

**Dr. Ajey Lele**  
**Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)**  
**New Delhi, India**

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**Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**  
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Mr Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to speak on behalf of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) from New Delhi, India. The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses is a non-partisan, autonomous think-tank dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence, security and strategic studies. Its mission is to promote national and international security through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues. IDSA, is one of the oldest and renowned think-tanks from India and is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year.

IDSA has a well-qualified multi-disciplinary research faculty drawn from academia, defence forces and the civil services, representing a diversity of views. Research at the Institute is driven by a comprehensive agenda which includes issues related to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Through its various publications, IDSA provides impartial analyses and presents wide-ranging policy recommendations.

The Institute publishes a biannual journal called *The CBW Magazine*. This journal has been published since 2007 and is the first of its kind in India. It offers a forum of debate for highlighting and analysing issues concerning chemical and biological weapons.

Mr Chairman,

Since its inception, IDSA has served as a forum for debating important aspects of national and international security. The Institute conducts several national and international conferences every year, and regularly holds round-tables and workshops on important themes. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015, the OPCW Director-General had visited IDSA and addressed us on various matters concerning the chemical weapons' convention.

Mr Chairman,

The OPCW, the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize awardee, deserves credit for handling the Syrian chemical weapons issue very professionally. Although the bulk of the Syrian challenge with regard to the elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles is over, there is still a need to ensure that the remaining chemical weapons from Syrian soil are completely eliminated. It is well understood that the OPCW alone cannot handle this challenge and would need assistance from other important agencies.

Today, the challenge posed by the terrorist organisation ISIS indicates that there is no scope for complacency about the chemical weapon threat in spite of the Chemical Weapons Convention being the most successful multilateral disarmament treaty in history. The danger from any possible covert CW proliferation by terrorist organisations should not be underestimated.

Mr Chairman,

The CWC and OPCW have greatly contributed to norm-building against chemical weapons. The process of destroying chemical weapons needs to be given the highest priority. It is expected it may take a few more years for the complete destruction of the chemical weapon stockpiles with Russia and the United States. The destruction and related activities in the recent past demonstrate that both these states are serious about their responsibilities to the CWC. I am positive that by the beginning of the next decade these states would be able to fulfil their treaty obligations.

Various think-tanks, NGOs, civil society groups, and academicians are playing an important role in debating the agenda of the CWC and OPCW and raising public awareness. I am sure that these organisations would also play a vital role towards ensuring the growth of chemistry and developing international cooperation in sponsoring chemical research and sharing of best practices amongst the agencies.

Finally, I would like to appreciate the efforts made by the OPCW for engaging various non-governmental stakeholders to play a constructive role towards fulfilling the CWC's mandate. I thank you, Mr Chairman – and thank you all for your kind attention. I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.