



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
TO OPCW- THE HAGUE

THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (THIRD REVIEW
CONFERENCE) 8-19 APRIL 2013

STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. MOHAMMED J. AL DOREKY

DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRAQ

Mr. Chairperson,

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon / Secretary General of the UN,

H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü / Director-General of the OPCW,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow Mr. Chairperson at the outset to congratulate you on Poland's presidency of the conference. We are fully confident that your expertise and rich diplomatic experience will steer the work of this conference to a successful conclusion. In this regard, I reassure you of my delegation's full support in ensuring an effective cooperation with you and Member States' delegations to adopt resolutions and recommendations to make a constructive contribution to the promotion of our common goal in creating a world free of chemical weapons. I would also like to thank Her Excellency Nassima Baghli of Algeria, the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for her efforts in this regard.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China presented by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran / head of the group.

Mr. Chairperson,

It gives me great pride to address the Conference for the first time representing my delegation since Iraq's accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention in February 2009. I'm even more proud as the past four years were full of interaction with the Organisation and its Member States in several areas, which encourages me to say that Iraq contributes to international peace and security after being a threat to it before 2003. Evidences on this role are the national achievements despite the short period. As besides being head of the Conference's esteemed Committee of the Whole, member of the Executive Council of the Organisation for two consecutive terms, and Deputy-Chair of the Conference of States Parties for the year 2012, member of the Credentials Committee for the year 2012, and a facilitator of Article VII of the Convention; Iraq submitted its national statements under Articles III and VI of the Convention with full transparency and cooperation with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation. Furthermore, Baghdad has received two teams of

Technical Secretariat inspectors during 2011 and 2012, national legislations contained in Article VII of the Convention were adopted and submitted to the organisation, and contributed to boost the universality of the Convention by being the 186th State Party to the Convention, as the number of States were 183 countries in the previous conference held in 2008. My country is also looking forward to hold the national authorities meeting of the Asian Group in Iraq in 2014 in coordination with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation.

All these and other achievements, which cannot be mentioned now, on the international level confirms Iraq's consistent policy which is approved by Iraq's permanent constitution and its intention to get rid of the remnants of the previous program as soon as possible and in accordance with the requirements of the Convention, hoping to begin the actual work of destruction in 2015.

Mr. Chairperson,

After sixteen years of its entry into force we are entitled to feel proud of the achievements made in the framework of the implementation of the Convention, and the destruction of various kinds of chemicals that reached about 80% of the declared material. In this regard we would like to express our thanks to India, Albania and A state party and welcome their completion of the destruction operations. 188 countries representing 98% of the world population have become parties to the Convention. Iraq believes in this context, through communication and interaction with the organisation's entire activities and after this period of the Convention's entry into force, that the conclusion of this Conference will be important in determining the future of the Organisation and its work because of the rapid changes and progress in chemistry and science. As well as in emphasizing the role that the Organisation will play in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as an effective tool to ensure the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes, to serve in maintaining and promoting international peace and security, and to create a world free of chemical weapons.

In relation to the universality of the Convention and through Iraq's experience during the past four years, we can say that we were able to achieve a lot towards the implementation of important provisions of our obligations under the Convention. Out of this experience we call others to take our experience as an incentive to join the Convention as soon as possible in order to achieve global

security that would be the only tool to rid mankind of all forms of chemical weapons. And to have this goal as one of the key objectives in the future work of the Organisation with an emphasis on the awareness of the countries of the need to implement national obligations contained in the provision of the Convention. While we support the efforts of the Organisation in implementing the Convention's provisions to enhance international peace and security to serve the total elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, we need to work and focus on achieving the main objective of the Convention, which in turn contributes to an effective and definite manner, with the international community's efforts, in non-proliferation. It is well known that Iraq has been and continues to be subject to terrorist operations that affected its institutional and social structure, so we believe that the positive role of the Organisation in this direction will be in coordination with other organisations to develop international laws and resolutions aimed at ensuring keeping chemical weapons out of hands of terrorist groups with an emphasis on giving priority to the role of the Organisation which is the total elimination of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

We believe that one of the top priorities of the Organisation in which it should provide assistance to the States Parties is sustainable technical assistance, adapted according to the needs of each State, which could be called "implementation support". This will contribute to and accelerate effective and distinct implementation of the Convention's provision by these States. Especially with regard to helping in exchange of information, experiences, raising awareness and building relationships between chemical sectors of the States Parties, which will be reflected on improving the performance through selection of the best practices among States Parties to promote the chemical sector for peaceful purposes. Stressing in this context the need to find networking at the regional and global level, this regional or global exchange might begin with an exchange of the best practices to raise the efficiency of national implementation.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Iraqi people have suffered from the crime of use of chemical weapons by the former regime in the city of Halabja 25 years ago, which killed more than 5,000

civilians and more than 10,000 were wounded, maimed and disabled; and after 25 years, the affected city's population is still suffering from the effects of the use of this type of deadly and internationally prohibited weapons, and its negative effects on the environment of the region is still obvious to this day.

Today the possibility to use this lethal weapon remains intact, especially in light of the existence of these weapons in the Middle East as there are countries outside the Chemical Weapons Convention, which portends the need to speed up hard work to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We find it very important that the sponsoring and organizing states of the Middle East, the United Nations and relevant international organisations Conference make real and strenuous efforts to set a new date as soon as possible to hold the international Conference which was to be held from 18 to 20 / December / 2012 in Helsinki.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Iraq supports and welcomes the request made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (SGUN) to establish a UN investigation on the possible use of chemical weapons in Syria, and request the cooperation of the OPCW in the conduct of this investigation. We take this opportunity to appreciate the role of the SGUN, the OPCW and its Director General in response to this issue, and the designation of Mr. Ake Sellström of Sweden as head of the fact-finding mission, and to call on the mission to start its work as soon as possible in order to know the facts and prevent the use of these weapons in the future. We stress the need to ensure the safety and security of the chemical materials and keeping them out of the hands of armed and terrorist groups.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to request this statement to be considered as an official document of this Conference.