IUPAC and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Take Partnership to New Level

On 1 December 2016, the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and IUPAC President, Professor Natalia Tarasova, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pledging to enhance cooperation to keep abreast of developments in chemistry, responsibility and ethics in science, and education and outreach.

OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü (right) and IUPAC President Natalia Tarasova signed an MOU pledging to enhance cooperation.

Ambassador Üzümcü remarked, "Promoting responsible science is a crucial endeavour to advance the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Without scientists, there is no disarmament. IUPAC's unwavering commitment to a world permanently free of chemical weapons demonstrates the strength of this norm and the conviction of chemistry researchers and practitioners globally to protect it".

Professor Tarasova expressed, "Through the cooperation between our organisations, we look to help humanity achieve Sustainable Development Goals in a world free of chemical weapons and in a world in which achievements in chemical science and technology are used only for the benefit of humankind and the environment".

The MOU opens a new chapter and underscores the long-standing and productive relationship between OPCW and IUPAC.

Read more about IUPAC cooperation with OPCW in the President's Column page 2 or see iupac.org News section.

www.iupac.org/iupac-opcw-take-partnership-new-level/

IUPAC Announces the Names of the Elements 113, 115, 117, and 118

On 28 November 2016, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) approved the name and symbols for four elements: nihonium (Nh), moscovium (Mc), tennessine (Ts), and oganesson (Og), for element 113, 115, 117, and 118, respectively.

Following a 5-month period of public review, the names, proposed earlier by the discoverers, have been approved by the IUPAC Bureau.

Keeping with tradition, the newly discovered elements have been named after a place or geographical region, or a scientist. The ending of the names also reflects and maintains historical and chemical consistency: "-ium" for elements 113 and 115, as for all new elements of groups 1 to 16, "-ine" for element 117, belonging to group 17, and "-on" for element 118 as an element belonging to group 18. The recommendations were published in the December 2016 issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry* (doi.org/10.1515/pac-2016-0501). (The earlier provisional recommendations with the explanation of the names were published in CI Sep 2016, p. 30; no changes to the proposed names and symbols were introduced following the public review period).

Comments from the general public during the 5 month public review period were many. Apart from many full agreements, comments were received suggesting other names, in some cases accompanied by petitions from large groups of people. However, these suggestions could not be accepted, given the fact that under the current guidelines only the discoverers have the right to propose names and symbols. Questions were also received about the pronunciation of the names and the translations into other languages. Members of the chemistry community also raised the concern that Ts is one of the two commonly used abbreviations for the tosyl group. Recognizing, however, that many two-letter abbreviations have multiple meanings—even in chem-