

OPCW

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SINGAPORE

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LIM HONG HUAI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SINGAPORE TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Singapore congratulates H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela on his election as Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention"). You have Singapore's full support in the conduct of this year's session. We also take this opportunity to thank H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen for his leadership of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Singapore commends the continuing efforts of the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Technical Secretariat towards achieving a world free of chemical weapons and addressing the issues surrounding the use of chemical weapons despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years. We appreciate their efforts to safely resume activities in areas such as capacity building, assistance and protection, and combating chemical terrorism.

The OPCW's work has resulted in the verifiable destruction of 99% of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles. While this is remarkable progress, collective efforts towards the goal of complete elimination of declared chemical weapons stockpiles must continue unabated. It is imperative that we continue to uphold global chemical security, promote the peaceful use of chemicals, prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons, and ensure that non-State actors cannot access or develop chemical weapons.

Singapore strongly supports the work of the OPCW and is pleased that Singapore's DSO National Laboratories continues to be certified as one of the OPCW designated laboratories for analysis of biomedical and environmental samples. We maintain a robust export control regime and review our legislation regularly to update and strengthen our controls on Convention-scheduled chemicals. Singapore will also continue to contribute to the assistance and protection programme under Article X by conducting the seventh run of the "Emergency Response Course to Chemical Incidents" in 2023.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Singapore's firm commitment to supporting the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat in fully discharging its mandate. Thank you.

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