

STATEMENT OF CANADA
THIRTEENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

DELIVERED BY
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TO THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

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(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates and Honoured Guests:

I should like to join with the other speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. I am sure your diplomatic skills will enable us to achieve a successful outcome.

With 184 countries that have so far ratified the Convention, we are very close to achieving our common goal of universal adherence. Nevertheless, several important States have not adhered to the Convention and we must make every effort to encourage them to join our ranks. To this end, I am pleased to announce that Canada will be providing funds to the OPCW to pursue its outreach activities in an effort to get the remaining countries of the Americas, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas to ratify the CWC, and to provide technical assistance to the Haitian National Authority.

The obligation of chemical weapons possessors to declare and verifiably destroy all their chemical weapons stockpiles within established deadlines is a central provision of the Convention. There continues to be reassuring progress, but with well over 50% of total chemical weapons stockpiles still not destroyed we are far from the finish line. Canada has been providing significant support for chemical weapons destruction in the Russian Federation under the *Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*. Canadian-funded projects totalling over \$100 million at the Shchuch'ye

chemical weapons destruction facility are now either completed or nearing completion. In November (2008), Canada and Russia signed a new implementing arrangement which outlines Canada's contribution of approximately \$100 million for destruction process equipment required for the two main destruction buildings at the Kizner chemical weapons destruction facility.

The interim site-selection methodology for inspections of Other Chemical Production Facilities (OCPF), implemented since the beginning of this year, is already delivering expected results. A cursory analysis of the distribution of inspections in the first ten months, by regional groups, shows an increase in the number of inspections in countries with a higher number of declared OCPFs and a comparable reduction in countries with fewer facilities. This translates into a more equitable distribution of inspections, that is an increase in the number of inspections for WEOG and Asia Group and a decrease for other regional groups.

More, however, needs to be done to improve the efficiency of the industry verification system. For instance, it is widely recognised that the information contained in OCPF declarations is insufficient to allow the Technical Secretariat to make an informed decision when selecting sites for inspection that are relevant to the Convention.

The Director General's proposals to enhance the information on the characteristics of plant sites contained in OCPF declarations will contribute to solving this problem. The use of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) sub-codes to identify sites that produce high volume chemicals of low relevance to the Convention will go some way towards

increasing the inspection efficiency. A further step in this direction would be the provision of supplementary information on the type of processes and equipment configuration. We strongly support the Director General's proposals and I am pleased to announce that Canada will start implementing both these proposals on a voluntary basis starting in 2009, with the submission of its Annual Declaration of Past Activities for 2008. We encourage other States Parties to do the same.

The Second Review Conference allowed us to reaffirm our collective commitment to the Convention and the implementation of all its provisions. The final document will guide our future work over the next few years in making sure that the OPCW can continue to adapt to changing circumstances. It should be noted, however, that the polarised and often heated debates between States Parties distracted the Review Conference from its main objective which was "to take into account any relevant scientific and technological developments". We hope that this Conference, along with the work of the Executive Council, will steer this organisation toward meeting current and future challenges.

As we are embarking on the last phase of CW destruction, the OPCW must continue its efforts to gradually shift the balance of its resources towards non-proliferation measures. As demilitarization winds down, industry verification will rise in relative importance in international security. It also will be necessary to steadily increase the number of Article VI inspections, particularly OCPF inspections, as the number of inspectable OCPF sites continues to grow. In terms of the 2009 budget, it seems to us that the Director-General has put forward a good proposal. The current number of OCPF inspections, at 118, is very small compared to the total number of inspectable OCPF sites, at 4,533. In fact, it is 2.6%.

Canada therefore fully supports the Director-General's proposal for a modest increase in the number of these inspections in 2009. We do not see this as unduly burdensome or inequitable in its application and fail to understand why some countries do. This Delegation finds it remarkable that so much effort has been expended in the budget deliberations discussing principles underlying the industry verification regime.

In closing, Mr. Chairperson, may I say that this organisation enjoys an enviable reputation as a highly credible and an effective disarmament and non-proliferation international organisation. This is due to the superb work done by the Director General, Mr. Rogelio Pfirter and all the dedicated staff in the Technical Secretariat. As we embark on new challenges, we are confident that this will continue.