



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF SAN MARINO TO THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

IV Special Session of the Conference of States Parties

Statement by the Permanent Representative of San Marino

Ambassador Eros Gasperoni

The Hague, 27 June 2018

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Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

San Marino has wholeheartedly associated itself to the statement delivered by the Presidency of the European Union. However, I would like to briefly address some issues, which are particularly relevant for my Country.

“The Republic of San Marino rejects war as a means to settle disputes”: it is in full adherence to this fundamental principle, enshrined in the San Marino Constitution, that my Country has decided to concur with the proposal to hold a special session of the Conference of the State parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

San Marino, in line with its millennial tradition of neutrality dating back to its foundation, believes that the current special session may represent a good opportunity to achieve two objectives.

First of all, it would uphold the CWC, that has been strongly weakened by the numerous events that took place in various parts of the world from February 2017 to April this year, which made us regrettably aware that, unfortunately, the use of chemical weapons has not wholly disappeared.

Secondly, in the view of San Marino, the expected outcomes of this Conference would also help to reinforce multilateralism, which prevented the outburst of many potential conflicts through history.

The weakening of the CWC is unequivocally demonstrated by the innocent amazement of anyone who – as a human being – heartily cares about the goodwill of humanity and wonders why and how, nowadays, it is still possible to use chemical weapons and toxic



chemicals as weapons, although they have been unanimously banned by the international community represented here by each State party.

It is indeed this innocent and legitimate question that our Countries must give an answer to.

The Republic of San Marino, which ratified the CWC in 1999 on the basis of the importance of the principle of universality, is deeply saddened and disappointed by, respectively, the above-mentioned episodes which involved the use of chemical weapons and the subsequent weakening of the CWC.

In the unfortunate hypothesis that such an episode should take place in the territory of San Marino, my Country would lack both the expertise and the technical tools that are fundamental to investigate and find out those responsible.

Therefore, San Marino looks with favour to the possibility to confer, while fully abiding to the CWC, to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) the capacity and tools which are needed in order to intervene and conduct an independent investigation whenever and wherever it occurs the use of a chemical weapons and/or of a toxic chemicals that may be used as weapons.

In the view of San Marino, the draft decision tabled by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, supported by many Countries, goes into the right direction and my Country is fully confident in the professionalism, objectivity and transparency of both the Director General in charge, Ahmet Üzümcü, and the Director General designated, Fernando Arias González, who will very soon take office, so that they may follow up to it in the best possible way.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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