

NATIONAL STATEMENT OF SINGAPORE  
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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SINGAPORE TO THE**  
**ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)**  
**AT THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE**  
**CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**  
**THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS**

Introduction

Mr Chairman

I am honoured to address the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP).

2 Firstly, allow me to congratulate Ambassador Fernando Arias on his appointment as Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat. Director-General Arias can count on Singapore for our full support and cooperation.

3 I would also like to thank outgoing Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his hard work and dedication to the implementation of the Convention in the last eight years. Under DG Üzümcü’s able leadership, the OPCW has made significant progress towards our collective goal of a chemical weapons-free world. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the OPCW for its accomplishments is well-deserved. DG Üzümcü’s unwavering commitment to the work of the OPCW is inspiring, and on behalf of my delegation, I wish DG Üzümcü all the best in his future endeavours.

Complete Destruction of Russia’s Chemical Weapons

Mr Chairman

4 Singapore is pleased to note the successful destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles by the Russian Federation. Singapore appreciates Russia’s commitment to destroy its chemical weapons far ahead of its deadline of 2020, as well as the OPCW’s verification efforts. This milestone underscores the global commitment to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.

Twentieth Anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Mr Chairman

5 2017 is a significant year as it marks the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the establishment of the OPCW. The

CWC has become the world's most effective disarmament treaty, with 192 Member States, representing 98% of the global population. To date, 95% of the world's chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed. The CWC's success is a shining beacon for global security, and we hope that other non-proliferation regimes can emulate its progress.

6 In the past two decades, we witnessed the OPCW's commitment to the elimination of chemical weapons worldwide. Its constant engagement with the chemical industries and scientific community to promote the peaceful uses of chemistry, and efforts to build up States Parties' capabilities in countering chemical weapons threats are commendable. Singapore pledges our commitment to and support for the OPCW's continuous efforts to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

7 Trends such as the advancement of weapons technology and the growing threat of terrorism worldwide continue to challenge the goals of the Convention. We must stand firm against these threats by conducting outreach and education, enhancing chemical safety and security, and boosting counter-terrorism efforts through the existing working groups in the OPCW. This is a collective effort, and Singapore joins the international community in supporting the OPCW as it addresses these new challenges.

#### Executive Council's 86<sup>th</sup> Decision acts on Non-State Actors

8 Singapore notes the decision adopted at the 86<sup>th</sup> Executive Council (EC) to address the threat posed by non-state actors. We commend EC members' efforts to counter terrorism and prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. The accessibility of chemical weapons to non-state actors poses a threat to humanity, and it is crucial that we prevent them from acquiring development capabilities.

#### Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors

Mr Chairman

9 In June this year, Singapore was privileged to have the opportunity to share our approach on port security at the OPCW's Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. Singapore adopts a whole of government approach to port security in both domestic and regional contexts. We also strive to advance our network of scientific laboratories and CBRNE capabilities. On this note, Singapore is honoured to be part of the network of OPCW-designated laboratories for the analysis of both authentic and biomedical samples.

10 Singapore is pleased to note the progress of the working group and would like to commend its work. We support the OPCW's efforts to prevent chemical terrorism and welcome the exchange of best practices from States Parties.

### Contribution to the Scientific Advisory Board

11 Singapore appreciates the importance of the work of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which is crucial for the effective implementation of the CWC, and in particular, in responding to advances in science and technology. In this regard, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Chua Hoe Chee from Singapore to the Board. Ms Chua has vast experience working in verification-related science and technologies relating to the Convention, and we are confident that she will contribute to the work of the Board.

### International Cooperation – 8<sup>th</sup> Singapore International Symposium on Protection Against Toxic Substances

Mr Chairman

12 The threat posed by the use of chemical weapons remains significant. As such, there is an urgent need to identify and keep abreast with emerging technologies and new threats in our rapidly changing environment. To this end, Singapore organised the 8<sup>th</sup> Singapore International Symposium on Protection Against Toxic Substances (SISPAT) in March 2017. The aim of the Symposium was to promote sharing of experiences in CBRNE incidents, emerging protective technologies, and measures against the CBRNE threat. We were also honoured to receive DG Üzümcü at the Symposium.

### Assistance and Protection Programme

13 Singapore will contribute to the assistance and protection programme under Article X (Ten) of the Convention. We have pledged to provide technical assistance through volunteering our verification and analytical facilities and by hosting training courses. Today, I am pleased to announce that Singapore will be conducting the 5<sup>th</sup> run of the ‘Emergency Response Course to Chemical Incidents’ in mid-December. We look forward to the sharing of experiences, and hope that participants will benefit from the course.

### Conclusion

Mr Chairman

14 We have made great progress under the Convention since its inception, and have come closer to realising our goal of a world free of chemical weapons. Singapore is confident that with the continued support of all Member States and the tireless efforts of the OPCW, we will overcome all challenges and work towards the complete and universal implementation of the Convention.

15 In closing, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference. Thank you.