

STATEMENT OF CANADA
FOURTEENTH 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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Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, and distinguished

Delegates:

I should like to join with the other speakers in warmly congratulating you on your election as President of the Fourteenth 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.

The number of States Parties has continued to increase and, at 188, we are drawing ever closer to the goal of universality. Last year Canada provided funds to the OPCW to pursue its outreach activities in an effort to assist the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas with their ratification processes. Canada is especially pleased to see that both countries have since ratified the Convention and that all countries of the Americas are now members of the CWC.

Mr.Chairperson,

As Chemical Weapons destruction nears completion, the non-proliferation dimension of the CWC is becoming increasingly prominent and we welcome the progress made in Industry Cluster consultations on outstanding issues. After more than ten years of consultations, an agreement was finally reached on guidelines on low concentration limits of Schedule 2A and 2A* chemicals. Once approved by the Conference of

States Parties, this decision should be implemented as soon as possible.

We will be monitoring closely its implementation by Member States.

With the full support of the Canadian chemical industry, the Canadian National Authority voluntarily implemented in 2008 the Technical Secretariat's initiatives on enhancement of declarations of Other Chemical Production Facilities. We hope that the new product subcategory codes will be used by the Technical Secretariat for the selection of sites for inspection in 2010. Canada strongly encourages all Member States to agree on these proposals or implement them on a voluntary basis. Canada is pleased to have contributed more than \$23,000 CDN towards the two-day Workshop on "Matters Related to Other Chemical Production Facilities", which took place just prior to this Conference. We believe that this workshop contributed to a better understanding by all Member States of the relevance of OCPF verification regime to the object and purpose of the Convention and its contribution to non-proliferation and confidence building.

Greater efforts should be made by Members States to resolve transfer discrepancies identified by the Technical Secretariat. This labour-intensive task

requires Member States to cooperate with each other in order to reconcile as much as possible quantities of declared transferred chemicals. This year, efforts undertaken by the Canadian National Authority in cooperation with other National Authorities led to the identification of previously unknown Schedule 2 plant sites and trading companies. Canada attaches great importance to clarifying transfer discrepancies and encourages the Technical Secretariat to continue its efforts to seek clarifications from States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

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. Considerable progress has been achieved since the last session of the Conference of States Parties in the destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons and we welcome the determination of possessor states to do their utmost to meet their destruction obligations. Canada is providing assistance to the Russian Federation at the Kizner Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility pursuant to a \$100 million CDN commitment made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the 2006 G8 Summit in St. Petersburg.

In closing, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to underline the superb work done by the Director General, Mr. Rogelio Pfirter, over the past

eight years in making the OPCW an organisation that enjoys an enviable reputation in credibility in the disarmament and non-proliferation community. I would like to extend a warm welcome to his successor, Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü. I wish to reiterate Canada's commitment in working with the new Director-General and the Technical Secretariat to pursue efforts to implement fully and effectively the Convention.