

## Preamble to the International Declaration of Chemistry

On November, 15th 2002, Chemistry Day was officially proclaimed at the request of Foro Química y Sociedad (Chemistry and Society Forum). The organizations that made up Foro Química y Sociedad also prepared the Declaration of Chemistry in order to highlight the enormous contribution of chemical science and chemical industry in many scientific and technological advances, as well as to the innovations that allow the progress of Humanity. Since then, the Declaration of Chemistry has been signed by renowned personalities in the academic, research and industry fields.

In 2016, on the occasion of the celebration in Spain of the European Congress of Chemistry, the Declaration of Chemistry was updated, again under the auspices of Foro Química y Sociedad, and subscribed by relevant personalities from different areas of Chemistry.

The proclamation by the General Assembly of the United Nations and UNESCO of the year 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of chemical elements, a fundamental contribution of Chemistry used by all branches of science, is also an acknowledgment of Chemistry as the basis of the advances in the different fields of Science and offers an excellent opportunity to adhere to the Declaration of Chemistry.

The first signatories of honor of the Declaration of Chemistry were:

Prof. Carlos Negro	Foro Química y Sociedad President and Co-Chairman of 6 <sup>th</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress
Prof. Jean Marie Pierre Lehn	Nobel Prize for Chemistry 1987
Prof. Antón Valero	Spanish Chemical Industry Federation President
Prof. Ehud Keinan	Israel Chemistry Society President
Prof. Robert Parker	UK Royal Society of Chemistry Executive President
Prof. Harmut Frank	Professor Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, University of Bayreuth



## **CHEMISTRY DECLARATION**

Chemistry is at the base of virtually all scientific, technological and innovative advances that allow the progress of Humanity. Thanks to the relevant contributions of Chemistry, Humanity has been able to achieve, over the years, greater life expectancy and quality.

In a world increasingly urban with a growing population, the challenges that lie ahead unquestionably request a firm commitment to innovation and research in the different fields of Science. Chemistry, as the supplier of 98% of productive sectors, is the fundamental basis for other science and knowledge areas and will have to take on the responsibility of offering and guaranteeing sustainable solutions to the majority of challenges that society, and the planet, already face and will face in the near future.

In 2030 it is estimated that, due to population growth, 30% more drinking water and 40% more energy will be required, in addition to food for everyone, global access to health and medical treatment, and environment protection and battling against climate change. All this requires a great effort on the part of the scientific community and the chemical industry to generate products, technologies and processes that are globally accessible and also advocate a model of sustainable growth based on the rational use of natural resources.

Through the scientists, researchers, academics, professionals and businesspeople dedicated to this discipline, Chemistry will inevitably play a major role in providing suitable solutions to these and many other challenges in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set by the UN. This will only be possible if we establish the necessary collaboration channels between all key players, with the support of society and its competent authorities and bodies.

## FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, WE STATE THAT:

- 1. It is necessary to promote social awareness of the invaluable contributions of science in general, and chemistry in particular, to all areas of our everyday life. These contributions have enabled us to enjoy an unprecedented quality of life and wellbeing thanks to the advances achieved.
- 2. It is necessary for the scientific community and the political stakeholders to constantly foster social trust and public support for science as a source of knowledge that has allowed humanity to advance, as opposed to some unfounded beliefs and arguments that lack a logical or rational basis supported by scientific evidence.
- 3. In order to increase this social recognition it is necessary for governments, public administrations, political and business leaders and civil society as a whole to promote excellence in scientific education, research and technological innovation, as well to disseminate objective, accurate information about chemical science and its applications.



- 4. It is necessary to recognise, value and support the fundamental contribution of scientists who research and develop products and applications; the work of teachers and professors in the education of future generations from the early to the most specialised stages, and the contribution of companies, professionals and workers who, after all, generate the products and economic and social benefits that citizens need. Without all of them, chemistry would not be able to resolve global challenges.
- 5. Through their activity, it is necessary for authorities and public administrations to foster the industrial development of chemistry and the competitiveness of the sector, allowing new developments in the laboratory to be applied in people's everyday lives and advances in research to be transferred to our citizens. The global dissemination of these advances and discoveries must be a priority.
- 6. Scientific knowledge must form the basis of regulatory decision-making to ensure that the design and implementation of policies and legislation aimed at guaranteeing the protection of people and the environment are always based and implemented in accordance with scientific rigour.
- 7. It is necessary for both public and private sectors to continuously support R&D+I (Research, Development and Innovation) and to consider it not only a fundamental tool for creating sustainable, competitive advantages but also as a commitment to future generations to whom we want to leave as a legacy a more balanced and sustainable world.
- 8. It is necessary to value the contribution of chemistry to a new model of circular economy that will form part of the solution to the continuous growth of the planet's population, enabling waste to be converted into new products in order to rationalise the use of resources.
- 9. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the UN, chemistry through those that apply it and use it will continue to be committed to protecting the planet and its natural resources. Building fairer and more inclusive societies requires a sustainable economic growth based on efficiency and the responsible use of resources, which chemistry can provide through its applications and innovative products.

