

**TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

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**Statement by
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The Netherlands, The Hague, 5 November, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join the other speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties at its Twelfth Session. I wish you every success in your important task and I want to assure you of our full cooperation and support in discharging your important duties.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson of the 11th Conference, for the good work done.

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

The 2007 is a very important year for the OPCW , we are celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This is an excellent occasion to take stocks of our achievements and challenges .

Numerous events held in the States Parties as well as on the international scene offered the possibility to analyze various aspects of its implementation and help define future activities of the OPCW, the implementing agency of the Convention.

There was a broad consensus that the Convention represents a milestone in the determination to make the world free of chemical weapons, weapons considered both as inhuman and immoral.

In the decade of its existence the Convention has become a fastest grown international Treaty and today has a 182 member states, with realistic prospects of having a couple more until the end of this year.

This large family is united in their continuous support for and promotion of the Convention. The universality and full implementation of CWC are the

goals where the States Parties and the OPCW are resolved to continue their mutual engagement.

In that context I would like to pay tribute to the Director General of the Organization for his inspiring leadership, as well as to the members of Technical secretariat for their devotion and efforts.

We are convinced that this Conference will be the place of fruitful exchange of views and experiences and will produce new ideas on how to best proceed in order to fully achieve the noble goals of the Convention.

I would like to join all those who appeal to the non member states to join the CWC without delay. Being member of this large family carries not only moral an political value, it is beneficial in very concrete terms.

We also would like to add our voice to those calling for the destruction of all chemical weapons within the existing deadlines. We are greatly encouraged by the serious and systematic activities taking place in possessor states which gives the hope of successful and timely accomplishment of this complex task.

Mr. Chairman,

In joining this eventful year, the State Coordination Authority for the CWC implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has convened the Meeting of Representatives of the Countries Participating in the Stabilization and Association Process involved in the implementation of the Convention on the prohibition of development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on its destruction. The Meeting was held in Sarajevo from 18 to 19 October and was attended by representatives of the National Authorities and experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic Montenegro, Republic of Croatia, and Republic of Serbia, with participation of the Envoy of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Meeting was addressed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who underlined the importance of the CWC and its contribution to the international peace and security. The participant of the meeting also met the Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The meeting offered the place for very constructive and productive discussion on such specific issues like border and customs control in the SAP countries, expertise and the equipment and modalities of future cooperation between national authorities responsible for the implementation

of the CWC. Commitment to the aims and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention has been reaffirmed.

The participants have initiated discussion on the possibilities for joint determination of border crossings which will be used for the import and export of chemicals contained in the Annex on Chemicals of the CWC.

Also, the participants paid a special tribute to the Republic of Albania as the first Possessor State that successfully completed the process of the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles. Accession of the Republic of Montenegro to the Convention has also been welcomed.

The joint conclusions among other confirmed:

- that is indispensable to determine as soon as possible common border crossings at which goods and substances listed in the Convention will be directed for the purposes of appropriate customs and other controls. The participating States will, within thirty (30) days, through bilateral contacts which will be facilitated by their respective national authorities responsible for the implementation of the Convention, exchange proposals for possible joint border crossings.
- Also, considering that the issue of adequate technical equipment, both mobile and laboratory, is one of the neuralgic points for all participating countries, the most urgent needs in that respect will be determined by the experts which should result in preparing of joint project aimed at improving capacities in this area. The OPCW Technical Secretariat will be approached with a view of obtaining assistance and support.
- a follow-up meeting of the national authorities, in the same format, will be convened in the coming period, but not later than within the next three (3) months.

The general feeling was that the meeting successfully achieved the set goals and that the follow up activities will contribute to the further fruitful cooperation among national authorities of the SAP countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding allow me to underline that Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the work being done for preparation of the Second Review Conference which will be held in 2008. Much has been done in 10 years in implementing the CWC.

On behalf of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina I would like to reiterate the assurances of our full cooperation with you and to all other States Parties in ensuring the success of this Conference.

Thank you.