



Statement of
His Highness Prince Turki Bin Muhammad Bin Saud Al-Kabir Ph.D.
Undersecretary for Multilateral Relations
Chairman of the National Authority to Implement Conventions on the
Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons
Before
The Third Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons
Convention

8th April 2013

The Hague

The Netherlands

Excellency Mr. Crzysztof paturej, Chairman of the Conference

Excellency Ahmad Uzumcu, Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Excellencies and distinguished audience

Ladies and Gentlemen

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I am pleased at the onset to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, our sincere congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this important session of the meetings to review the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. We are confident that your wide personal and diplomatic expertise will undoubtedly contribute to the success of this gathering and the realization of its objectives.

I would also like to express our appreciation of Her Excellency Nassima Baghli the Algerian Ambassador, and Head of the Open-Ended Working Group entrusted with the preparations for the conference, for the dedicated efforts she exerted in this regard in the many previous months. Such efforts were instrumental in the success of these preparations and in the drafting of the final report. I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Uzumcu Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and his Assistants in the Technical Secretariat for the outstanding job they performed in the holding of this conference most appropriately.

Mr. Chairman,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was one of the early states that signed and ratified Chemical Weapons Convention. The Kingdom was also at the forefront of countries that implemented the requirements and provisions of the convention beginning with the establishment of a national authority to overlook the implementation of the convention through issuing its own legislation. The National Authority continued the development of national provisions in this regard which eventually led to the creation of an independent national authority entrusted with implementing all agreements connected with the prohibition of

chemical and biological weapons. This authority began functioning about a year ago following the decree which also provided for the necessary operational resources in terms of staffing and funding.

Saudi Arabia was keen at taking part in the functions and important activities associated with the convention. It was also an active participant through its membership in the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the annual conferences of states party. The Kingdom also chaired the second review conference of the convention that was successfully held in April 2008 and accomplished positive outcomes that we presume this conference will affirm and follow up.

The commitment of Saudi Arabia to the Convention and its implementation at the national and international levels is an extension of its longstanding policy that aims at strengthening cooperation in prohibiting all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and their spread since their presence constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The Kingdom also took part in the efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction at the regional level in order to make the Middle East a region free of all such devastating weapons. This is an objective that my country upholds and thus reiterates its call to the international community to provide the necessary assistance in realizing it since it is considered a legitimate right for the peoples in the region, and a major consolidation of security and peace at the regional and international levels.

Mr. Chairman

The subject of universality of the convention to prohibit chemical weapons constitutes one of the principle aspects of the convention that this conference will address. What the convention has accomplished in this regard whereby 188 countries became members thus representing more than 98 % of the earth's population, is a definite indication of the wide international respect afforded to the convention and its goals and objectives. Such a success for the universality of the convention and the efficient systems of verification and protection it created exemplify the notable efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from

around the world and the protection of humankind from their threats and dangers.

Continuing to eliminate the stockpiles of chemical weapons by states possessing them is a major objective of the convention and an augmentation of international peace and security. My country reemphasizes the significance of having the states with such stockpiles double their efforts in this regard and complete their elimination of such weapons as soon as possible, in accordance with the preset schedules, and in conformity with the resolutions of the Executive Council of the organization. We hope that states party to the convention will be able during this conference to establish clear plans in this subject.

Within this context, my Government would like to express its grave concern with reports from Syria over the use of chemical weapons in the current fighting, and the threats emanating from the stockpiles under the control of the regime in that country. The Syrian regime is considered fully responsible for the prevention of use or the transfer of chemical weapons in accordance with principles of international law and international resolutions in this regard, even though the regime is not a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We also affirm our support to the investigation to be conducted by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and in conformity with the declaration of the Secretary General of the United Nations. We call upon the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to provide the Executive Council with all the updated information and the steps undertaken in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

The Second Review Conference of the Convention affirmed, in the ninth paragraph of its final report, the significance of the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the requirements of Article 11 of the Convention which addresses the strengthening of international cooperation in the realms of using chemicals that are useful to mankind. Despite of the progress achieved in this regard in accordance with the set Plan of Action, there is a need to exert more efforts in order to accomplish the requirements of this article particularly relative to the transfer of technology, equipment and expertise

associated with Activities not prohibited under the Convention to the developing Countries. The elimination of obstacles imposed by the advanced industrial states in this matter will contribute to the promotion of international economic development and benefit all sides, particularly in view of the current global economic crisis that truly dictates the need for international cooperation in all fields, so as to confront it and limit its negative impact, particularly on the developing countries.

Finally, I wish our conference the desired success and accomplishments.

Thank you