and for the creation of new policies in emerging regions. To promote transparency, ICCA has set up the web-based GPS Portal, which offers free, public access to relevant chemical safety information for all interested stakeholders.

More information about ICCA on www.icca-chem.org.

