

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Magzhan Ilyassov,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
at the CWC Fourth Review Conference**

The Hague, 21-30 November 2018

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me first congratulate Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, with the appointment as the Chairman of the Review Conference. I am sure that with your able leadership the work of our Conference will be successful and fruitful. Please be assured of our support and cooperation.

My delegation commends Ambassador Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja for his valuable efforts as the Chairman of the Open-Ended Working Group to prepare us for this Conference.

I would also like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias with his appointment on the position of the OPCW Director-General. Director General, you can count on our support in your important endeavors to strengthen our Organisation for the sake of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan attaches a great importance to the disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical weapons and as a current non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and strong supporter of the regime of the weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation stands for a strict implementation of Resolution 1540 of the UN Security Council.

We welcome the accession of the new states to the Convention since the previous Review Conference and underline the importance of the universality of the CWC. We urge States not Party to the Convention to ratify or accede to the CWC without further delay of preconditions.

Despite the fact that the Chemical Weapons Convention is being currently almost universal, and chemical weapons have been banned/they still pose a real danger. Unlike other weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons have repeatedly been used over the past decades.

The position of Kazakhstan on this issue remains firm and consistent. We do not tolerate the use of any kind of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. Transparency and openness are extremely important and necessary for objective discussions with sober assessments of exact recent or ongoing developments. We currently need such a thorough approach, especially in the investigation of incidents related to the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The provocative nature of such actions is a real threat to our collective efforts to achieve peace and stability in Syria.

Kazakhstan has contributed by hosting peace talks on the Syrian conflict in our capital Astana and calls for constructive consultations and tireless search for mutually acceptable solutions for the benefit of the people of Syria.

Paying respect to victims of chemical weapons and their families, we are considering a financial contribution to the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons.

With regard to the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP), Kazakhstan position was and is that and any functions of the OPCW, as well as the possibilities of expanding its mandate, should be considered and implemented with the participation and support of all States Parties to the Convention.

We are of a view that the UN Security Council is the highest and only authorized body in determining responsibility for unlawful actions and as the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW is now bestowed with an attributive function. We clearly see a need for even stronger and more sufficient coordination and collaboration between UNSC and OPCW in bringing those responsible to answer.

In this regard we would like to reiterate our proposal, which was tabled during the CWC Fourth Special Session. In order to ensure the principle of broad and balanced geographical representation for credible, unbiased, independent and transparent investigation; we propose field missions consist of:

- one representative of the United Nations Security Councils Permanent Member States;
- one representative of each regional group of the OPCW, but not representing United Nations Security Councils Permanent Member states; one representative from a country where the incident took place;

In terms of recent decision on the 2019 Programme and Budget, we regret that such important decisions of the OPCW was not approved the consensus of all States Parties to the Convention for the sake of sustainable and prompt functioning of the Organisation.

Apart from that, we call upon the Technical Secretariat to observe an equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, including at the professional level in accordance with Article VIII of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan is actively working to ensure chemical safety in Kazakhstan, and participates in the activities to organise regional exercises and seminars jointly with the OPCW and other States Parties to the Convention.

In May 2015, upon an invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Director General of the OPCW Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü paid an official visit to Astana.

In July 2015, Kazakhstan and OPCW carried out joint Emergency Response Exercise on Assistance and Protection in Kazakhstan. Representatives from 11 States Parties to the Convention from Asia and Europe took an active part in these exercises.

In July 2017 and then in September 2018, a group of experts from the Technical Secretariat visited Kazakhstan and carried out successful inspection in accordance with Article VI of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Commitment to the principle of non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction is one of the fundamental guidelines of the Kazakhstan Government and its foreign policy.

Kazakhstan has a strict legislation in the sphere of chemical security and export control. All the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention have been fully implemented in the legislation of Kazakhstan.

Currently, the chemical and petrochemical industry is one of the most fast-developing branches of our national economy. There are around 40 large and medium-sized enterprises, which produce chemical materials in Kazakhstan. These companies increase production annually by an average of 10-15%. Petrochemical industry is now at the stage of active construction of new facilities for deeper processing of oil and gas to produce high value-added petrochemical products.

In this regard, it is important to facilitate the implementation of Article XI of the Convention in terms of economic and technological development of the OPCW State Parties for the application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited by the Convention, including the assistance for developing countries in building national industrial capacity.

In conclusion, let me assure you that Kazakhstan will continue to actively work towards the implementation of the Convention.

As a member of Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, Kazakhstan is strongly committed to continuing our efforts to mitigate chemical weapons threats, enhancing chemical security and improving coordination of chemical security threat reduction programmes and activities across the globe.

We urge all participants to engage in a constructive work to achieve positive outcomes of this Review Conference.

I wish all of us a successful Conference and kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Fourth Review Conference and posted on the Organisation's public website and Extranet.

Thank you for your attention!