



**FIJI STATEMENT**  
**Organisation on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference**  
**The Hague, Netherlands**  
**15 May 2023**

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## **Salutation**

Mr. Chairperson

Mr. Director General,

Distinguished Delegates

Representatives of Chemical industry and civil society

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me this valuable opportunity to represent our island nations on the significance of Chemical Weapons.

Our vulnerability as small islands in the Pacific region, and the porous nature of our borders and our vast ocean space makes our nations susceptible to chemicals threats.

In the cause for global peace and security, Fiji took leadership in ratifying the instruments almost 3 decades ago and it demonstrates our commitment to global security and the urgency in addressing the threat of chemical weapons.

As the Minister responsible for National Security, I stand against the use of toxic chemical weapons by anyone whether they be a State or non-state actor.

Fiji fully is committed to work closely with the Technical Secretariat on the implementation support for small island States in the Pacific Region. Like other developing countries, we are fully aware of the importance of establishing partnership and cooperation with regional and sub-regional State Parties.

Regional cooperation provides a key role both to promote awareness and enhance cooperation in our region. The OPCW, together with our regional

architecture such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, support our pursuit of a chemical weapons' free region.

We recognize the sub-regional Forum on national implementation of the CWC, which was co-hosted by Australia and Malaysia in Brisbane in 2022. Some key lessons and opportunities which were captured underscored regional cooperation through technical assistance, follow up measures and implementation challenges.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the midst of the geopolitical challenges we are exposed to, all necessary measures must be explored by countries to uphold the principles and norms of the CWC. To this end, we present the following recommendations:

Firstly, Review and strengthen the management and enforcement of compliance in prohibiting chemical weapons through improving OPCW forensic and analytical capabilities to support verification, investigation and technical assistance.

Additionally, a strong commitment from the OPCW council to systematically ensure compliance. CWC parties to take necessary steps to review the measures adopted and to enact and enforce the CWC mandates to ensure that those responsible for crimes are brought to justice.

There is a need for improved coordination within the broader international framework address prevention and response against chemical weapons.

Secondly, proactively deter the proliferation and use of chemical weapons by equipping the OPCW to manage chemical threats through improved technical support capabilities and resources to laboratories for diagnostics.

OPCW Inspectors have the authorization to detect scheduled and non-scheduled chemicals, support the verification mechanism through scenarios of declared facilities and address any future threats.

Finally, Improving the National Implementation Measures through analysis of existing legislations to examine legal procedures for conformity to international obligations.

All of these require political will. State Parties must support intelligence sharing, international investigative and criminal procedures to support OPCW expert reviews. This is to ensure that the CWC verification schedules and declaration processes are implemented to address challenges.

I wish you and all the distinguished delegates a successful Session. I hereby request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Executive Council and published on the website of the OPCW.

Thank you.