

Draft Joint Statement

**Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention
CSP 30: 25th to 28th November 2025
The Hague, The Netherlands**

NGO Statement on Improving Interactions between Civil Society and the OPCW

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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Civil Society Colleagues:

The Chemical Weapons Convention stands as one of the strongest pillars of international disarmament. Yet, as the challenges continue to emerge in the form of dual-use technologies and the persistent allegations of chemical weapons use in active armed conflicts, the role of civil society becomes crucial in safeguarding the mandate of the Convention. The CWC Coalition brings together diverse civil society organisations with expertise on Arms Control and Disarmament, Public Health, Human Rights, Environmental Safety, and Regional Security. Inclusive, equitable, and multi-stakeholder cooperation with these organisations is necessary to sustain momentum and ensure complete implementation of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Even as the participation of the civil society organisations in the Conference of States Parties has improved over time, certain constraints remain. Many organisations still face financial challenges in their endeavour to attend the CSP. This leads to an imbalance of representation that hinders the equitable implementation of the Convention. Expanding the opportunities for CSO participation to intersessional meetings, workshops, and civil society forums throughout the year would improve the presence of civil society within the OPCW.

Additionally, reforming the accreditation process to foster increased transparency will also aid in enhancing representation. The current system, being susceptible to political considerations, has resulted in the exclusion of several credible civil society organisations. A transparent accreditation system would also improve communication between the States Parties and civil society organisations on a crucial issue of participation and representation. A transparent, more timely, and criteria-based accreditation process, tailored to the OPCW, would provide CSOs with clarity regarding decisions on their participation in the CSP.

Mr. Chairman,

To support the OPCW in achieving the Convention's mandate by integrating civil society expertise, a few recommendations are in order.

1. Carefully mapping the civil society organisations engaging with the OPCW, detailing their thematic focuses and regional backgrounds, would aid in identifying underutilized expertise. By gathering and organizing data on CSO contributions, the OPCW can create targeted engagement strategies, ensuring civil society input aligns with implementation priorities, especially in regions requiring capacity-building support.
2. The underrepresentation of certain regions, such as Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia, can be addressed by establishing regional CWCC chapters or networks to connect and mobilize local NGOs. A Youth chapter of the CWC can also be established to improve youth engagement with the Convention's mandate.
3. Regular and formal dialogue sessions between the States Parties and the civil society representatives can be introduced during the CSP and the intersessional periods to facilitate the exchange of on-ground insights to inform policymaking.
4. Dedicated funds established for civil society organisations should be allocated to support the work of the organisations and facilitate their participation within the CSP.
5. The OPCW and the CWC Coalition can improve communication and public outreach by expanding the use of digital and social media platforms. Such platforms can also be used to showcase the work and expertise of the various CSOs to improve public awareness on issues such as Victims' Rights, Public Health, as well as research on science, technology, and artificial intelligence being undertaken by civil society organisations.

Mr. Chairman,

Civil society is an indispensable part of the global effort toward chemical disarmament. Their technical expertise, field experience, and grassroots perspectives can significantly strengthen the implementation of the Convention. Despite their diversity, these actors share a common commitment to achieving a world free of chemical weapons and preventing their use. The recommendations presented here aim to bring these stakeholders closer together, enhance the OPCW's engagement with civil society, and further advance the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We request that this statement be a part of the record of the 30th Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention.