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*Remaining Small Percentage of Chemical Weapons Stockpiles
Must Concern the Entire World Community*

(Draft)

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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates,
CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honor for me to have the privilege of speaking at this podium, once again, on behalf of the Center for International Security Studies and Strategic Research, also known as MEF

Strategy, which was established five years ago at MEF University in Istanbul.

Mr. Chairman, as the Director of MEF Strategy, allow me to say a few words about our center first.

MEF Strategy aims to carry out elaborate and comprehensive research on world affairs with special emphasis on the developments taking place in the realm of international security and military strategy.

In accordance with this objective, MEF Strategy convenes workshops and conferences by bringing together academics and experts working in these fields, and also takes part in the realization of similar gatherings by sister organizations, such as the ones that are represented here.

We are, therefore, grateful to the OPCW for giving us this unique opportunity to expand and consolidate our network by inviting me to participate in this extremely important event.

I would like to take this opportunity also to express our gratitude to Green Cross, the CWC Coalition, the Arms Control Association, and Dr. Paul Walker in particular, for doing

everything in their power for cementing the cooperation among us.

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to see on the website of the OPCW that out of the 72,304 metric tons of the total declared stockpiles of chemical agents in the world, 70,372 metric tons have been destroyed.

This makes the 97.33 percent of the world's total stockpiles of chemical agents.

Yet, this figure also means that there exist 1,932 metric tons of declared stockpiles of chemical agents awaiting destruction.

Moreover, there are still countries that have not yet joined the CWC and suspected of having chemical weapons arsenals.

We are looking forward to the accession of these well-known hold-out states to the Convention at an early date, with a view to attaining the goal of universalization.

In this regard, the efforts of the OPCW and the States Parties to the CWC must be acknowledged and highly praised by everyone.

Similarly, the efforts of the OPCW and its Director-General Mr. Amb. Fernando Arias must also be praised for the work that has been accomplished by the Investigation and Identification Team in charge of identifying perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks in Syria that claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians.

On this particular account, I would like to emphasize the words of Mr. Amb. Fernando Arias, quoted in Associated Press News by Edith Lederer, on November 6th, as saying, a day before, “despite the successful destruction of more than 1,300 tons of Syria’s chemical weapons by the OPCW, the U.N. and more than 30 countries, two main issues require firm and continued commitment of the international community in Syria.”

The first, in the words of Mr. Amb. Arias, is “to verify that Syria has fully declared its entire chemical weapons stockpiles, and secondly to investigate allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in Syria since 2013.”

It may be relieving to know that large proportions of Syria’s chemical weapons stocks have been eliminated. But, the remaining small percentage must be a serious concern for the entire world community.

I remember back in 2015, then Director-General Amb. Ahmet Üzümcü had “revealed in a press conference during his visit to Japan in February that Iraq had reported to the Organization that ISIS members have attempted to obtain chemical weapons.”

I also remember, in my short presentation at this podium a year before, I had pointed at the possibility of unauthorized access to chemical weapons and/or chemical agents that could be weaponized by non-state actors who wouldn't mind using them in their attacks against unprotected people.

Needless to say, the CWC has not been designed to address non-state actors. It is the task of the international community whose 193 member states have been gathered in this forum with a view to eliminating the remaining chemical weapons before they are stolen, lost or proliferated to terrorist organizations that may push the level of their atrocities to unprecedented extremes.

Hence, it is time for the members of the civilized world to get together more urgently than ever in the fight against terrorism.

One of the first steps in this direction should be to endorse the highly sensitive work of the Investigation and Identification Team of the OPCW, which is in charge of naming perpetrators, to

produce the first report, in order for the world community to determine accountability for chemical weapons use in Syria.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.