International Council of Chemical Associations

# Safe and Sustainable Chemistry Principles

## Supporting ICCA's sustainability ambition under the Global Framework on Chemicals

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ICCA is a long-standing contributor to global chemicals governance and actively supports the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC). As part of its sustainability ambition, ICCA promotes a shared understanding of sustainability for the chemical sector, aligned with the GFC and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through common principles, language and practical tools, ICCA seeks to support companies in integrating sustainability into decision-making, driving innovation and advancing more sustainable chemical solutions across value chains.

## To support this ambition, ICCA has developed the following Safe and Sustainable Chemistry Principles:

- Holistic Integration of Sustainability
- Prioritisation of Safety and Health for Social Responsibility
- Innovation for Sustainable/Future-proof Solutions
- Circular transition to enable positive Environmental impact
- Stakeholder Engagement and Transparent Governance for Sustainable development

## Holistic Integration of Sustainability:

Seek to embed economic, environmental, and social sustainability into business strategies and operations. Balance these three pillars through life cycle and systems* thinking, so that a product over its lifecycle—from raw material sourcing to end-of-life management—contributes to sustainable development.

## Innovation for Sustainable/Future-proof Solutions:

Drive innovation in products, processes, and technologies to support a net-zero, circular, safe and competitive economy. Foster breakthrough technologies, invest and design for safe and sustainable chemicals, to reduce risks and increase societal value as a sustainable solution provider.

## Prioritisation of Safety and Health for Social Respoinsibility:

Protect human health, including worker and user safety, as well as community well-being. Implement robust risk assessment and management, maintain safe working conditions, respect and uphold human rights and strive for social equality while seeking to safeguard vulnerable populations throughout the product life cycle. Minimise chemical release and pollution.

## Circular transition to enable positive environmental impact:

Adopt circular economy principles including designing products and processes that support the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle, and material recovery. Seek to improve resource efficiency and energy efficiency across value chains and reduce negative and increase positive environmental impact (including impacts on human health) and support sustainable value networks. Incorporate the use of circular feedstocks, circular business models and sustainable carbon cycles.

## Stakeholder engagement and transparent governance for sustainable development.

Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including employees, value chain partners, and communities, to support sustainable development. Encourage transparency, accountability, open communication, and responsible business conduct and collective action to enable continuous improvement.

# About ICCA:

ICCA is an association of innovators, visionaries, solutions providers, and product stewardship pioneers. Above all, we are optimists. What others see as challenges, we see as opportunities to solve some of the world's biggest problems. Our mission is to help the global chemical industry improve financial performance and reputation by tackling global issues and by helping the industry to improve continuously.

ICCA is a virtual organization, coordinating the world of individuals from member associations and their member companies. We are governed by a Board of Directors representing member associations, and a Steering Committee responsible for oversight of several working level groups.

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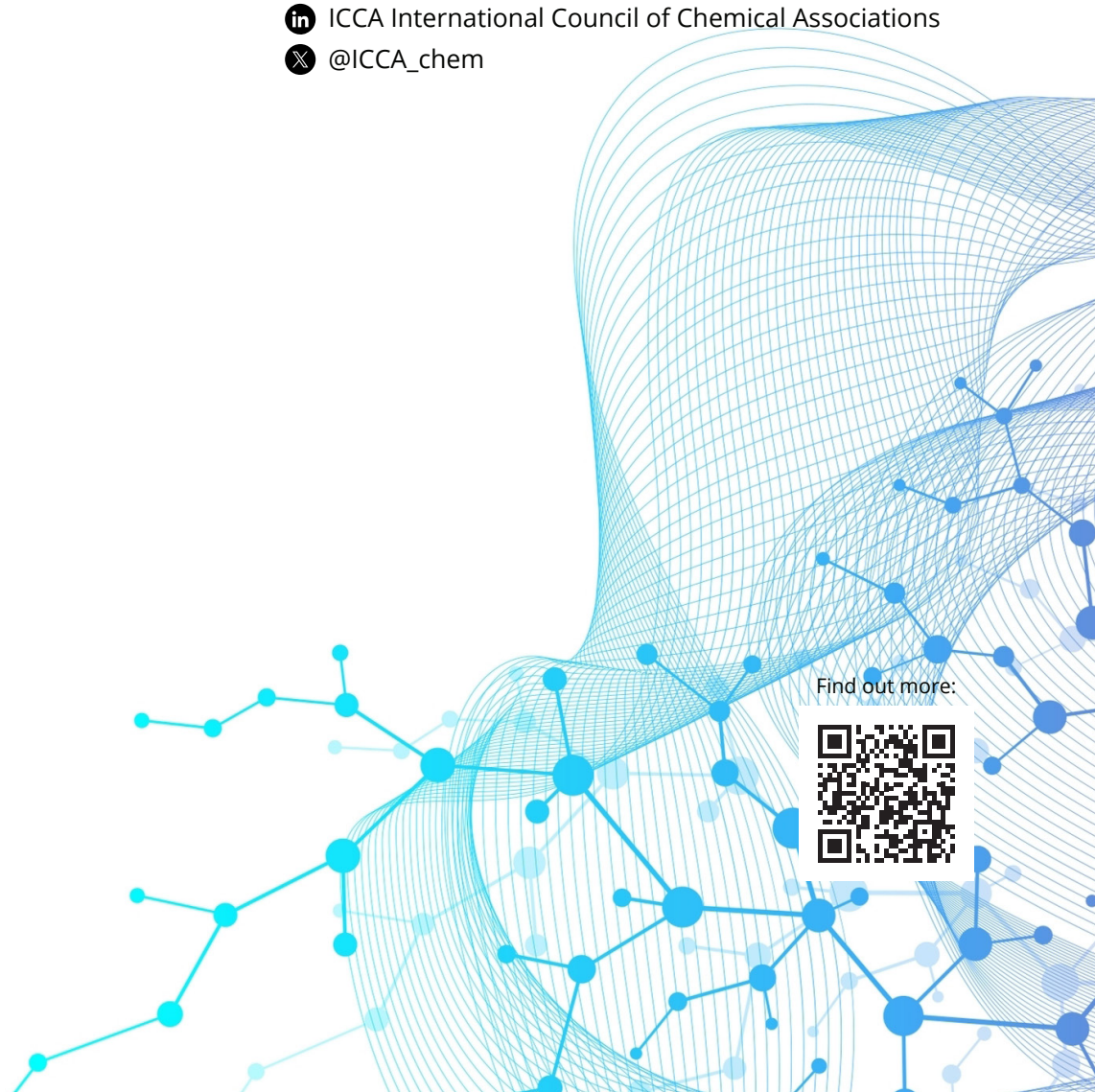

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