

**The 5th Review Conference of
The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea
Agenda Item 9(b): Ensuring the universality of the Chemical Weapon Convention**

17 May 2023, The Hague

Thank you Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea strongly supports the Chemical Weapons Convention and its goal, building the world free of chemical weapons.

As noted by numerous delegations from the beginning of the Conference, the Convention is often referred to as an almost universal norm against chemical weapons use. It is commendable that the Convention has achieved remarkably wide membership so far, but more needs to be done.

As we expect the destruction of remaining declared chemical weapons stockpiles by the end of this year, our future goal will focus on addressing chemical weapons outside the convention. This is why my delegation would like to raise the universal adherence issue during this Review Conference.

To guarantee the full effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention, we need to ensure the universal adherence to the Convention. As long as there is the possibility that chemical weapons exist in ANY country, including States not Party, potential threats to the Convention persist.

In this regard, we strongly urge the four remaining States not Party to the Convention to join it as early as possible without any preconditions. Our joint efforts to encourage them to join the Convention should be made along with the efforts to call on States Parties to fully implement the Convention.

We note the continued efforts of the Technical Secretariat to engage States not Party in OPCW-related activities. We also look forward to the TS maintaining its readiness for new membership in the future by strengthening its expertise based on previous cases of joining the Convention and experiences in handling initial steps.

Thank you.

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