



OPCW

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SINGAPORE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAYA RATNAM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation congratulates you, Mr Chairperson, on your election as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the States Parties (“the Conference”). We also thank your predecessor, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, for his leadership of the Twenty-Fourth Conference.

Singapore would like to commend the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) for their continuing efforts towards achieving universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”), overseeing the destruction of remaining chemical weapons stockpiles, and addressing the use of chemical weapons despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. We recognise the steps taken by the Secretariat to ensure the safety of staff, States Parties’ representatives, and other stakeholders, and we are encouraged that the Secretariat has moved some activities online to minimise disruption, such as capacity building, assistance and protection, and combating chemical terrorism. We note as well the assurances that all necessary arrangements were made to ensure that this Conference is conducted in accordance with prevailing health measures. My delegation places high importance on all States Parties being able to attend and exercise their rights at the Conference in a safe and appropriate manner.

Since the coming into force of the Convention and the establishment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in 1997, we have witnessed progress in eliminating an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. The OPCW’s efforts have resulted in the verifiable destruction of 97% of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles. We call for strong and continued collective effort in upholding global chemical security, and promoting the peaceful use of chemicals. It is also important that the international community continues to work together to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons, and non-State actors from acquiring development capabilities.

At the national level, Singapore will continue to do our part in supporting the work of the OPCW and the international community. Singapore maintains a robust export controls regime, and reviews our legislation regularly to update and strengthen our controls on Convention-scheduled chemicals. We were also pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the Assistance and



Protection against Chemical Weapons Programme under Article X of the Convention by hosting the sixth run of the “Emergency Response Course to Chemical Incidents” in December 2019, which involved ten regional States Parties.

I end by reiterating my delegation’s strong commitment to supporting the OPCW and its Secretariat in fully discharging its mandate. I thank you, Mr Chairperson, and I ask for this statement to be issued as an official document and published accordingly.

Thank you.

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