

BAN KI-MOON
Statement by UN
Secretary-General

AHMET ÜZÜMCÜ
Keynote address by OPCW
Director-General

ANGELA KANE
UN High Representative
for Disarmament Affairs

OPCW

Today

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ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

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**ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
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FOREWORD



This special edition of *OPCW Today* commemorates the 15th anniversary of the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It captures the highlights of a series of events in 2012 that successfully brought to the fore the achievements of our unique multilateral endeavour embodied in the work of the OPCW, and which also provided an opportunity to focus on future challenges.

The centrepiece of our activities was a High-Level Meeting held at the United Nations in New York on 1 October 2012. The meeting was a resounding confirmation of the importance of our work in advancing the goals of international peace and security. Addressing the meeting, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, expressed his strong support for the OPCW's mission, underlining also the imperative of universal adherence to the Convention.

The purpose behind the activities organised in the context of the 15th anniversary was not simply to present the achievements of the OPCW during its first 15 years. It was also to galvanise a process of reflection amongst our States Parties and stakeholders within our membership so that we can collectively impart an enduring basis to the hard-earned prohibitions of the Convention.

What has been achieved is unprecedented in the history of disarmament. We are close to completely eliminating the declared stockpiles of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. Of the nearly 70,000 metric tonnes of Category 1 chemical weapons agents that have been declared to date, 78 percent have been destroyed under international verification by the OPCW. These stockpiles included significant quantities of the most toxic and lethal compounds ever invented, including nerve gases such as VX and

sarin. Given the current pace of destruction activities, we can expect that by 2017 about 99 percent of the original stockpiles will have been destroyed. Of the 70 chemical weapons production facilities that have been declared, all have been deactivated or converted for peaceful purposes. This elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction represents a significant contribution to global peace and security.

However the CWC encompasses much more than just disarmament. It represents a permanent ban on chemical weapons, thus placing an obligation on all of us to continue to work to make our world completely safe from chemical weapons. This means that the OPCW must remain a robust and effective organisation. Refocusing our energies and priorities on the task of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons is but one obvious objective.

The OPCW has established a regime of industrial inspections, having made more than 2 300 visits to industrial sites on the territory of 81 States Parties. The verification of declared industrial sites and data monitoring will continue in close cooperation with the global chemical industry. Other tasks in our agreed core objectives include international cooperation and assistance and protection activities. The OPCW has assisted numerous States Parties in strengthening their capacity to implement the Convention at the national level, sustained a robust programme of capacity-building activities in assistance and protection against chemical weapons, and conducted training activities in the peaceful uses of chemistry. All of this testifies to the balanced approach taken by the OPCW in making all of the provisions of the Convention a reality.

The process of reflection, discussion and consensus which the OPCW is known to conduct characteristically well, now requires another level of debate. Future challenges require clear identification, including the scientific and technological dimensions that impact the Convention. And as we are expected to do more with fewer resources at a time of financial stress, the managerial and organisational challenges are no less serious.

Against this backdrop, the 15th anniversary commemorative events allowed us to spread our message to wider audiences, especially, the policy making circles within States Parties whose continuing support for the Convention and our work remains

vital. In this context, the Third Review Conference to be held in April 2013 provides the States Parties with an important opportunity to establish a roadmap for the future of the OPCW.

Mention of 15th anniversary cannot be complete without a sincere word of gratitude to the City of The Hague, which has proven a reliable partner in our common quest to make the world a better place. This issue shows the range of activities that would not

have been possible without such support.

Fifteen years on, I can say with certainty that the achievements of the OPCW are due entirely to the strong commitment of its Member States to the goals of the Convention. I sincerely thank all of them at this important milestone for the OPCW.

H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General



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High Level Meeting in The Hague

High Level Meeting in The Hague

At a time when the international community is earnestly seeking solutions to longstanding problems associated with the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the OPCW's experience offers useful lessons and insights.

The Chemical Weapons Convention has proved to be one of the finest achievements in disarmament and is a testament to the determination of the international community to free the world of chemical weapons for all time. No other international treaty dealing with disarmament has attracted such wide adherence in such a short period of time – 188 States Parties have joined the Convention since its entry into force in 1997. No other treaty aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under a strict regime of verification; to date, more than 75% of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been verifiably destroyed, a figure that is expected to reach 99% within the next four years.

At the same time, the OPCW has inspected more than 1,100 industrial sites in 81 countries around the world, the foundation of its efforts to ensure that new chemical weapons do not emerge and that toxic chemicals are not diverted for malicious purposes.

These are unprecedented achievements in the annals of arms control that deserve celebration.

The concept for this high-level meeting in The Hague was to look back over the OPCW's first 15 years and celebrate these historic achievements, amongst others, as well as to examine the main challenges the Organisation is likely to face in the future. As we approach the complete elimination of chemical arsenals, this will inevitably lead to changes in the Organisation's priorities and activities and our goal is to "change by design, not default." The high-level meeting provided an ideal opportunity to explore these issues in a robust and transparent way before a large audience of Permanent Representatives and other primary stakeholders.

The date 3 September was chosen for the high-level meeting because nearly 20 years ago on this day,

in 1993, the protracted negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention were successfully concluded and the treaty was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. The meeting was held in the Leper Room of the Technical Secretariat and focused on thematic speeches and panel discussions involving heads of international organisations and other invited guests on the topics of "Multilateralism in Arms Control and Disarmament" and "Science and Ethics". The first theme highlighted the key factors of the OPCW's success as a multilateral verification-based disarmament institution for the world community, while the second explored the fundamental issue of science for peace and development.

Among the dignitaries who addressed the gathering at the OPCW were the Mayor of the City of The Hague, Mr Jozias van Aartsen; the Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Mr Karel J.G. van Oosterom, Director-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

There were video messages from Ms Angela Kane, High Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs; from Mr Yukiya Amano, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and from Sir Harold Kroto, the 1996 Nobel Prize Laureate for Chemistry.

The statements and video messages were followed by a discussion by a panel of distinguished guests, some of whom were directly involved in the long and difficult negotiations to finalise the Convention, who offered their views on the theme of "Multilateralism in Arms Control and Disarmament."

Looking back at the last 15 years of its existence, the OPCW has progressed remarkably from infancy to maturity. It has successfully translated what were at the time untested provisions of the Convention into a workable regime to be implemented by a new and unique organisation. The experience of the OPCW in creating this multilateral cooperative environment promises to be our strength as we turn to meet our future challenges.

The Chemical Weapons Convention has proved to be one of the finest achievements in disarmament and is a testament to the determination of the international community to free the world of chemical weapons for all time



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

@ FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE OPCW ANNIVERSARY EVENT

by **Ahmet Üzümcü**
OPCW Director-General

Excellencies,
 Ladies and gentlemen,
 It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this event, which has been organised to commemorate the 15 years of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The date is significant as it also marks the adoption of the text of the Convention by the Conference on Disarmament in 1992.

During the 2nd Review Conference, held in 2008, States Parties declared that “the Chemical Weapons Convention remains a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a nondiscriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control”, and that it “sets new standards for global disarmament and non-proliferation.” Today, as we commemorate yet another milestone, this statement has acquired greater resonance.

In a recent op-ed article, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, lamented the stalled disarmament process. He urged the international community to reflect on “what has gone wrong, why disarmament and arms control have proven so difficult to achieve, and how the world community can get back on track towards these vitally important goals.”

At a time when the international community is earnestly seeking solutions to long-standing problems associated with disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, our experience at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) offers useful lessons and insights. The Convention, a major peace dividend from the time the Cold War ended, deals at once with both disarmament and non-proliferation with its clear and comprehensive prohibitions.

It was a long historic campaign that resulted in the global and verifiable ban on chemical weapons represented in the Convention, with several earlier international efforts having failed.

Today, the Convention stands out as a unique international legal instrument relating to weapons of mass destruction. It is so because of its wide ranging scope and the level of acceptance throughout the world that it enjoys. The CWC regime has indeed played a pioneering role globally. In many countries, disarmament and non-proliferation issues have been addressed for the first time following their accession to the CWC hard work, dedi-

cation and commitment by States Parties the Technical Secretariat and various stake holders have made possible the achievements of the OPCW. I would like to pay tribute to all those who have contributed to the success of the Convention.

Our membership has grown to 188 States Parties. No other international treaty dealing with disarmament has attracted such wide adherence in a relatively short period of time. We continue to move ever closer to the vision of a world free from an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. This is one of the most tangible contributions to the goals of the United Nations defined in terms of promoting international peace and security through disarmament.

Chemical disarmament is a fundamental objective of the Convention. Three possessor States Parties have actually fulfilled their obligation to completely destroy their stockpiles. Overall, nearly three-quarters of the total declared weapons has been eliminated.

While it may be true that the final deadline for the destruction was missed earlier this year, the constructive spirit of cooperation prevailing at the OPCW has led to a decision by the Conference of States Parties that has not only preserved the integrity of the Convention but has, in fact, strengthened it. The culture of not losing sight of the greater goals while seeking to resolve difficult issues through mutual accommodation and compromise has been the key to our success.

The Russian Federation and the United States of America, as the two largest possessor States Parties, are making steady progress towards the complete destruction of their respective stockpiles. Both countries will continue to fulfil their obligations while providing enhanced reporting and more transparency to assure that they are on course to completing the task. We expect that only 1 percent of the declared stockpiles will remain to be eliminated in 4 to 5 years.

This ethos has contributed to the ability of the OPCW to demonstrate how a complete ban on an entire category of weapons of mass destruction can in fact be implemented in practice. Our work represents several dimensions. 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. These will continue to be major incentives for a significant number of States Parties to remain engaged in the implementation of the Convention.

A comprehensive verification and inspection mechanism now exists, together with a cadre of skilled inspectors. Procedures have been established that enable inspection activities to be carried out efficiently and effectively, including in challenging circumstances. In other words, from conception to practice, the verification regime of the Convention is now firmly established. It serves current needs while being fully adaptable to future requirements. As the actual stocks of chemical weapons continue to diminish, OPCW verification will focus more on the objective of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, or non-proliferation. The



Ahmet Üzümcü was appointed Director-General of the OPCW in December 2009 by the 14th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and began his term of office on 25 July 2010.



Organisation will continue its work to ensure that production and consumption of scheduled chemicals and the operations of other chemical production facilities remain dedicated to peaceful purposes. Monitoring of the trade in scheduled chemicals will remain a vital complement to on-site verification.



Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Having completed a major part of the journey, the Organisation now stands at a threshold. This is indeed an important time for the Convention; for the OPCW; and for the international community. The achievements of the last 15 years have been significant. A world that is completely free from chemical weapons is within our reach.

What we need to remember is that making the world free of chemical weapons involves much more than getting rid of declared stockpiles of chemical weapons. This will remain a multi-faceted and challenging task.

The long-term objective of the CWC, namely, permanent security against the threat of chemical weapons will endure. To serve that end, the OPCW will need to make the transition from an organisation that has so far primarily dealt with eliminating existing arsenals to one that prevents their re-emergence in the future, and promotes security and protection against the misuse of toxic chemicals.

What we face is a situation in which we make the transition to a more broad based security orientation for the Organisation but at redefined levels of resources dictated by the current global economic downturn. This is not an insignificant challenge. Although we need to readjust our resources and our organisational structure, we also need to maintain the responsiveness of the Convention to contemporary security demands, including countering the terrorist threat.

In the long term, industry verification, along with other measures, will provide the necessary assurances of compliance with treaty obligations. This would require, inter alia, a review of both the intensity and the focus of our industry verification regime. We look forward to discussions on such issues within the policy circles as well as the global chemical industry. For this purpose, a new institutionalised dialogue with the industry is desirable.

The chemical industry is an indispensable partner of the OPCW. It has played a constructive role in both the evolution and the sustenance of the verification regime. The Responsible Care programme adopted voluntarily by the International Council of Chemical Associations and other similar measures are a testament to the industry's sense of responsibility.

These programmes are also encouraging as they provide the OPCW with an enabling environment in which to reinforce the legal and ethical norms of the Convention.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a legal document that serves a common security objective. It was negotiated two decades ago. During this period, science and technology have advanced significantly. It is therefore crucial to take stock of the current state of the science and the production technologies that the Convention covers.

Legal instruments preceding the CWC failed because they were not comprehensive and were devoid of verification. Today, the challenge before us is to ensure that the legal prohibitions based on the Convention are regarded as comprehensive enough to extend the reach of verification to new chemicals and new means and methods of production. In the context of CWC verification, the potential overlap between chemistry and biology appears to be an emerging concern. This subject, together with a number of other important issues, is already on the agenda of the Scientific Advisory Board. Given the rapid advancements in science and technology, the Board will be called upon to play an increasingly important role of advising the OPCW in the policy making process.

In a rapidly changing world it is important we ensure that the OPCW remains relevant and able to meet new challenges. The Open-ended Working Group which is making preparations for the Third Review Conference will provide an opportunity to States Parties to discuss in an inclusive manner refining and reordering the OPCW priorities, goals and objectives and charting a course for the mid to long term future. The conclusions of the OEWG will be considered by the Review Conference next year. The process of deliberation on the imperatives of the future had already begun with the work of the Advisory Panel on Future OPCW Priorities.

In the context of international terrorism, it has rightly been affirmed that the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism organisation. At the same time, for an international organisation that exists to promote security, countering the contemporary threat of terrorism creates a distinct responsibility. The threat from non-state actors seeking to produce or acquire chemical weapons is real.

Defining an elaborate legal framework, assisting states in implementing that framework, and offering programmes for assistance and protection are the tools with which the OPCW can contribute to international anti-terrorism efforts. These endeavours align our

work with the objectives of, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Furthermore, the Organisation's role in this context is specifically recognised in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the General Assembly in 2006.

There are even more important steps that States Parties need to take within their own countries. The most reliable measures against terrorism are to deny non-state actors access to chemicals of concern or the means to produce them. This requires effective national implementation of the Convention. All States Parties must establish and reinforce administrative and legislative

measures so that key provisions of the Convention are in force within their jurisdictions. These include the arrangements for systematic declarations, industry monitoring, appropriate controls on transfers of chemicals, and regulatory measures to identify and track toxic chemicals.

... the OPCW will need to make the transition from an organisation that has so far primarily dealt with eliminating existing arsenals, to one that prevents their re-emergence in the future, and promotes security and protection against the misuse of toxic chemicals.



It is vital for States Parties to be able to detect, pursue, and prosecute any breach of the Convention by their nationals, in any area under their jurisdiction or control. OPCW inspections and data monitoring will continue to serve as important supplementary measures. Furthermore, the Secretariat will continue to invest resources in assisting States Parties to fulfil their national implementation obligations. However, we need to register renewed progress in improving the domestic implementation of the Convention worldwide. I therefore hope that those States Parties which have not yet fulfilled the requirements of Article VII concerning national implementation measures will do so at the earliest.

The development of an international mechanism for emergency assistance in the case of the use or the threat to use chemical weapons is an essential part of the security assurance that States receive when joining the Chemical Weapons Convention. It is also the principal focus of activities conducted under Article X. The threats associated with the use of chemical weapons by non-state actors have created a renewed interest in the OPCW's coordination of emergency assistance to States Parties. The OPCW is required to develop and maintain a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate, and efficient assistance to a State Party that requests it against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons. This is a complex undertaking, as the Organisation's ability to respond adequately depends not only on the provision of emergency assistance but also on effective coordination with various agencies in the field.

Over the years, the Organisation has invested a great deal of effort and resources in refining programmes, conducting field exercises, and offering improved services to States Parties. In the future we will seek to reinforce these programmes to build national and regional capacities that can be relied upon against both conventional threats and the threat posed by terrorism. Chemical security and safety in general will occupy an important place in our future programmes of activities.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

A condition that is indispensable to the goal of a world free of chemical weapons is attaining the universality of the Convention. Convincing the 8 States not yet Party, to join the CWC remains a priority.

We have, recently and sadly, been reminded that chemical weapons are still a reality in certain parts of the world. A non-state Party suffering an internal conflict alluded to the possibility of their use. This is a deplorable situation.

The gravity of the situation was recognised in the UN General Assembly's resolution adopted on 3 August 2012, which demands that this Government refrain from using or transferring chemical or biological weapons to non-state actors, and that it respect international obligations regarding those weapons.

The OPCW verification regime does not extend to non-state Parties. The CWC does include, however, a provision for closely cooperating with the Secretary General of the United Nations in the case of alleged use of chemical weapons involving a State not Party to this Convention.

The present situation underlines the need for us to redouble our efforts to convince the remaining countries to join the Convention at the earliest opportunity. The overwhelming majority of members of the international community subscribe to the obligations established by the Convention. It is not in the interest of the international community to allow exceptions. The international community should unequivocally insist that there is no justification whatsoever to retain the chemical weapons option.

The norms and obligations of the Convention are designed to promote a more secure and humane world. All countries of the world have a duty to uphold these norms and obligations.

The Secretariat, in accordance with its mandate, will continue to promote the universality of the Convention. We make every effort to engage with States not Party. However, in order for our efforts to succeed, it is important for States Parties also to exert further efforts to promote the universality of the Convention.

In addition, we should also support the multilateral efforts to that effect. The Secretariat has participated in the process to prepare for the prospective Conference to be convened in Finland to consider the establishment of a WMD free zone in the Middle East. We hope for this important initiative to succeed.

In further strengthening the effectiveness of the Convention, our



future endeavours must also focus more fully on a wide spectrum of stakeholders. I have already mentioned the importance of an intensified dialogue with the chemical industry, on which the Convention has a direct impact.

We must not forget that the CWC is also a body of rules with an ethical foundation. Civil society, academics and scientists are, therefore, another major stakeholder group. Many chemists, however, have had little or no exposure during their training and professional life to the ethical norms and regulatory requirements of the CWC. Advances in the life sciences are creating significant opportunities. While their potential for benefit is undisputed, these could also be prone to abuse. Education and awareness-raising about the norms and principles enshrined in the CWC are therefore becoming increasingly important.

We have recently sought to deepen our interaction and dialogue with these important stakeholders, together with relevant NGOs. The purpose is to motivate civil society institutions to play a more prominent role in propagating the important contribution of the CWC to international peace and security.

The OPCW's progress and successes represent the strong international consensus against chemical weapons – a consensus that is shaped by a long and terrible history involving repeated use of chemical weapons, culminated in the determination never to allow that again.

The core challenge that we face today is to preserve this unity while we deliberate on the nature, scope and impact of the inevitable transition for the Organisation. Our greatest asset in the months and years ahead will be the resolve, commitment and reaffirmation of our States Parties to ensure that there should never be another victim of chemical weapons. This requires a determination to guarantee that the CWC's prohibitions remain valid for all times to come and that the Organisation will retain the expertise and the capacity to carry out its functions, including the ability to respond to contingencies as foreseen in the Convention. One of the prerequisites for preserving an effective Organisation is to treat the Convention as a single organism and not allow preferential approaches to its different aspects or provisions. Full and effective implementation of all articles "which are in fact inter related" would be to the benefit of our States Parties. The sense

of ownership of the Convention as a whole needs to be further nurtured and promoted.

Time and time again our States Parties have demonstrated the ability to rise to every challenge. Their strong commitment to the Convention is evident from the results that are before us. I am confident that they will continue to demonstrate such determination and goodwill in the future.

If we look back at the last 15 years of its existence, the Organisation has progressed remarkably from infancy to maturity. It has successfully translated what were at the time untested provisions of the Convention into a workable regime to be implemented by a new and unique organisation.

The experience of the OPCW in creating this multilateral cooperative environment promises to be our strength as we turn to meet our future challenges.

Allow me to repeat what I have stated once before; a time of change is not only a time of challenge. It can also be a time of



opportunity and renewal.

Let us step into the future with this hope and resolve.

See the Director-General's speech on <http://www.opcw.org/opcw15/videos/>, starting 11:27 minutes into the video.

OPENING REMARKS

@ FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE OPCW ANNIVERSARY EVENT

by Paul Arkwright

Director-General, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to be asked to speak this morning as the Chair of the Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Convention has been in force for 15 years, and it is right to take a moment to pause and reflect on what has been achieved in those years: to celebrate those achievements; to consider the value to the international community of a Convention that aims to prohibit comprehensively the scourge of chemical weapons; and to recommit ourselves to the future of this Organisation – which will only thrive if we continue to work together on the challenges which confront us.

In looking back and considering the progress that the States Parties to the Convention have made in its first 15 years, we must of course be mindful that the Convention does not stand alone. Alongside other international instruments, it is a part of today's vital security apparatus. It aims ultimately to protect the nations and citizens of this world from a weapon that has caused enormous suffering and death; a weapon that in the past has been used on a mass scale; a weapon that we have agreed has no place in today's arsenals.

The story of the birth of the Convention is longer than 15 years. There were some five years between the end of the lengthy negotiations and entry into force. The negotiators – our founding fathers - worked long and hard to bring the Convention to fruition. Their many successors over the subsequent years – before and since entry into force - have all played their part in breathing life into what began as a legal document.

Successive Executive Councils and Conferences of the States Parties have reached agreements to provide the necessary detail and precision to make the complex elements and provisions of the Convention a reality. In all this work, States Parties have been excellently served by a Technical Secretariat that has developed into a respected expert body with the necessary know-how and capability to face the challenges before them. Today through you, Director General, I would like to pay tribute to the untiring efforts of the Secretariat. Together we have turned words into action and made this prohibition a reality.

You could say that at fifteen the Convention is

a teenager – we've passed the difficult early years, but still there is a bit of growing up to be done. Parental angst is not yet over – we have to pass some more exams and prepare ourselves for perhaps greater challenges... I won't push the point. But I would emphasise that the organisation will continue to need to change; to adapt to the changing world; to remain a relevant part of the international security architecture.

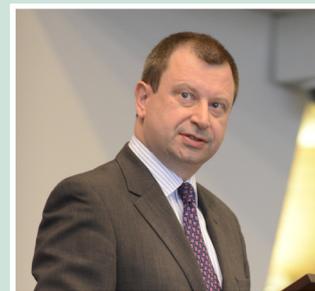
The baton has been passed to us from our predecessors: it's our turn. We've accepted the challenge; we've begun our preparations for the Third Review Conference next year. We've studied and discussed the Advisory Panel report, which was a welcome contribution to our journey to the future. I hope that in another 15 years our successors will be as positive about our own contribution.

So I think that at the 15-year point we can be positive about our successes: 188 Member States with only 8 remaining outside; over 75% of the declared stockpile destroyed; over eleven hundred inspections of the chemical industry held and no divergence found. Unfortunately the 2012 destruction deadline was not met by all States Parties, but we've put in place arrangements for continued verification as that destruction proceeds. I think this represents a certain maturity of debate and recognition that those possessors are continuing to work hard to get the job done.

While we must continue to work unstintingly towards complete destruction, that activity will one day be complete. At that point, preventing re-emergence will become a much bigger priority, while ensuring that chemistry and chemical engineering with a peaceful purpose thrives, and international cooperation helps that to happen in a truly global fashion.

We also need to bring in the final eight nations and ensure that any remaining stockpiles are declared and destroyed. Without universal membership we cannot say that chemical weapons are of the past. A brief glance at the papers today shows that our concerns that people may still be victims of these horrendous weapons are still current. All of us in this room would no doubt consider even the thought of their use as repugnant. So we should redouble our efforts to ensure that our work is completed, and our collective responsibility is fulfilled.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, enormous progress has been made. But there is more to do: and we must prepare for the new challenges which lie ahead. Over the last 15 years we have acted to see that this terror is banished. But our shared mission must continue – to ensure that chemical weapons are never produced or used again.



