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Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Global efforts in chemical disarmament and preventing the re-mergence of chemical weapons have registered unprecedented achievements under the leadership of the OPCW leadership, for which it was recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

The OPCW's successful functioning today, despite the fact that it is a treaty-based organization, depends on the ability to find its place in the world of the global spread of chemical manufacturing and use. There is also a global spread of threat of use of toxic chemicals as a means of warfare or terror. The recent use of chemical weapons and chemicals as weapons in Syria, and terrorist attacks against chemical infrastructure are visible confirmations of a growing threat of misuse of chemicals. The chemical threats are global in reach and require global responses. To meet these challenges we have to move beyond traditional arms control and disarmament.

We have to build a global movement to reduce chemical threats, free from political biases, with the OPCW in the center of these efforts.

In the process of renovating the OPCW agenda and accommodating the OPCW to join international efforts to meet these challenges, the OPCW should embrace chemical safety and security. Chemical safety and security should be a vehicle which will allow the OPCW to assist its member states to reduce chemical threats and increase international cooperation.

The Third Review Conference recalled that chemical safety and security, while being two distinct processes, are the prime responsibilities of States Parties. It encouraged the promotion of a safety and security culture regarding chemical facilities and of transportation of toxic chemicals. The Third Review Conference welcomed the role of the OPCW as a platform for voluntary consultations and cooperation among the States Parties and the relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and academia, to promote a global chemical safety and security culture.

These approaches and the OPCW accumulated experience have been imbedded in the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS) – www.iccss.eu. The ICCSS is today a leader in global efforts to enhance safety and security in chemical production, storage, use, transport and waste disposal. Founded and led by former senior OPCW officials, the Centre is making rapid progress by catalyzing cooperation across a broad range of

stakeholders in government, industry, academia and civil society. We offer an inclusive participatory program development. We avoid divisive political concepts and language that hinder progress in nuclear and bio safety and security.

We continue the efforts to enhance chemical safety and security globally. This global process started in November 2012 with an international meeting on chemical safety and security co-organized by the OPCW and ICCSS in Tarnow, Poland with participants from 56 countries and over 20 international organizations. This was followed by the OPCW's Third Review Conference in April 2013, which provided consensus support for efforts to promote global chemical safety and security culture. The Warsaw Conference on chemical and ecological safety and security, held in May 2014, then proposed that ICCSS and its national and international partners organize a global chemical safety and security event.

This process is continued with the Global Chemical Safety and Security Summit (www.chemss.2016.org) and accompanying Fair to be held in Kielce, Poland on 18-20 April, 2016, as the first global multi-stakeholder event dedicated to addressing chemical safety and security solutions in the supply chain of raw materials, production, infrastructure, transportation and use of chemicals in all areas of chemical activities, and to promoting development of a global chemical safety and security culture.

The Summit and the Fair aspire to be a tipping point for national and international efforts to develop a global chemical and ecological safety and security market through internationalization and operationalization of the best existing national and international best practices, capacity building, solutions, and technologies.

There are 2 most innovative concepts behind the Summit. It is not a government-led initiative. It is an initiative coming from the grassroots level, from those who are directly engaged in meeting chemical threats. Governments support the initiative but they are partners of industry, academia, and civil society in the preparation and running of the global summit. This multi-stakeholder ownership of the Summit confirms an emerging whole-government or whole-society approach in meeting chemical threats. Secondly, the summit is going to be a truly global event, free from political limitations. We believe the Summit will be another step in building global responses to the global threat of misuse of toxic chemicals, with the OPCW in the center of these efforts.

I invite the OPCW community to join the process of global summit preparations and conduct, and to jointly assist in reducing chemical threats. Thank you for your kind attention, and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.