

Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-27) to the Chemical  
Weapons Convention  
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Statement by the Partnerships in Proliferation Program at The Henry L. Stimson Center in  
Support of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Statement prepared by: The Partnerships in Proliferation Program, The Henry L. Stimson Center,  
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Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Delegates, CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and  
Gentlemen,

We share the common goals of complete elimination of chemical weapons and preventing the misuse or malicious use of chemical materials as weapons. To those ends, the Henry L. Stimson Center has been active in advancing the goals of the CWC and treaty implementation since the early 1990s. At that time, under our late co-founder Michael Krepon's leadership, the Stimson Center worked behind the scenes to help the U.S. Government formulate forward-looking positions for the negotiations for the chemical weapons disarmament treaty and then worked with U.S. industry to build political support for CWC ratification by the United States. These efforts are one example of the many ways that civil society organizations have supported the CWC since its inception and continue to do so today.

Although States have responsibility for implementing the Convention, civil society organizations have several characteristics that can help State Parties and the OPCW achieve the objectives and core values of the CWC. Among other strengths, civil society organizations can provide safe spaces for an informal flow of ideas, take more risks in pursuing new technologies, and maintain a reservoir of knowledge, expertise, and passionate commitment to chemical weapons elimination and preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

As an independent, non-profit research institute, programs at the Stimson Center today focuses on how new technologies can create new opportunities for strengthening treaty compliance, including:

- The OPCW recognizes the Stimson Center's Assistance Support Initiative online database and search tool as a resource for State Parties to find assistance projects and programs to support national implementation of the Convention (<https://1540assistance.stimson.org>).
- Combining chemistry and information technology, the Stimson Center in partnership with American University has developed a Nonproliferation Cheminformatics Compliance Tool, a functioning prototype of a tool that automates the task of assessing whether a named chemical is covered under the CWC Schedules and other control lists (<https://www.stimson.org/project/cheminformatics/>).

- The Stimson Center's Monitoring and Tracking Chemicals (MATCH) project incubates and tests blockchain technology for its potential to improve oversight of cross-border transfers of scheduled chemicals and reduce the occurrence of transfer discrepancies (<https://www.stimson.org/project/match/>).

Global Affairs Canada funds or funded all four of these projects. As with many civil society products, the tools aim to be available for any interested party, essentially at no cost. Stimson Center staff will be happy to address questions on these projects and arrange demonstrations.

Two more general points need making.

All these projects came about through the Stimson Center's constructive engagement with State Parties and the OPCW. Those engagements influenced the decisions to start these projects and guided their development. They would not have happened if civil society organizations did not have a place, however limited, in multilateral forums like the CSP.

Second, the Stimson Center is but one member of the larger community of civil society organizations that foster constructive discussions, implement assistance and outreach activities, or create innovative tools that can make them be very useful partners. With its passion and commitment to the goals of the CWC, the civil society community will act. With a place in multilateral forums, civil society organizations will have more opportunities to ensure that their actions effectively and efficiently complement the work of State Parties, the OPCW, and other stakeholders in supporting the CWC. There remains much to do in opposing chemical weapons, and a growing community of civil society organizations stand ready to help.

Thank you for your attention, and we request that this statement be made part of the official CSP published proceedings.