Paul Arkwright, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the OPCW, and Chairman of the Conference of the States Parties.

See Mr Arkwright's speech on <http://www.opcw.org/opcw15/videos/>, starting 4:30 minutes into video

OPENING REMARKS

@ FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE OPCW ANNIVERSARY EVENT

by Jozias van Aartsen

Mr Director-General,
Mr Chairman of the Conference of the States Parties, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was just before the end of the twentieth century that here, in April 1997, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons finally saw the light of day. Today, more than 15 years later, we are celebrating this, in every sense, memorable event.

The number 15, or rather, the year 15 will always be linked to the OPCW. Because, it was, after all, in 1915, during Europe's deadly century, as some – not without reason – have called it, that the era of chemical warfare was born.

On 22 April 1915, on the north side of the Salient of Ypres, for the first time the German army deployed chlorine gas against the French troops. Two days later another gas attack followed, this time on the Canadian troops. As the gas cloud approached they did not flee but remained at their posts. Many years later in his moving poem 'Ypres 1915' the Canadian poet Alden Nowlan expressed it thus:

*Perhaps they were too scared to run
perhaps they didn't know any better
that is possible, they were so innocent
those farm boys and mechanics*

OPENING REMARKS

@ FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE OPCW ANNIVERSARY EVENT

by Karel J. G. van Oosterom

Mr Chairman (Ambassador Arkwright),
Mr Director-General (Ambassador Üzümcü),
Mr Mayor, distinguished members of the Panel,
Your Excellencies,

Let me begin by congratulating the OPCW on its 15th anniversary. Our custom here in the Netherlands is to wish the person whose birthday it is many more healthy and happy years. And we usually extend these wishes to all relatives of the birthday boy or girl. So allow me to congratulate you all.

*you only have to look at old pictures
to see how they smile
perhaps they were too shy
to walk out on anybody, even death*

In reality the Canadian troops had been instructed to let the gas cloud pass overhead. But before that could happen, the chlorine gas had resulted in many victims among the soldiers who had no more than a wet cloth to protect themselves from this deadly new weapon. The first attacks in April 1915 would be followed by many more. So many that old gas grenades are still found in the area around Ypres.

We know the course that history took after this. We also know that as early as 29 July 1899, during the First Peace Conference here in The Hague, a number of countries had already agreed to refrain from using projectiles which were 'intended to spread asphyxiating or deleterious gases'.

With the founding of the OPCW in The Hague, almost 100 years after those first attempts to ban chemical weapons, we were back at the start again. But this time the real work began! The threat posed by chemical weapons is as great as ever: lethal poison gas is still stockpiled all over the world. Since 1997 the men and women of the OPCW, however, have managed to get considerable quantities of these chemical weapons destroyed. A remarkable achievement.

The international city of peace and justice wholeheartedly supports the ultimate aim of the Paris Convention and that of the OPCW:

As you may know, our constitution requires the Dutch government to promote the development of the international legal order. This helps explain why the Netherlands is host to so many international organisations, and why The Hague has become, as the mayor just said, 'the international city of peace and justice'. We are proud to host this relatively young but very effective organisation. Ambassador Üzümcü, I would like to thank you for your tremendous efforts to steer this organisation in a forward-looking way.

Ladies and gentlemen, as former Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said in his speech to this Organisation in 2006: 'For the Netherlands, [the Chemical Weapons Convention] is the jewel in the crown of treaty-based disarmament.' The Convention bans a

VIP SPEECH



Jozias Johannes van Aartsen,
Mayor of The Hague, the
Netherlands.

a world without chemical weapons. That is why we do everything we can to serve the needs of your organisation and its staff. You know that you can count on us.

I warmly congratulate you, Mr Director-General, Mr Chairman of the Conference of States Parties, all the inspectors and other staff of the OPCW, on this anniversary. But above all, I would like to compliment you on the results you have achieved in this relatively short period of 15 years. The world is greatly indebted to you for that and I think – no – I am sure, that future generations will also be extremely grateful.

See Mr van Aartsen's speech on <http://www.opcw.org/opcw15/vid-eos/>, starting 32:48 minutes into the video, under the heading "Events and Panel Discussions".

VIP SPEECH



Karel J.G. van Oosterom,
Director-General for Political Af-
fairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands.

complete class of weapons and requires the declaration and complete destruction of all stockpiles. Today, two-thirds of the declared chemical stockpiles have been destroyed. Moreover, last December the State Parties concluded an important agreement on how to monitor destruction after the deadline. We have every confidence that the goal of complete and permanent destruction in the possessor states will be achieved.

This organisation, the OPCW, was established under the CWC to verify destruction and conduct inspections of industrial sites, thus building confidence among State Parties. The CWC even provides for challenge inspections when parties to the Convention have serious doubts about other State Parties' activities.

In other words, the CWC and its verification body, the OPCW, embody what we in the Netherlands call effective multilateralism. The fact that the Convention has been almost universally ratified – by 188 State Parties, with only 8 more to go – makes it even more effective.

I need however to mention a troubling situation in one of the non-state Parties: Syria. Reports in the media about the Syrian regime's discussions on using chemical weapons against 'outside aggression' are cause for grave concern. Let me be clear: any use of chemical weapons, against other countries or one's own people, is unacceptable to the Netherlands.

This is why we need to call upon all states that have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Given the Organisation's great success in carrying out its mandate – destruction of chemical weapons and stringent verification – some may wonder, 'Does the OPCW still have a future, when destruction is already almost complete?' My answer is 'yes'. The Netherlands is firmly of the opinion that the OPCW remains important. Why?

The Convention's aim is not only the destruction of existing stockpiles, but keeping the world permanently free of chemical weapons and chemical threats. New threats, like terrorism, and new developments in science and technology demand its attention. Needless to say, destruction of the remaining declared stockpiles of chemical weapons and full universality are still key objectives for the coming years. But the focus of the Organisation should shift, gradually and after thorough discussion, towards non-proliferation, protection and assistance.

It has now been one year since the Panel of Experts submitted its report. We should seize the occasion of this 15th anniversary to thoroughly and frankly discuss and debate what we want our Organisation to be and become. So that we are fully prepared at the Third Review Conference next April to decide on its future direction.

Let me elaborate and make a few suggestions to guide the shift in the Organisation's focus.

Firstly, non-proliferation means not just more industrial inspections, but more importantly an effective verification regime. This means improving site selection methodology – we should focus on sites of high relevance – and better declarations by State Parties. In the longer run, other elements of the verification mechanism may need to be looked at as well. For example, we may need more emphasis on the role of national authorities and a greater role for industry.

Secondly, full implementation by the State Parties of their obligations under CWC article VII is needed for successful non-proliferation. There is still room for improvement here. To achieve this, we believe that a more proactive approach by the OPCW would be useful. More funds should also be useful to support countries in developing and improving their national legislation and its implementation.

Thirdly, we would welcome an even more proactive and focused approach by the Organisation on article X: assistance and protection against chemical weapons.

Fourthly, article XI mentions international cooperation on chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. In our view, international cooperation could also contribute, indirectly but substantially, to non-proliferation. In view of new threats posed by non-state actors, it is important to invest in programmes to promote the security and safety of the chemical industry in developing countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We can strive to get rid of all chemical weapons. But we will not be effective if somehow, somewhere in the world these weapons resurface. We may all wish that chemical weapons had never been used on the battlefields, but we know we cannot undo the past. The knowledge and technology to produce them simply exists. We will not be able to stop technological progress, nor do we want to. But we can still do something about the future.

Our task is to come up with a sound mechanism, founded on mutual trust, which objectively and stringently safeguards our agreements. That is why we need the OPCW. That is why we are celebrating its 15th anniversary today. And that is why I warmly wish you, all of you I should emphasise, many more healthy and happy years.

See Mr van Oosterom's speech on <http://www.opcw.org/opcw15/videos/>, starting 38:58 minutes into the video, under heading "Events and Panel Discussions".

VIDEO ADDRESS

VIDEO ADDRESS

@ FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE OPCW ANNIVERSARY EVENT

by Ms Angela Kane

The fifteenth anniversary of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is a time for both celebration and reflection. Over these past years, the OPCW has undertaken the historic task of ensuring that all chemical arsenals are destroyed as prescribed by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Organisation also works to help prevent the reemergence of such weapons. The fact that the Chemical Weapons Convention now covers 188 States Parties—and that approximately three-quarters of the world's declared chemical weapons have already been eliminated—is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the membership of your Organisation. This anniversary provides an appropriate occasion to mark this record of achievement.

Yet a word of caution: we must guard against complacency. With eight States not party to

the Convention, the CWC is not yet universal. It is of the utmost urgency that these eight States join the Convention and become part of the international regime for chemical weapons disarmament. The Convention is an effective, comprehensive and nondiscriminatory legal instrument for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, under conditions of strict international verification.

This anniversary is also a time to recall the reason why its work is so vital. Chemical weapons have inflicted tremendous suffering and pain on their victims. We must all be mindful of the fundamental inhumanity of these weapons and the continuing need to eradicate them from the planet and we must work diligently to prevent their return. Unfortunately, as recent events have shown, the threat of use of chemical weapons has reemerged, underlining the importance of achieving the universality of the CWC.

I am honoured to send this message of support and to offer my congratulations to the OPCW. The Organisation is fully deserving of the accolades that it has received. There



Angela Kane is the current UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and former Under Secretary-General for Management in the United Nations.

is perhaps no better way to celebrate the accomplishments of the OPCW over the past fifteen years than by redoubling our commitment to a future in which chemical weapons would be irrevocably consigned to history.

See Ms. Kane's speech on <http://www.opcw.org/opcw15/videos/>

VIDEO ADDRESS

@ FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE OPCW ANNIVERSARY EVENT

by Mr Yukiya Amano

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü on the organisation's 15th anniversary. The OPCW's work to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention and achieve a world free of chemical weapons has been an inspirational success story for everyone involved in disarmament.

The goal of the convention was ambitious: to completely and verifiably destroy an entire category of weapons of mass destruction and to permanently ban the manufacture and use of these weapons.

Fifteen years ago, some people doubted that this goal could be achieved. Let us not forget that, for many years, chemical weapons were part of the military arsenals of a number of countries. But the sceptics have been proved wrong. The chemical weapons ban is close to universal. Some 98% of the world's popula-

tion is now protected by the Convention and only 8 countries have yet to join. Nearly three quarters of the world's declared stockpile of chemical weapons has been verifiably destroyed under OPCW inspection. This is a great achievement. It is a tribute to the commitment of the OPCW's Member States and to the dedication and hard work of the staff and leadership of the OPCW. Your success is an encouragement to the international community and its efforts to achieve a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

As a citizen of the only country ever to experience the unspeakable horror of the use of nuclear bombs I believe with all my heart and soul that all weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated. I greatly value the close cooperation between the IAEA and the OPCW. Of course there are important differences between our two organisations, but we both have extensive expertise in verification and can learn from each other's experience. Both organisations must be capable of adapting to meet the evolving threats to international security. It is especially important that nuclear and chemical weapons and associated materials should not fall into the hands of terrorists.

Finally, we are both committed to contribute to international peace through a multilateral

VIDEO ADDRESS



Yukiya Amano is the current Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), having been elected to the position in July 2009.

approach. Ladies and gentlemen, I pay tribute to the success of the OPCW in fulfilling its mandate in the last 15 years. The OPCW can be proud of its contribution to international peace and security. I congratulate you on your anniversary and wish you every success in the future.

See Mr Amano's speech on <http://www.opcw.org/opcw15/videos/>

VIDEO ADDRESS

VIDEO ADDRESS

@ FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE OPCW ANNIVERSARY EVENT

by Sir Harold Kroto

It's an honour to speak to you on chemical weapons, but on essentially all weapons. I think as scientists we have our responsibility to ensure that what we create is not used to the detriment of the human race but for its benefit. Joe Rockblatt, who is my good friend and who died a few years ago at the age of 97, was the only scientist – maybe one other – who resigned from the Manhattan Project. I want to read from his Nobel address, one of the most powerful statements I've ever read.

He said: "We appeal as human beings to human beings. Remember your humanity and forget the rest. If you can do so, the way lies open to a new paradise. If you can not, there lies before you the risk of universal death. The quest for a war-free world has a basic purpose: survival. But if in the process we learn how to achieve it, by love rather than by fear, by kindness rather than by compotion – if in the process we learn to combine the essential with the

enjoyable, the expedient with the benevolent, the practical with the beautiful: This will be an extra incentive to embark on this great task. Above all, remember your humanity and forget the rest."

Chemical weapons are on the same footing. We have to work as hard as we can to make sure that everybody - late people(?), governors, governments, presidents, people in war - actually understand how terrible and how inhuman these weapons actually are.

I am not sure, but it doesn't look good. Climate change, global warming and carbon dioxide: these are chemical problems. It is a 100-200 year issue. We should make people aware that it looks like a problem; a large number of scientists are worried about it. They say it does not look good. We are not sure, but one thing we can be sure about is that fossil fuels will run out and we should reduce our dependency on them. It is actually, as a chemist, a criminal act to burn fossil fuels, the source of all our chemicals, all our drugs, all our plastics, in fact, the source of much of the material of the modern world.

We are in the 21st century with weapons of mass destruction: atomic bombs, thermo-



Sir Harold Kroto, is a British chemist and one of the three recipients of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

nuclear devices, chemical weapons, and also the threat of biological weapons. We are on the verge of extinction if we cannot solve this problem. That is to produce politicians prepared to sit down with the other person and solve the problem without sending them people to kill each other.

See Mr Kroto's speech on <http://www.opcw.org/opcw15/videos/>





Panel Discussion: Multilateralism in Arms Control

The historical overview of the negotiation process indicates how impressive a step the ratification of the CWC has been, but there is still work to do. Since the conception of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1992, the impact of the open access to information for everyone critically changes the character of potential threats, but at the same time offers opportunities for new ways to exercise verification.

Introduction Rolf Ekéus

An anniversary is important in the way that it gives time for reflection, to consider what has happened, what has been achieved and maybe even more important for today, to look ahead.

Today is maybe the most acute situation we have in front of us. We have heard through considerations of the challenges that lie ahead, but in present time [there] is what I would call a contemporary conflict, that could even become a sectarian conflict, with chemical and biological weapons being terribly well suited to carry out that sort of violence. But [we] also live in a world where science is developing and offers ... risk and potential for destruction.

[There is an] excellent panel here today and [I] will ask Tibor Tóth from the CTBTO to start. Tibor, you have the floor.

Tibor Tóth:

Thank you so much. Happy to be here for three reasons. It is a revival for me of how the treaty came into force, and the 65th ratification in 1996 and I am proud of that point in my professional career. Very nice to sit in this room, under the guidance of Adolf (von Wagner, ed.) Let me say that once we look at where we are going with the chemical prohibition, with the biological and with the 'A' we should see the bigger picture and besides the [scientific] aspects Rolf injected. I think we should see what is the environment around us, and I do not want to remind anyone of us that there is a very complex environment out there, complex, economic, financial, trade, social, employment, and other issues. And historically probably it is not any revelation for any of you, that those things are not going right. So compared to situations that are behind us, things are not go-

ing all right so we have to be more vigilant than ever. We should see the larger picture and there are mechanisms in place in case these tensions get more ...

We are at a crossroads. Are we going for more regulation or are we going for deregulation? My own feeling is that after the last decade where we have what I will call a 'laissez-faire security', we have to see if we think that things are going all right with this attitude or not. There is a possibility to make a change. The OPCW offers a tool in the toolbox and there are other tools in the biological and the nuclear area. We have to make up our minds whether we have relied sufficiently on these tools which are softer tools in the toolbox. The next years will show whether it will be necessary to use harder tools. Are we going for less regulation or more regulation in a world where the situation is becoming more and more complex.



Rolf Ekéus, Chair of the Advisory Panel on Future OPCW Priorities, and Chairman Emeritus of the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Moderator Rolf Ekéus:

Thank you for putting questions without answers. Now it is my pleasure to introduce Dr Adolf van Wagner, whose historical contribution to OPCW will never be forgotten. Adolf please ...

Adolf Ritter von Wagner:

Dear Mr Director-General, dear Mr Mayor, dear Mr Chairman, dear colleagues of past times, it is with great pleasure that I take the floor here at the ceremony to commemorate 15 years of the OPCW. I feel very honoured, thank you.

The director of external relations, Mr Wang, kindly suggested that I should deal in my statement with – and I quote – 'the historical factors that gave birth to the convention, the main preoccupations of the founding fathers in the long term perspective'. I shall be



Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).



Adolf Ritter von Wagner,
Former ambassador of the
Federal Republic of Germany to
Argentina and former Chairman
of the Ad Hoc Committee on
Chemical Weapons of the
Conference of Disarmament.

very brief with the first two topics in order to deal a bit more deeply with the expectations and the long term perspective.

Historical factors

By 1990, 20 years of negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons had passed, and as a result we found tons of paper with text where almost every word was in brackets and had footnotes with deviating opinions.

Then the first Gulf war showed anew the atrocities of chemical warfare. At the same time, the cold war ended. The mutual blocking by eastern and

western delegations [ended] and an opportunity for real negotiations opened.

Western and eastern delegations in Geneva felt a vague chance to agree on OPCW. This feeling was not common and had to be conveyed to others, mainly those delegations which during years and years had become used to watch western and eastern protagonists blocking each other. The active participation of the neutral and non-alliance states which was absolutely essential for success, had to be gained.

Main preoccupations

The principle in multilateral negotiations that, and I quote, “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”, is a perfect and mean instrument to block negotiations completely, namely those who can find agreement only by consensus, as in Geneva.

In endless private and multilateral consultations, we had to find compromises which avoided the use of this instrument. One other preoccupation was to avoid that one of the delegations would abstain from signing the draft, should it ever come about. I remember endless and exhaustive shuttling between the Israeli and the Iranian delegations before getting the word that both would sign. Is there any other arms control agreement with both of these signatures?

Another topic which proved very difficult and time consuming to solve, were challenge inspections. Maybe we were simply too ambitious.

Expectations for perspectives

Here I must remark that I never had insight into the management of this organisation. My remarks may be therefore obsolete ... They are merely based on what one hears from time to time without possibility of confirmation.

First remark: Article 2, paragraph 1a in connection with Article 2, paragraph 9e of the CWC ... “ exempt from the general obligations and prohibitions of the convention toxic chemicals for law enforcement, including domestic riot control purposes”.

FACT BOX 1

Chemical Weapons Convention Negotiations

Overshadowed by concerns about nuclear war for much of the post-World War II period, serious consideration was not given to chemical weapons again until 1968, when discussions on biological and chemical weapons started at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. The treaties to which these discussions would eventually lead were arrived at by divergent paths.

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was concluded relatively quickly, opening for signature in 1972, though in a form

This exemption is not worded as crystal clear as we would have wished. It is the result of a compromise, intensely negotiated in Geneva. But it is unchallenged opinion that it may not allow for interpretations and, maybe, activities definitely not intended or prohibited by the convention and its negotiators. Expanding the very narrow exemption for law enforcement, including domestic riots, constitutes a clear and severe violation of the convention, a violation which should duly be handled by the organs of the OPCW.

Second remark: Article 8, paragraph 18 and 29 describe in absolutely clear words the decision taking in the Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council of the organisation. In paragraph 18, there is a strong impetus that the Conference of States Parties should take decisions if at all possible by consensus: “However, should consensus not be achievable, despite all efforts, the decisions of masses of substance must be taken by a two-thirds majority unless specified otherwise in the convention”.

And for the Council, paragraph 29 only prescribes that “masses of substance shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of all its members, unless specified otherwise in the Convention”. The aim of consensus is not even mentioned!

I was told, and I read, that in the Conference of States Parties as well in the Executive Council, masses of substance are decided only by consensus, thus avoiding any majority vote. [In] other words, in each body, each member enjoys a veto right. This is a clear case of noncompliance with the Convention, and it leads to unacceptable deferrals of necessary, and sometimes urgent decisions. For delegations, even complete inactivity of both bodies seems to be tolerable if consensus cannot be achieved. It constitutes in my view a very unsatisfactory situation, which delegations and organs of the organisations must correct as quickly as possible. Thank you very much for giving me the floor.

Moderator Rolf Ekéus



Olli Heinonen, former Deputy
Director General of the IAEA.
Since 2010 Senior Fellow at
Harvard University's Belfer
Center for Science and
International Affairs.

Thank you very much indeed. Following the list here, I now give the floor to Dr Olli Heinonen, who is now coming to us from the academic high place of Harvard as representative of international affairs - but of course he was known, I would say, for his leadership and central role in the IAEA and with regard to the importance of running the safeguard verification activities, being the head of that department - I ask you to give your reflections.

Olli Heinonen:

Thank you, Rolf. And thank

that lacked verification measures. Significantly for subsequent efforts to ban chemical weapons, the BWC enunciated the intent of its States Parties to continue negotiations on chemical weapons, the goal of which being the institution of measures mandating their destruction and the prohibition of their development, production and stockpiling. Negotiations on the CWC took much longer, progress coming in fits and starts as breakthroughs accompanied political and other changes. In 1980, the Conference on Disarmament established an ad hoc working group on

you very much for giving me the opportunity to talk here, because it gives a nice break while I am sitting on the top floor in that attic chamber in the Kennedy School and look[ing] at the world from there. It is a very different world compared to what it was in the IAEA and that also gives me some liberties in my talk. Anniversaries, as the Director-General said in the beginning, [are] a time where you look what you have achieved where you are today, and which are the challenges of tomorrow, so that you are better prepared. Let me make a couple of remarks to the nuclear non-proliferation and verification:

If we start from the non-proliferation ... we have in the last two decades ups and downs, we have moments of joy and we have very deep disappointments. If I put on the positive side from the IAEA verification point of view, verification of the dismantling of the [the programmes] in South Africa, Libya and Iraq, they were the moments of joy.

There have been also deep disappointments.,North Korea the first one. It is exactly 20 years ago this Monday, when IAEA wanted to have access to one of the sites in North Korea, and this was not provided and then this long odyssey started and that is where we are today. And where are we today with North Korea? Not any more in the NPT. In those days they had 60 grams separated plutonium and maybe did have some kilograms somewhere that we didn't know. This was the reason for the special inspection. Where is North Korea today? I had an opportunity to sit with them months ago in Singapore as a part of a group of people who were talking about confidence building and how to go about it. This was the day when they announced that they are going to review their nuclear posture.

Today North Korea is very different. They have 35 to 45 kg plutonium separated, they have done apparently two nuclear tests, they are now having uranium enrichment, and if we look what might be the result of the review, if they decide to go ahead, it must be on high enrichment of uranium, there is no other reasonable way. So this brings us to the question of compliance: how the international community can get those who do not follow their commitments back on the road, this is one of the questions, we need to address.

Then, there is one more anniversary to come, unfortunately. End of this week is 5 years since the ... apparently a reactor was bombed in Syria. The dossiers are now in the Security Council from IAEA since a year, and no real action from the international community. So there is a problem in Syria, there is a problem in the area, but is this good for the regime?

