



Twenty First Induction Workshop for Diplomatic Personnel Involved in the Work of the OPCW

Closing remarks by the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ms Odette Melono

17 September 2021

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to close this Induction Workshop.

Thank you to all the attendees for your active participation in this annual event. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives, it is heartening to see such a high turn-out from among the diplomatic community.

Our aim today was to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the OPCW and insights into its key issues and challenges.

I hope these briefings made a valuable contribution to your understanding of how the Organisation operates and will help you in performing your duties as delegates.

This event was also an opportunity to interact with the senior staff responsible for our programmes and activities that constitute our core functions.

These moments help cultivate the collegial environment within which the Secretariat and States Parties can collaborate to successfully deliver on our goals of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Indeed, over the past twenty-four years the OPCW has made significant gains and passed impressive milestones.

The coming years will witness further accomplishments and historic junctures on our journey towards a world free of chemical weapons.

In 2022, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We shall also see the completion of the construction of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, our flagship research and science facility.

In addition, in 2023 the United States, the last declared possessor state party, is set to conclude the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons stockpile.

Against this backdrop, the OPCW stands on the cusp of a transition, in which its work on preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons will increasingly become its primary focus.

The success of this transition is dependent on the States Parties support of and cooperation with the Organisation.

That support and cooperation is built upon a membership that is constructively involved in the deliberations on the OPCW's future priorities and challenges.

To this end, we are committed to maintaining a highly collaborative relationship with you and to further strengthening and promoting consultation and consensus.

These values have served the Organisation well in the past to keep it adaptable, agile, and efficient.

As we chart a course forward together, these characteristics will remain crucial for keeping the OPCW fit for purpose, sustainably financed and effective.

The Secretariat is here to offer the assistance that you require as delegates of States Parties. We are ready to maintain a productive dialogue with you.

I look forward to working with you as we fulfil our collective goals of the permanent elimination of all chemical weapons and the promotion of the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Thank you for your attention.
