



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Fourth Session  
25 – 29 November 2019

C-24/NAT.37  
26 November 2019  
ENGLISH only

**KAZAKHSTAN**

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COUNSELLOR OF THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
TO THE NETHERLANDS AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman, Director General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first congratulate Ambassador Krassimir Kostov with his appointment as the Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties. I am sure that with your vast experience and leadership, the work of our Conference will be successful and fruitful. You and your newly-elected team can count on our delegation's full support.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome Azerbaijan on its appointment to the Non-Aligned Movement Chairmanship for the period of 2019 – 2022. We believe that Azerbaijan will conduct the work of the Movement in a traditionally constructive manner.

We also congratulate the winners of the 2019 OPCW–The Hague Award and commend their efforts on our shared goal of achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

Commitment to the principle of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is one of the fundamental guidelines of the Kazakhstan Government and its foreign policy.

Kazakhstan has strict legislation in the sphere of chemical security and export control. All the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention have been implemented in the legislation of Kazakhstan.

As a member of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, Kazakhstan is strongly committed to continuing our efforts to mitigate chemical weapons threats, enhance chemical security, and improve the coordination of chemical security threat reduction programmes and activities across the globe.

Our Government is actively working to ensure chemical safety in Kazakhstan and participates in the activities to organise regional exercises and seminars jointly with the OPCW and other States Parties to the Convention.

In this regard, I am glad to inform you that my country will be hosting the second edition of the workshop on developing tools for chemical safety and security management in the newly created United Nations Hub in Almaty next week, from 2 to 6 December 2019.



We welcome the consensus on technical changes to the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention between the Russian Federation and Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States. We understand that after many rounds of disagreement, there is finally movement towards a consensus on proposals for additions to Schedule 1A of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention.

In this way, the sponsors of the proposals demonstrate to us their wisdom and constructive approach to solving this critical issue.

Even though the Chemical Weapons Convention nowadays is almost universal and chemical weapons have been banned, they still pose a real danger. Unlike other weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons have repeatedly been used over the past decades.

The position of Kazakhstan on this issue remains firm and consistent. Any use of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, is unacceptable. Transparency and openness are crucial and necessary for objective discussions with sober assessments of exact recent or ongoing developments. We currently need such a thorough approach, especially in the investigation of incidents related to the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

Peace must prevail in Syria and our country has been involved by hosting peace talks on the Syrian conflict in our capital. The next round of Astana format talks is planned to take place on 10 and 11 December 2019. We call for constructive consultations and a tireless search for mutually acceptable solutions for the benefit of the people of Syria.

Kazakhstan has always been and remains a strong supporter of the Convention and the OPCW. Since January 2019, a Kazakhstani expert has been a member of the OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.

We are proud to be one of the first countries to have welcomed the OPCW initiative to establish the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology. In July 2019, our Government made a voluntary contribution to a particular OPCW trust fund for this purpose.

Contributing to the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology is a crucial way to strengthen the OPCW's capacity in developing even more confidence in the verification regime. The Centre is a collective endeavour that will further unite the OPCW Member States in achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

We call for all OPCW Member States to consider their contribution to this timely project.

In terms of the proposal on the 2020 Programme and Budget, we regret that such important decisions of the OPCW will not be adopted by consensus.

The extraordinary spirit of cooperation, consensus, and responsibility for the next generation created the OPCW. Kazakhstan will continue to work not only to preserve this unity in the Organisation, but also to strengthen it even more to solve the problems of an uncertain future.

We call upon the Technical Secretariat to observe an equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, including at the professional level, according to Article VIII of the Convention.

I wish all of us a successful Conference and kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference and posted on the Organisation's public website and extranet.

Thank you for your attention!

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