



Closing Remarks by the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ms Odette Melono,
at the Briefing for Non-Hague based Permanent Representations

10 November 2022

Chairperson of the Executive Council, Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your attendance and active participation in this Briefing for Non-Hague based Permanent Representations.

It has been a great pleasure to host this event in person for the first time since the pandemic. Being physically outside The Hague presents challenges for all delegations who are charged with the responsibility of representing their country in the OPCW.

The main objective of today's presentations was to provide delegations located in Brussels and elsewhere with an overview of the work and priorities of the OPCW for this year.

This is also intended to help you better prepare for the upcoming Twenty-Seventh Conference of the States Parties.

Just as importantly, it is an excellent opportunity to introduce all of you to officials from the Secretariat with whom you are likely to engage with at the Conference and in the future.

For this reason, we were eager to hold this event in person.

Establishing such close communication is vital to exercising the effective functioning of the OPCW.

We understand that a lot of information was covered today in a relatively short time, but your patience and interest in our presentations is highly valued and encouraging to the Secretariat.

The briefings detailed the key activities of the OPCW over the past 12 months, particularly those undertaken by the Executive Council and the work conducted in the area of international cooperation and assistance.

This is important information not just for your preparation for the Conference of the States Parties, but also for next year's Review Conference.

As the Director-General underscored in his opening remarks, we are facing a period of increased risks and challenges to international peace and security.

In addition, I would add that the OPCW is going through a period of change where it is intensifying its focus on the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

We are also getting ready to open our new Centre for Chemistry and Technology, which as you heard will be integral to the OPCW's future activities.

Accordingly, we are at a critical juncture for the Organisation.

And the Review Conference will provide our Member States with an opportunity to set the strategic direction of the OPCW.

The Secretariat therefore hopes to continue its productive collaboration with all participants here and remains at your disposal for any assistance in your work related to the OPCW and the Convention.

Before closing, let me take a moment to acknowledge in particular the representative of the Republic of South Sudan who attended today's event as an observer.

I hope that this meeting will contribute to strengthening cooperation between the OPCW and South Sudan with a view to supporting your country's consideration of joining the Convention.

I look forward to meeting all of you afterwards for refreshments and lunch.

I thank you for your attention.
