

Mr. Thomas Kwame Osei, Executive-Director

Farmers Care Foundation, Ghana

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

I am pleased for the opportunity to speak at this conference on behalf of my organization, the Farmers Care Foundation, a non-profit, charitable organization in Ghana.

Ghana, my country, does not possess any weapons of mass destruction. As a State Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) since 1970, Ghana is recognized as a Non-Nuclear Weapon State (NNWS). Ghana is also a State Party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and is a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

On July 9, 1975, the Government of Ghana deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

The Farmers Care Foundation therefore solemnly stands behind our country for ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention that prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, retention, transfer, and use of chemical weapons.

We as an organization recognize the major risks of chemical weapons and the damage chemical weapons have done to humanity, animals, birds, the environment, and public health. We therefore vehemently vow to support the work of the OPCW by raising awareness at all levels of society and widely in our communities at all times in our projects.

The fight against chemical weapons must no doubt be a concerted effort and there is the need to help realize the ban on chemical weapons under the Chemical Weapons Convention. It is in this regard that my organization came out with the following common aims and objectives:

1. To sensitize the communities we operate in on the dangers of chemical weapons and the harmful threat to humanity and the environment as well.
2. To organize symposiums, forums, workshops, seminars, and training to disseminate information on chemical weapons and the work of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW.

3. To collaborate with the Government by supporting its national implementing measures that seek to regulate, achieve, and realize the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
4. To foster collaboration with similar organizations elsewhere, especially those whose Governments have not yet ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention and to push for their timely ratification or accession.
5. To boldly display at all times our commitment as an organization to seek total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction; and to discourage any effort at implementing, facilitating, or supporting chemical weapons production and proliferation.

My organization wishes to reiterate with profound gratitude our appreciation of the OPCW's support and opportunity to NGOs to attend this conference and to share our side of the story. We are highly grateful.

Thank you for your attention and I do request that this statement be considered part of the final CSP official document of this august conference and posted on the external server and website.

November 2017.