



**OPCW**

**Review Conference**

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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**CANADA**

**STATEMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION  
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPON CONVENTION**

Mr Chairman, my dear friend Agustín,

At the outset, please allow me to state that you, Ambassador Puja, and Ambassador Czepalak have my delegations utmost respect and sincere gratitude for your efforts, throughout the last year in this week's endgame, in bringing this Review Conference to a conclusion that is both meaningful and on which we can all agree.

Canada proudly associates itself with the statement read out by France on behalf of 57 states. It represents what we would have wanted – and what we needed – to see contained in our collective reflections on a review cycle that saw the use of chemical weapons in Syria, Iraq, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom.

We regret that we were unable to achieve consensus on a Review Conference document that included even the most basic, factual reference to the instances of chemical weapons use by Syria, as found by the United Nations-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism. We cannot allow the perpetrator to dictate the narrative of our collective story; that approach, as we have seen, does not lead to a good ending.

Canada associates itself with the comments made by the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, and others with regard to the listing of specific paragraphs of contention in your report. We do not need to crystallise our areas of disagreement.

That said, on the positive side, we all know going forward that there *are* areas for agreement. Canada looks forward to engaging constructively with the Technical Secretariat and with Member States, across regional and political divides, in working on the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The new Centre for Chemistry and Technology will start. It is Canada's hope that as it gets built, each brick will solidify our joint commitment to do better, in the name of the victims of chemical weapons around the globe and in the name of our children, to whom we owe a world truly free of chemical weapons – the world we promised to create.

You, Mr Chair, and the Director-General have my delegation's commitment that Canada will do its part, and with full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the Technical Secretariat.



Finally, Mr Chair, I would ask that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Fourth Review Conference and posted on the External Website.

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