



**OPCW**

**Review Conference**

Fourth Session  
21 – 30 November 2018

RC-4/NAT.63  
21 November 2018  
ARABIC and ENGLISH only

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SAEED ALI ALNOWAIS  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
TO THE OPCW AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION  
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Your Excellency the Chairperson of the Conference,  
Your Excellency the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,  
Your Excellencies the Heads of Delegations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, I am pleased to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference. I am fully confident that your expertise in OPCW affairs will allow you to discharge the task assigned to you in the best manner possible; we wish you every success.

We also congratulate the Vice-Chairpersons.

I should not fail to extend my sincere thanks to the Director-General of the OPCW for making efforts to revitalise the role of the OPCW at various levels.

We would also like to thank the Chairperson and members of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference for their efforts to prepare for this Conference.

We also wish to extend thanks to the OPCW Technical Secretariat, the Scientific Advisory Board, and the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities for the important reports and recommendations submitted in preparation for this Conference.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms its commitment to implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and to achieving the objectives of the OPCW. The State of the United Arab Emirates also expresses its concern over the increasing use of chemical weapons since the Third Review Conference and condemns their use anywhere and in any form. In this regard, the State of the United Arab Emirates reaffirms the need for legal accountability and notes the importance of the decision adopted by the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties on addressing the threat of chemical weapons use.



The State of the United Arab Emirates stresses the importance of the OPCW's contribution to combating chemical terrorism. We also note the importance of the Executive Council's decision in this respect. The State of the United Arab Emirates commends the efforts of the Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and its Sub-Working Group on the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors. We emphasise the importance of assistance and protection from chemical weapons programmes. We stress the importance of assistance and protection against chemical weapons and reaffirm the need for the Conference to issue recommendations aimed at strengthening the Technical Secretariat's capacities to meet assistance requests under Article X of the Convention, supporting the Rapid Response and Assistance Mission, and assisting and supporting capacity-building programmes to reinforce chemical counter-terrorism efforts.

The State of the United Arab Emirates welcomes the complete destruction by some States of all their chemical weapons stockpiles under OPCW supervision. It welcomes as well the Director-General's report on the complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in Iraq.

The State of the United Arab Emirates emphasises that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons is the fundamental pillar of the Convention and must be completed as soon as possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The OPCW has achieved major success in monitoring States Parties' implementation of their national obligations under the Convention, and the destruction of their declared chemical weapons stockpiles, of which 96% has been destroyed to date. This proves the credibility and effectiveness of the Convention, as demonstrated by the success of the verification regime in place. The OPCW should continue to pursue its objectives by focusing on preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and their use by anyone and at any time.

The State of the United Arab Emirates encourages the strengthening of international cooperation and exchange of knowledge in the field of the peaceful use of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention as a pre-requisite for achieving the objectives of the Convention.

We emphasise that international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention is a pillar of the work of the OPCW and is becoming increasingly important for the future priorities of the States Parties and their contribution to economic and technological development.

The State of the United Arab Emirates stresses that keeping abreast of developments in science and technology ensures the effective implementation of the Convention and enables the OPCW to confront future challenges. We also underscore the importance of assisting the States Parties in improving their scientific and technological capacities. We encourage the enhancement and adaptation of the verification regime in line with advancements in science and technology. We support the view of the Scientific Advisory Board that fundamental changes have taken place in the chemical industry's technology and practices. We stress the need to review the chemical schedules in order to be able to keep abreast of the developments.

The Chemical Weapons Convention has made firm and confident steps towards achieving universality. Since the Third Review Conference, five new States have joined the Convention, increasing the number to 193 States Parties. We commend the efforts of the

OPCW Director-General and the Technical Secretariat to encourage States to join the Convention.

We call upon the States that have not yet done so to join or ratify the Convention as soon as possible in order to further promote global peace and security.

The State of the United Arab Emirates lauds the efforts made by the OPCW Technical Secretariat to strengthen the relationships and cooperation with the International Council of Chemical Associations, international organisations and the relevant scientific communities with a view to implementing the Convention and achieving its objectives. We also commend the efforts of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, and emphasise the importance of its contribution to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

The Government of the State of the United Arab Emirates has adopted national legislation for the prohibition of chemical weapons and established the National Authority of the United Arab Emirates under the Executive Office for Commodities and Substances Subject to Import and Export Control, which is entrusted with the implementation of the National Law on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Chemical Weapons. The Executive Office oversees internal control over chemicals, submits annual declarations in a transparent and timely manner through the OPCW electronic system, and establishes constructive cooperation with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the States Parties in order to strengthen international cooperation and achieve the objectives of the Convention. This is because the State of the United Arab Emirates believes that weapons of mass destruction pose a threat to international peace and security.

The State of the United Arab Emirates has also trained national specialised personnel through participation in OPCW training courses, which helps strengthen constructive cooperation in the implementation of the Convention.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, I hope that our deliberations will further advance the implementation of the Convention and I wish the Fourth Review Conference full success.

I request that this statement be considered as an official document of the Conference.

Thank you Mr Chairperson.

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