



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
IN THE NETHERLANDS

**Intervention of H.E. Mgr. Aldo Cavalli,
Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the OPCW**

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General

Distinguished delegates and honorable guests,

Good afternoon,

For the past 21 years the States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have committed themselves to achieving a world free of chemical weapons. Throughout this time the OPCW has been able to eliminate over 96% of the declared chemical weapons. It is relevant to point out that consensus played a fundamental role to reach this goal. As consequence of this success, the organization was rightly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. This could have not been achieved without the unity and the good work done by the Director Generals, the Conference of States Parties, the Executive Council, the Technical Secretariat, Advisory Bodies and external partners.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the last two years we notice that in the policy making organs, for various reasons, States Parties have had difficulties in making decisions by

consensus which is the ideal means for successful and fruitful multilateral dialogue. Now we have to seek how to revive truthful and responsible negotiations where all international actors move together towards achieving international peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which is close to achieve universality, is the foundation and holds together the core values of the OPCW. It also represents the unity and commitment of States Parties towards achieving its purposes and goals. In this respect, as stipulated in the Convention, we gather every five years to review the work done so far, and take into account the developments and changes in order to provide guidance to the organization on its activities for the upcoming years.

Considering the circumstances, even if we vote a document with the majority requested by the rules of procedure, we are aware that in order to effectively fulfill and give rightful continuity to what is decided, the consensus of all the States Parties is an essential condition.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Fourth Review Conference and be published on the extranet and public Website.