

**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF SINGAPORE
DELIVERED BY SENIOR TRADE OFFICER
NATIONAL AUTHORITY (CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION)
SINGAPORE CUSTOMS, MS CHAMELENE HU
ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SINGAPORE TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW) AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW
THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS**

Introduction

Mr Chairman,

I am honoured to address the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. My delegation would like to express appreciation for the efforts of the Technical Secretariat, States Parties, Open-Ending Working Group on Review Conference (OEWG-RC), Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities (OEWG-FP) and other advisory bodies in the preparation of this Conference.

Complete Destruction of Libya's Chemical Weapons Stockpile

Mr Chairman,

2 We have seen notable progress in the advancement of the Chemical Weapons Convention's (CWC's) objectives this year. Singapore is pleased to note the complete destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles in Libya, via the assistance of the OPCW and relevant States Parties. This positive

development highlights the importance of international cooperation in the effective implementation of the Convention. Singapore looks forward to continued progress on this front.

Salisbury and Amesbury Incident

3 Notwithstanding these positive developments, it is also clear that obstacles remain on our path towards a chemical-weapons-free world. Singapore joins the international community in condemning the use of a nerve agent in the Salisbury and Amesbury Incidents. The use of chemical weapons is unacceptable under any circumstances, and a violation of international law. Singapore calls upon all States Parties to work together, to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. Singapore notes that the OPCW was swift to render assistance to the UK in both incidents, and commends OPCW for its efforts.

National Implementation Measures

Mr Chairman,

4 Singapore joins other States Parties in reaffirming our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Convention. Singapore constantly reviews its policies to strengthen control measures in the local chemical industry. We note the urgent need to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons and misuse of toxic chemicals, as highlighted by the OPCW Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. To this end, Singapore is currently working to tighten our

domestic control on the local transportation of CWC scheduled chemicals. We look forward to exchanging experiences with other States Parties at this Conference, on best practices to further strengthen our domestic controls.

Assistance and Protection Programme

5 Singapore also supports the activities of the OPCW and States Parties in relation to the assistance and protection against chemical weapons. We will continue to contribute to the assistance and protection programme under Article Ten (X) of the Convention. Apart from our pledge to provide technical assistance through volunteering our verification and analytical facilities, we have also hosted several training courses. For instance, Singapore oversaw the Exercise segment of the 5th run of the 'Emergency Response Course to Chemical Incidents in Asia' in December 2017, involving 12 regional States Parties. Singapore looks forward to hosting the next training course in 2019.

Regional Initiatives

6 It is also important for us to enhance regional and international collaboration to help build up our capacity and capabilities in the face of the increasing threat of chemical weapons use. To this end, the Defence Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN for short, have agreed to set up a Virtual Network of ASEAN CBR Defence Experts who will help to

achieve this objective. We look forward to working with the OPCW to strengthen cooperation in this area.

Strengthening the OPCW and Effective Implementation of the CWC

Mr Chairman,

7 Singapore voted in favour of the Decision on “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” at the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties in June 2018. We did so to ensure that there was effective implementation of the CWC, which includes addressing any issues of non-compliance or contravention of its provisions. We also stress that any proposals to strengthen the capability of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and any proposal put forth by the Director-General on the provision of technical expertise to States Parties to identify perpetrators, organisers, sponsors and those otherwise involved in the use of chemical weapons, should involve inclusive and comprehensive consultations with States Parties, in accordance with the CWC. We take note of the plans that have been circulated by the Director-General, and look forward to the proposals of the Director-General concerning OP20 of the June Decision. Our view remains that there should be inclusive consultations with States Parties, to ensure that the decision-making process is effective, transparent, and accountable.

Conclusion

Mr Chairman,

8 With the rapid progress in chemical research and development, we must ensure that the CWC remains relevant, and continues to evolve with the times. This is key to suppressing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, and preventing non-state actors from acquiring development capabilities. Singapore therefore anticipates fruitful discussions at this Fourth Review Conference (RC) on ways to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

9 In closing, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference. Thank you.