

(Check against Delivery)

**Statement by Deputy Director-General Chul-min PARK**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea**  
**at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CWC**  
**The Hague, 2 December 2014**

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**Madame Chair,**  
**Director-General,**  
**Distinguished Delegates, and Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Let me begin by joining previous delegations in congratulating you, Ambassador Vesela Korac, on your election as the Chair of this session. My special thanks go to our outgoing Chair, Ambassador Dr. Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali for his dedication and achievements left behind. I also would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü for his tireless and unrelenting efforts in the noble endeavors under the framework of the OPCW.**

**For the past two years, we have seen achievements in Syria including its joining of the Convention and progress in the destruction of declared chemical weapons. These developments constitute a significant step forward toward the complete dismantlement of the Syrian chemical weapons program.**

**It was indeed very encouraging to see the sense of unity in the international community and close cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW, as well as the invaluable contributions and supports from many States Parties. The destruction of chemical weapons in Syria, by setting an excellent precedent for successful collaboration to achieve the shared goal of disarmament, served to**

**underline that the international community, once it unites in its efforts, can accomplish even seemingly impossible tasks.**

**Despite the achievements, however, my delegation is deeply concerned over the Fact-Finding Mission's finding on the use of chlorine gas in northern Syria. In addition, it is of great concern that chlorine gas was repeatedly used in Syria even when the removal of chemical weapons was under way. This also deepens the concern over the accuracy of the declaration of the Syrian Government to the OPCW.**

**The Republic of Korea supports the efforts by the OPCW to clarify any discrepancy in the declaration and the continued work of the Fact-Finding Mission. In particular, we appreciate the ongoing efforts by the Fact-Finding Mission team for its final report. My delegation believes that the international community must remain vigilant to the outstanding issues until all doubts and ambiguities are resolved.**

**Madame Chair,**

**To prevent the use of chemical weapons, achieving universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and destroying the remaining stockpiles are the two most important priorities. It is encouraging that the membership of the CWC has now reached 190 with the recent joining of Somalia and Syria. The membership is gradually nearing the full universality of the Convention.**

**The Republic of Korea urges all those that have not yet joined the Convention, including North Korea, to do so without any delay and precondition. We claim them to join the united efforts to free the world of chemical weapons. Until membership is universal and the last stockpiles of chemical weapons are destroyed, the work of both the OPCW and States Parties will not be finished.**

**Madame Chair,**

**My delegation is deeply concerned over the recent report that terrorist groups, including ISIL, may have acquired chemical agents that can be used as weapons. Considering the increasing threat posed by non-state actors and the dual nature of chemical agents, we also have to strengthen physical protection of chemical facilities and laboratories. Tightening export control is another requirement in this sense.**

**With this in mind, I would like to refer you to the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which lays emphasis on the prevention of acquisition and use of WMD by non-state actors. It requires all states to enforce appropriate and effective laws for the protection and control of WMD and related materials. As the Republic of Korea is chairing the UN Security Council 1540 Committee during 2013-2014, my government has sought to reinforce the 1540 regime by enhancing the effectiveness of assistance provided and capacity building in and around member states.**

**In order to ensure fuller implementation of Resolution 1540 in the Asian region, the Korean Government hosted the regional workshop on promoting implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Seoul this October. More than ten international and regional organizations, including the OPCW, participated in the workshop to make presentations on the assistance they have provided and offer overviews of their training programs.**

**The implementation of International Cooperation and Assistance is another key pillar in strengthening the Convention. The Republic of Korea has contributed to bolstering the capacity building of the States Parties while sharing its knowledge and experience in the peaceful development and safe management of the chemical industry. In this**

context, the Korean Government has hosted regional workshops annually on Article X and Article XI of the Convention for the past three years, and will continue its efforts to deepen international cooperation.

With regard to the programme and budget for 2015, my delegation appreciates the efforts by the Secretariat to place a priority on streamlining the cost. We look forward to the Secretariat continuing to spend its budget in a more effective and efficient manner in the spirit of “do more with less.” In this regard, we support the relevant three decisions which enable the Technical Secretariat to implement an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and establish a special fund for this purpose.

Madame Chair,

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the first chemical attack in 1915 during the First World War. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reflected on the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare in April, “we must not relax our vigilance. We must do our utmost to deter any future incidents.”

In conclusion, I would like to request this statement to be treated as an official document of the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties.

I thank you. /End/