



OPCW

Review Conference

Fourth Session
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RC-4/NAT.54
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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW
THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11

Mr Chair, we would like to start by thanking you, Ambassador Czepelak and Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja for your collective efforts to support this Review Conference, and we support the statement made by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We have worked hard-along with many others through 2018, to reflect on the achievements of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the challenges ahead. We have not been able to reach consensus and that is a matter of regret, but we should be under no illusion as to why – a very small minority who have used, or been prepared to defend those that have used, chemical weapons have obstructed our efforts.

We will continue to call out those who think they might get away with ignoring the global ban on chemical weapons. The work of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), and the OPCW attribution team support that end.

We need to restore the global taboo against chemical weapons.

Looking to the future, the United Kingdom has signed up to the joint declaration introduced by the French Ambassador which clearly sets out our commitments.

The OPCW will continue to play a critical role in assisting, enabling and verifying our commitments to the global ban. We have full confidence in the OPCW and the Director-General to succeed in meeting the challenges over the next five years and beyond.

With respect to the Chairperson's report just circulated, the United Kingdom fully respects your prerogative Mr Chairman to issue a Chairperson's report and we are deeply appreciative of your efforts over recent weeks.

We have one specific comment on the report, relating to the last line of the paragraph on the covering page. We suggest it would more accurately reflect yesterday's discussions if it read: 'Based on comments received he concluded that, despite broad consultations and best efforts, consensus could not be achieved. The Review Conference worked on the principle that nothing was agreed until everything was agreed.'



RC-4/NAT.54

page 2

Thank you Mr Chair.

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