

**Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-30) to the Chemical
Weapons Convention**

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NGO Joint Statement:
Education and the Chemical Weapons Convention

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Mr. Chairperson, Your Excellency the Director-General, Distinguished Delegates,

I am honored to speak on behalf of the NGO Coalition for the Chemical Weapons Convention and appreciate the opportunity to address this Conference. Our statement today concerns a foundational element for the lasting success of this Convention: education.

The Chemical Weapons Convention stands, a quarter of a century after its entry into force, as one of the most successful pillars of our global disarmament architecture. Yet, the norm against chemical weapons is not self-perpetuating. This is a norm that needs continuous reinforcement by knowledge, ethics, and a culture of responsibility.

In a world of fast-moving scientific and technological progress, our most important investments to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons are to strengthen education, expand access to information, and connect the work and goals of the Convention across all generations, especially children and youth.

Despite progress on education and outreach, deep gaps remain. Public awareness of CWC norms and obligations remains uneven across regions, institutions and generations. Most chemistry students and young scientists graduate with little or no exposure to the ethical and legal framework of the Convention, which is a critical vulnerability.

Education is not a peripheral activity; it is central to effective national implementation, helps verification preparedness, strengthens non-proliferation, and promotes the universality of the Convention.

Civil society and academia have long played an invaluable role in bridging these gaps. Globally, our organizations work to translate the Convention's provisions into accessible educational materials, foster dialogue between scientists and policymakers, and promote the responsible conduct of science. We stand ready to deepen our collaboration with States Parties and the Technical Secretariat.

In this regard, we wish to respectfully advance the following recommendations:

First, we call upon States Parties to integrate CWC-related modules into national educational curricula, particularly in chemistry, engineering, and the life sciences. This will equip the next generations of scientists with the ethical and legal foundation to anchor their work, from their very first day in the laboratory, in the principles of safety, security, responsibility and the peaceful use of chemistry.

Second, we urge the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to substantially expand development of educational materials and capacity-building initiatives on the CWC and responsible science, in partnership with academic institutions, NGOs, research institutions, and youth networks. We commend the OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and welcome tools such as the e-learning modules and the Education & Outreach Portal.

We encourage development of monitoring and measurement frameworks as the Portal grows, to track the uptake and effectiveness of these resources. We further call for the broad dissemination and mainstreaming of The Hague Ethical Guidelines so that it serves as a living document among scientists from all over the world, particularly those at an early stage in their careers.

Third, we promote increased cooperation among governments, Secretariat, academia, NGOs and youth networks, as advancing CWC education requires a whole-of-society approach. We welcome the Technical Secretariat's recent expert meeting in establishing a Global Academic Network to support the implementation of the CWC and encourage the Network to take forward a global community of practice with shared resources, focal points and regular dialogues.

Mr. Chairperson,

The future of the Chemical Weapons Convention is being shaped in today's classrooms and laboratories. Let us act with foresight and determination to invest in the education and awareness that will cultivate a global culture of responsibility, peace and ensure the promise of the Convention endures for generations to come.

We request that this statement be reflected in the final report of this Conference.

Thank you.