



**The high-level meeting on
“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating
success. Committing to the future”,**

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is great honour for me to take part on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of entering into force of the Convention on prohibition of Chemical Weapons, one of the most important international treaties in the field of disarmament.

Today we celebrate a treaty that has become a symbol of what can be achieved when common sense of purpose and good political will act together.

The success of CWC is a success for all States parties to the Convention who work hand in hand in order to make it true not only the complete ban on chemical weapons but also to make it sure that no new weapons based on chemical components will ever appear.

It is true, indeed, as it was said on one occasion that the Convention is “an essential legal tool contributing substantially to the cause of international peace and security of us all”.

It is therefore just as important, our commitment and determination to implement the UN legal instruments in the realm of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus demonstrating that we can perform as a responsible members of the international community.

Allow me at this juncture to pay tribute to the Technical secretariat of the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as an indispensable part of successful implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

The tireless work of OPCW, particularly in the verification segment which makes the CWC an outstanding legal instrument deserves all credits. Verification provides the basis of confidence in the effectiveness of the treaty. At the same time, assistance and protection against chemical weapons and international cooperation for peaceful uses of chemistry address the expectations of our diverse membership whose collective political support for the Convention remains essential.

Mr Chairman,

More than 70% of the declared stocks of chemical weapons have been destroyed by now. 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties has taken a decision that will enable possessor to fulfill their obligations while providing more transparency and increased reporting requirements.

This leaves us with the shifting paradigm - the focus of the work of OPCW will be on the prevention of emergence of new weapons based on chemical substances. In order to address this issue OPCW shall continue to verify that production, consumption and trade of scheduled chemicals and the operations of other chemical production facilities, as defined by the Convention, remain dedicated for peaceful purposes.

In that context the close cooperation and understanding with chemical industry as a partner par excellence in full implementation of the Convention calls for further improvements, in the interest of all.

Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by reiterating, as other speakers already did, that it's true that unless all countries are member of the CWC, the space is open for potential use of chemical weapons and massive tragedy. The actual crisis in Syria is a stark reminder.

Therefore, we call on remaining countries to join the CWC and make our success so far, great and complete. Then, we will be able to focus all our attention on prevention of proliferation for the benefit of our planet.

Thank you!