



Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 4th Review Conference (RevCon)

***Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)* Statement, Delivered by Canada, as 2018 GP President**

21-30 November 2018, World Forum, The Hague

Mr. Chairman

I am very pleased to take the floor today, on behalf of the member countries of the *Global Partnership (GP) Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*, to highlight some of the important contributions made by the GP community to strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and enhance global chemical security.

Since its creation in 2002, at the Kananaskis Summit in Canada, the G7-led Global Partnership has grown to include 31 active member countries¹ and has evolved into the premier mechanism for the coordination and delivery of tangible WMD threat reduction programming. To date, GP partners have delivered (collectively) more than \$25 billion in programming worldwide to prevent, detect and respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism and proliferation threats. Still governed by the foundational Principles and Guidelines that were agreed by Leaders at Kananaskis, GP partners have worked continuously and deliberately over the past 16 years to strengthen nuclear and radiological security, mitigate biological threats, support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and, of primary relevance to this gathering, address a wide range of chemical weapons-related threats.

A flagship accomplishment of the GP community was the critical support provided for the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles in Russia, Libya and Syria. Over the period 2002-2017, many GP members contributed significant financial and technical resources to assist Russia, Libya and Syria to destroy their respective declared stockpiles. I wish to thank and acknowledge all GP members who played such key roles in those destruction efforts.

The destruction of declared arsenals, however, did not eliminate the CW threat. In recent years we have witnessed the repeated and indiscriminate use of chemical weapons, by both State and non-State actors, from Syria and Iraq, to Malaysia and the United Kingdom. The Global Partnership community is deeply troubled and outraged by these blatant violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which pose a serious threat to global security and could result in the erosion of international norms against chemical weapons use. In the face of these challenges, however, the GP refuses to stand idly by. On the contrary, its members have stepped to the forefront of international efforts to combat chemical weapons threats and have matched strong words with actions and resources.

¹ Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States



The nature and scope of CW threat reduction programming delivered by GP partners in the past five years is summarized in a working paper submitted to this Review Conference. This working paper includes a total of 53 projects implemented or funded by nine GP partners: Belgium, Canada, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. These Projects are valued at more than US\$172 Million (or €152M) and were implemented in dozens of countries in every region of the world. This paper is not an exhaustive catalogue of every CWC-relevant project being implemented by GP partners. It is rather an indicative summary meant to highlight to States Parties the nature and scale of GP efforts. In this regard, it highlights and clearly demonstrates the significance of the collective contribution of GP members to global chemical threat reduction and to fulfilment of respective national commitments under the CWC.

Chemical threat reduction programming undertaken by GP partners is guided by a “Strategic Vision”, which identifies seven key priorities for collective effort. They are: 1) supporting chemical weapons destruction; 2) preventing and responding to chemical weapons use; 3) strengthening and supporting close cooperation with the OPCW ;4) supporting and enhancing chemical non-proliferation instruments, institutions, and practices; 5) fostering collaboration on national, regional, and global security initiatives; 6) enhancing the security of chemicals throughout their lifecycles; and 7) promoting security cultures globally.

The Strategic Vision also calls for the provision of assistance to, and through, international organizations, such as the OPCW and INTERPOL, to help at-risk partner countries enhance their capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to the use or threat of use of chemical weapons. I thank GP member countries for their generous and long-time support to both the OPCW and INTERPOL, and I thank the OPCW and INTERPOL for serving as “Friends of the Chair” during Canada’s 2018 Presidency of the GP.

Going forward, the GP remains resolute in its commitment to counter and prevent the use of chemical weapons and the erosion of the international norms against such use. GP members refuse to ignore the repeated use of chemical weapons on multiple continents, the erosion of the international norms against such use and the persistent efforts of non-state actors to gain access to or manufacture their own weapons of mass effect using non-schedule chemicals.

The majority of the members of the Global Partnership stands in strong support of the attribution task given to the OPCW as outlined by the June 2018 Conference of States Parties (CSP) decision as well as the work required to ensure that such attribution arrangements are fully and effectively implemented.

Despite different perspectives on some issues, as Global Partnership members, we are strongly committed to continuing our efforts to mitigate CW threats, enhancing chemical security, and improving coordination of chemical security threat reduction programs and activities across the globe.

For those interested in learning more about the Global Partnership, or discussing opportunities for partnership and capacity-building cooperation, a Global Partnership side event will be held on Thursday 22 November at 13:00. I hope to see you there.