

**Statement by Ambassador Lok Bahadur Thapa, Permanent Representative of Nepal to
the OPCW at the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical
Weapons Convention**

(The Hague, 21-30 November 2018)

**Mr. Chairperson
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson, His Excellency Agustin Vasquez Gomez, Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador, on your election as the Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference.

I have full confidence in your wise and able leadership to steer for the successful conclusion of the conference.

I assure you my delegation's fullest support and cooperation.

I wish to thank the Director General, His Excellency Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report.

I also like to express our sincere thanks to the chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, His Excellency Mr I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Ambassador of Indonesia for his remarkable roles in the preparation of this important conference.

I align my statement with the statement delivered by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Venezuela on behalf of the NAM State Parties to OPCW and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

This quinquennial CWC Review Conference is very pivotal and significant as it reviews and examines the issues confronting in smooth implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Indeed, this is the most appropriate forum for the CWC States Parties to collectively take stock of the progress made since the third review conference and identify the challenges remained to address in the near future.

Mr. Chairperson,

CWC is an important, unique and non-discriminatory international disarmament instrument.

Its effective implementation is, therefore, all the more important in order to achieve the general disarmament goals.

To our utmost satisfaction, we have made some important milestones over the years.

Destruction of over 96 percent of declared stockpile of chemical weapons is a testimony to it.

With 193 state parties, CWC is gradually heading towards the achievement of the goal of universality.

Nepal joins a number of state parties to call upon remaining states that are not party to the CWC to accede to it without further delay to achieve this goal we all aspire for.

It is our strong believe that the commitment to the CWC would help secure peace in the world.

Despite these achievements and many milestones, the Convention continues to face substantial challenges.

The success story should not, therefore, distract us from addressing remaining and emerging challenges that lie ahead of us.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to ponder on achievements, consider persistent challenges and accord future priorities for its effective implementation.

There have been allegations of the use of chemical weapons in Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Malaysia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

There have been increasing acts and threats of international terrorism who are aspiring the chemical weapons.

These show that the threat of the use of chemical weapons are very real and continuing to plague humanity.

We reaffirm that alleged acts of the use of chemical weapons should be investigated and perpetrators should be held accountable.

I would like to stress here my government's firm stand that the use of chemical weapons by whoever, wherever and for whatever reasons is deplorable and contrary to the provisions of CWC, legal norms and standards of the international community.

We steadfastly denounces the production, stockpiling and proliferation of such weapons.

Strict adherence to the provisions of the Convention as well as finding proper balance between its pillars are absolutely necessary to prevent the re-emergence of the chemical weapons and threat of their use.

We firmly believe that the complexity of new and emerging threats calls for stronger efforts in ensuring the universality of the Convention as well as the strong unity among state parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

Nepal's unwavering commitment to world peace and disarmament has been rooted in "the norms of world peace".

These commitments are enshrined in the Constitution as a basis of the country's foreign policy.

Nepal has always maintained that the world should remain peaceful without any threat of weapons of mass destruction.

We strongly believes in the general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction including of Chemical Weapons.

Nepal reaffirms its principled position that the universal peace and security can be guaranteed and ensured only with the time-bound, general and complete disarmament of nuclear, biological, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction.

We stand firmly for complete elimination of chemical weapons from the world for once and for all.

Mr. Chairperson,

Nepal is implementing CWC provisions at the national level with all seriousness.

Similarly, it has extended and will continue to extend ^{its} ~~our~~ full cooperation and support in international efforts to eliminate the production, use, stockpiling and proliferation of chemical weapons.

We fully support the OPCW's activities carried under Article XI of the Convention.

The OPCW's mandate to promote international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for peaceful purposes is of vital importance to least developed country like Nepal.

The exchange of scientific and technical information and strengthening of the chemical analytical skills, technical competence of publicly funded chemical laboratories and technical capabilities of the least developed countries like Nepal is critical.

This will help make the Convention more relevant to a large number of States Parties like Nepal that possess neither chemical weapons nor any substantial chemical industries.

We urge the allocation of adequate financial and human resources to international cooperation and assistance activities considering States Parties' national needs.

We look forward to an enhanced level of engagement at the regional and international levels in this regard.

We also request States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue providing appropriate, tailor-made assistance and technical support to States Parties in enhancing their national capacities and in carrying out their national implementation measures.

Mr. Chairperson,

Nepal continues to collaborate with the Technical Secretariat in hosting training courses and in engaging ourselves in enhancing the capacity building endeavours of the Secretariat.

On this score, Nepal hosted the Seventh Regional Basic Training Course on Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents for State Parties in Asia on 9 to 13 April 2018.

Such trainings are helpful in enhancing the capacity of the States Parties as well as fostering greater understanding and cooperation through exchange of expertise, sharing of experiences and exchange of new ideas among countries in the regions.

We look forward to having enhanced level of cooperation in this respect in future.

Mr. Chairperson,

We reiterate Nepal's strong commitment to the CWC and its objectives.

We reiterate our full support to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW in its works towards fulfilling the aspirations and obligations of the Convention.

My delegation is confident that this Review Conference will be able to address the problems facing us to achieve the goals envisaged by the CWC and contribute to the disarmament regime making it more robust and stronger.

We stress that cooperation, collaboration and consensus building among the States Parties is vital to further enhance the objective and purpose of making the world free of Chemical weapons, the noble idea embodied in the Convention.

Nepal sincerely believes that we will achieve our noble goals of making the world free of chemical weapons in near future, with our shared will, with our common commitment, with our deep sense of dedication, with our sense of togetherness and, most of all, with our common sense of responsibility to save the world from the scourge of chemical weapons.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the conference and posted on OPCW public website.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.