



## **Remarks by the OPCW Deputy Director-General at the Closing Ceremony for the Tenth annual WMD Summer Programme (Asser Institute)**

**As delivered on 4 October 2019, The Hague, Netherlands**

Distinguished Guests,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General, I congratulate the participants of the 10th annual Weapons of Mass Destruction Summer Programme. I would also like to take this moment to commend the excellent and ongoing collaboration between the OPCW and the Asser Institute. Once again, we must sincerely thank Mr Sico van der Meer and his team, as well as all the presenters and contributors to this year's Programme.

Dear Participants,

Over this intensive week, you explored disarmament and non-proliferation issues, engaged with experts in the field, and examined the current and future direction of WMD policy. I am confident that the knowledge you have acquired and the concepts you have learned will help you negotiate and advance the global disarmament agenda. The OPCW's efforts to strengthen the international norm against chemical weapons offer salient lessons in the need for adaptability to navigate the evolving international landscape. I am sure hope that what you have learned here will inform your work.

Just as important, I hope that you leave here with lasting professional relationships that will stay with you long after you complete this programme. You are now part of an extensive and growing alumni network that extends beyond the people present in this room and indeed reaches far abroad. With that, please accept my best wishes for your future careers.

Thank you.

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