



Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala  
Director General  
World Trade Organisation  
Centre William Rappard  
Rue de Lausanne 154  
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September 14, 2021

Dear Dr. Okonjo-Iweala:

On behalf of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), I congratulate you on the progress you have already made as the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Trade and the WTO's leadership have never been more important as global economies look to recover from the dislocation of COVID and reinvigorate through the creation of strong and resilient supply chains. We see great opportunity to reinforce the agenda and highlight that trade is part of the solution to add resiliency to our societies and to support strong and open markets.

Your great expertise in international development and deep understanding of major global issues, as recognized by the unanimous support of the WTO Members, are critical to enhancing the role of trade, not just in Geneva but across all WTO Members.

As the ICCA, we represent a geographically diverse group of chemical associations and companies, from the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia - both large & small companies from developed as well as developing economies. Our diverse membership enables ICCA to work well with you on a range of priorities, such as ensuring that the lessons of COVID are reflected in the WTO's agenda and operations; restoring commitments to open markets by removing trade barriers; promoting effective solutions to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and supporting women's empowerment and digital trade. We are proud of the contribution of the global chemical industry in combatting the pandemic and enabling global economic recovery. We look forward to working with you to advance this mission.

ICCA is a stalwart supporter of the rules-based multilateral trading system under the leadership of the WTO. We strongly support the vital role of WTO in leading a productive and structured approach to trade and sustaining global commitment to liberalization through addressing emerging trade issues. We appreciate and welcome your efforts to drive the reform agenda, in concert and coordination with the WTO membership, reinvigorate the functions and commitment to the WTO, and create a more prosperous, peaceful, and productive economic world. As chemicals manufacturers, employers, and workers, we aim to address major global environmental and societal challenges through continuous innovation and we value your commitment to enhanced stakeholder engagement at the WTO.

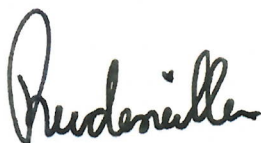
Over the last several years, a wide range of tariff and non-tariff barriers have proliferated. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to additional trade barrier challenges. While these barriers have impacted the global

chemical industry, chemical manufacturers worked resiliently and relentlessly to combat the pandemic and mitigate its disruptive impact on both the many sectors that rely on products of chemistry (e.g., medical, agriculture, digital, and transportation) and the communities in which they operate. In parallel, our industry is actively engaging with global stakeholders on the achievement of the SDGs, such as addressing climate change, promoting circularity, and raising standards of living. ICCA and its members are fully committed to providing solutions to address these and other urgent global challenges. Reduction of trade barriers through the WTO will enhance our ability to generate and deploy solutions to a greater degree.

We are honoured to be able to launch our ICCA Position Paper on WTO Modernization on 14 September with the support and partnership of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). And we are particularly pleased to be able to convene a working session during the WTO Public Forum on 30 September. We welcome an opportunity to meet with you virtually to discuss ICCA's ideas for WTO modernization and our trade policy priorities. Discussing these messages directly with you and your team will help lay the ground work for a commercially-meaningful WTO modernization agenda, particularly in advance of 12th Ministerial Conference beginning on 30 November.

The ICCA Trade Policy Network Group (TPNG) led by Lisa Schroeter of Dow, will be in touch with your team to arrange a meeting. We look forward to exchanging views on ICCA's ideas and exploring how ICCA can support your leadership and the WTO's modernization agenda. We wish you every success during your tenure as Director-General of the WTO.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Brudermüller  
ICCA President

*ICCA: The International Council of Chemical Associations is the world-wide voice of the chemical industry, representing chemical manufacturers and producers all over the world. Our members account for more than 90 percent of global chemical sales engaging in over USD 2 trillion in world trade, and more than 120 million people around the globe are employed directly or indirectly by our industry. ICCA promotes and co-ordinates Responsible Care® and other voluntary chemical industry initiatives. For an electronic version of this and other ICCA positions on trade, please visit the ICCA web site at [www.icca-chem.org](http://www.icca-chem.org).*