After these negative things, I think that I should also be a bit positive. So, first of all, nuclear energy people perhaps think that after Fukushima there won't be any renaissance of nuclear. Actually if you look at forecast a year ago, the Director General of the IAEA his low estimate was that on top of those 450 reactors that are producing

chemical weapons. Four years later, the group was assigned the task of elaborating what a ban on chemical weapons would contain, and thus emerged the provisional, annually updated "rolling text" of the Convention. The improvement in superpower relations in the late 1980s, revelations about a chemical attack in northern Iraq in 1988, publicity given the threat of chemical warfare during the Gulf War, and the announcement of a bilateral United States-Soviet Union agreement to destroy most of their CW stockpiles and to refrain from further CW production all gave impetus to progress in the Convention negotiations.

electricity out there, there would be 90 new ones by 2030. He has now corrected his numbers in the report that will be debated in the IAEA in 2 weeks time, but only by 5-10%, so we will see a nuclear renaissance - not here, in Western Europe, but in Eastern Europe and particularly in Asia. This will bring also challenges to the non-proliferation regime because many of these states are newcomers: [The United Arab] Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam - these are the countries which didn't have in the past nuclear energy and where the nuclear experience is fairly small. But the biggest increase certainly is in India, South Korea and in China, if we look at the global picture. This means more work for the IAEA, more nuclear materials going around, more verification, and this brings me to the last point, which are the resources, the resources which the OPCW needs, which IAEA needs and the organisations which are in verification.

We are asked to do more with less. How can you maintain the quality? This is the most important for this regime and the image. And here I would like to cite Sir Winston Churchill, who said, that "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts" - courage to have the proper budget, courage to ask for the support, courage from people who are higher. It is not only about the technology: At the very end, those who do the verification and assessment, are the staff. You need dedicated staff, professional staff, you need to maintain continuity. It is the inspectors and the staff of these organisations who are the eyes and ears and praise of international community in the verification process.

That is all I wanted to say, thank you.

Moderator Rolf Ekéus

Thank you, thank you very much indeed. Next speaker is Richard Lennane, and he has a very important job from an OPCW point of view, because he is the chief of the Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention. We all know that the convergence between chemistry and biology is something which is high on the agenda here in The Hague, so we would like very much to hear your observations, please.



Richard Lennane, Head of the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. Former diplomat in the Australian Foreign Service

Richard Lennane:

Thank you, it is a great pleasure to be here in our sister treaty's headquarters, and let me start by saying congratulations to all who have been involved in creating an operating OPCW the last 15 years. I was very taken by the message of Ambassador Arkwright's remarks this morning, about being 15 years old and what that is like. I remember it being a quite awkward age, but at least it is an age where everything lies before you,

In spite of advances, a number of issues remained to be ironed out. Some countries wanted chemical disarmament to be linked to nuclear disarmament progress. Others wanted provisions for assistance in defending against chemical attack. The degree of support the Convention would lend to free trade in chemicals and consequent economic and technological development was a major concern for a large number of countries. Many worried about the intrusiveness of the Convention's verification regime, particularly its challenge inspections. The United States insisted on retaining the right to retaliate

and I hope and I am confident that OPCW will continue along its already well established path towards an ultimate final destruction of all chemical weapons stocks, and making sure that the weapons never come back.

But if we look at my convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, we see a convention well into the middle age, nearly 40 years old.

At that age, not 15, where everything lies before you, but middle age, the age of disillusionment and reassessment of life's directions, thinking that maybe things didn't all go quite the way you would have liked and what can you do with the time left available to you?

So I don't want to dwell on the history of BWC. Many of you will know, we do not have many of the advantages of the Chemical Weapons Convention - there is no verification, there is no organisation equivalent to the OPCW, and the opinion of many is that it has been a terrible handicap to the treaty. But I would really like to look to the future and to tell you a little bit about how I see things developing - some of the themes that are emerging in the biological weapons field, that may have implications more broadly for multilateralism and arms control and disarmament. And I think, the key theme, and it was already hinted at by ambassador Ekéus, ... we are seeing a disillusion of boundaries, blurring of boundaries and divisions, everything is becoming less clear.

If we look back to the time the OPCW was created, the problems we faced in arms control and disarmament were difficult, but they were really clearly defined. Everything was in a fairly neat kind of box. That I think is no longer the case, and especially no longer the case when we talk about biological weapons.

We already heard reference to the convergence of chemistry and biology, that is one boundary that is steadily being eroded. What does that mean for the future? Another area where we see the boundary diminishing, is in the difference between government and non-government actors. These treaties, BWC, CWC, NPT, they are all treaties squarely aimed at governments, governments' weapons programmes, militaries also. And that is still a very important role. Equally there is a lot of concern about non-

FACT BOX 1 (cont.)

in kind in the event of CW use until a very late stage of the negotiations. One by one, obstacles were removed and outstanding issues were resolved. In 1992, a draft Convention was formally adopted by the Conference on Disarmament. The United Nations General Assembly requested that the UN Secretary-General, the depositary of the Convention, open it for signature on 13 January 1993 in Paris. In an unprecedented show of support for an international arms control treaty, 130 countries signed the CWC during the three-day Paris signing conference.

The preparatory commission

To the Signatory States in Paris in 1993, it was clear that a considerable amount of groundwork needed to be done before an Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons capable of implementing the CWC could be established. Furthermore, the Convention provided that its entry into force was to occur at least two years after being opened for signature and only after 180 days had elapsed from the deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification. This left open a period of time in which preparations could be made. In what was called the Paris Resolution, the Signatory States therefore decided to set up a Preparatory Commission with a mandate to take care of various administrative matters and to continue work on issues

state actors ... terrorism, bio-terrorism are very major concerns for many governments and indeed ordinary people. But it is not even as clear as that. You have proliferation from individuals to governments, proliferation from governments to individuals, you have scientists working in government biodefense labs, turns out that they are responsible for terrorist acts. The anthrax letters in the USA 2001, for example. How do you deal with all of that? It is no longer so distinct who it is we are aiming at when we talk about multilateral attempts to reduce the risks of weapons of mass destruction.

that remained unresolved by the Convention's negotiators. The "Prep-Com" held its first Plenary Session in The Hague in February 1993 and wasted no time in establishing a Provisional Technical Secretariat, a forerunner to the OPCW Secretariat.

The date of entry into force of the Convention was not determined until 31 October 1996, when Hungary became the 65th state to ratify. As required, the Convention entered into force 180 days later, on 29 April 1997.

During the intervening four years, the Preparatory Commission met for 16 sessions, laying the foundation for the workings of the future Organisation. It drafted the OPCW budget, established rules for how the Secretariat was to function and developed operational procedures for the Convention's verification regime. Creating two primary working groups and other bodies as the need arose, the Commission considered administrative issues; examined means to accomplish verification, technical cooperation and assistance objectives; and began preparations for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties, the convening of which the Convention dictated should happen within 30 days of entry into activity, getting the Laboratory and Equipment Store up and running, developing training and recruitment plans for inspectors, making arrangements for the construction of the OPCW head-

Finally, and most significantly in the biological field, it is no longer clear what a weapon is. We have a whole spectrum of biological risks that we are facing. Naturally occurring disease - happily there are no naturally occurring nuclear explosions - but in the biological weapons area naturally occurring disease is a much bigger threat than any deliberate release of disease. Accidents, leaks, mistakes. Here in the Hague, here in the Netherlands at least, we have seen a very controversial piece of research come out recently, where birdflu, avian influenza virus, was worked on and adjusted so that it would transmit among ferrets, being a model for transmission amongst humans. What sort of risk does that present us acutely? Here is no question that research is being done legitimately, that is clear, and under very tight conditions of safety and security, but once research is published, anyone then has access to it.

These experiments can be repeated, perhaps in laboratories that are not so safe, perhaps by people that have bad intentions. How do we manage that? Is that something governments can do?

Is it something governments should do? So all these boundaries, all those distinctions that were so clear 15 years ago, are really in my view ebbing away, and we need new tools and new approaches to deal with them, and certainly the sclerotic condition of the global multilateral arms control system, if you can call it a system, is not well equipped to do that.

The conference on disarmament in Geneva, utterly stuck and inactive for 15 years or more ... that is not going to be responding to any new threat effectively.

You have seen a drift away from that. If anything is happening in multilateral disarmament for the moment it is in what we might

call the humanitarian field, anti-personnel land mines, cluster munitions, that is where the action is.

So if we are looking at the weapons of mass destruction and multilateral efforts in future for doing more to control the risk, to manage the blurring boundaries, I think we need new tools. And we need to look really beyond, far beyond the traditional multilateral arms control and disarmament way of working.

One idea is to look into the financial world - a financial action task force, controlled money laundering, terrorist financing, very effective organisation if you can call it an organisation, but it has no treaty basis, it is really a voluntary corporation among almost all the world's states. And really if we don't cooperate the international financial system gets shut down: A powerful incentive to play to play ball.

So are there tools like that we can use? Are there new approaches? How can we bring in other players than governments? Civil society, scientific communities, industry, we really need to take a fresh look at this. And I am interested to hear your opinion on that.

Thank you very much.

Moderator Rolf Ekéus:

Thank you. And now we have someone who knows what we are talking about, who is in charge of the Open Ended Working Group for the 3rd Review Conference, who will probably guide us on what will happen at that conference. Please!

Santiago Oñate Laborde

Thank you, Ambassador, thank you Chairman of the Conference of the States Parties and to the Director-General.

I am not sure that I can take the challenge that you have put before me, I am certainly not going to tell you what is going to happen within the next months at the Review Conference, what the results will be, and above all, I don't think it would be appropriate. It is the right of the States Parties to have a view and to set the road for the organisation in the years to come.



Santiago Oñate Laborde,
Consultant to the Open Ended Working Group of the Third Review Conference of the OPCW.

I rather would like to share with you some news about the event that we are commemorating today. Certainly the date and place selected by the Director-General for the discussion of multilateralism, arms control and disarmament could not have not been better: The place - The Hague, that we have been reminded this morning is precisely the

FACT BOX 1 (cont.)

quarters building and drafting a number of policy documents. By the time the OPCW was established, the Commission had issued dozens of recommendations on a variety of issues, including those related to verification and inspection guidelines and items to be stockpiled by the OPCW for emergency and humanitarian assistance to any State Party in the event of an attack with chemical weapons. Other such issues had to do with equipment to be approved for inspections, requirements for inspector safety, the frequency of on-site inspections of chemical weap-

city where the peace conference of 1899 and 1907 took place. Both conferences are rightly considered as the origin of modern multilateral arms control. Then the date: the 3rd of September, exactly the date which in 1992, the Conference of Disarmament adopted the report of the ad hoc committee on chemical weapons that contains, inter alia, the draft of the Chemical Weapons Convention that has been in force for over 15 years, and stands as an example of multilateralism.

Multilateralism and arms control, they are certainly topics that require a deep insight and a deep reflection on them. It is not only that the Chemical Weapons Convention was created, we have also been reminded today by a very strong effort of a large number of States Parties. Many of those who contributed to it were able to put together their best efforts in a common endeavour in which, as always happens in multilateral negotiations, some sacrifices were made in order to achieve some gain. Today OPCW stands as a proved successful endeavour in true multilateralism. And to this effect we have to have in mind that multilateralism within the CWC and the OPCW is above all the equal status that all member states enjoy in every respect. This is a nondiscriminatory organisation and in this sense it is not just by chance that among disarmament treaties this is the one that has up to now been more successful. And I cannot resist to make a reference to what ambassador von Wagner mentioned a little before as to the appropriate interrelation of certain articles of the CWC, and particular to those that relate to the decision-making process, to the value of consensus.

Indeed the organisation has by decision of its States Parties privileged the consensus. And here it is where we have to link the value of multilateralism and the decision-making process. Why? Because as somebody said: 'the maximum speed of a group will be determined by the slowest of its members'. That is, if you want keep the team together. If you want to advance, reducing the size, you must leave behind those who are not willing to march, to walk at the same speed as you have. So this is a very difficult balance that has to be established by those who are making the decisions. And I am sure that the States Parties will consider this in the next steps in the organisation which we have to take for the future.

One last point of reflection: We have heard this morning, rightly mentioning some of the undoubted successes of the organisation, some of those milestones that have been reached by the organisation in implementing the treaty. But we are also looking at some of the problems that we have ahead. We here, as in every road that we have to walk, we have to look carefully to the ground in order to avoid stepping on stones and falling down. But we also have to have our eyes set on the horizon if we want to keep track of the direction of where we want to go. And certainly the way ahead is still long, for several reasons: I just want to mention one, and make reference to the first paragraph of the preamble of the convention. It says: "... determined to act with the view to achieving effective pro-

ons storage facilities, guidelines for transitional verification arrangements, rules for the handling of classified information, precision of declaration information, closure of chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) and conversion of CWPFs into chemical weapons destruction facilities. Issues not resolved by the Preparatory Commission were passed on as such to the OPCW.

gress towards general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction". That is the first paragraph that we have in our convention. When we look at it and we contrast it with the reality in which we are living, and with the not so big success of the disarmament regimes, we have to look forward to a long effort, based on what we have been able to achieve.

Finally, Tibor Tóth has made reference to what he called "laissez-faire security", of the years that we have left behind. It might be time to consider what comes after that laissez-faire, and what is the role ... we have to play in a world which we no longer have and probably we no longer want to have policemen looking for the rest of others ... We are working towards a world in which the state equality can have a right place for all. Thank you.



Open Forum: The CWC Amidst Science and Technology Development

With three-quarters of all declared chemical weapons having now been eliminated - a figure that is expected to reach 99% in the next four years - the OPCW is facing a future in which preventing the re-emergence of these weapons will become the Organisation's principal focus. Rapid developments in science and technology pose new challenges for the OPCW's verification regime, a topic that was explored by a panel of five distinguished speakers as part of the 15th anniversary high level meeting.

Dr Djafer Benachour, a member of the OPCW's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) who chairs the SAB's Temporary Working Group on Education and Outreach, discussed developments in nanotechnology that present the possibility for individuals to produce large quantities of toxic chemicals. He noted that in traditional chemistry, yields could be low with large amounts of unwanted side products, whereas with nanotechnology yields can in theory be 100% with no unwanted side products. The OPCW needs to carefully monitor developments in this area in the future.

Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders of the EU Institute for Security Studies addressed the world's shifting balance of power (economic, political and military) and the multiplicity of power centres, which has created new security stakeholders and increased the role of non-state actors (national and transnational). He argued that there is no longer a unified model for governance of weapons control and that States no longer drive the processes, although they can still steer them in a limited way.

Dr Robert Mathews, head of the NBC Arms Control Unit in the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), examined the role of scientific, technical and industrial communities in the negotiation and implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which he described as a "revolutionary treaty". He emphasised the treaty's evolutionary nature and that it is a comprehensive and flexible regime. This is fortunate, he added, as a variety of developments since the conclusion of negotiations on the CWC in 1992 alter the realities of OPCW verification. These include changes in international relations and the security environment; discoveries and developments in the life sciences, including the convergence of chemistry and biology; the revolution in information/communications; and the increased globalisation of chemical and biological industries.

"Unless OPCW Member States respond to the challenges resulting from advances in science and technology (and) changes in industrial operations and practices," Dr Mathews warned, "the CWC risks becoming outdated and will not be able to provide the most effective response to the threat of chemical weapons in our changing world."

Dr Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Director of the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences in Karachi, stressed a number of advances that are already challenging the OPCW, including synthetic chemistry, high through-put screening of biological activities, and the ability to model life processes. In response to these advances Dr Choudhary proposed a "new paradigm" for the OPCW, including changing its role from eliminating chemical weapons to ensuring that no toxic chemical will ever be used for hostile purposes. This would entail developing an in-house capacity to assess science and technology developments and to conduct science and technology foresight exercises, and developing partnerships with all relevant stakeholders (industries, NGOs, chemist communities, global supply chain managers, media and universities).

Dr Robin Black of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down in the United Kingdom, focused on advances in science and technology that are relevant to the CWC. He noted that developments in science and technology offer major advances for humankind, for example in health care, renewable energy, pollution and food. They also offer potential improvements in chem-bio defensive countermeasures - in therapeutics, physical protection, detection, diagnostics, decontamination, and verification. He also acknowledged the potential threats posed by some of these advances, but which would require substantial and covert research and development programmes to implement.

FACT BOX 2

THE OPCW

As decreed by the Convention, the OPCW would from its genesis comprise three main organs: the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat. All three organs would enter existence facing imposing work agendas. The Conference of the States Parties, composed of representatives of all Member States, held its first session beginning 6 May 1997, one week from entry into force of the CWC. It promptly began the task of considering matters assigned to its jurisdiction by the Convention, various recommendations of the Preparatory Commission and certain issues.

Open Forum Panel Members' Biographies



Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary
Director, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Pakistan.



Jean-Pascal Zanders, Senior Research Fellow, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).



Robert Mathews, member of the OPCW Temporary Working Groups on Education and Outreach, and on the Convergence of Chemistry and Biology. He is Head of the NBC Arms Control Unit in the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO).



Djafer Benachour, Chairman of the Temporary Working Group on Education and Outreach. He is a full-time professor of Industrial Chemistry at Ferhat Abbas University, SETIF, Algeria.



Robin Black, Chairman of the Temporary Working Group on Sampling and Analysis. He is a Senior Fellow at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down, UK.

FACT BOX 2 (cont.)

It elected the members of the Executive Council and chose the OPCW's first Director-General of the Technical Secretariat. Also selected were the members of one of the Organisation's subsidiary bodies, the Confidentiality Commission. The PrepCom's recommendations were reflected in many of the Conference's other decisions.

**The Hague Week on Disarmament
and Non-Proliferation**

The Hague Week on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

In conjunction with its 15th Anniversary commemoration, the OPCW coordinated the organisation of a series of events from 3 to 7 September 2012 entitled The Hague Week on Disarmament and Non-proliferation (“the Week”) which explored contemporary issues in the field for diverse audiences. The core concept of the Week was to collaborate with local partners in raising public awareness of OPCW-related issues.

The Week comprised a series of public lectures and round table discussions featuring prominent international officials and experts in this sphere, which the OPCW co-organised in conjunction with the City of The Hague, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Clingendael Institute, IKV Pax Christi, the T.M.C. Asser Institute, the Municipal Museum of The Hague, the Netherlands Forensic Institute, and the Netherlands Institute for Applied Scientific Research (TNO).

The Week also included a 2-day visit by Ms Elena Sokova, director of the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-proliferation, and programme of meetings with high-level officials of the City of The Hague, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other local stakeholders to explore the possibilities for strengthening ties between Vienna and The Hague in the sphere of arms control, and international security.

The concept for The Week was to take advantage of the presence of these prominent international officials and experts - who would be in The Hague for the 15th anniversary high-level event, and/or as presenters in the WMD Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-proliferation (see next section) – by encouraging interested local partner organisations to host public events with these officials and experts for their own constituencies.

The diverse issues addressed in these thought-provoking events ranged from education and output to promote science for peace, to the proposed establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East, to the potential for using new information tools like social media to verify compliance with WMD disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. Among the featured speakers were the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Ambassador Tibor Tóth; the U.S. Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller; and Dr Olli Heinonen, former Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and currently a senior fellow with the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University (USA), *inter alia*.

The Week was capped by a special cultural evening at the Municipal Museum of The Hague that featured two distinctive and thought-provoking films about chemical warfare. One was a 30-minute dramatisation of the pioneering role that German chemist Fritz Haber played in developing his country’s chemical warfare programme during World War I. This was paired with the screening of a new 18-minute film produced by the OPCW about a Dutch chemistry teacher, Chretiën Schouteten, who went to remarkable and innovative lengths throughout his career to teach his high school students about chemical warfare and the need to teach ethics with science.

Most of the events of the Week were video recorded and will be made publicly available for e-learning purposes via the OPCW’s new iTunes U channel.



Clingendael
Netherlands Institute of International Relations



Netherlands Forensic Institute
Ministry of Security and Justice



The Hague
Institute for Global Justice



Gemeente Den Haag



Panel Discussion: Science for Peace – Promoting Education and Ethics in Chemistry, Biology and Nuclear Science to Ensure Global Peace and Security

In honour of the 15th anniversary of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), a panel discussion entitled 'Science for Peace: Promoting Ethics in Chemistry, Biology and Nuclear to Ensure Global Peace and Security' was held on 3 September 2012 at The Hague Institute for Global Justice.

The panel discussion was organized in the framework of the Peace and Justice project by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the City of The Hague, in close cooperation with the OPCW. The panel comprised:

H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), The Hague

Mr Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Com-



mission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Vienna.

Mr Richard Lennane, Head of the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Geneva

Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders, EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris

The goal of the discussion was to focus on the critical role of ethics in ensuring the peaceful uses of science for global peace and security. During the 20th century these sciences were used to develop weapons of mass destruction that became so lethal and numerous as to threaten humanity's very existence. In response, a global architecture of arms control treaties and organisations was created to reduce WMD arsenals and prevent proliferation of these weapons. At the same time, concerted efforts are now being made to promote ethics among scientists that science should only be used for peaceful purposes. The panellists discussed how their arms control organisations are engaging with academia and civil society to promote the teaching of ethics in their respective scientific domains.

The substance of the discussion both reflected and fed into the work of the OPCW's Temporary Working Group for Education and Outreach. The group has a 3-year mandate through 2014 to raise awareness of the Convention among a broad community of relevant stakeholders, including students, educators, the global scientific community and chemical industry. The group will build on earlier work and utilise the experience of other initiatives in related areas, and make recommendations for sustainable activities which can be pursued by the OPCW and its Member States.



Panel Discussion: The Middle East Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction?

Session and venue - City of The Hague

The session was held in the Hague City Hall Foyer and attracted a packed room of attendees from a large number of interested organisations and individuals. The audience demonstrated a high level of engagement and knowledge of the topics addressed.

The session was chaired by Mr Paul Wilke, Senior Research Fellow of the Clingendael Institute.

Speakers were:

Mr Ayman Khalil, Director of the Arab Institute of Security Studies in Jordan, and

Mr Benjamin Hautecouverture of the Centre for International Security and Arms Control Studies (CESIM), France.

After presentations from the two speakers a number of questions were invited.

Mr Hautecouverture discussed ways to achieve relative success in upcoming conferences, in particular at the Helsinki Conference. He stressed the importance of striving to at least maintain the momentum, despite an unpromising outlook in the near term, but to keep the focus on keeping the process going.

Mr Khalil on the basis on his intrinsic knowledge of the situation "on the ground", emphasized the importance of counting on general sentiments when discussing and choosing ways ahead. He provided an extraordinary insight into the intrinsic complexities in the region.

Questions from the audience were most engaging, such as discussion of global versus regional perspectives related to non-proliferation, the importance of public understanding of the process, a plea that problems in the region relate to the entire world, and not the least the importance of individual threat-perception, as raised by Mr Paul Wilke.

Overall issues in the region seem most complex, based on mutual deterrence, where chemical stockpiles seem to play a central role for certain countries that do not possess nuclear weapons potential.

Senior Research Fellow Paul Wilke of the Clingendael Institute

Paul Wilke of the Clingendael Institute for International Relations chaired the session.

We wanted to know how he experienced the session and what the outlook is.

