

**STATEMENT BY THE DISTINGUISHED PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA TO THE OPCW, H.E. SOPHIA
HORNER-SAM, AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE
OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(THE HAGUE, 21 – 30 NOVEMBER 2018)**

Mr. Chairperson

Director-General of OPCW

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I deem it a privilege and an honour to present this statement on behalf my government and the people of the Republic of Ghana, at this Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

Also allow me, on behalf of my delegation to congratulate and warmly welcome you, Excellency Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador as the Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference. I am confident that, with your expertise, you will be able to guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion, and you can count on the support of my delegation.

My delegation further wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias for the support

accorded to my delegation and to assure you of our continuous cooperation with you for a successful tenure.

My delegation further wishes to express our gratitude to the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of this Review Conference, H.E. Ambassador Puja, of Indonesia for his dedicated efforts in the preparation of the draft report document of the Fourth Review Conference.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ghana associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group and the NAM Group plus China by Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki and Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, respectively.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ghana reaffirms her commitment to the efforts at achieving complete disarmament, prohibition of the use of Chemical Weapons and promoting the peaceful use of chemical technology in line with the CWC. On that account, my delegation is concerned about the discovery and uses of new toxic chemicals that are not under the schedule and calls on States Parties to capacitate the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to identify those chemicals and destroyed under supervision.

My delegation further wishes to reiterate that investigations into suspected use of chemical weapons must be impartial, professional

and evidence-based in order to instill trust and confidence on all Parties to ensure that outcomes of investigations will be accepted by consensus.

Concerning Articles Seven, Ten, and Eleven, my delegation continues to appreciate the support it has received so far towards our National Implementation of the CWC as well as assistance and cooperation which have been rendered through the Africa Programme.

Indeed, we would like to express appreciation for the level of collaboration existing between the Technical Secretariat and the National Authority of Ghana for the increasing engagement in activities to give expression to the tenets of the Convention.

In the previous year, Ghana had the privilege of hosting a workshop facilitated by the Technical Secretariat to review national implementation activities and identify the gaps relating to protection against possible chemical weapons attack or incidents, with a view to proffering solutions for improvement. This exercise culminated in the drafting of a National Protective Plan, which has been submitted to the sector Ministry for further review and possible adoption.

The Attorney General's Department is currently working with the National Authority of Ghana and relevant implementing agencies of government to finalize our draft implementing Legislation for submission to Cabinet for consideration. We are therefore likely to get the Legislation passed latest by the fourth quarter of 2019.

Ghana will continuously work closely with the Technical Secretariat and other stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the Programme in an effective and sustainable manner, within the West African sub-region.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation wishes to join other distinguished delegates to call for the need to have a fair and transparent recruitment procedure in line with the Convention to ensure an equitable geographical and balanced gender representation within the Organisation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to commend the work of the Open-Ended Working Groups on Future Priorities, whose extensive work led to the draft document of this Conference in furtherance of the goals of the Organisation.

My delegation further commends the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors and we look forward to the continuous facilitation of discussions, which are aimed at creating awareness of chemical security as prescribed by the Convention.

To conclude,

I wish to call on all States Parties to work cooperatively in order to achieve consensus for the success of this Conference.

Thank you