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**New Delhi, India**

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

My name is Animesh Roul, presently serving as the Executive Director of the New Delhi-based policy research group, the Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict (SSPC). SSPC is a network member of the CWC Coalition and the Bioweapons Prevention Project (BWPP) along with other international policy research and civil society groups.

On behalf of my organization, I thank the OPCW and the CWC Coalition for this opportunity to speak at the plenary meeting at the CSP 20.

**Mr Chairman,**

We at SSPC aim to carry out research, advocacy, and dissemination of information on subjects relating to arms control, non-proliferation, armed conflicts, and counterterrorism issues. Over the last few years we have been regularly publishing research works, opinion pieces, and news digests on weapons of mass disruptions (CBRN) with particular focus on chemical and biological weapons and materials. In the near future, we are looking forward to undertaking similar activities for better information dissemination within the larger strategic community and for the benefit of general readers.

**Mr Chairman,**

In his recent visits to India and Pakistan, the Director-General, His Excellency Ahmet Üzümcü, underscored the imminent dangers posed by chemical weapons emanating from Non-State Actors (NSAs), a matter which is virtually posing new challenges before the international community and before the OPCW at present.

In reality, this Non-State Actors (NSAs) phenomenon, primarily related to the terrorist groups with Jihadist orientations, has been plaguing the South Asian region and elsewhere for decades. Leading transnational terrorist groups are presently attempting to legitimize the use of chemical and biological weapons against population centers as permissible weapons of war by distorting religious treatises and Jihadi war manuals. We

have witnessed this situation taking roots in the conflict zones in the Middle East. SSPC is working relentlessly to monitor and document these CBW events, Jihadist motivations, movements and capabilities with critical assessments and analyses. In this regard, in February this year (2015), SSPC had the opportunity to participate and present its research on Chemical and Biological Dimensions of Jihadi Terrorism in the 17<sup>th</sup> Asia Security Conference organized by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. SSPC research on CBRN issues are presented and published occasionally in various forums, particularly in the *CBW Magazine* published by the IDSA in New Delhi from time to time.

**Mr Chairman,**

I would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention towards some of SSPC's present activities and future plans on CBRN-related research works: firstly, SSPC is engaged in building a strong database in order to regularly monitor CBRN events. For this, publication of a monthly newsletter, *CBRN Digest*, with the aim to document chemical, biological and radiological events is under consideration at present. We have in fact already published two issues of this monthly digest earlier this year and plan to give continuity to this on a regular basis in the future. Secondly, in the coming year, SSPC also plans to publish a Historical Fact book on Chemical Biological weapons' use by Non-State Actors as well as a series of Issue Briefs and opinion pieces on CBW arms control and proliferation issues. Our earnest endeavour would remain to bring these issues into the public domain to raise awareness and to initiate a dialogue among various stakeholders, including industry, the scientific community, and civil society members.

On behalf of SSPC, I am very much looking forward to the meetings, side events, and discussions scheduled for this week.

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