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*1 Percent Must Concern 100 Percent*

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(Draft)

Mister Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, OPCW and CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honor for me to have the privilege of speaking at this podium, once again, on behalf of the Center for International Security Studies and Strategic Research, also known as MEF Strategy, which was established last year at MEF University in Istanbul.

Mister Chairman, as the Director of MEF Strategy, allow me to say a few words about our center first.

MEF Strategy aims to carry out elaborate and comprehensive research on world affairs with special emphasis on the developments taking place in the realm of international security and military strategy.

In accordance with this objective, MEF Strategy will convene workshops and conferences by bringing together academics and experts working in these fields and will also take part in the realization of similar gatherings by sister organizations, such as the ones that are represented here.

We are, therefore, grateful to the OPCW for giving us this unique opportunity to expand and consolidate our network by inviting me to participate in this extremely important event.

I would like to take this opportunity to also express our gratitude to Green Cross International, the CWC Coalition, and to Dr. Paul Walker in particular for doing everything in their power for cementing the cooperation among us.

Mister Chairman, we are pleased to see that every passing year the CWC is getting closer to its goal of universality.

The recent accession of Myanmar and Angola increased the number of states parties to the Convention to a record high 192 states and thus making it the most successful multilateral disarmament treaty.

We are looking forward to the accession of the hold-outs, namely Egypt, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan to the Convention at an early date.

In this regard, the efforts of the OPCW and the CWC states parties must be acknowledged and highly praised by everyone.

Hence, allow me to congratulate once again the OPCW and its Director-General Mr. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for the well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize awarded two years ago.

Director-General Üzümcü and the OPCW must also be congratulated for the extremely crucial mission of eliminating Syria's chemical weapons arsenal.

It's relieving to know that 99 percent of Syria's chemical weapons stocks have been eliminated. But, the remaining 1 percent must remain to be a serious concern for the 100 percent of the world community.

Earlier this year, Director-General Üzümcü has reportedly "revealed in a press conference during his visit to Japan in February that Iraq had reported to the Organization that ISIS members have attempted to obtain chemical weapons."

More recently, it was stated in the Decision of the Executive Council of the OPCW, which was adopted by consensus last week on November 23 that the report of the OPCW's Fact-Finding Mission confirmed "with the utmost confidence that at least two people were exposed to sulfur mustard" in the town of Marea, north of Aleppo, in Syria, on August 21.

I remember, in my short presentation at this podium exactly a year ago, I had pointed at the possibility of unauthorized access to chemical weapons and/or chemical agents that could be weaponized by non-state actors who wouldn't mind using them in their attacks against unprotected people.

We're living in a world where our greatest fears, rather than our dreams, started to come true.

This, in my view, is primarily because of failing to achieve effective and comprehensive international cooperation in the fight against non-state actors.

Needless to say, the CWC has not been designed to address non-state actors. It is the task of the international community whose 192 member states have been gathered in this forum with a view to eliminating the remaining chemical weapons before they are stolen, lost or proliferated to medieval-age structures like ISIS, which may push the level of their atrocities to unprecedented extremes.

Unfortunately, we have seen such atrocities over the past year, not only in Iraq and Syria where ISIS has managed to maintain its control over large territories, but also in capital cities like Ankara, Beirut, Paris and Bamako.

Had these attacks been carried out with chemical weapons, or other weapons of mass destruction, the result would have been catastrophic.

There is no guarantee that no such an attack will ever occur in other population centers anywhere in the world, given the rapid expansion of the zone of operation of ISIS.

Hence, it is time for the members of the civilized world to get together more urgently than ever in the fight against those who want to drag us toward the dark ages. One of the first steps should be to publish the six Fact-Finding Mission reports and to support the new Joint Investigative Mechanism established by the United Nations to determine accountability for chemical weapons use in Syria.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.