



**Embassy of the Republic of Serbia  
The Hague**

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**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Mr. Petar Vico,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the  
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE OPCW**

**3 December 2013**

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset of my presentation, allow me to declare that the Republic of Serbia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

I would like also to join previous speakers in extending my warmest congratulations to you, Ambassador Sa'ad Al Ali, upon your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Conference. We are convinced that your skills and experience will allow you to steer efficiently the work of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference, as your predecessor, Ambassador Peter Goosen successfully did.

It is also a great pleasure for me to extend the greetings to the Director-General of the OPCW Ambassador Ahmet Uzumcu and express gratitude to him and the Technical Secretariat staff, with its hard-working inspectors, for their continuous efforts in ensuring progress in implementation of the Convention, promoting its universality and raising awareness on the important role of this Organisation in global disarmament. In 2013, the Organization made further effective steps in the destruction of chemical weapons, in monitoring international transfers of listed chemicals, as well as in promoting international cooperation and development of science and technology. Recognizing the important role played by this Organisation in strengthening international peace and security, Serbia considers that the OPCW fully deserves the 2013 Nobel Prize for peace.

However, the year of 2013 will be also remembered as a year of the victims of chemical weapons. The Nobel Prize joy should not prevent us of thinking about victims. They deserve our full respect and remembrance. Serbia fully supports the efforts of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations in the destruction of the chemical weapons in Syria.

Serbia continues to give its assistance to the OPCW in 2013. Four courses and trainings were organised at our Training Centre in Kruševac: the 9<sup>th</sup> International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection for the participants from thirteen States; the Advanced International Course on Assistance and Protection for four participants from African States, as well as two toxic chemical trainings for the OPCW inspectors, including the training at the Military-Medical Academy in Belgrade. Serbia stays firmly committed to our common goal of the world free of chemical weapons.

At the end of my presentation, I would like to add the voice of Serbia to the strong support the Director-General, Ambassador Uzumcu, had already received at the Executive Council, for the renewal of his appointment by this Conference.

I would like to request that this document is issued as an official document of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference. Thank you.