PW: "One can only do so much, but I think this was good. I had a slight fear that we could have had a number of long statements today, which we luckily didn't have. One needs to keep the process going. It is important to keep talking. This is a step on the way towards the Helsinki Conference to be held in December this year. We hope that that will materialize, even if there is no firm date yet. In a way, agreement on a date is the first step in agreeing to hold the conference, so that first step will define the willingness to meet."



**ROUND TABLE:
VERIFICATION CHALLENGES FOR THE IAEA
FEATURED SPEAKER: DR OLLI HEINONEN**

The Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' organised an exclusive round table discussion for a group of security experts based in The Hague on the topic of "Verification Challenges of the IAEA" with the renowned expert Olli Heinonen,



currently a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs in Harvard University.

Before joining the Belfer Center in August 2010, Olli Heinonen spent 27 years at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Heinonen spent the last five years as Deputy Director General of the IAEA, and head of its Department of Safeguards. He led the Agency's efforts to identify and dismantle nuclear proliferation networks, including the one led by Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan, and he oversaw its efforts to monitor and contain Iran's nuclear program. Heinonen led teams of international investigators to examine nuclear programmes of concern around the world. He inspected nuclear facilities in South Africa, Iraq, North Korea, Syria, Libya, and elsewhere, seeking to ensure that nuclear materials were not diverted for military purposes. He led the Agency's efforts in recent years to implement an analytical culture to guide and complement traditional verification activities.



**INFORMAL PRESENTATION:
VISIT BY THE CTBTO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO
THE NETHERLANDS FORENSIC INSTITUTE**



The Netherlands Forensic Institute is among the world's leading forensic laboratories, operating under the jurisdiction of the country's Directorate-General Administration of Justice and Law Enforcement. Among its forensic disciplines, NFI maintains a specialised team that is available to provide assistance when required in the event of an attack involving chemical, biological, radio-

logical and nuclear (CBRN) agents, from laboratory analysis to detailed investigation of the crime scene.

The NFI has recently advised and provided training to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Interpol on methods of collecting and analysing tell-tale traces from materials contaminated with a dangerous agent (such as radioactivity, chemical toxins or a lethal virus). The Institute has investigated several major accidents at chemical plants in the Netherlands, and traced the source of an outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in Amsterdam to a local cooling tower by ascertaining the exact pedigree of the bacterium.

NFI took the opportunity of inviting the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Tibor Tóth, to visit the NFI while he was in The Hague as a high level guest for the OPCW's 15th Anniversary commemoration. Ambassador Tóth met the NFI Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tjark Tjin-A-Tsoi, and Mr Kees Mohring, the Institute's Director for External Relations.

During his visit Ambassador Tóth provided an introduction to the CTBTO and in particular its work in monitoring data from the Fukushima accident. He was by turn briefed on NFI's activities in the area of nuclear forensics and how it could potentially contribute to the work of the CTBTO.

SPECIAL VISITATION PROGRAMME: STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN VIENNA AND THE HAGUE IN THE SPHERE OF ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY



Among the OPCW's special guests for The Hague Week on Disarmament and Non-proliferation was Elena Sokova, Executive Director of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The VCDNP is an international NGO established on the initiative of the Austrian Foreign Ministry and operated by the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. The Center was officially opened in February 2011.

The VCDNP's mission is to promote international peace and security by providing a platform for independent analysis and dialogue in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Center organises conferences, seminars and other fora to foster result-oriented discussion among international organizations, national governments, non-governmental experts, scholars, and civil society. It partners with other academic and non-governmental institutions as well as international organizations in conducting research, outreach, education, and training

on non-proliferation and disarmament.

The theme of Ms Sokova's visit was to explore possibilities for strengthening ties between Vienna and The Hague in the sphere of arms control and international security. To that end, she had a series of substantive meetings with a slate of representatives of key local stakeholder organisations, including:

- Nora Stehouwer, Ambassador for International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Bob Fairweather, OPCW Chief of Staff
- Astrid Bronswijk, Head of the Department of International Affairs, The Hague Municipality
- Ko Colijn, Director of the Clingendael Institute and one of the Netherlands' foremost WMD experts
- Ann O'Brien, Director of the TMC Asser Institute

During her visit Ms Sokova also for the first time delivered a lecture to the Summer Programme on WMD Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which is co-organised by the OPCW and the TMC Asser Institute, and participated in the round table discussion hosted by the Clingendael Institute on "Verification Challenges of the IAEA" with featured guest Olli Heinonen.

Ms Sokova congratulated The Hague for its selection as the venue for the next international Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in 2014: "With what I saw this week, with the programme at the Asser Institute and talking with the City administration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, demonstrates to me a very rich expertise and interest in these issues in the City and at various organizations and institutions here."



Controlling Chemical Weapons in the Information Age

by Rose Gottemoeller

Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security



Ms. Gottemoeller is an arms control specialist and was lead negotiator for the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) that came into force on 5 February 2011. She reflected on modern options for effective verification via publicly available information technologies in an address at the OPCW.

IMAGE: Rose Gottemoeller, United States Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security and OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü at the OPCW

Mr Director-General, Ambassadors, Colleagues,

I am honored to speak today in this important room. I appreciate the opportunity to join the permanent representatives of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and disarmament and nonproliferation colleagues in support of The Hague Week on Disarmament and Non-proliferation, as well as the 15th Anniversary of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. We can all be proud of the great strides we have made toward eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction since the Convention's entry into force in 1997.

We will soon be approaching another anniversary. The Cuban Missile Crisis happened fifty years ago this October. We have come a long way since then, but today arms control is at a crossroads. We are facing new challenges and entering new terrain. We have not tried to limit non-deployed or non-strategic weapons before, which President Obama called for the day he signed the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) in April 2010 in Prague. We are thinking about how we would verify reductions in those categories and people have different ideas about what terms like 'non-strategic' even mean. Even more complicated: the lower the numbers and the smaller the components, the harder it will be to monitor compliance. To make matters more complicated, other weapons of mass destruction - chemical and biological weapons - pose even greater verification challenges, because they are dual use and difficult to disentangle from normal industrial or commercial processes.

In order to deal with these new problems, we are going to need innovative ideas about how together, we can improve and augment the tools needed for the verification of treaties and agreements controlling weapons of mass destruction, as well as create new ones.

Today, I'd like to talk to you about one such idea—the incorporation of publicly available technologies and social networking into arms control verification and monitoring. Now it is important to point out that this is not a policy speech, this is an ideas speech. I've been making similar remarks around Europe and at universities and think tanks in the United States. The first incarnation was delivered at Stanford University for the — Drell Lecture, named for noted arms control expert and physicist, Sidner Drell. The purpose of that lecture series is to think of new ideas for arms control. We have ambitious goals and we will need big ideas to meet them. It is also important to note that while I will focus on arms control, these ideas could lend themselves to nonproliferation policy, and safeguards policy as well.

Nowadays, we verify that countries are fulfilling their arms control treaty obligations through a combination of information exchange, notifications of weapon status - where in the country is that ICBM? - on-site inspections, and National Means, including so-called National Technical Means (NTM). NTM are big assets - observation satellites, phased-array radars - that individual countries manage and control. It has long been a rule of arms control treaties that we don't interfere with each other's National Technical Means - we allow each other these eyes and ears to monitor treaties. All of the elements I've listed off work together to make an effective verification regime.

I should say what we mean in the United States by effective verification. Ambassador Paul Nitze defined it as follows: - if the other side moves beyond the limits of the treaty in any militarily significant way, we would be able to detect such violations in time to respond effectively and thereby deny the other side the benefit of the violation. In our view, that's effective verification, and it has been the benchmark for verifying compliance in the United States. To help meet this benchmark, I've been asking myself, can we incorporate publicly available information technologies and social networking into arms control verification and monitoring?

Our new reality is a smaller, increasingly-networked world where the average citizen connects to other citizens in cyberspace hundreds of times each day. These people are exchanging and sharing ideas on a wide variety of topics: why not put this vast problem-solving entity to good use?

Today, any event, anywhere on the planet, can be broadcast globally in seconds. That means it is harder to hide things. When it is harder to hide things, it is easier to be caught. The neighborhood gaze is a powerful tool, and it can help us make sure that countries are following the rules of arms control treaties and agreements.

Open Source Information Technologies and Social Networking

But how exactly can publicly available information technologies improve arms control verification? Social verification can take place on a scale that moves from active participation, like public reporting and crowd-sourced mapping and analysis, to passive participation, like ubiquitous sensing or data mining and analytics. On this scale, the open source information technologies in use can improve arms control verification in at least two ways: either by generating new information, or by analyzing information that is already publicly available.

Let me give you some examples, to give you an idea what I'm talking about.

In 2009, in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Internet, the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) held a competition where 10 red weather balloons were moored at visible fixed locations around the continental United States. The first team to identify the location of all 10 balloons won a sizable cash prize—\$40,000. Over 4,300 teams composed of an estimated 2 million people from 25 countries took part in the challenge. A team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology won the challenge, identifying all of the balloon locations in an astonishingly short time of 8 hours and 52 minutes. Of course, to win in such a short time or complete the challenge at all, the MIT team did not find the balloons themselves. They tapped into social networks using a unique incentive structure that not only incentivized people to identify a balloon location, but also incentivized people to recruit others to the team. The MIT win showed the enormous potential of social networking, and also demonstrated how incentives can motivate large populations to work toward a common goal.

Social networking is already being incorporated into local safety and emergency response systems. RAVEN911—the Regional Asset Verification & Emergency Network—is a multilayer mapping tool that supports emergency first response in Cincinnati, Ohio. RAVEN911 uses live data feeds and intelligence gathered through Twitter to provide details that cannot be given on an everyday geographic map, such as the location of downed electric power lines and flooded roads. Authorities are cooperating with communities throughout the region to develop and implement this emergency management system, in order to help fire departments assess the risks and potential dangers before arriving on the scene of an accident or incident. This open source system gives emergency responders a common operating picture, to better execute time-critical activities, such as choosing evacuation routes out of flooded areas.

In addition to collecting useful data, the ability to identify patterns and trends in social networks could aid the arms control verification process. In the most basic sense, social media can draw attention to both routine and abnormal events. We may be able to mine Twitter data to understand where strange effluents are flowing, or to recognize unexpected patterns of industrial activity at a chemical production plant. In this way, we may be able to ensure better compliance with existing arms control treaties and regimes, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Sound far-fetched? Just consider that even today, tablets such as your iPad have tiny accelerometers installed – that's what tells the tablet which way is up. But the accelerometers also have the capability to detect small shakes, like an earth tremor.

Now, imagine a whole community of tablet users, all containing an -earth shake app, dispersed randomly around the country, and connected into a centralized network node. An individual shake could be something as simple as bumping your iPad on a table. But a whole network of tablets, all shaking at the same time? That tells you that something happened; knowing where all the tablets are and the exact time they started shaking can help you to geo-locate the event. It could be an earthquake, or it could be an illicit nuclear test. Of course, other sensors and analysis would have to be brought to bear to figure out the difference.

This is called ubiquitous sensing, that is, collecting data and basic analysis through sensors on smartphones and other mobile-computing devices. These sensors would allow citizens to contribute

to detecting potential treaty violations, and could build a bridge to a stronger private-public partnership in the realm of treaty verification.

Application to the CWC

Since we are here at the OPCW, I want to dive a little deeper into how this can apply to the CWC. Compliance with the CWC is already monitored through a comprehensive international system of declaration and international inspections. Could this already robust system be further integrated with publicly available information, providing independent confirmation of official conclusions? It is something to think about. The Advisory Panel on Future Priorities of the OPCW has already identified this as an idea worth studying when it recommended that the organization should seek to find acceptable ways of using open source information to enhance the verification process back in 2011. Open source information covers a wide variety of data, including general media stories, self-reporting from companies and information officially released by governments.

A recent informal paper from the Technical Secretariat noted that open source information can support the work of the Secretariat and of States Parties in the implementation of the CWC and the task of ensuring destruction of chemical weapons and working to prevent their re-emergence. The paper details a number of ways that publicly available information is already used within the Secretariat for purposes related to verification. The paper then goes on to suggest several additional ways that publicly available information might be applicable. I applaud this effort to explore these ideas, whether or not those particular suggestions turn out to be useful to the Organisation.

The Challenges Ahead

Of course, for any of this to work, there are technical, legal and political barriers ahead that would need to be overcome—it is no easy feat to pursue these ideas.

On the technical front, it would be necessary to work together to make sure nations – or industries – cannot spoof or manipulate the public verification challenges that they devise. We also have to bear in mind there could be limitations based on the freedoms available to the citizens in particular countries.

On the legal front, there are many questions that must be confronted about active vs. passive participation. How can we prevent governments from extracting information from citizens without their knowledge, or manipulating results collected in databases?

Further, in some circumstances, how can active participants be sheltered from reproach by authorities? It may be possible, through careful handling and management, to mask sources of information, even if locations are public.

On the political front, we cannot assume that information will always be so readily available. As nations and private entities continue to debate the line between privacy and security, it is possible to imagine that we are now living in a golden age of open source information that will be harder to take advantage of in future. These questions deserve to be considered.

Conclusion

In the end, the goal of using open source information technology and social networks should be to augment our existing arms control verification capabilities, and I challenge this community to think about how it can be done.

As you leave here today, I challenge you to help us find new ways to use the new information tools at our disposal to move the world closer to successfully tackling the control and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. If we were clever enough to invent these weapons, then surely we are clever enough to get rid of them.

... we are going to need innovative ideas about how together we can improve and augment the tools needed for the verification of treaties and agreements controlling weapons of mass destruction ...

VISIT TO THE TNO PRINS MAURITS LABORATORY IN RIJSWIJK

A group of delegates of the OPCW States Parties took advantage of the opportunity during the Week to visit the Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) of the Netherlands, located in Rijswijk.

TNO was an active player in the efforts to conclude negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and over the years has trained more than 180 OPCW inspectors. TNO houses one of 20 facilities around the world that have qualified as OPCW Designated Laboratories for testing and verifying chemical weapons agents.

Testing of chemical (C) detectors can only be done properly if live

C agents are available, including chemical warfare agents. As an OPCW-designated laboratory, TNO is licensed to synthesize and handle limited quantities of chemical warfare agents for research purposes. The test system is capable of generating carefully controlled gas flows of reproducible concentration of all kinds of C-agents including toxic industrial chemicals (TICs). Temperature and humidity can be controlled within a wide range. Concentration of C-agent is accurate down to trace levels, e.g. down to myosis level for nerve agents. The concentration as well as purity of the generated chemical vapours is verified and monitored using (semi) on-line analytical instrumentation, including GC-MS.

The system can also generate C-agent vapours mixed with compounds that are known to interfere with detector performance, e.g. fumes of burning gasoline, rubber or other material. Many commercially available C-detectors have gone through testing and evaluation at TNO.

CULTURAL EVENT: THE HAGUE GEMEENTE MUSEUM - “FRITZ HABER IN FILM”

Fritz Haber is one of the seminal figures in the history of chemistry – and one of the most controversial.

During his time at the University of Karlsruhe from 1894 to 1911, Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch developed the Haber process, which is the catalytic formation of ammonia from hydrogen and atmospheric nitrogen under conditions of high temperature and pressure. The Haber-Bosch process was a milestone in industrial chemistry because it divorced the production of nitrogen products like fertilizer from natural deposits. As a consequence, world production of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer was able to expand so dramatically that the food base of half the world’s population today can be directly attributed to the Haber-Bosch process.

But Haber also led the programme to develop chemical weapons for Kaiser Germany in World War I and personally supervised the first use of them by German forces at the 2nd battle of Ieper in April 1915. Regarding war and peace, Haber is quoted as having said, "During peacetime a scientist belongs to the world, but during wartime he belongs to his country."



In this cultural evening to cap the Week, two films were screened that examined Haber’s life in radically different ways: “Haber” a dramatisation of his role in developing chemical weapons during World War I, directed by New York film maker Daniel Ragussis; and “Fires: A Teacher’s Mission”, a documentary about a Dutch high school chemistry teacher who uses Haber’s life to teach his students about the critical importance of ethics in science. Both film makers were on hand to engage in audience discussions of their works after the screenings.



**The Summer Programme on WMD, Disarmament
and Non-proliferation**

The Summer Programme on WMD, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation



- to provide an understanding of the diplomatic, legal, and technical aspects of organisations dealing with WMDs;
- to illustrate how treaties on WMDs are implemented at the national level; and
- for networking purposes, to bring participants into direct contact with officials of bodies implementing treaties on WMDs and with related organisations.

In its first three years, the Summer Programme has already established itself as a popular and highly regarded educational resource for advanced graduate students and young to mid-level professionals with interests in WMD diplomacy and treaty implementation. A unique strength of the Summer Programme is the prominence of the experts and officials who have served as course lecturers, a line-up that includes inter alia Ambassador Rolf Ekéus of Sweden, OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü, IAEA Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts, Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel, Jaap Ramaker, Arend Meerburg, Gabriele Kraatz-Wadsack, Ralf Trapp, and Barry Kellman.

The OPCW's 15th anniversary coincided with the start of the 3rd Summer Programme, and so measures were taken to create synergies between the two events. By pairing the 3rd Summer Programme with the 15th anniversary commemoration, the OPCW was able to attract a number of senior international officials and experts to participate in both events as speakers. These included the U.S. Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller; CTBTO Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth; former IAEA Deputy Director General Olli Heinonen; the director of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Elena Sokova; and two experts on the proposed WMD-free zone in the Middle East, Benjamin Hautecouverture of CESIM in Paris and Ayman Khalil, director of the Arab Institute for Security Studies in Amman.

In August 2010, working in partnership with the T.M.C. Asser Institute, the OPCW launched the Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction ("the Summer Programme"), a week-long course that comprehensively examines nuclear, chemical and biological weapons treaties and their implementation.

The Summer Programme enjoys the active support of all the relevant WMD treaty organisations – the BWC Implementation Support Unit, the CTBTO, the IAEA and the OPCW - as well as the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), which provide senior professional staff members to the Summer Programme to discuss their respective spheres of activity. This hands-on approach is complemented with presentations by international and Dutch academics and policy experts. The specific objectives of the Summer Programme are:

- to provide a broad, comparative understanding of the history, purpose, and provisions of treaties on WMDs;



At the same time, the OPCW's 15th anniversary activities provided an opportunity to connect the Summer Programme with the UNODA Fellowships Programme. Launched by the General Assembly in 1978, the Fellowships Programme aims to promote national disarmament expertise in UN Member States, particularly developing countries. It has trained 858 public officials from 163 Member States, a large number of whom now hold important positions of responsibility in the disarmament field within their own Governments. The Programme has enabled former Fellows to participate more effectively in regional and global disarmament efforts, and, by creating an informal network spanning the various regions of the world, to work cooperatively and constructively in pursuit of disarmament and non-proliferation goals.

Although the UN Fellows have traditionally visited The Hague for briefings at the OPCW on the Chemical Weapons Convention, the confluence of their visit

in 2012 with the 15th anniversary events offered an ideal opportunity to significantly enhance their learning experience. Consequently, the Fellows participated in a full day of Summer Programme field visits to get a hands-on view of how WMD treaties are actually applied in the field, and attended a lecture by the most senior U.S. arms control official, Acting Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller, as part of the Summer Programme classroom work. As a result, the UNODA Fellowships Programme will now tie in its annual visits to The Hague with the Summer Programme activities on a regular basis.

This year's Summer Programme also provided excellent content for new OPCW e-learning materials. All of the lectures in this year's programme were video recorded by the OPCW, selections of which will be made available on its new iTunes U channel.

3rd Summer Programme on WMD, Disarmament and Non-proliferation

Monday, September 3:

Overview on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)

08.30 Opening Tanya Mehra

09.00- 10.00 Historical use and impact of WMDs
Arend Meerburg, former ambassador to the Netherlands

10.00 – 11.00 International law and the use of force
Niels van Willigen, Leiden University

11.15 – 13:00 Special Event

Panel discussion: “The Imperative of Multilateralism in Arms Control and Disarmament”

H.E. Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary, CTBTO

H.E. Rolf Ekéus, Sweden

Dr Olli Heinonen, Former Deputy Director General, IAEA

Santiago Oñate, former Legal Adviser, OPCW

H.E. Adolph Ritter von Wagner, Germany

Richard Lennane, BWC Implementation Support Unit, Geneva

13.00-14.15 Lunch

14.15- 15.45 WMDs and public health

Sander Banus et al.

National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

16.00-17.00 WMDs and the environment

Paul Walker

Director of the Environmental

Security and Sustainability

Program of Green Cross

International and Global

Green USA

19:00 Opening Dinner Restaurant Dekxels (City Center)

Tuesday, September 4:

Disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

09.00-10:45 Overview of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

- The Treaty and other regulations
 - The Comprehensive Test-Ban-Treaty Organisation
- Current challenges and policy issues for the CTBTO

Jean du Preez - Head, External Relations CTBTO

H.E. Tibor Tóth - Executive Secretary, CTBTO

11.00-12.45 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- The Treaty and other regulations
- The IAEA

Current challenges and policy issues

Olli Heinonen - Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Cambridge MA\ Former Deputy Director General, IAEA

12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:15 The importance of a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty for nuclear disarmament

Arend Meerburg, Member, International Panel on Fissile Materials

15:15-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16.45 Conference on a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East

Benjamin Hautecouverture, Centre d'Etudes de Sécurité Internationale et de Maitrise des Armements / EU Non-Proliferation Consortium, Paris

Ayman Khalil, Director, Arab Institute for Security Studies, Amman

16.45 -17.45 An independent assessment of current challenges for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation
Elena Sokova, Director, Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Wednesday, September 5:

Disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical and biological weapons

08.30– 10.15

Part I: Scientific and technological aspects of chemical and biological weapons

Part 2: Challenges posed to existing treaty regimes by the convergence of chemistry and biology

Ralf Trapp, International Disarmament Consultant

10.15-11.00 The OPCW: Compliance and verification regime

Daniel Feakes, OPCW Verification Division

11.15-12.30 The OPCW: National implementing measures

Santiago Oñate, Former Legal Adviser to the OPCW

Mark Albon Head, Implementation Support Branch, OPCW

12.30-13.15 Current challenges and policy issues:
H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General, OPCW

13.15 – 14.15 Brownbag lunch:

Professional opportunities in the sphere of WMDs

Jean du Preez - Head, External Relations, CTBTO

14:15 - 17:15 Biological Weapons

- Treaties, regulations, codes of conduct
 - The Implementation Support Unit
 - 7th Review Conference, intersessional meetings
- Current challenges and policy issues
Dr Piers Millet, BWC Implementation Support Unit
Richard Guthrie, Harvard Sussex Program (UK)

3rd Summer Programme on WMD, Disarmament and Non-proliferation

Thursday, September 6:

Field visits to WMD treaty-related facilities

08.00-12.30 Participants choose one of two options:

- 1) Demo of OPCW industrial inspection equipment in Rijswijk + visit to inspectable plant site in Rotterdam
- 2) TU-Delft nuclear research reactor

13:30-15:30

- 3) Live exercise for investigation of alleged WMD use at TNO

Classroom lecture

16.00– 17:30 Arms Control in the Information Age: Social media and crowd-sourcing as tools for verification

Reception and cultural programme by
Rose Gottemoeller

17:30 – 20:00

Fritz Haber in Art and Film, The Hague Municipal Museum

Friday, September 7:

09.00– 10:30 Groups' report-back from field visits and discussion. All participants

Multi-stakeholder approaches to WMD diplomacy & WMD terrorist threats

Tanya Mehra

10.30-11.45 Addressing the threat of WMD use by terrorists (UNSCR 1540 etc.)

