

**Seminar**  
**Multilateral Approaches to Non-proliferation - the Chemical**  
**Dimension**

**18 March 2009**

Opening Address by the Director-General

Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to welcome Mr. Calvani, Director of UNICRI, as well as his UNICRI team and all the participants of today's seminar.

I address a special welcome to the representatives of Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey. These countries, which are supported by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute - (UNICRI) and relevant international and regional organisations are together developing both their national and regional potentials against illicit trafficking and criminal use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances and weapons.

I also welcome the representatives of the international and regional organisations which support this UNICRI program: European Commission, IAEA, Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, Europol, and BWC Implementation Support Unit.

In recent years, the OPCW has participated in the activities within this UNICRI program as a supporting agency by providing knowledge and expertise on verification, assistance and protection, international cooperation, as well as the fight against terrorism.

Today's seminar is a visible example of effective cooperation among international organisations to promote non-proliferation standards and arrangements in practice at regional and national levels.

The topic of the seminar is multilateral approaches to non-proliferation. The issue of multilateralism is of significant importance for the OPCW because in our view, global, regional and national security is impossible without multilateral approaches. Such approaches strengthen international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, and foster conditions to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their related technologies and means of delivery.

It is our expectation that the deliberations being held today will raise participants' awareness about the work of the OPCW and of the importance of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The seminar will also explore possible synergies and further inputs to support the participating countries

in strengthening their national and regional approaches to limit the dangers of proliferation of chemical weapons and related materials and technologies.

The OPCW's cooperation with the United Nations and UNICRI as one of the UN agencies is a logical outcome of the common quest to promote peace and security as envisaged under the UN Charter. It is also recognition by the UN of the importance of the OPCW's work in the face of new threats to international security. This recognition is evident in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), which defines obligations for all UN members in similar terms to those of our own Convention, as well as in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in September 2006 by the UN General Assembly.

In this context I would like to inform you that on 18 June 2009, at the invitation of the Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, I will address the Committee on the implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention relevant to Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001).

The OPCW, as an independent organisation, conducts its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter to promote peace, disarmament and international cooperation and with due regard to the policies of the United Nations furthering world-wide disarmament and WMD non-proliferation. OPCW actively cooperates with other international organisations, including the European Union, whose political and financial support through a series of Joint Actions has greatly helped us in our outreach for universality, full implementation of the Convention, and international cooperation.

Let me also mention that our cooperation with UNICRI fully responds to the underlying objective of a new initiative supported by the OPCW called the Hague Process of Promoting Effective Multilateralism, which is being developed by the Clingendael Institute here in the Hague with the support of Dutch institutions and international partners.

This Process will aim to build synergies between WMD regimes and stakeholders, and to promote the message that common security is best achieved through multilateral approaches, building on the experience of the OPCW as one example. It will also seek to develop standards and practices for effective multilateralism in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Process will comprise a series of events, including workshops, lectures and training courses organised in the Netherlands and other international locations.

The first international event within The Hague Process is a seminar to be held on 26-27 March by the Clingendael Institute on UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

In conclusion, I wish to welcome you all once again and wish you successful deliberations.