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Mister Chairman, Director General, Distinguished Delegates, CWC Coalition Colleagues, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has been a cornerstone of international peace and security; as it builds upon the success of the state parties each year, in adhering to their commitment towards a world free of chemical weapons.

State parties can measure the success in terms of the tangible achievements such as the destruction of approximately 96 percent of the declared chemical weapons stocks. This process had been carried out under strict verification measures and by upholding the primary goal of the convention.

However, unfortunately, where we have reason to celebrate the huge success such as the completion of operations for destruction of the last declared chemical weapons in Russia or the great success the OPCW has seen as a result of the director general Ahment Uzumcu, there is still reasons left to fill in the missing gaps.

These gaps in the system have resulted in global catastrophe such as the use of chemical weapons in Syria, bringing to light the importance of reconciling the difference with regards to declared and undeclared stockpiles, potential access of chemical weapons to non-state actors.

All requiring a re think with regards to not only stressing on the need of the state parties to come up with internal consensus but also to rewrite the global consensus against weapons of mass destruction and in particular against the use of chemical weapons in conflict.

The issue of re-emphasizing the need for universality cannot be highlighted enough as it is only through this goal can we deal with issue of developments in the fields of chemical industry, their need to develop safe chemical commerce on the one hand and the global effort to de-emphasize the use of chemical agents as riot control agents to use of chemical weapons by non-state actors.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

These issues while are discussed in detail at the OPCW and through the aid of the convention, also beg a central debate with regards to the issue of failing states and global conflict hotspots; where the threats are not only real but create crisis of confidence as the state parties struggle to complete their continuous adherence to CWC. The ever-growing interface between technology and development of chemical weapons by non-state actors only further complicates the case for complete and comprehensive adherence to the CWC.

Similarly, the issue of advancement in science and the absence of conduct of conduct in bio technology/ bio defense and bio weaponisation creates the ever change debate of looking at the future of the treaty and impact of technology. The question being will be require a new schedule list of chemicals or what is the future of bio-chem interface with regards to development of chemical weapons through new agents or pathogens.

The importance of CWC is underscored by the fact that today we live in an era of globalization and mass movement of goods, people and technology across the states, complicating the areas where the responsibility of the state parties can be affixed with regards to best practices in the industry for safe chemical movement and securing internal and external borders as state in various part of the world confront regional security crises and at times total collapse.

In these trying times as we stand at the cross road of defining the future of the world that is inter alia ... whether it will be a world free of chemical weapons or a world faced with a threat of extra ordinary proportion; I cannot help but recognize the work being carried out by my colleagues in CCWC, sister non-governmental organizations and by my parent institute the south Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) university in promoting the work and the mission of the OPCW and CWC.

To once again bring home to this august gathering that a new world devoid of a strong comprehensive, and not based on the principle of universality, a CWC will not be just a failure of the state parties but will indeed be the absence of an excellent international instrument for peace for the next generations to come.

Dear colleagues!

The Nobel Peace prize given to the OPCW for being the most efficient international forum in the field of disarmament is mere reflection of the reality that the goal of having a world free of chemical weapons requires a consensus of the will and commitment to this Nobel mission and begs us to rise above our political difference to work and support the efforts to promoting peace and security in the world. This commitment will perhaps will be the only tangible gift of peace to the next generations as we struggle to carry this work forward in these turbulent times.

Collective security is the new global common which has brought together countries and states which perhaps in the Westphalia state system would have remained locked in conflict either due to structural impediments or due to the ideological basis of the state functions.

In the end, I would like to state that the openness and growing responsiveness of the OPCW towards civil society and in particular the CWC Coalition is a positive development and the need of the hour. In the era of change, technology and increased power of non-

state actors to use chemical technology and weapons to create shock and awe, public outreach and a fresh look is required to build on the relevance of the CWC for a peaceful world. A more cohesive response by industry, States Parties, and the OPCW along with civil society and its institutions is a necessary partnership to realize the goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

I thank you all for the work done to keep this cause alive and the possibility of learning from our mistakes for the future survival of this world.

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.