Panel:

Krzysztof Paturej Director, Office of Special Projects, OPCW
Maarten Nieuwenhuizen, Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

12.00-13.00 Export Control Regimes.

Josephine Frantzen, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 Engaging academia and civil society in WMD disarmament and non-proliferation:

- BioWeapons Prevention Project
- Harvard Sussex Program
- OPCW public diplomacy and outreach Panel
Richard Guthrie, Harvard Sussex Program
Michael Luhan, OPCW

15.45 – 16.45 Programme summary and evaluation

Tanya Mehra, T.M.C. Asser Instituut

Michael Luhan, OPCW

17:00 Closing reception OPCW

FIELD VISITS

To complement the classroom content of the Summer Programme, the OPCW and T.M.C. Asser Institute organise a series of field visits to relevant facilities in the region of The Hague to give participants hands-on experience with how the various WMD treaties covered by the course are implemented in the real world. The 2012 course offered three field visits, of which participants could choose two according to their particular interests.

Demonstration: OPCW industrial verification regime



(Photo: OPCW)

To give participants a full view of the verification regime, this field visit combined visits to two locations: to the OPCW Equipment Store in Rijswijk, and afterwards to a chemical plant site on the outskirts of Rotterdam that has been inspected by the OPCW. The group was accompanied by Ms Sylvia Azem, an

experienced OPCW Inspection Team Leader, who briefed them on all aspects of the industrial verification regime: from the process for selecting plants to be inspected, to the processing of a declaration, through the preparation, assembly and testing of the list of needed equipment, to the choreography of the actual inspection. At the OPCW Equipment Store, technicians provided a demonstration of a range of inspection equipment as well as a tour through the adjacent OPCW Laboratory. At the chemical production facility, the group were given the same briefing by a company representative as would a team of OPCW inspectors, as well as a tour of the exterior of the plant site and interior of the control room.

Nuclear research reactor, Delft University of Technology (TU-Delft)

The Reactor Institute Delft (RID) has unique measuring instruments and radiation facilities and boasts the most intense positron bundle in the world. The RID produces radio isotopes for application in many different fields and provides accredited activation analysis for the accurate measurement of element concentrations. The RID also accommodates the Department of Radiation, Radionuclides & Reactors (R3). The Summer Programme participants were briefed on what the research reactor does, how uranium is enriched, the reactor's control mechanisms, the kind of research it undertakes and for whom, and the facility's relationship to the IAEA. The group was given a tour inside the reactor itself with a view of the fuel rods.



(Photo: OPCW)

Live exercise: Investigation of alleged WMD use

This field visit was hosted by the Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) in Delft, an independent research institute that conducts research for the Dutch Ministry of Defence (among others), houses one of the OPCW's 20 Designated Laboratories, and has trained some 180 OPCW inspectors over the years. There, a team of OPCW inspectors conducted a live field exercise in the investigation of alleged use (IAU) of chemical weapons - part of their regular training regimen - in which they demonstrated techniques of reconnaissance, collecting soil and water samples, and decontamination. The participants were able to enter the CBRN laboratory for an explanation of how analysis of the samples is done.

High Level Meeting at the UN Secretariat in New York

High Level Meeting at the UN Secretariat in New York



The commemoration of the OPCW's 15th anniversary reached a high point on the afternoon of Monday 1 October, in the form of a high-level meeting in the margins of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The meeting was held under the theme "Fifteen Years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success, Committing to the Future." It aimed to generate long-term support for the Chemical Weapons Convention as an indispensable instrument for promoting international peace and security, as well as to provide impetus to the Third Review Conference on the CWC which is scheduled in April 2013.

The United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, addressed the opening of the high-level meeting in the company of OPCW Director-General

Ahmet Üzümcü. Prior to the meeting, they appeared together at a media stakeout that was webcast live on the UN's website, in which the Secretary-General expressed "grave concerns" about the situation of chemical weapons in Syria.

The Convention now has 188 States Parties. Three-quarters of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been eliminated. This is a remarkable achievement. It reflects the dedication and commitment of both the OPCW's Member States and the Technical Secretariat.

- excerpt from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's opening address to the meeting

The high-level meeting was attended by several Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OPCW States Parties, together with other representatives of States Parties and States not Party, observers, and international, regional and sub-regional organisations.

One of the main issues stressed in the many official statements read to the high-level meeting is the urgent need to convince those few countries that have not yet joined the Convention to do so without delay. This is clearly a source of serious concern to the States Parties and to the United Nations. States that do not join the Convention pre-

vent their chemical weapons capabilities from being declared and eliminated under international verification, without which the vision of a chemical weapons-free world will remain elusive.

In particular, a declaration earlier in the year by a State not Party to the Convention, in which it alluded to the possibility of using chemical weapons - a reference to Syria - was deplored as a development that “flies in the face of global sentiment that regards

chemical weapons as abhorrent and unacceptable.” The motto of the OPCW is ‘working together for a world free of chemical weapons’. The participation of the States Parties in the high-level meeting confirmed their commitment to this goal. The Chemical Weapons Convention has proved its value; the results show that disarmament is not a utopian ideal and reinforce our faith in multilateralism. The CWC and the OPCW will remain a model that can spur progress in other areas of global policy.



**UNITED NATIONS - NATIONS UNIES
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**REMARKS TO HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF
THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)**

Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for coming together in support of the goal of the total elimination of chemical weapons.

The issue of chemical and biological weapons disarmament has been a long-standing item on the agenda of the United Nations. And although the Chemical Weapons Convention was many decades in the making, it was not opened for signature until 1993 – and did not enter into force until 1997.

Today, we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the Convention and the Organisation that was created to serve as its implementing body.

The Convention now has 188 States Parties. Three-quarters of the world’s declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been eliminated. This is a remarkable achievement. It reflects the dedication and commitment of both the OPCW’s Member States and the Technical Secretariat.

Today’s meeting is an opportune moment to reaffirm our support for the core objectives of the CWC – and look to current and future challenges.

The verified elimination of declared chemical weapons stockpiles is approaching its completion.

Now is the time to build upon the Convention’s achievements and prevent the reemergence and proliferation of chemical weapons.

The universality of the CWC is indispensable to eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. I urge the eight States that are not yet Party to the Convention to join without delay.

These eight States are: Angola, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Israel, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

With respect to Syria, I have expressed grave concerns with statements made by representatives of the Syrian Government regarding the existence of chemical weapons and their possible use. I have also personally conveyed these concerns directly to President Assad in writing many weeks ago.

I once again emphasize the fundamental responsibility of the Syrian Government to ensure the safety and security of any such stockpiles. The use of such weapons would be an outrageous crime with dire consequences. Let us also never forget that chemical weapons are not only a security concern; they also have profound humanitarian implications.

The work of the OPCW and its Member States affects all of us.

Let us all work together to eliminate the threat posed by chemical weapons for all people and for all time.

Thank you.





STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR AHMET ÜZÜMCÜ, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE OPCW

At the High Level Meeting on

“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this High Level Meeting. The theme “Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating success. Committing to the future”, defines the purposes of this gathering.

We have come together as partners in a unique and noble cause. We look back at what we have accomplished in the past 15 years; recognising the progress that has been made in eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction - an achievement that has no precedent in history.

And, we wish to look ahead to building on that success and committing to the future.

I am most grateful to H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. His presence with us here today shows his strong support for promoting the global disarmament agenda.

I express my gratitude to you all, especially to the Ministers who have spared time from their busy schedules to participate in this meeting. Their presence makes this a truly memorable event.

This is a gathering that signifies the value of multilateralism. We echo today our collective resolve for a more humane; a more cooperative and peaceful world based on the abiding principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Today we remember the countless victims across the world who suffered the cruelty of chemical weapons; soldiers and civilians alike. A weapon that kills indiscriminately strikes at the heart of a long-standing tradition that forbids wanton killing. The carnage of leper and the atrocities of Halabja and Sardasht, stand as permanent reminders of a tragic era. These memories drive our determination to prevent such tragedies from ever happening again.

Ensuring the success of the Convention is our collective responsibility. Since the Convention came into force there has been steady progress towards realising its goals. Stockpiles of chemical weapons, once inordinately large and dangerous have now been reduced to a quarter of their original size.

The almost daily occurrence of an inspection of chemical industry somewhere in the world provides the basis of confidence in the treaty as an effective nonproliferation instrument.

OPCW programmes in the areas of assistance and protection against chemical weapons as well as international cooperation offer strong incentives to our wider membership to remain engaged and benefit from their participation in the OPCW.

That the Convention is regarded as a valuable and worthy instrument is evident from the numbers that have joined it in such short a period of time. 188 States Parties subscribe to the global ban on chemical weapons.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Success creates expectations. And maintaining it demands renewed commitment and resolve.

Three countries declaring possession of chemical weapons have commendably fulfilled their obligation to destroy their entire stockpile of chemical weapons. Despite having missed the destruction deadline, the two largest possessor states are on track towards that end. The States Parties took a decision based on foresight and wisdom encouraging the remaining possessor states to complete the task while keeping progress under close review.

Destruction of chemical weapons declared in good faith and as part of treaty commitments is only a matter of time. Our single most important challenge, however, is convincing those few countries that have not yet joined the Convention. This is a source of serious concern. States that do not join the Convention prevent their capabilities from being declared and eliminated under international verification. Without that the vision of a chemical weapons free world will remain elusive. There was recently a declaration emanating from a State not Party to the Convention alluding to the astonishing possibility of the use of chemical weapons. We must deplore this development. It flies in the face of the global sentiment that regards chemical weapons as abhorrent and unacceptable.

We must therefore redouble our efforts to persuade the remaining 8 states to join the Convention.

The Convention is designed to preclude the possibility of the use of chemical weapons. Together with universal acceptance is the imperative that all our States Parties continue to make steady progress towards its full and effective domestic implementation. This is a clear prerequisite.

Effective implementation builds confidence in the international community and realises more fully the security benefits of the Convention. It is not an imposition but an advantage. A legal framework through legislation and the means to enforce it create the domestic capacity to monitor, to report, and to guide activities involving chemicals along peaceful and productive lines. Such measures also represent the most practical means of addressing the contemporary threats relating to chemical terrorism.

Assistance for our States Parties to fulfil their national implementation obligations has been one of our major areas of work. We have shared our expertise and experiences at forums organised by the United Nations to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 whose objectives are consistent with

the goals of the CWC. Our cooperation with the United Nations goes deeper. For example, the Convention foresees placing the resources and expertise of the OPCW at the disposal of the UN in cases of investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons.

At the OPCW, we are aware that the future of the CWC will place new demands on the Organisation. As we approach the completion of the destruction of declared arsenals, progressively greater attention will have to focus on the objective of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Reviewing the industry verification regime to ensure that it will continue to promote confidence in compliance will be important. The regime will need to keep pace with developments in science and technology. States Parties will be called upon to improve surveillance of transfers and trade in chemicals.

The culture of cooperation, constructive engagement and consensus that Marks the OPCW multilateral experience, promises to be our greatest asset in our quest to deal with the unfinished business and in taking up future challenges. The Third Review Conference in April next year will provide an important opportunity to address these issues.

The motto of our Organisation is 'working together for a world free of chemical weapons'. Your participation confirms your commitment to that goal.

The Chemical Weapons Convention has proved its value and shown that disarmament is not a utopian ideal. The results reinforce our faith in multilateralism. The CWC and the OPCW offer a model that can indeed spur progress in other areas of global policy.

I wish to conclude by once again expressing my gratitude to you all for your presence today.

Today's meeting conveys the message that the international community remains committed to find enduring solutions to the problems of weapons of mass destruction.

Let us rededicate ourselves to collectively building a better and more secure future for ourselves and our future generations.

I thank you for your attention.

The Hague, the Netherlands, September 2012



OPCW HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

1 OCTOBER 2012

LIST OF STATEMENTS

1.	Non-Aligned Movement	H.E. Dr Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
2.	European Union	H.E. Mr Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the EU delegation to the United Nations
3.	India	H.E. Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India
4.	Australia	Senator the Honourable Bob Carr, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia
5.	Bangladesh	Her Excellency Dr Dipu Moni, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh
6.	Iran	H.E. Dr Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
7.	Algeria	H.E. Mr Mourad Medelci, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria
8.	Belarus	H.E. Mr Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus
9.	Morocco	H.E. Dr Saad-Eddine El-Otmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco
10.	Sudan	H.E. Mr Ali Ahmed Karti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan
11.	Rwanda	The Honourable Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda
12.	Sri Lanka	The Honourable Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy of Sri Lanka
13.	Libya	H.E. Mr Ashour Saad Ben Khaial, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya
14.	Mauritius	The Honourable Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mauritius
15.	Zimbabwe	The Honourable Simbarashe S. Mumbengegwi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe
16.	Cuba	H.E. Dr Abelardo Moreno Fernández, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba
17.	Saudi Arabia	His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
18.	United States of America	The Honourable Rose Gottemoeller, Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security of the United States of America
19.	Russian Federation	Mr Sergey Alexey Karpov, Deputy Director of the Department for Security and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
20.	Cambodia	H.E. Mr Ouch Borith, Secretary of State (Vice Minister) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia
21.	France	H.E. Mr Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations
22.	Japan	H.E. Mr Tsueno Nishida, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
23.	Germany	Ms Ina Lepel, Deputy Director-General for Global Affairs, Federal Foreign Office of Germany
24.	Turkey	H.E. Mr Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations
25.	China	H.E. Mr Li Baodong, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations
26.	Mexico	H.E. Mr Luis Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations
27.	United Kingdom	H.E. Sir Mark Lyall-Grant, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations
28.	Iraq	H.E. Dr Hamid Al Bayati, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations
29.	Ukraine	Mr Ruslan Nimchinsky, Deputy Director of the Arms Control Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
30.	Thailand	H.E. Mr Norachit Sinhaseni, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations
31.	Netherlands	H.E. Mr Herman Schaper, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
32.	Finland	H.E. Mr Pasi Patokallio, Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland
33.	Poland	H.E. Mr Ryszard Sarkowicz, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations
34.	New Zealand	H.E. Mr Jim McLay, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations
35.	Canada	H.E. Mr Guillermo E. Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations
36.	Brazil	Her Excellency Ms Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations
37.	Singapore	H.E. Mr Albert Chua, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations
38.	Pakistan	H.E. Mr Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary, Additional Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan
39.	Philippines	The Honourable Eduardo Martin R. Meñez, Assistant Secretary for the Office of United Nations and Other Organisations, Department of Foreign Affairs of The Philippines
40.	Republic of Korea	H.E. Mr Kim Sook, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
41.	Norway	Ms Mona Juul, Director-General of the Department for Security Policy and the High North of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
42.	Cyprus	H.E. Mr Euripides Evriviades, Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus
43.	Italy	H.E. Mr Cesare Maria Ragalini, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

H. E. ALI AKBAR SALEHI,

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN ON BEHALF OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Mr Chairman,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the state members of the Non-Aligned Movement that are parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). This important meeting represents an opportunity to further support the long-term objectives of the convention.

2. NAM states parties to the CWC recognize the important role the CWC has played over the last 15 years in the prevention of proliferation and total destruction of all chemical weapons, which is a significant contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

3. NAM states parties to the CWC reaffirm the Final Document of the 16th Summit of Heads of State or Governments of NAM held from 26-31 August 2012 in Tehran, which contains their principal positions on various important issues in relation to the CWC.

4. Mindful of the threat posed to humankind by the existing weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons and underlining the need for the total elimination of such weapons, we reaffirm the need to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction, and therefore supports the necessity of monitoring the situation and triggering international action as required.

5. In our view, CWC is one of the very few disarmament multi-lateral treaties banning a whole category of weapons of mass destruction. Consequently, we believe that the effective contribution of the convention to international and regional peace and security would be enhanced through Universal adherence to the convention. In this context, NAM states parties to the CWC invite all non-parties, in particular those states whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concerns, to accede to the convention as soon as possible with a view to achieve its universality.

6. NAM states parties to the CWC reaffirm that the effective contribution of the convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through its full implementation, and in this context encourage all states parties that have not yet done so to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the convention.

7. NAM states parties to the CWC reaffirm the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the convention, and in this connection call on the developed countries to promote international

cooperation for the benefit of states parties through the transfer of technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and to prevent any discriminatory restrictions as they are contrary to the letter and spirit of the convention. They further reiterate their conviction that facilitation of and participation in the fullest possible exchanges and enhanced international cooperation in the field of peaceful chemical activities, aimed at facilitating economic and social development, is a vital element in strengthening implementation of the convention.

8. In the view of the NAM states parties to the CWC, 15 years of operation of the convention has demonstrated that developing countries who are states parties to the CWC have implemented their obligations in good faith. They reiterate their strong call to developed countries to promote international cooperation and to fulfil the solemn undertakings given at the time of the convention's adoption for removal of unwarranted restrictions in the field of trade in chemicals, equipment, and related technologies for peaceful purposes.

9. NAM states parties to the CWC express serious concern that certain possessor states parties could not comply with their obligations regarding the total destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles within the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012. While stressing that such cases of non-compliance endanger the credibility and integrity of the convention, they urge all possessor state parties to take every necessary measure with a view to achieving, under verification by (the) OPCW, complete destruction of their chemical weapons in the shortest time possible in order to (ensure) their compliance with the convention thus upholding its credibility and integrity. They further express disappointment that, to date, the obligation of total destruction of all chemical weapons has not been met, and reaffirm that verification of the destruction of all the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles as well as old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons shall continue to be the top priorities of the OPCW.

10. NAM states parties to the CWC reaffirm that the implementation of Article X of the CWC on assistance and protection against chemical weapons make a significant contribution to countering the threats of use of chemical weapons. They stress the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the OPCW to provide timely and needed assistance and protection against use or threat of use of chemical weapons, including assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.

11. NAM states parties to the CWC welcome the decision on components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI adopted at the 16th Conference of the States Parties of the CWC and considers it a positive step towards achieving the goal of the full, effective, and nondiscriminatory implementation of Article XI.

12. NAM states parties to the CWC declare their firm conviction that international support to provide special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an immediate humanitarian need that requires urgent attention, and in this context, they welcome the establishment of an International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and a voluntary Trust Fund for this purpose. They call upon the Technical Secretariat to expeditiously operationalize the network, and in this context encourage the states parties to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the network.

13. In closing, NAM states parties to the CWC express their strong commitment to continue their efforts on the universalization and effective implementation of the CWC. Let us all join

hands and work together to help realize peace and well-being everywhere.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR THOMAS MAYR-HARTING,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Mr Secretary General of the United Nations
Mr Director-General of the OPCW
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Acceding country Croatia*, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to address this High Level Meeting marking fifteen years of the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Occasions such as the one we have gathered for here today, are a valuable opportunity to pause and reflect on past accomplishments as well as on the challenges that lie ahead and what we need to do to successfully meet them.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has proven its contribution to international peace and stability. As remarked by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms Catherine Ashton in her Statement to mark the commemoration of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention on 3 September, the OPCW “continues to be a remarkable success and an inspiring example for effective multilateralism”. For this, all stakeholders and particularly the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat deserve praise.

In the last fifteen years much has been achieved towards meeting the object and purpose of the Convention: destroying all chemical weapons in existence and preventing their re-emergence. The destruction of declared stockpiles of chemical weapons has progressed significantly as a result of which we are well underway towards a world free of chemical weapons. Whilst we are

concerned that the final extended deadline for destruction of remaining stockpiles was not met, we are convinced that the Possessor States will fulfil their commitments and complete destruction in the shortest time possible. Much work has also been put into the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Convention including in the area of national implementation, international cooperation, assistance and protection and industry verification. The fact that there are now 188 States Parties to the Convention is also a major achievement.

Recent events force us to highlight the importance of universal adherence to the Convention. The admission by Syria on 23 July that it has a stockpile of chemical weapons engendered a wave of international condemnation and renewed calls for it to join the Convention. The European Union is seriously concerned about the presence of these weapons in Syria. Their existence shows that the threat of chemical weapons is still very real. The European Union urges Syria to act responsibly in relation to these abhorrent weapons, not to use them under any circumstances, and to keep them secure. We recall that the use of chemical weapons is prohibited by general international law and convention including the 1925 Geneva Protocol, and stress that the use of chemical weapons by Syria would be unlawful.

The European Union calls upon Syria and all other States not Party to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay. We encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue its efforts in this direction in a targeted and tailor-made manner, and reiterate the European Union’s readiness to actively contribute to this common objective.

As we look ahead to the future, the European Union believes that we need to build on progress achieved so far in destroying all declared chemical weapons and work towards ensuring that such weapons do not re-emerge. Destruction of declared stockpiles will remain a priority for the Organisation and should continue under systematic verification. At the same time, the implementation of the Convention should be adjusted to successfully meet future challenges in light of the changing security environment and developments in science and technology. The European Union strongly believes that the Third Review Conference should provide political support and broad guidance for the work to be undertaken in the inter-sessional period on addressing the future priorities of the OPCW.

The European Union has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to, and tangible support for, the OPCW, inter alia, through its successive financial contributions in support of OPCW activities since 2004, which amount to a total of around €9.5 million. These contributions have been used to fund activities in a variety of areas of the Convention including national implementation, universality, assistance and protection and international cooperation.

Before concluding, I would like to make particular reference to the cooperation between the UN and the OPCW, especially since we have the pleasure of meeting today in the United Nations Headquarters. The European Union greatly values the existing cooperation between the two Organisations and encourages

further, close engagement between them. In this respect, we welcome the finalisation of a Supplementary Arrangement to the Relationship Agreement between the UN and the OPCW.

Whilst we mark this occasion, our thoughts naturally turn to the terrible human suffering that has resulted from the use of chemical weapons in the past. Yet the success of the OPCW in the last fifteen years is a source of inspiration and encouragement.



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR S.M. KRISHNA,
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**At the High Level Meeting on
“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General
H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, Director General of the OPCW
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to address this special meeting to mark 15 years of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This meeting provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the achievements and the challenges that lie ahead in the task of full and effective implementation of the Convention.

India views the Convention as a unique, multilaterally-negotiated and nondiscriminatory disarmament instrument, which serves as a model for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. As an original signatory to the Convention, India attaches the utmost importance to the success of the Convention and its full and effective implementation. The international legal norm against the use of chemical weapons anywhere

And as we look to the future, we can build on this success in our efforts to ensure that these weapons are fully destroyed and that they are not permitted to re-emerge. I can assure you that the European Union remains fully committed to a world free of chemical weapons and will continue to work tirelessly, together with the OPCW, towards this end.

Thank you very much for your attention.

must not be breached.

Disarmament is a primary goal of the Convention and should remain the priority till the complete destruction of all chemical weapons. We have demonstrated our commitment and sense of responsibility by destroying all our chemical weapon stockpiles under OPCW verification within the time frame prescribed by the Convention. Timely destruction of chemical weapons by all States Parties is critical for upholding the credibility and integrity of the CWC. We call on the remaining possessor States to fulfil their obligations within the shortest possible time.

India is the third largest country in terms of industry declarations and recipient of one of the highest number of industry inspections every year. We have implemented all our industry-related verification obligations. We also believe that the future verification efforts should continue to be guided strictly by the provisions of the Convention, without an undue burden on industry. Apart from National Implementation, which India views as key, Assistance and Protection as well as international cooperation are of interest to a large number of State Parties and deserve greater attention.

