

**Dr Ajey Lele,
Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)
New Delhi, India**

**Presentation to 25th Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP)
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
The Hague, The Netherlands**

Mr Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to speak on behalf of the MP-Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) from New Delhi, India. This institute continues to stand tall in its mission to promote national and international security through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues.

Mr Chairman,

The Institute conducts several national and international conferences every year. The Institute publishes a few important journals and one amongst them is a biannual journal called *The CBW Magazine* which exclusively addresses issues concerning chemical and biological weapons and is probably one of its kind available globally.

Mr Chairman,

It is my privilege to make a statement at the 25th session on CSP. The OPCW needs to be complimented for its efforts towards addressing various chemical threats effectively.

Mr Chairman,

We all are aware that the COVID-19 outbreak is likely to continue for the foreseeable future until a safe and effective vaccine and medication becomes commonly available. Presently, a significant amount of research work is ongoing towards finding an antidote for the coronavirus. It is important to ensure that all the research, development and innovation finding a cure for the coronavirus infection remain in safe hands and no misuse of this information happens.

Mr Chairman,

Today, the world is on the cusp of the fourth industrial revolution which is expected to fundamentally change our lifestyle. Various new and innovative technologies are getting developed during this phase and most of them have capability to bring in massive technology disruption. Researchers fear that artificial intelligence and 3-D printing might one day create, on demand, weapons of mass destruction. There exists a possibility that the proliferation of 3-D printers could make it much easier for nation-states or non-state actors to covertly build chemical-weapons-making infrastructure.

Mr Chairman,

Over the years, the CWC and the OPCW have greatly contributed to norm-building against chemical weapons, which is very praiseworthy.

Finally, in the end, I thank you Mr Chairman – and thank you all for your kind attention and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.