



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE STATES PARTIES
OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**STRENGTHENING THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
AND DEPOLITICISATION OF THE ORGANISATION
FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

We view the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”) as one of the most successful multilateral mechanisms in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. We are pleased to note that already 193 States are participants in the Convention. This demonstrates general recognition of the highly important role of the Convention.

We greatly value the contribution of the OPCW in ridding the world of chemical weapons, for which the Organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

We believe that the United Nations Security Council is the only body authorised to determine responsibility for unlawful actions with chemical weapons. We underline the inappropriateness of transforming the OPCW, which is in essence a technical structure, into a body that redundantly takes on the authorities of the United Nations Security Council, and setting precedents in the practices of international law making it possible to assign to other international structures what are the prerogatives of the United Nations Security Council.

It is with regret that we state that the deviation from the past experience of taking consensus-based decisions poses a threat to the integrity of the Organisation itself. We emphasise in particular the need to unite the efforts of the States Parties to the Convention in order to bring the work of the Organisation to the depoliticised route of chemical disarmament back into strict compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

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