India has contributed to the working of the OPCW through participation in several of its subsidiary bodies, namely the Scientific Advisory Board, Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters and Confidentiality Commission. Our National Authority has played a key role in the discharge of our CWC obligations and in international cooperation and assistance programmes. We are privileged that the Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW is currently chairing the Executive Council.

The accession of 188 State Parties to the CWC is commendable and must spur our efforts towards universal adherence of the Convention. We commend the role of the Director General and the OPCW for their efforts in ensuring the smooth implementation of the Convention and for advancing the common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you.



STATEMENT BY H. E. DR ALI AKBAR SALEHI MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

In The Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr Chairman,

First I associate myself with NAM Statement and also thank the OPCW for convening this meeting.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the main victim of the use of Chemical Weapons in the contemporary history. As a result of nearly 600 attacks with chemical warfare agents during the 8-year imposed war by Saddam against Iran from 1980 - 1988, more than 100,000 Iranian citizens were either martyred or injured which includes more than 7000 civilians as a result of nearly 30 attacks to Iranian cities and villages.

For instance, on 28 June, 1987, Saddam’s warplanes unleashed sulphur mustard gas bombs on four residential areas of Sardasht, a town in the north-west of Iran. As a result, more than 130 unprotected civilians have been martyred and almost 5000 injured, who still continue to suffer from long-term complications. The anniversary of this tragedy is commemorated in Iran as the “National Day for Campaign against Chemical and Biological Weapons.”

Likewise, in 2010, the OPCW Executive Council invited the Director-General, on behalf of the OPCW, to convey annually on 28 June to the authorities and inhabitants of the city of Sardasht, a statement in memory of the chemical weapons attacks thereon, and to express sympathy for the victims.



STATEMENT BY THE HON LAURIE FERGUSON MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
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In the implementation of that decision, in the past two years, OPCW Director-General made statements on the anniversary of this tragedy, and while conveying sincere sympathies to the authorities and people of the city of Sardasht, reaffirmed our resolve to rid the world permanently from the threat of chemical weapons and to guarantee that chemical weapons are never used again.

Indeed, the use of chemical warfare agents is a clear manifestation of war crime and crime of genocide. While Saddam, as the major perpetrator of such crimes, was properly punished, there remains the punishment of those who contributed to the development of Saddam’s Chemical Weapons program, in particular almost 455 companies, mostly from western countries which, according to the well-documented evidences, their involvement has been proved.

Mr Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran values the achievements in the implementation of the Convention during the past 15 years and calls for full commitment by all States Parties to adopt concrete steps for full compliance with their obligations under the Convention.

In our view, mere existence of chemical weapons threatens international peace and security and undermines the integrity and credibility of the Convention. Therefore, total destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles continues to remain the key objective of the CWC. The major possessor States Parties in noncompliance with the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012, shall embark on sustained and accelerated efforts, within the framework of the CWC and its verification regimes, for full compliance with their obligations under the Convention. Otherwise the *raison d’être* of the Convention will be seriously challenged and its credibility will be significantly tarnished.

We also wish to underline the importance of universality of the Convention as it can contribute to the realization of its objectives.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of full, effective and nondiscriminatory implementation of the Convention, in particular its Article XI and in this regard highlight the need for full implementation of relevant decision of the 16th Conference of CWC States Parties. I would also like to call upon the OPCW Technical Secretariat to expedite its efforts for the operationalization of International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and its voluntary Trust Fund.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and Secretary-General, HE Ban Ki-moon, for their genuine and steadfast commitment to ensuring that the Chemical Weapons Convention remains an effective security regime that ensures these heinous weapons are destroyed and never used.

Australia is strongly committed to this enduring priority. We unreservedly join with other countries that have condemned today the possible use of chemical weapons by anyone, including by States not yet party to the Convention.

Ladies and gentlemen, today I will focus Australia’s comments on three issues: universality, full and effective implementation of the convention and emerging challenges.

The achievements of the Chemical Weapons Convention are outstanding. It bans an entire category of weapons of mass destruction and its current membership of 188 States Parties means that the ban has become an international norm. But it is not yet universal, and we must continue to work towards universality. We strongly urge each of the eight States that are not yet party to join the Convention.

Australia is doing its part in encouraging the small number of remaining States to join the Chemical Weapons Convention. Australia reinforced this commitment to Ambassador Üzümcü during his visit in July 2012 and we stand ready to support those countries in doing whatever it takes to help them achieve this goal.

Joining the Convention is just the first step. Full and effective implementation of the Convention is equally crucial. Notably, 75% of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles have already been destroyed. This work has made a significant contribution to global disarmament - although not without great cost and effort - and is an achievement of which the OPCW and States Parties can be very proud.

But we must continue to strive to ensure that all parties enact robust domestic legislation and establish strong national authorities. National Authorities, Customs authorities and other agencies all contribute to ensuring that declarations and OPCW inspections - performed under the CWC's verification regime - build confidence internationally that new chemical weapons are not being developed.

Full and effective implementation also involves cooperation with

the chemical industry. From Australia's perspective, this has been another good news story of the Convention. We will continue to foster a spirit of collaboration and trust between Government and industry in acknowledgment of the chemical industry's role in supporting the Convention, including through ensuring that chemicals are not diverted for non-peaceful purposes.

Third, States should be collectively considering how the Convention can evolve and remain relevant. As one of the countries that contributed to bringing forward the final text of the Convention in 1994, Australia also believes we must remain vigilant by ensuring that the Convention and the OPCW continue to play a strong role in the prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons and can respond to emerging challenges and global priorities including advances in science and technology.

We warmly welcome the Supplementary Agreement recently concluded between the OPCW and the UN Secretary General whereby, in the case of alleged use of chemical weapons by a State not Party to the Convention, if requested, the OPCW's resources can be called upon by UNSG. Australia looks forward to the 3rd Review Conference on the Operation of the Convention in April 2013 where States will decide collectively how the OPCW can respond to emerging challenges.

Australia is committed to ensuring the continued success of the OPCW beyond the destruction of all chemical weapons, so that it can work with States Parties to meet the non-proliferation challenges of today and tomorrow, and chemical weapons will never be used again.



STATEMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE TORKY BIN MUHAMMAD BIN SAUD AL-KABIR, PH.D UNDERSECRETARY FOR MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

At the High Level Meeting on

“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”

Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

Excellency Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, Director General of the OPCW Organization

Excellencies and Distinguished Audience

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my true privilege and pleasure to speak today on behalf of my country the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before this high level meeting that we are attending to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the CWC Convention. Saudi Arabia was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the convention and among the states that always enjoyed membership of the Executive Council of the OPCW as the organ in charge of supervising functions of the Organization and the implementation of states of provisions and commitments of the Convention.

At the national level, the Kingdom was at the forefront in implementing the requirements of the convention through establishing the national entity to oversee the execution of provisions of the convention, and by issuing a special regulation to apply provisions of the convention and punish violators. Saudi Arabia also continued its development of its national legislation which was culminated in establishing an independent national authority to implement all agreements connected with the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons which recently began its functions upon the issuance of the Royal Decree that provided for its human resources and financial capabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen

While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is celebrating today with the international community the fifteenth anniversary of entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, it also shares the World in welcoming the great accomplishments of the convention in the domain of chemical weapons, disarmament and the

elimination of stockpiles of states, the prohibition of their production, use or circulation. The realized success in this area should be considered an example for efforts aiming at the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction around the world and of ridding humanity from their dangers and threats.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Kingdom's commitment and interest in implementing the Convention at the national and international levels are extensions of its firm and purposeful policy of prohibiting all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and their spread, as their existence is considered a threat to international peace and security. Moreover, the Kingdom paid great attention to efforts dedicated to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction at the regional level which would make the Middle East region an area free of such devastating weapons. Within this framework, my country renews call, from this international forum, to the international community to provide support for this objective which is a legitimate right of peoples in the region, and a definite principle asset to promote security and peace at the regional and international levels.

What the Convention has accomplished since coming into force in terms of destroying stockpiles of chemical weapons by possessor states is a matter that deserves appreciation and commendations of the international community. It signifies a strong incentive to the rest of possessor states to destroy their stockpiles of such devastating weapons within the established deadlines.

Perhaps we all agree to that what the Convention has accomplished at the world level since adopting the work plan for the globalization of the convention in October 2003, and the accession of 188 states to it, thus representing more than 98 % of the world population, is a matter worth extolment as well. It undoubtedly reflects the wide international respect and support for its noble objectives of protecting humanity from the use or threats to use chemical weapons.

In addition to its role in protecting against chemical weapons, the Convention has affirmed the significance of promoting international cooperation in areas that utilize chemicals which benefit mankind in accordance with article 11 of the Convention. However, despite of the realized progress in this context, there is still more to be done to fulfil the requirements of this article particularly relevant to the transfer of technology and expertise connected with the chemical industries to the developing countries. Still, there are many industrial states that impose undue restrictions in this regard. The Second Review Conference of the Convention in 2008 which was chaired by Saudi Arabia reiterated the significance of full activation of this article, since it will contribute to the strengthening of international economic development and accrue benefits to all sides, particularly at this stage where the world is experiencing complex economic circumstances and a financial crisis that affect most parts of the world. The world is in need of international cooperation in different fields in order to confront such circumstances and limit their consequences particularly on the developing states.

Finally, I wish this meeting the utmost success.

Thank you.



**STATEMENT BY
ROSE E. GOTTEMOELLER
ACTING UNDER SECRETARY FOR ARMS CONTROL
AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

UN Secretary-General Ban, Director-General Üzümcü, Foreign Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests, it is indeed a privilege to be here today celebrating 15 years of successful implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Chemical Weapons Convention is an historic achievement in addressing the threat from weapons of mass destruction and has significantly contributed to international peace and security.

From its inception, the Chemical Weapons Convention had two fundamental goals. The first was the destruction of all chemical weapons possessed by the States Parties to the Convention. Tens of thousands of tons of chemical agent have already been destroyed along with millions of associated munitions, and the chemical weapons awaiting destruction remain subject to inter-

national oversight. Looking beyond the destruction of remaining chemical weapons stocks, the Chemical Weapons Convention as its second goal embodies a commitment by all States Parties to ensure that chemical weapons never re-emerge to threaten international peace and security. In this regard, I congratulate the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for maintaining a robust inspection regime and a strong professional commitment to achieving the goals of the Convention.

The continuing importance and unfinished mission of the Convention is underscored by the crisis situation taking place in Syria today. The United States congratulates all 188 States Parties who have chosen to join the Convention. Eight states including Syria have chosen to remain outside of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the United States calls upon all of them to join the Convention without delay.

As the United States begins its preparations for the Third Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention next April, we look forward to working with international partners to ensure that the CWC remains an important instrument for ensuring global peace and security. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you Mr Secretary-General, and to you Mr Director-General for your dedicated efforts to achieve the Convention’s fundamental purpose set out in its preamble: “to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons.”

Almost a hundred years ago on a World War I battlefield, the scourge of chemical weapons was unleashed upon humanity. The United States remains fully committed to the destruction of every last chemical weapon in the world, ensuring a permanent end to this tragic chapter in human history.

Thank you.

destruction created by human being.

The elimination of world stockpiles of chemical weapons remains the paramount goal of the Convention. The OPCW is consistently advancing towards the complete destruction of chemical weapons, and the Republic of Belarus welcomes the substantial progress achieved in this direction. We also understand the challenges that the possessor states have been facing, and rely on their wilful commitment to the ultimate and irreversible destruction of this type of weapons. We have no doubts that this key objective will be achieved.

In our view, today the Organisation composed of 188 member states has occupied a worthy place in the system of universal international institutions. At the same time, we are disturbed by the fact that a number of countries, including those in so-called “hot” regions, remain outside the Convention. Observing today the 15th anniversary of Convention’s entry into force, we once again call upon all the remaining states outside the Convention to sign or ratify the document which is of utmost importance for maintaining world security.

Belarus attaches great importance to cooperation with the OPCW, approaching responsibly the implementation of the Convention, and fully supports the efforts to achieve its goals. We are satisfied with the level of interaction with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and stand ready to assist other countries in developing their national systems for the implementation of



**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY VLADIMIR MAKEI
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF BELARUS**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
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In the era of increasing global and regional challenges and threats the Convention has transformed into one of the key disarmament instruments thereby becoming an essential element of international security architecture.

The activity of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that was established fifteen years ago represents a successful example of fruitful multilateral efforts to get rid of one of the most dangerous types of weapons of mass

the Convention, which is important both in terms of security and the development of effective cooperation in the field of peaceful chemistry.

The majority of the contemporary challenges and threats are of global nature which predetermines the need to collectively address them. We are confident that a multilateral approach to disarmament and non-proliferation issues is the best way



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR OUCH BORITH
SECRETARY OF STATE
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of OPCW
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to attend this High Level Meeting today when the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) completed fifteen years of its operation. It represents one of the finest achievements in the prevention in the area of the Weapons of Mass Destruction. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the works of Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and the achievements of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for delivering successfully on its mandate.

Cambodia recognizes the key achievements of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in disarmament, namely among others: the destruction under international monitoring of nearly three-quarters of the declared global stockpile of chemical weapons; the destruction or conversion to peaceful uses of 65 of the 70 chemical weapons production facilities declared to the OPCW; three of the seven States Parties which originally declared their list of chemical weapons have fulfilled their destruction obligations, and those with chemical weapons remaining are progressing towards their total elimination.

Another outstanding feature of the CWC is the rapidity with which it has gained adherents. The OPCW membership now covers 98% of the world's population and 98% of the global chemical industry. The near universal support that the CWC has received is evident from its membership, which currently stands

to maintain international peace and security. Only by the joint efforts can we rid the globe of chemical weapons and build a more secure world for all.

I hope that today's High Level Meeting will contribute to further strengthening the authority of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and to comprehensive support of the OPCW activities in achieving its strategic goals and priorities.

at 188 out of 193 UN members.

With complete elimination of declared chemical weapons in sight, the long-term goal of universalizing the CWC and preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons will assume centrality in the work of the OPCW. ASEAN has provided strong support to the Convention and the works of the OPCW. At the Fourth ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM-NPD) held in Sydney in March 2012, the participants 'expressed strong support for the CWC and their appreciation for the verification work of the OPCW'. They also affirmed the importance of cooperation between the ARF and the OPCW.

Mr Chairman,

Since our ratification in 2005, the Convention has brought valuable benefits to Cambodia as a post conflict country and has made significant contributions to advancing the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation. Cambodia has received various assistance, including the provision of technical equipment and protective clothing and capacity building activities for our officials.

Global economic development and prosperity go hand in hand with the growth and expansion of chemical industry. Cambodia, as an emerging trading economy, has witnessed the development of a sophisticated garment industry with increasingly more use of complex chemical processes. While the large companies in advanced countries are better organized and have the necessary knowledge and resources to mitigate possible risks and threats, the small and medium enterprises require more guidance, support and training in this field. Moreover, we need more training for our technicians in industrial best practice to safely manage chemicals.

As a non-possessor state of chemical weapons, Cambodia is very interested in furthering knowledge and promoting progress in the field of the peaceful uses of chemistry, which can bring manifold benefits to its economy. We hope to benefit from the OPCW's international cooperation to assist Cambodia in ensuring that small and medium-sized chemical facilities continue to operate in a safe environment.

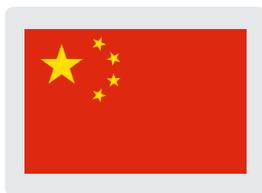
I feel confident that the meeting today will lead to a fruitful exchange of views and ideas which can feed into the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to assess the operation of the Convention next April 2013. Cambodia as Chair of ASEAN join other member states to lend our support to efforts to strengthen the Convention and to reaffirm our common commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD as a means to promote the UN Charter goals of international peace and security.

In conclusion, allow me to say that the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical

Weapons do offer a model of the success of multilateralism. For this, we must continue to work together towards a world free of chemical weapons and to ensure collectively that these terrible

weapons will never again re-emerge.

I thank you for your attention.



STATEMENT BY THE CHINESE DELEGATION

At the High Level Meeting on

“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”

At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Government, to extend our congratulations on the 15th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter the “Convention”) and appreciation for the contributions and achievements made by Director-General ÜZÜMCÜ and his predecessors in advancing the objective and purpose of the Convention.

Dear Colleagues,

The past 15 years have witnessed smooth implementation of the Convention in general. The universality of the Convention has been further promoted and the verification regime is effective. The Convention has played an important role in disarmament and nonproliferation of chemical weapons, as well as enhancing the protective capacity of States Parties against chemical weapons, and promoting chemical achievements for the benefit of mankind, and has made great contribution to world peace and security.

Looking into the future, the OPCW still has a lot to do. We still face such challenges as the chemical weapons remaining to be destroyed, including the Japanese Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China (hereinafter the “Japanese ACWs”), and the universality of the Convention to be further enhanced. China holds that chemical weapon destruction is still the core priority of the OPCW. The State Parties concerned should increase inputs and double their efforts, in order to finish the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and abandoned chemical weapons as early as possible. The OPCW should also continue to ensure adequate inputs for verification. China is of the view that full implementation of all articles of the Convention, advancement in a balanced manner in disarmament and nonproliferation of chemi-

cal weapons, protection and assistance, and international cooperation should be the future priorities of the OPCW.

Dear Colleagues,

China is a victim of chemical weapons. During its aggression against China, Japan used chemical weapons many times and abandoned a large quantity of chemical weapons on the Chinese territory. Till nowadays, the Japanese ACWs still pose a grave threat to the lives and property of Chinese people and our environment. It remains China’s great concern for the Japanese ACWs to be completely destroyed as soon as possible. Although certain progress has been made, which constitutes an important part of the implementation of the Convention, the overall destruction of Japanese ACWs is far behind Schedule. The destruction in Haerbaling, the largest Japanese ACWs burial site, has not yet started. The Executive Council of the OPCW has adopted a decision earlier this year on Japan’s failure to meet the destruction deadline. We urge Japan, as the Abandoning State, to faithfully honour its obligations under the Convention, to comply strictly with the relevant decision of the Executive Council and the destruction plan agreed upon by China and Japan, and to increase its inputs with a view to completing destruction in the shortest time possible.

Dear Colleagues,

The implementation of the Convention has entered into a critical stage with the future developments of the OPCW high on the agenda. Against this background, the 3rd Review Conference of the Convention to be held next year is of great importance. China is of the view that States Parties should undertake a full review of the implementation of all articles of the Convention in the past five years and a thorough and in-depth discussion on the priorities in its further implementation, so as to adopt by consensus a final report of the 3rd Review Conference that outlines the OPCW’s future work and provides a clear road-map for the years to come.

As a State Party to the Convention and member of the OCPW, China has always supported the objective and purpose of the Convention and has faithfully honoured its obligations under the Convention. China will continue to be committed to the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

It is our belief that, with the concerted efforts of all States Parties, the lofty goal of a world free of chemical weapon threat will be achieved at an earlier date.



**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR LUIS ALFONSO DE ALBA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE UNITED NATIONS
(MEXICO)**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Mr President,

Mexico welcomes the initiative of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to hold today's high level meeting, with the aim of highlighting the continued relevance of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), more than fifteen years after its entering into force.

The CWC was the first Convention to ban a complete category of weapons of mass destruction, and its successful implementation is a result of the close cooperation between States Parties and the Technical Secretariat within the OPCW.

The success we are celebrating today is also due to the CWC's exemplary and unique verification regime, which provides that inspections can be carried out anytime, anywhere and without the right to refuse, thus setting a very high standard and a new principle in the field of disarmament.

Mr President,

The purpose of this meeting should not only be the celebra-



**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR ERTUĞRUL APAKAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

tion of our successes, but also and mainly the continuation and strengthening of this important disarmament effort.

In April 2013 we will hold the Third Review Conference of the Convention. This will be an opportunity to assess the achievements so far and to face future challenges.

The first challenge is the universality of the Convention. Mexico calls upon to the eight States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Convention. This is the only credible way to avoid the danger of chemical weapons ever being used again.

In this regard, Mexico strongly deplores the Syrian Government statement issued in July, related to the possibility of using chemical weapons to repel any foreign aggression. All States, Party or not to the Convention, should abstain of producing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use chemical weapons.

Any use of chemical weapons, by any country, is contrary to International law and international humanitarian law and would cause a humanitarian catastrophe.

The second challenge is the stagnation of the decision making process within the Convention's architecture. As we have stated here and in other fora, consensus cannot be interpreted as the veto right by some to block the agreement by the large majority. Consensus must be used to build agreements, not to oppose them, and it must not be understood as an end in itself.

We must think collectively on the best alternatives to guarantee the participation of all without paralysing the multilateral action.

Mr President,

Mexico is a consistent promoter of multilateral negotiations to achieve the goal of general and complete disarmament, as well as the total prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

Through the OPCW we will continue to strive towards this objective, because we are convinced that it is the only way to guarantee international peace and security.

Thank you.

Mr Secretary-General,
Mr Director-General of the OPCW,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü for organizing this important event.

I commend his able leadership and the dedicated work of his team, that together enable the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to effectively address today's key challenges and prepare it for a new role in the coming years.

Excellencies,

Concrete achievements of the OPCW speak for themselves. I will not dwell on them. However, I wish underline one of its noteworthy achievements: The complete elimination by three States parties of their declared chemical weapons stockpile under the Convention.

The role the Organization plays in assisting the destruction of the remaining warfare chemicals in Libya is a fine example of the OPCW's effectiveness and prominence in this field. The recent crisis in Libya has also highlighted the Organization's role in eliminating chemical weapons.

The destruction activities of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China, as well as activities of the Technical Secretariat related to destruction facilities in China are also welcome news.

We would like to hereby invite all parties to meet their commitments to fully comply with their obligation to destroy all chemical weapons stockpiles and their production facilities.

The destruction of the remaining stockpiles in Iraq will require the continued assistance of the international community.

Excellencies,

The existence of chemical weapons and warfare agents in its possession in the Middle East, is a major concern for the countries in the region and the international community as a whole.



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR HAMID AL BAYATI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

At the High Level Meeting of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset I would like to extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, Director General of the organization for the prohibition of Chemical Weapons for this kind invitation. I would further like to express my sincere congratulations to the Organization and State Parties for the distinguished achievements during the past fifteen years since the entry into force of the chemical Weapons Convention, which boosted international confidence in the Organization through destruction of stockpiles

As the risk of acquisition of chemical warfare agents by non-state actors, terrorists or even states will continue to exist, the Organization must retain relevant expertise even after the accomplishment of the destruction of existing stockpiles. In the meantime, assistance and protection should continue to be a main priority for the OPCW.

Excellencies,

Before I conclude my statement, I would like to reiterate the importance Turkey attaches to the Chemical Weapons Convention and its universalization. Turkey, being party to all international disarmament mechanisms, non-proliferation instruments and export control regimes, supports all initiatives aimed at enhancing international security and stability.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our full cooperation, in the universalization and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I thank you.

of chemical Weapons. This great achievement came as a result of the cooperation and transparency of countries possessing Chemical Weapons stockpiles.

