

Paul F. Walker, Ph.D.
International Program Director, Environmental Security and Sustainability
Green Cross International
Washington DC, USA and Geneva, Switzerland

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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Although we have witnessed much contentious debate and plenary voting already this week, I must note that this week is the traditional American Thanksgiving holiday week, so most all American families are celebrating all that we should be thankful for. Regarding our historic Chemical Weapons Convention, now in its 22nd year since entry into force in 1997, we need to note the many accomplishments we should be thankful for: a universal treaty regime except for four countries, almost complete abolition of declared chemical weapon stockpiles in eight possessor states, and perhaps most important, the establishment of a world free of deadly chemical agents which were the scourge of the violent last century.

Mr. Chairman,

Credit is due to all of the States Parties who have committed time, technology, and treasure to safely destroying these obsolete but very dangerous stockpiles. The United States was the first State Party to begin its demilitarization process in 1990, and will be the last declared possessor state to complete this process in 2023; it deserves much credit for having already eliminated over 90% of its stockpile and having spent well over \$40 billion to date with no major injuries or deaths. Canada and the United States also deserve much credit for having established the Global Partnership in 2002, and working with some two dozen States Parties to help all other possessor states to safely eliminate their stockpiles. Although all possessor states required extended deadlines under the Convention to complete this important work, with both Russia and the United States missing the final 2012 deadline, the important point is that this challenging work has gone on without major incident and is very close to being completed.

Mr. Chairman,

We have come a long way since the early days of this Convention, and much thanks needs to be noted for the indefatigable and committed work of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and its Inspectorate. Without the work of these brave and bright men and women, we would not be

where we are today. In this regard, we welcome the new Director-General and his staff, and wish them even more success than their excellent predecessors. Knowing too that this will be the last CSP and RevCon for Deputy Director-General Hamid Ali Rao, we wish him and his family well in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman,

But all the news is not positive. We have recently experienced the actual use of chemical weapons in Syria and Iraq since 2012, an assassination in Kuala Lumpur last year with VX nerve agent, an attempted assassination in Salisbury, UK last March with an advanced nerve agent, and most recently the use of a toxic tranquilizer in Istanbul to kill an American resident. The OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), the UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), the OPCW Inspectorate, and the very capable OPCW laboratories have all been very important to determine the facts in these violent attacks and to identify the perpetrators. We very much now support the establishment of an OPCW attribution mechanism, and I'm very pleased to see this approved by an overwhelming margin this week in The Hague.

Mr. Chairman,

As a final point, I wish to note how proud I am of the many representatives here this week and in prior years from civil society, including industry, academia, the public health and environmental communities, and the activist community. The CWC Coalition, which helps coordinate these participants, has now raised civil society registration numbers to 240 individuals this year from 89 Non-Governmental organizations and 55 countries. This is over ten times these totals from a decade ago and has helped to make the CWC and OPCW all the stronger and vital. I thank all of our CWC Coalition colleagues for volunteering their valuable time, interest, and expertise, and I note that we have also been very successful in improving gender equity, the representation of victims groups, especially from Iran and Iraq, and of colleagues from developing countries. We are committed to continuing this trend, and I thank many States Parties, especially Canada, Germany, and Norway, for their ongoing support of these efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish everyone here a very Happy Thanksgiving, and a very successful next few days of our Fourth Five-Year Review Conference. Thank you for your time and attention, and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final RevCon record and posted on the OPCW's website.