



**OPCW**

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**CANADA**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JAMES LAMBERT  
CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE OPCW  
AT THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to begin by again taking the opportunity to commend you, the Conference Chairperson, and States Parties for having found a pragmatic solution to the destruction deadline issue last autumn. We have read the destruction plans submitted by all possessor States with great interest, and encourage these States to spare no effort to safely hasten the full and irreversible destruction of their remaining chemical weapons. The destruction plans, which indicate that much work remains to be done, remind us that the Organisation's demilitarisation mandate is far from completed. This is a consideration which must be foremost in our minds as we review the implementation of the Convention, and when rethinking the structure and make-up of the Technical Secretariat.

Focussing on Libya, I am very pleased to note the 24 April announcement that Canada's Global Partnership Program has contributed C\$6 million towards chemical weapons destruction activities in Libya through the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The contribution is part of security assistance for the new Libyan government announced in Tripoli last October by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, John Baird, and is the largest voluntary contribution ever made to the Organisation by a Member State. The funds will be used in project management and provision of training to personnel to operate the destruction facility in Ruwagha, the purchase of equipment and related materials for destroying sulphur mustard agent and chemical weapons munitions, and the provision of support services for OPCW on-site inspectors. We believe our contribution will help Libya reach its self-imposed destruction deadline, and to allow it extend the required assistance to OPCW inspection teams in the manner provided for in the Convention. This contribution continues in the tradition of previous Canadian Global Partnership support to chemical weapons abatement activities at the Kizner and Shchuchye facilities in Russia, for which approximately C\$200 million has been allocated since 2006.

We are glad to see that, in keeping with our decision at the Sixty-Seventh Session, the Technical Secretariat will report on an initial inspection of the chemical weapons not previously declared by the Qadhafi regime. We thank the Director-General for informing the Council on the inspection outcome, and look forward to receiving clarification of ambiguities or uncertainties pertaining to the weapons previously undeclared, including on the origin of the chemical warfare agents and associated munitions.



In the context of non-proliferation, Canada welcomes the progress made over the last year to deal with several matters on the agenda of the Industry Cluster. However, some of our decisions will require further attention from States Parties as we evaluate their impact and look to find further improvements and efficiencies in the working methods of the Secretariat. One such issue is OCPF site-selection methodology. Our work on this issue is by no means finished, and we look forward to reviewing the results of one year of implementation of the new selection methodology introduced by the Director-General.

At the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Council, the Technical Secretariat reported on the implementation of guidelines for the declaration of import and export data for Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals. While the report did not garner much attention, the problem of transfer discrepancies remains an endemic one. Canada has long been a vocal supporter of the Technical Secretariat's efforts to minimise transfer discrepancies. A side-benefit of our attempts to clarify our own discrepancies has been the identification of previously unknown trading and manufacturing companies in Canada. Key to these efforts has been sharing of information with other National Authorities, although sometimes constrained by domestic legislation preventing the sharing of trade data.

As the OPCW strengthens its focus on preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, the need for accurate import/export data monitoring will increase. Previous Conference decisions on the issue (C-7/DEC.14 and C-13/DEC.4) have had limited impact, and we feel the time has come to explore new means of tackling this complex problem. Canada would thus like to follow up on the recommendation of the current Council Vice-Chairperson for Industry, Ambassador Koebel, contained in his report to the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Council on chemical industry and other Article VI issues, and propose that the Executive Council appoint a facilitator to find further means of resolving the issue of transfer discrepancies.

Canada looks forward to the launch of the Open-Ended Working Group on Preparations for the Third Review Conference, through which a comprehensive review of the operation of the Convention and any relevant scientific and technological developments will be made. As the Review Conference is fast approaching, we are keen to see this work commence forthwith. We welcome the preparations of the Technical Secretariat to support the work of that group. We also commend Director-General Üzümcü for setting the stage by commissioning a panel of experts whose report provides pertinent and useful food for thought, and for engaging Permanent Representatives in The Hague on the broader issues of transition and evolution of the Organisation. Tackling these issues in an era of economic restraint and diminishing resources is a challenge to us all, and one we must address in the run-up to the Review Conference.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, Canada would join with those members of the Council requesting that the report of the Office of Internal Oversight be considered by the Advisory Body on Administration and Financial Matters (ABAF) prior to its consideration and notation by the Executive Council.

In closing, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Council.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.