



OPCW

Review Conference

Fourth Session
21 – 30 November 2018

RC-4/NAT.22
22 November 2018
ENGLISH only

ESTONIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KAILI TERRAS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Estonia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. We would like to add some remarks in our national capacity. First, we join the others in expressing our full support to Ambassador Agustín Vázquez Gómez as the Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference. Estonia is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of Chemical Weapons Convention and successful outcome of the Review Conference.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) is one of the cornerstones of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Unfortunately, during the past five years, the universal prohibition against the use of these weapons has been severely undermined as we have witnessed the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Malaysia, and most recently in the United Kingdom. We must continue collectively to condemn in the strongest possible terms all use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances, and take concrete measures to address the threats and impunity. Strengthening the efforts for maintaining the global norm against chemical weapons, stopping and deterring the use of chemical weapons, and holding perpetrators accountable must be at the core of this Review Conference.

Estonia considers the adoption of the Decision “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3) at the Special Session of the Conference of States Parties in June, essential in combating the proliferation and impunity for the use of chemical weapons. The Decision enables the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to provide assistance in identifying perpetrators of chemical weapons attack and we thank the Director-General for the proposals regarding the implementation of this decision.

In the effective implementation of the Convention, it is also crucial to reinforce the capabilities of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and support capacity building of the States Parties. Upgrading the OPCW laboratory into a Centre for Chemistry and Technology is important in facing rapid technological development and ensuring the highest quality of performance in OPCW’s principle tasks such as inspection, verification and assisting States Parties in capacity building and research. As already announced, Estonia contributes financially in support of this project.



Last but not least, for a successful outcome of this Review Conference, we need truly meaningful decisions reaffirming the upholding of the norms against chemical weapons, full compliance with the Convention and reflecting all emerged new chemical threats. In this context, we consider critical to reach an agreement on appropriate update of the Annex on Chemicals.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document. Thank you.

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