It is important on this occasion to point out the fruitful cooperation between my country Iraq and the Technical secretariat of the organization in the safe disposal of remnants of the former chemical program, under Article VII of the Convention, the “National Monitoring Directorate Law on Prevention of Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Weapons of Mass Destruction and Dual-Use Materials and Equipment” a copy of which was delivered to the technical Secretariat.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1957, adopted on 15 December 2010 abolished the Security Council Resolutions 687 and 707 of 1991, made a remarkable contribution to Iraq's return to the international community and enabled the country to invest its economic and scientific resources in reconstruction and national development which have been impeded as a result of the policies of the former regime. We call upon the international community to provide Iraq with advance technology in chemical industries in forms of investments.

I would like to note, with utmost admiration, the efforts made on the identification of future priorities of the Organization in order to reach positive results and the progress made towards achieving the goals of the CWC. In this context I would like once again to reaffirm that the started goals of the Convention are the most important by setting the priorities. Also the hard work for the universality of the Convention helped State Parties in the completion of their national legislation under Article VII of the Convention and the pursuit of the Technical Secretariat to ensure the best use of its budget.

I would like to refer to the importance of the Third Review Conference that will be held in April next year from which we expect the best results.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Great importance is attached to the role of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in Iraq in the disposal of its former chemical dossier. Iraq is fully committed to provisions of the Convention and that help Iraq to get out of Chapter VII of the UN Charter which was imposed by Security Council because of the former regime's policies.



STATEMENT BY MR RUSLAN NIMCHYNSKYI DEPUTY HEAD OF DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT (UKRAINE)

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
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Mr Secretary General,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has become one of the milestones of the global peace and security as it entered into force 15 years ago. That was an indispensable step of the international community towards nonproliferation and disarmament.

One can hardly overestimate the role of the CWC in irreversible elimination and non-proliferation of the whole WMD category. Indeed, until nowadays risks related to the misuse of WMD remain one of the most hazardous challenges for the freedom-minded, civilized and democratic international community. The unconditional compliance with the CWC remains in the priority list of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation policy of Ukraine.

CWC has demonstrated in practice that nothing is impossible in the sphere of disarmament. Implementation of the Convention offers useful lessons and experience.

Being the most accepted international legal instrument in the area of disarmament and nonproliferation CWC with its 188 Member States is unique political phenomenon and a showcase of synergy of the political will and commonsense. OPCW Member States already represent about 98% of the global population and land-mass, as well as 98% of the worldwide chemical industry.

Notwithstanding the fact that some CW possessor State Parties missed the target to eliminate weapons by the defined date of 29 April 2012, we welcome their commitment to viable and verifiable schedule of destruction.

Ukraine welcomes the decision of the last Conference of the State Parties on the final extended deadline for complete de-

In conclusion let me assure you and the international community once again of the determination of the Iraqi government to play a constructive role as a State party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as to support all international efforts in the fight against nuclear, biological and chemical terrorism, and to take measure necessary to keep these materials out of the hands of terrorists. These efforts will not achieve the desired objectives unless it is handled globally in accordance with the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and all treaties and agreements related to Weapons of mass destruction.

struction of the remaining stockpiles. We have full confidence that possessor states will do their best to fulfil their commitments within the shortest time possible.

All together we have brought peace and safety into the world and restored hope and faith in every single human heart on the planet. And now we must prove that future without chemical weapons is not only a naïve political slogan, but a real objective to be achieved if we all remain loyal to the goals and principles enshrined in the CWC.

At the same time it is indisputable that getting rid of declared stockpiles of chemical weapons is an important but not the most difficult part of the chemical disarmament process. This will continue to be a path with many challenges and unexpected problems demanding immediate reaction and decision. For example, recent developments in the Middle East set us thinking again about the urgent necessity to bind all international actors with the CWC obligations. In other words universality of CWC is an important factor to enhance its credibility and ensure irreversible character of chemical disarmament and non-proliferation in global dimension.

In a time when the world faces the increased risk of chemical weapons falling into the hands of terrorist organizations we all must double our efforts in order to avert the evil scenarios, which can impend anywhere. We should do not forget about diversity of possible challenges in light of the changing security environment and rapid developments in science and technology.

Positive achievements in this area will give us the possibility to focus on other OPCW priorities. In this regard I would like to highlight importance of the verification mechanism, interstate cooperation in the field of chemical safety and security as well as further OPCW engagement with the international organizations, scientific and industrial players. Ukrainian side expects that these issues will be duly addressed during the Review Conference of 2013.

But one thing is crystal clear today. OPCW proved to be effective mechanism in destruction of chemical weapons, in monitoring international transfers of listed chemicals as well as in promoting fruitful international cooperation aimed at further development of science and technology. Recognizing the important role played by OPCW in strengthening the international peace and security as well as in contributing to sustainable development Ukraine supports common efforts targeted at preserving and even broadening OPCW's significant potential to be able effectively respond to emerging threats and challenges to security, in particular in the non-proliferation direction.

Distinguished delegates,
Ukraine declares its full support of the Commemorative Declaration and reaffirms its strong determination to put every effort for achieving the goals stipulated by the Convention.



**STATEMENT BY
H. E. MR NORACHIT SINHA SENI
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
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Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of OPCW,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Thailand associates itself with the statement made earlier by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr Chairman,

Thailand welcomes the initiative to convene this meeting. This event is timely, since this year marks the fifteenth year of the Convention's entry into force. We should reflect on past achievements and consider the challenges ahead for the Chemical Weapons Convention - a stellar example of success in international disarmament.

My delegation is of the view that Member States to the Chemical Weapons Convention and all parties concerned must work together to overcome the challenges that chemical weapons pose, for they remain a real danger even though the deadline for their elimination has long passed.

Mr Chairman,

Let me reiterate Thailand's position that all types of weapons of mass destruction must be completely eliminated, as they pose a grave threat to humanity and international peace and security. For this reason, Thailand is fully committed to the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention and has been working in full cooperation with the OPCW to ensure its full and effective imple-

mentation.

In this regard, Thailand has adopted the various necessary legislative and regulatory measures to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. Our Ministry of Industry has also been working closely and constructively with the OPCW Technical Secretariat, providing the latter with relevant information to carry out its verification measures, its annual declaration as well as site inspections.

Mr Chairman,

From 31 October to 4 November last year, Thailand and the OPCW Technical Secretariat co-organized the 6 Challenge Inspection Field Exercise in Rayong province in Thailand. The event is an excellent example of the partnership between Thai authorities and Thailand's chemical industry to strengthen the verification regime of the OPCW. We firmly believe that this is a fundamental tool for ensuring compliance with the Convention.

Mr Chairman,

It is incumbent on all State Parties to the Convention to work together towards the complete elimination of chemical weapons. We call upon all states possessing chemical weapons to immediately destroy their stockpiles in accordance with their international obligations. We also urge states that are not yet party to the Convention to accede to it as soon as possible.

Beyond the issue of destruction and looking beyond the fifteen years that the Convention has been in force, Thailand fully supports the initiative of the Director-General of the OPCW to identify future priorities of the OPCW. Here, we wish to highlight some issues that should be addressed: preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons; chemical safety and security; and OPCW's increasing its cooperation with chemical industries in State Parties to ensure safe and secure operations. We also wish to see closer cooperation between the OPCW and other regional organisations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr Chairman,

In closing, my delegation would like to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention as well as to reiterate our full support for the OPCW. Thailand will play an active and constructive role in the upcoming Third Special Session of the Conference to State Parties to the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention to be convened in April 2013.

Thank you



**STATEMENT BY
MR AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY,
ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY
(UN & ECONOMIC COORDINATION)
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PAKISTAN**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
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Director General Ahmet Üzümcü,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by complimenting Director General Üzümcü for his initiative to organize this timely and valuable event. Ambassador Üzümcü has indeed helped steer this Organization to become a disarmament success story.

We deeply value the contribution made by the States Parties as well as the OPCW in advancing the objectives of the CWC.

The Chemical Weapons Convention represents a unique success model of disarmament through verified means. The Convention has also played a seminal role in preventing the proliferation of chemicals inconsistent with its object and purpose.

Excellencies,

It is a matter of great satisfaction that a large number of Chemical Weapons stockpiles have been destroyed by the possessor states. However, even as we celebrate this success, significant quantities of these stockpiles are still to be destroyed. We urge the possessor states to continue with the destruction process so



**STATEMENT BY
MS. INA LEPEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS
GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE**

At the High Level Meeting on

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as to complete it within the shortest possible time as envisaged in the Conference of States Parties' Decision taken at its 16th session.

Although the CWC has reached almost universal acceptability, some states remain outside its ambit. Some are believed to possess chemical weapons. We urge non-parties to join the convention without further delay thus making it truly universal. We also encourage the Director General to continue his out-reach to the remaining states which are still not party to the CWC.

Excellencies,

Pakistan attaches utmost importance to the full implementation of this Convention. I take this opportunity to reaffirm my government's strong commitment to the Convention's full and effective implementation. Over the years, Pakistan has interacted closely with and extended full cooperation to the OPCW on a range of activities. We have hosted, in active collaboration with the Technical Secretariat, several regional and international capacity building courses in Pakistan. We are now in the process of establishing a sub-regional assistance and protection centre which will serve as centre of excellence for countries in our region.

Our chemical industry continues to diligently follow international standards. Several industrial inspections have been carried out. We intend to organize a series of chemical safety workshops for chemical industries, relevant national stakeholders and university chemists.

Excellencies,

The provisions of the Convention relating to International Cooperation and Assistance are of high importance to a vast majority of State Parties, including Pakistan. Cooperation in this important area helps us improve capacities against use or threat of use of Chemical Weapons and make better uses of chemical technologies.

With regard to future priorities of the OPCW, it is important to continue to focus on the unfinished agenda, i.e. complete elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles and preventing their re-emergence. Simultaneously, the Organization must promote intensive cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Thank you.

Mr Secretary General of the United Nations,
Mr Director-General of the OPCW,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we have come together to celebrate the success of the Chemical Weapons Convention which entered into force 15 years ago on 29 April 1997. In the past 15 years, the Convention has become the most successful of all disarmament treaties and has proven its important contribution to international peace and security. It is the first and only treaty that obliges States parties to destroy once and for all an entire category of weapons of mass destructions under international verification and control. Germany has been a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention since its entry into force and has previously played a leading role in the drafting of the Convention. The CWC continues to be of special importance to us.

With 188 States Parties, only eight states currently remain out-

side the Convention. Since the entry into force of the Convention on 29 April 1997, nearly 75% of all chemical weapons declared by the States Parties have already been destroyed under the supervision of the OPCW. Even if the extended final deadline was not met by all possessor states, we are confident that they will destroy the remaining chemical weapons as quickly as possible and in accordance with procedures agreed upon by the States Parties and under strict supervision of the OPCW.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the impressive results that have already been achieved, it is obvious that we still face considerable challenges concerning the threat posed by chemical weapons.

The statement by the Syrian Government in July this year that it might use chemical weapons in the case of foreign aggression is of great concern for the international community as a whole and for all neighbouring states of Syria. We welcome that the Director-General of the OPCW and the UN Secretariat have put



**STATEMENT BY
MS. MONA JUUL
DIRECTOR GENERAL DEPARTMENT FOR SECURITY
POLICY AND THE HIGH NORTH
(NORWAY)**

At the High Level Meeting on

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The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has for 15 years been a key instrument in combating the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The Convention has established an essential disarmament and non-proliferation norm and provides inspiration for other arms control agreements. It is also an essential tool in fostering international cooperation in the field of peaceful chemical activities.

Destruction is, however, far from completed and will remain a core objective of this organization for years to come. We strongly encourage possessor states to do their utmost to meet their destruction targets as soon as possible.

Even if the Chemical Weapons Convention has already created a very strong norm against these weapons, we must continue to work towards CWC universality. Syria's admittance that it possesses a stockpile of chemical weapons has caused great concern and shows that the threat of chemical weapons is still very real. Norway urges Syria to act responsibly in relation to these abhorrent weapons, not to use them under any circumstances, and to keep them secure. International law, binding also for Syria, strictly prohibits the use of chemical weapons. We have encouraged the Director General of the Organisation for the Pro-

in place all necessary arrangements to enable the UN Secretary-General to use the resources of the OPCW for fact-finding and investigation in case of alleged use of chemical weapons. The situation in Syria makes it blatantly clear that we urgently need to step up our efforts to completely universalize this treaty.

The future success of the Chemical Weapons Convention will depend not only on its universalization and the destruction of existing chemical weapons but also on the prevention of their re-emergence. To this end, we need effective implementing measures by all States Parties to prevent non-state actors acquiring and misusing toxic chemicals for terrorist purposes.

Let me assure you that Germany remains strongly committed to a universal and effective ban of all chemical weapons and will continue supporting the OPCW and cooperating with all member states of the Convention to reach this goal.

Thank you for your attention.

hibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to be ready and prepared to cooperate with any request from the United Nations Secretary General, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the Relationship Agreement between the UN and the OPCW. Norway welcomes the conclusion of the Supplementary Arrangement with the UN.

Verification plays a crucial role in providing confidence that all states parties are living up to their obligations under the Convention. In this area the CWC is in the forefront compared with other arms control instruments. As one or several more non-state parties join the convention, there will be an increased need for verification. It is essential that we make sure the OPCW maintains the necessary capacity for current and future tasks and remains the world's knowledge repository in the field of chemical weapons.

Norway recognizes that some member states need international assistance to ensure full implementation of the Convention. This issue is closely related to national capacity building and skills development in areas related to the peaceful use of chemistry. Norway strongly supports the various programs related to international cooperation and assistance.

The use of Chemical weapons has severe humanitarian implications. The International community must be able to respond swiftly if the worst were to happen. In doing so we must take into account capacities already in place not least those of existing relief agencies. Norway has supported OPCW activities in this area over the years and will continue to do so.

The Third Review Conference next year provides an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the CWC. We are convinced that this Convention could benefit from including relevant stakeholders and civil society organizations in their work in order to ensure ownership and engagement.

Finally,

One main reason for the success story of the CWC is that the Convention has been bolstered by the OPCW. We must ensure that this organization and its Technical Secretariat are given the political and financial support they need to fulfil their mandate.

Norway will continue to be a staunch supporter of the CWC which we consider to be an invaluable instrument in our common efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you.



STATEMENT BY H.E. MR HERMAN - SCHAPER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

At the High Level Meeting on

“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”

Mr Secretary-General,
Mr Director-General of the OPCW,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, but as host country to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, it would be remiss of us not to speak at this important high-level gathering.

A month ago, in early September, we commemorated the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention with a number of special events in The Hague. In those 15 years, the CWC and the OPCW as its verification and inspection body have proved themselves to be examples of what we like to call ‘effective multilateralism’.

Today, two-thirds of the declared chemical stockpiles have been destroyed. Last December the States Parties concluded an important agreement on the issue of the final extended deadlines for destruction of the remaining stockpiles. We have every confidence that the goal of complete and permanent destruction in the possessor states will be achieved. The fact that the Convention has been almost universally ratified - by 188 States Parties, with only 8 more to go - makes it even more effective. However, the disclosure in July this year of a stockpile of chemical weapons in Syria has highlighted the importance of redoubling our efforts to seek universal adherence to the CWC. We call on Syria and the other States not yet party to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay.

Reports in the media about the Syrian regime contemplating the use of chemical weapons are cause for grave concern. Not only is the use of chemical weapons in general prohibited by international law, but Syria is a party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which bans the use of chemical or bacteriological methods of warfare. Therefore, any use of chemical weapons, against other countries or one’s own people, is unlawful and unacceptable.

Mr Chairman,

As we are nearing the achievement of the Organisation’s objective of destroying [all] chemical weapons the question arises as to what its future role might be. The Netherlands is firmly of the

opinion that the OPCW remains important. Why?

The world has changed considerably since 1993, when the Chemical Weapons Convention was opened for signature. Science and technology are advancing rapidly, creating new opportunities but also new risks. Our security has become increasingly tied to regional and international developments. To protect ourselves from today’s transnational threats, such as terrorism, organised crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and cyber attacks, we need more unity of purpose and action than ever before. International security is in our common interest.

The Convention’s aim is not only to destroy existing stockpiles, but also to keep the world permanently free of chemical weapons and chemical threats. While the destruction of the remaining declared stockpiles of chemical weapons and full universality remain key objectives for the coming years, at the same time we have to look further ahead.

As we prepare for the Third Review Conference of the Convention next April, we should grasp the opportunity to thoroughly discuss what we want the OPCW to be and become, with a view to deciding on its future direction at the RevCon.

In my country’s view, the Organisation’s focus should shift, gradually and after thorough discussion, towards non-proliferation and protection and assistance against the use of chemical weapons.

Without going into too much detail, let me make a few suggestions to guide the shift in focus.

First, non-proliferation means not only more industrial inspections, but more importantly an effective verification regime. This means improving site selection methodology - focusing on sites of high relevance - and better declarations by States Parties. In the long run, other elements of the verification mechanism could be looked at as well. For example, we may need more emphasis on the role of national authorities and a greater role for industry.

Secondly, full implementation by the States Parties of their obligations under Article VII is needed for successful non-proliferation. There is still room for improvement here. We believe that a more proactive approach by the OPCW would be useful, as well as more support to countries in developing and improving their national legislation and its implementation.

Mr Chairman,

We must strive to get rid of all chemical weapons, and we will not be effective if somehow, somewhere in the world, these weapons could resurface. We may all wish that chemical weapons had never been used on the battlefields, but we cannot undo the past. The knowledge and technology to produce them simply exist. We cannot stop technological progress, nor do we want to. But we can still do something about the future. Our task is to come up with a sound mechanism, founded on mutual trust, which objectively and stringently safeguards our agreements. That is why we need the OPCW and why we will continue to need it in the future.

The Netherlands is proud to host the OPCW. Promoting international peace and stability has always been and will continue to be one of the pillars of Dutch foreign policy. We will continue to fulfil our commitments, both as a State Party to the CWC and as host to the OPCW.

Thank you.



**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR EURIPIDES L. EVRIVIADES
POLITICAL DIRECTOR,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Thank you Mr Chairman,

Cyprus naturally subscribes fully to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

My delegation would also like to pay tribute to you Mr Chairman, Director General Ahmet Üzümcü, for organizing this meeting and for the professional manner with which you are guiding our collective work as we confront common challenges.

We also thank the Netherlands for hosting the OPCW and for the amenities offered, so that the OPCW can operate in a smooth and conducive atmosphere.

As a former Permanent Representative of my country to the OPCW, I was closely involved with the Organisation’s work. I hope that it is not too presumptuous on my part if I say that I can attest first hand, of the OPCW’s unique importance in achieving the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

As we mark today the fifteenth anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC, it behooves us to go back to the basics and to remind ourselves that the object and purpose of the Convention, is essentially humanitarian in nature. In other words, the destruction of existing stockpiles and the prevention of their reemergence, is the way to ensure that the human suffering resulting from the past use of chemical weapons will never reoccur; and this is a goal which unites us.

Fifteen years on, we – the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat, as well as other stakeholders – have much to celebrate. Destruction of existing stockpiles has progressed significantly. 188 States are now Parties to the Convention, whilst a lot of effort has been invested in the full implementation of all the provisions of the Convention. As a result, the OPCW remains an excellent example of effective and successful multilateral diplomacy.

However, we cannot be complacent and we should not rest on our laurels. We need to recommit ourselves to continuing and building on these achievements.

Destruction of declared stockpiles will have to continue under systematic verification. Whilst we are concerned that the final extended deadline for destruction of remaining stockpiles was not met, we have full faith that the possessor states will complete this process in the shortest time possible.

Moreover, the implementation of the Convention will need to be adjusted so that it is able to meet the challenges brought about by its ever changing environment. We believe that whilst the Third Review Conference will need to assess the operation of the Convention over the previous five years, it should also lay the groundwork for the future priorities of the OPCW.

Cyprus will continue to engage in a constructive spirit with all States Parties as well as with you Mr Chairman, the Technical Secretariat and with all other stakeholders in the run up to and during the Review Conference also, if I may add, in our capacity as Coordinator of the European Union during the second half of 2012.

Recent events force us to make particular reference to the universality of the Convention. The recent admission by Syria that it possesses chemical weapons is a cause for serious concern. It shows that the threat of chemical weapons is still very real. It goes without saying that these weapons should not be used under any circumstances whatsoever. We call upon all States not Party to ratify or accede to the Convention without any further delay.

I would like to conclude by coming back to my point of departure: the ultimately humanitarian nature of the object and purpose of the Convention. Whilst our thoughts turn to the terrible effects on humanity of past use of chemical weapons, we must reiterate today our strongest possible commitment to continue our efforts so that this is never repeated, in a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you for your attention



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR PASI PATOKALLIO
AMBASSADOR
FINLAND**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Mr Secretary-General,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to start by noting that Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the EU.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The OPCW is often referred to as a success story, a prime example of effective multilateralism at work. We in Finland believe that this is indeed the case. During its fifteen years of existence, the Organisation has come a long way towards achieving its uniquely ambitious aims: complete and verifiable destruction of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, and a permanent and universal ban on the manufacture and use of these weapons.

So there is cause for celebration - but there is no cause for complacency. Much has been achieved, but much remains to be done. Making the world fully free of the CW threat is a continuing challenge. Destruction of the existing stockpiles of declared chemical weapons is still going on. Destruction activities must continue to be the priority for the OPCW also in the years to come - this is more evident than ever now that there is confirmation of new, undeclared stockpiles. Recent news from the Middle East makes it clear that the threat posed by chemical weapons is still real.

While continuing work towards the goal of complete destruction, the OPCW also needs to address future challenges. It is our task as States Parties to ensure that the Organisation has the necessary tools at its disposal to respond, in particular, to the potential security risks inherent in the rapid development of chemical science and technology. Finland is therefore pleased that discussion about the future priorities of the Organisation is already under way and, moreover, progressing in a constructive, collaborative atmosphere.

Let me highlight four areas that we find of particular importance in this discussion.

First, we must make sure that the relevance of the Convention

verification regime vis-à-vis scientific developments and emerging threats is upheld. This involves, for instance, keeping the schedules up to date and enhancing the analytical database OCAD, one of the key components in ensuring reliable verification. Finland also supports acknowledging the significance of the General Purpose Criterion. In other words, any toxic chemical must be considered a chemical weapon if used for purposes prohibited by the Convention. Retaining the necessary institutional competence and resources within the OPCW is, of course, a must for the credible application of the General Purpose Criterion.

Second, we must ensure effective national implementation of the Convention, also by providing tailored assistance to States Parties. Enacting and enforcing national legislation, putting in place and maintaining effective export controls, and engaging the cooperation of the chemical industry in this task, are all of vital importance in this regard.

Third, effective implementation of Articles VI, VII and XI of the Convention relating to peaceful use, as well as strengthening the capacities of National Authorities are necessary to maintaining the effective commitment of all States Parties to the Convention in the long term. This is something Finland recognized early on. Already in 1973, when the Convention was no more than a disarmament dream, Finland started to fund a dedicated research project on technical issues relating to the verification of chemical weapons. Our expertise has been available internationally right from the beginning, and also very much in use. Some of you may remember those famous Finnish Blue Books we used to make available to all delegations at the Conference on Disarmament negotiating the Convention.

In addition, Our National Authority, the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, VERIFIN, has, to date, provided training to some 800 chemists and officials from 130 countries, with a strong focus on helping to build capacity in developing-country States Parties.

We are willing to do even more. As noted by the President of Finland in his address to the UN General Assembly last week, should the need arise in the Middle East, Finland is ready to put its expertise at the disposal of the international community. By being a responsible partner, and by helping others, Finland believes that it helps to strengthen the CWC regime as a whole.

Fourth, and last, universalization of the Convention must remain a priority. The disturbing news from Syria has again highlighted its topicality. Any international agreement is only as strong as its weakest link. We as States Parties, and the Organisation, cannot be satisfied until all States are party to the CWC regime. Only with universal membership can we make sure that chemical weapons will one day truly be a thing of the past.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Finland will pursue all of these areas of particular importance at the Third Review Conference next year. There, the successes of the past need to be proudly noted. But it will be even more important to look to and act upon issues of the future in order to secure the continued vitality of our common achievement.

Thank you.



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. JIM MCLAY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**At the High Level Meeting on
“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to participate in this timely event, 15 years after the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force. The Convention has made - and continues to make - a substantial contribution to disarmament, non-proliferation, and international peace and security. We can all regard its success with sober satisfaction.

Through our joint endeavours we have reached the point where the complete elimination of declared global stockpiles of chemical weapons is in sight.

While there is much to celebrate, important challenges remain. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) must continue its efforts to ensure that chemical weapons do not re-emerge, and that the Convention’s prohibitions continue to be upheld around the world. The goal of universality of the Convention continues to be of central importance. It is essential that the international community presents a strong

and united resolve against the use of such weapons, particularly given the manner in which they inflict indiscriminate suffering. In that regard, we must place on record our horror at the recently threatened use of chemical weapons by one state, Syria. While it is one of the few states not party to this Convention, we remind Syria of its obligations under international humanitarian law relating to the protection of civilians in non-international armed conflicts.

The objectives of the Convention remain as relevant today as they were in 1997. New Zealand therefore joins with other States Parties today in emphasising the Convention’s importance and in re-stating our strong support for the OPCW’s efforts to adapt to future opportunities and threats.

New Zealand records its appreciation for Director-General Üzümcü’s leadership and particularly supports his efforts to lead the OPCW from being a body primarily focused on achieving the destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons to one that acts decisively to prevent the future re-emergence of such weapons.

The April 2013 Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention will be an important opportunity to look ahead and consider how the OPCW can best address future challenges. We look forward to engaging in that Session.

But this occasion is a time to reflect on the achievements to date. There is much to be proud of. Through collective efforts, the Convention has demonstrated that efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation can succeed; and we should commit ourselves to ensuring continuation of that success in the years ahead. That success will, however, depends on the unwavering support of all States Parties, and on the continued professionalism and commitment of the OPCW Secretariat.

New Zealand therefore re-states its full support for the Convention and for the OPCW, as we work towards a world that is genuinely free of all chemical weapons.



**STATEMENT OF
AMBASSADOR RYSZARD SARKOWICZ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**At the High Level Meeting on
“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Secretary General of the United Nations,
Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

On the occasion of the Fifteen Anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention, we wish to reaffirm our full commitment to the objective and purpose of the Convention. Poland constantly attaches the utmost importance to CWC and the role played by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Support for full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention and its universality are core objectives of Poland’s policy with regard to the total elimination of chemical weapons.

Since fifteen years, the CWC has been enhancing international peace and security. Its full, universal, effective and nondiscriminatory implementation will further contribute to that purpose by excluding completely, for the sake of all humankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons. In that context, bearing in mind that the final extended deadline for destruction was not fully met, we are convinced that destruction of remaining stockpiles will be completed in the shortest possible time, under strict and systematic verification.

We would like to also reaffirm the importance of the provisions of the Convention relating to the economic and technological development of States Parties and recall that the full, effective

and nondiscriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to, amongst other things, enhancing national capacity for research, development, storage, production, and safe use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention.

Every year Poland, as a sole sponsor, introduces the draft resolution of the UN General Assembly on the implementation of the Convention. The active and continued coordination of work on the resolution is a concrete input Poland has made throughout many years to promote the effective prohibition of chemical weapons. We are convinced that this year, as in previous years, the resolution will be approved without a vote by the General Assembly. This would be an important and timely proof of the United Nations support for all four pillars of the Convention, its universalisation and effective national implementation.

The universality of the Convention is fundamental to the achievement of its objective and purpose. Therefore, in 2008-2010 on the occasion of the meetings related to the resolution on CWC implementation, the representatives of Poland and the OPCW Director-General conducted a series of individual meetings with representatives of States not Parties to the CWC. Its purpose was to contribute to the OPCW activities aimed at the promotion of full and universal membership to the Organization and to reinforce contacts with the countries remaining outside the OPCW.



STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CESARE MARIA RAGAGLINI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

At the High Level Meeting on

“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”

Mr Secretary General of the United Nations,
Mr Director-General of the OPCW,

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to take the opportunity of this High Level Meeting to commend the Director General of the OPCW, Ambassador Üzümcü, for his leadership and guidance of the Organization and to express Italy's support for the work that still needs to be done.

Earlier in this session Ambassador Mary-Harting delivered his general remarks on behalf of the European Union. We fully align ourselves with his statement. Allow me, however, to make a few general comments from a national perspective.

The 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention marks a milestone in the history of disarmament.

Recent statement by one State not Party to the CWC that it had a stockpile of chemical weapons confirms the importance of continuing and strengthening efforts to ensure universal adherence to the Convention. Specific attention must also be paid to non-state actors, who do not believe they are under any obligation to comply with the CWC provisions.

We appreciate the ongoing work of the OPCW to achieve the objectives and purpose of the Convention. The Organization has been constantly contributing to ensure full implementation of CWC provisions, including those on international verification of compliance. It also serves as a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties. We would like to note with appreciation the substantial input of the Technical Secretariat and the Director General to the continued development and success of the Organization.

Taking into account achievements over the last fifteen years, we would like to highlight the necessity to ensure that the Convention will be able to successfully address future challenges in light of the changing security environment. Poland is convinced that the Third Review Conference should lay the groundwork for addressing the future priorities of the Organisation.

Thank you very much for your attention.

As we gather to celebrate the event, we are presented with an opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved and to reflect on the future of the Convention.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a cornerstone of the global disarmament and non proliferation regime. The results it has achieved so far are a clear measure of its success: the destruction of over three quarters of declared arsenals and the fact the Convention is now the law of the land for over 98% of the world population.

Over the last 15 years the OPCW has played a remarkably positive role towards achieving the fundamental goals of the Convention: verifying the destruction of chemical weapons and working to prevent their re-emergence. Destruction of declared stockpiles of chemical weapons remains a priority and must continue under accurate verification. In this regard, we share the hope and confidence expressed by previous speakers that Possessor States will complete destruction operations as soon as possible.

At the same time, the potential benefits of the Convention will not be fully realized unless the near universal adherence to the Convention reached so far is coupled with the necessary depth of implementation of all its provisions. Further efforts should therefore be undertaken to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms for the full national implementation of the Convention are put in place in all States Parties, in accordance with the obligations enshrined in Article VII.

New challenges, different from the ones we have traditionally been confronted with, emerge regularly from the changing security environment and from the continuous developments in science and technology. In light of these evolutions, the Third Review Conference of April 2013 comes as a timely occasion to address the priorities and elaborate the guidelines for the future of the Organization. Italy will continue to actively contribute to crafting the way ahead and to support the work of the Organization in all areas of the Convention.

Thank you very much for the attention.



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR
REGINA MARIA CORDEIRO DUNLOP
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the OPCW,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to thank you, on behalf of HE Ambassador Antonio Patriota, Minister of External Relations of Brazil, for the invitation to participate at this OPCW High Level Meeting marking the 15th Anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Ambassador Patriota is today at the South America-Arab Countries Summit in Lima. He looks forward to your forthcoming official visit to Brazil in January 2013.

Mr Director-General,

The CWC was opened for signature in 1993, and Brazil became one of the 130 original signatories of the Convention, a figure which is in itself a proof of the strength of the instrument. We should not go too far looking for the reasons for this impressive early adherence. The CWC represents a formidable example of the success of multilateralism in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation, reflecting the world's determination to eliminate one of the most heinous weapons ever conceived. The CWC remains unique in providing strict and effective international regulation on the prohibition and elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, without allowing for any exception.

Notwithstanding the complex technical and financial challenges posed by the destruction of large stockpiles, State Parties have demonstrated over the years their firm resolve to abide by their solemn obligations under the Convention. While the objective of the complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles remains unfinished, we were pleased that an agreement could be reached in December 2011, stipulating a proper framework for the completion of this task while preserving the integrity of the Convention and the credibility of this Organization. Ensuring the complete destruction of these arsenals ought to remain the highest priority of the Organization.

With one of the main challenges in the implementation of the CWC provisionally addressed, it is important for us to reflect on further decisions to be taken ahead, with a view to continue fulfilling the objectives enshrined in the Convention. We welcome in this regard the establishment of an Open Ended Working Group, chaired by Ambassador Nassima Baghli, from Algeria, to revise the major issues that will be discussed and negotiated at the III

Review Conference, in April 2013.

On universalization, with its 188 parties, the Chemical Weapons Convention now enjoys almost worldwide membership. Yet, a number of key actors remain outside of its framework. Their adherence to the Convention is critical to the success of this multilateral disarmament treaty. The Brazilian delegation would take this opportunity to urge all States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay.

Mr Director-General,

International cooperation is one of the pillars of the Convention to which my country attaches significant importance. Not only does it represent a relevant tool that allows for countries to fulfil their primary commitments towards the Convention, it is also a means for national development, since it fosters lasting national institutional capacities. Brazil has continued to carry out, with the help of the Organization, a number of activities in the area of international cooperation. I will only mention here the Regional Assistance-and-Protection Courses on Chemical Emergency Response, held annually in Brazil, in which teams from Latin American and Caribbean States Parties gather to take part in a theoretical and practical training course with great success. I must also mention that many Brazilian officers from several branches from federal, state and city levels have participated in training courses and drills sponsored by OPCW. This undoubtedly shows both the Brazilian commitment to and interest in cooperation.

Mr Director-General,

Brazil is a peaceful nation, which has never developed or possessed weapons of mass destruction of any sort. Yet, it is one which has one of the largest chemical industries in the world. In this context, the ongoing debate on increasing the number of inspections in Other Chemical Production Facilities naturally raises some concerns. For a developing country like ours, an increased number of inspections is likely to put an excessive burden not only on our industries, most of them small- and middle-sized, but also on the human and material resources of our National Authority. For that matter, Brazil believes that the agreement reached in 2011 establishing the number of inspections for 2012-2014 should not be reopened for negotiation in the 2013 Review Conference.

Brazil believes that the inspection and verification regime can be strengthened, yet this process must continue to be built upon confidence and cooperation amongst State Parties. Information provided by State Parties in their national declarations must continue to be the proper basis for any approach in the area of verification.

Mr Director-General,

Economic and technological development of State Parties stands as one of the most relevant provisions of the Convention, to which developing countries such as Brazil attach utmost importance. The CWC has been conceived as an organic treaty. For that matter, the prohibitions of Article I, while paramount to the non-proliferation regime, ought not to hinder the implementation of Article XI. We firmly believe that undue restrictions amongst States Parties on exchange of technology, materials and equipment for peaceful purposes go against both the letter and the spirit of the Convention. We encourage State Parties and the OPCW to continue exploring, identifying and developing concrete steps towards the full, effective and nondiscriminatory implementation of Article XI, as called for in the last Conference of State Parties.

Finally, Mr Director-General, I would like to assure you that my country is ready and willing to contribute to a successful III Review Conference in 2013. This is an important opportunity to identify areas in which further pro-



**STATEMENT BY
HON. EDUARDO MARTIN R. MEÑEZ
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(PHILIPPINES)**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations,
His Excellency the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish at the outset to congratulate the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at its celebration of the Fifteenth (15th) Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organization, for convening this important meeting.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We wish to stress during this important meeting that although the Philippines has never produced nor intends to produce chemical weapons, the value of this Convention lies in the fact that ten percent (10%) of our population live and work in over 200 countries and territories abroad and are therefore, exposed to the threat of being affected should any weapon of mass destruction be used.

It is my distinct honour to have been closely involved in the earliest years of the OPCW, when I was posted to The Hague and the Philippines was an active member of the Executive Council. I am elated to see that after fifteen (15) years of entry into force of the Convention, great strides have been made in achieving its goals of universality and towards the complete destruction of all categories of chemical weapons.

The Organization's current membership of One Hundred and

gress should be sought in the future and to assure the vigor of the CWC.

Thank you, Ambassador Üzümcü.

Eighty-Eight (188) States Parties, which represents ninety-eight (98%) of the global community, is proof that universality is not an insurmountable goal. However, the challenge to the OPCW of achieving universality remains because there are still eight (8) non-member States.

Convincing these States to join the Organization is an immensely challenging task, particularly because most of these are located in a region that is characterized by both external and internal conflicts.

The Convention reached a significant milestone on the twenty-ninth (29th) day of April of this year when the final extended deadline for possessor States Parties to completely destroy their chemical weapons stockpiles lapsed. To date, almost seventy-five percent (75%) of these stockpiles have been verifiably destroyed, and furthermore, three (3) possessor States Parties have successfully completed the destruction of their stockpiles. These figures are positive proof that the Chemical Weapons Convention is among the most successful disarmament and non-proliferation weapons agreement in existence.

Admittedly, there are still some States Parties that have not been able to comply with the final extended deadline. However, the OPCW has not wasted time in addressing this, and these States Parties have now been given a reasonable period of additional time within which to complete their commitments. These States Parties continue to reaffirm their fealty to the goals of the Convention through transparent reporting on the status of their destruction activities.

Next year, in April, member States Parties will once again gather in The Hague for the Third Review Conference to determine the work of the Organization for the next five (5) years. An important task that the Review Conference needs to address is how to move member States Parties to effectively implement their obligations of adopting national implementing legislation, submitting timely declarations and undergoing inspections of chemical industries.

It is for this reason that the ongoing regular meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Third Review Conference have become crucial in preparing the member States Parties for the work that lies ahead in 2013. Informative discussions have been held within the confines of the Working Group which allow participating member States Parties to fully comprehend the complexity of the challenges that lie ahead for the Convention and the Organization.

Not only do the Convention and the Organization continue to face the challenges of complete universality and total destruction of all categories of chemical weapons, but would now have to work as well on preventing the emergence of new types of chemical weapons, early detection of which is key. Declaration and inspection obligations of member States, and the adoption of the prerequisite national implementing legislation, consequently, have never been more important to the Organization as it moves towards a culture of chemical safety and security.

An early detection regime may also be achieved with the adoption of regional cooperation mechanisms among States Parties. It is

noteworthy that the Organization is already informally consulting with regional groups to develop such mechanisms, of which the establishment of Regional Centers of Excellence is one.

These Regional Centres of Excellence will allow the harnessing of the potential of each region to develop its own mechanism of chemical safety and security suiting its needs and environment. Not all regions are the same, some regions being more technologically-sophisticated than the others, and exchanging information and technical expertise by way of inter-regional cooperation might contribute to the narrowing of differences and make the concept of establishing Centres of Excellence a viable one.



**STATEMENT BY
MR MARK NEO
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**At the High Level Meeting on
“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Thank you, Mr Chairman

I am honoured to address this High Level Meeting as we celebrate fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). It is one of the most successful instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) plays a key role in the implementation of the CWC. Its work has been highly commendable, and the remarkable level of participation is testament to the strong commitment of the OPCW and State Parties. Nevertheless, it is important that the CWC gains universal acceptance and we call upon the remaining non-states Parties to accede to the Convention.

As the declared chemical weapons stockpiles are being destroyed, to ensure that they will not re-emerge, sustained commitment to verification and implementation measures under the Convention is needed.

Singapore has been an active member of the CWC and is fully committed to our obligations under the Convention.

The Organization needs to create avenues which will allow for, not only intra-regional, but inter-regional cooperation as well.

Again, I wish to congratulate the OPCW for fifteen (15) successful years of disarmament and multilateralism. The Philippines looks forward to even closer cooperation with the Organization in working towards a world that is free of chemical weapons, so that the threat of their use will no longer be a possibility, but merely a distant memory of the past, lessons of which the international community had learned and taken to heart.

Thank you.

National implementation measures are fundamental to the effective functioning of the National Authority. Hence, our legislation and administrative processes are continually reviewed and aligned to international best practices.

It is also important to educate the industry on CWC requirements. Our National Authority undertook various channels to engage these stakeholders, for example through a dedicated website and helpdesk, an e-learning module, and outreach sessions.

The open sharing of practices amongst States Parties has been helpful to Singapore. We benefitted from the “Tenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia” in Sri Lanka. We were also privileged to have hosted the Ninth Regional Meeting for National Authorities of States Parties in Asia in October 2011.

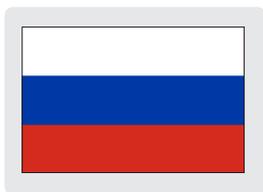
Singapore supports the assistance and protection programmes under Article 10 of the Convention. Following the first run of the Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents course for Asian States Parties in 2009, Singapore conducted a second course in November 2011. This is our small contribution towards helping enhance the capabilities of participating countries in responding to chemical incidents.

Singapore is also organising the Seventh Singapore International Symposium on Protection against Toxic Substances and Third International Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Explosives Operations Conference (7th SISPAT- 3rd ICOC), this December. The Director-General’s participation as the keynote speaker will reinforce the importance of the CWC in countering threats from toxic chemicals.

Singapore wishes to thank the Advisory Panel on Future Priorities of the OPCW for their recommendations. We are also glad to note that the preparations for the Third Review Conference, in April 2013, have begun.

With the support of States Parties and leadership of the OPCW, we are confident that the CWC will lead us to a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you.



**STATEMENT BY
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
S. RYABKOV**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Director General,
Esteemed colleagues,

No doubt the Chemical Weapons Convention, the 15th anniversary of which we are celebrating this year, has become one of the most efficient instruments of international interaction in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Being one of the countries that stood at the origins of the Convention, the Russian Federation invariably proceeds from its belief that the main objective for all States Parties is to rid the world of the danger of use of this one of the most inhumane means of warfare.

The decision to destruct entirely all of the Russian stockpiles of chemical weapons has been our definitive choice. Despite of the well known difficulties, all efforts are being made by us to achieve this goal in the shortest time possible.

With the full-scale process of destruction of its significant stockpiles of chemical weapons having been initiated within the recent years the Russian Federation has been consistently increasing

the rate and quantity of their continuous destruction, while strictly abiding to the norms and standards for human and environmental security and safety. A lot has already been achieved - as of late September, 2012 twenty seven thousand tones of chemical agents or sixty eight percent of the total chemical weapons' stockpiles have been destroyed.

We attach great importance to the successful work of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention to be held next year with its objective to determine future priorities in the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

While doing our utmost to the end of chemical weapons' destruction at the same time we should also work hard on non-proliferation components of the Convention. Prevention of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and means of their delivery requires efforts of all countries to be united. We should strengthen non-proliferation multilateral instruments and mechanisms as well as appropriate measures in this regard should be secured by States Parties at national level by their own.

Achievement of full-fledged universalization of the Convention is one of the highest priorities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Russian Federation calls upon all the countries that are still out of the legal framework of the Convention to join it without further delay. States Parties to the Convention to fulfill their obligations as far as nomination of their National Authorities on its implementation are concerned and bring their National Legislatures in full compliance with their obligations under the Convention.

Nowadays the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons represents itself as one of the most efficiently acting international formats in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. Within its authority a range of quite complicated technical and other practical issues are being successfully resolved. We are interested in the Organization to remain depoliticized and highly professional entity with its activities being undertaken in the spirit of mutual understanding and impartiality.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me first of all to thank warmly the Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, for his important statement at the opening session of our meeting.

I would like also to express my congratulations to the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, for convening this high level meeting which represents an opportunity to proudly celebrate the success of the Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction (CWC) and further commit ourselves as State Parties to the long-term objectives of the Convention.

My delegation fully supports the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement by the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Algeria recognizes the important role played by the Convention over the last 15 years in the prevention of proliferation and de-



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR DJAMEL MOKTEFI
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ALGERIA**

At the High Level Meeting on

**“Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Celebrating Success. Committing to the Future”**

struction of chemical weapons. There is no doubt that the Convention has become an effective and successful disarmament multilateral treaty seeking to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. As such, the Chemical Weapons Convention represents a great success in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and is a significant contribution to multilateralism in the service of international peace and security.

I would like to seize this opportunity to express Algeria's gratitude to the OPCW which has proven to be a reliable partner for securing the success of the Convention. Building on our collective success and keeping in mind our shortcomings, we should look to the future of this multilateral instrument by focusing our efforts in strengthening its foundations and fulfilling its purpose.

Mr Chairman,

Algeria considers that all provisions of the Convention are equally important and complementary. We believe that we must act in four interrelated and mutually reinforcing areas:

Universality: working towards the universality of the Convention is fundamental for enhancing international peace and security. We commend the collective efforts done by the State Parties, the policy-making organs and the Technical Secretariat that have made this improvement possible.

Algeria expresses its satisfaction with the fact that the Convention has become, with its 188 State Parties, one of the most widely endorsed treaties. While welcoming this progress, we should continue to call for its universal adherence. In this regard, we call on those States that have not yet done so, including those in regions characterized by tensions, to join the Convention and be part of the effort aiming to build a world free of chemical weapons.

Total destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles: The total destruction of chemical weapons is one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention and the primary focus of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the State Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, scheduled to be convened in April 2013 in The Hague.

Algeria reaffirms that verification of the destruction of all the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles shall continue to be one of the highest priorities of the OPCW and is deeply concerned by the fact that certain possessor States Parties did not comply with their obligations regarding the total destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles within the deadline of 29 April 2012. Such cases of non-compliance could therefore endanger the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

Consequently, the compliance with arrangements set forth by the State Parties, after the 29 April 2012 deadline, constitutes an integral part of the undertakings by the Chemical Weapons Possessor States to destroy their chemical weapons stockpiles.

International cooperation: Algeria would like to emphasize the importance of international cooperation, in accordance with Article XI, in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, and accordingly calls on the developed countries to promote international cooperation for the benefit of developing States Parties through the free access to the international market for chemical products as well as the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and to prevent any discriminatory restrictions as they are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention.

Such international cooperation is a critical element in strengthening implementation of the Convention and an important contribution to the economic development and the scientific progress of developing countries. In this context, Algeria calls on for a comprehensive, balanced and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

International assistance: Algeria considers that the implementation of the Article X of the CWC on assistance and protection against chemical weapons is crucial to countering the threats of use of chemical weapons, Algeria stresses the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the OPCW to provide timely and needed assistance and protection against use or threat of use of chemical weapons, including assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.

Algeria strongly believes in the relevance of the Convention in the framework of the global fight against terrorism, in particular in the field of prevention but also in its reaction capacity against a chemical attack.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that Algeria made recently a contribution to the Voluntary Fund to ensure the ability of the Technical Secretariat to respond positively to an increasing demand of State Parties for assistance, particularly in the context of global antiterrorism efforts and victim assistance.

In closing, Algeria would like to express its strong commitment to both the CWC and the work of the OPCW and stands ready to contribute to the collective effort to make the Convention responding to the needs of its State Parties without discrimination.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

