

**Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai,  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand  
to the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
at the Third Special Session of the Conference of State Parties  
to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention  
(Third Review Conference)  
8 April 2013, The Hague, the Netherlands**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Third Review Conference. Please be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I am confident that your able leadership will guide the deliberation of this Conference to a successful conclusion.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Ambassador Nassima Baghli, Permanent Representative of Algeria, Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group, for her dedicated efforts in the substantive preparation for this important Conference.

I also associate my delegation with the joint statement by the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Sixteen years after its entry into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has proven to be one of the most successful multilateral disarmament instruments for comprehensive and verifiable prohibition of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. This success story, however, must not distract us from the fact that there remain challenges that need to be addressed by the States Parties and the OPCW in the years ahead.

First, **universality of the Convention** is fundamental for the achievement of its object and purpose and for the enhancement of international peace and security. My delegation welcomes the accession of 5 new States Parties since the Second Review Conference, which has increased the number of State Parties to 188. There remains, however, a total of 8 States that are still not Party to the Convention. In this light, it is important that the Third Review Conference calls

upon all States not Party to join the Convention, particularly those whose non-adherence to the Convention may be a cause for serious concern.

Second, my delegation joins other delegations in calling upon the major possessor States to take all necessary measures to intensify efforts to accelerate the **destruction of their remaining chemical weapons stockpiles** in order to ensure the complete destruction in the shortest time possible, and to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention. Based on the Director-General's reports at the Sixty Eighth Session of the Executive Council and the destruction plans submitted by the possessor State Parties, I wish to express my delegation's deep concern that the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons has not been met by certain possessor States Parties.

Third, my delegation would like to emphasize the need to enhance **technical assistance and support**, rendered by the Technical Secretariat to the State Parties at their request. This is the best way to help each State Party successfully comply with its obligations under the Convention through the adoption of necessary implementing measures. We are all indeed aware that full implementation of the Convention will contribute significantly to international peace and security.

In this spirit, my delegation encourages the State Parties to take all the necessary steps to implement the Convention, and urge the Technical Secretariat to continue their efforts to assist the State Parties to overcome any practical difficulties and resource constraints in this process.

Fourth, my delegation would like to underline that **the use of chemical weapon** by any party under any circumstance is a reprehensible act that is contrary to the generally accepted norms and standards of the international community. In this regard, I would like to express my delegation's deepest regret for the loss of lives and injury caused by the grave **incident in Aleppo province, Syria**, in March. The Royal Thai Government is indeed very concerned about allegations that chemical substance may have been used in the attack. My delegation therefore wishes to express support for the investigation into the possible use of the chemical weapons in Khan Al-Asal as announced by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in response to the Syrian Government's request and with the support of the OPCW. This investigation should be undertaken in an independent, impartial and transparent manner with close cooperation from all parties concerned in the country.



Mr. Chairman,

May I emphasize that Thailand's commitment to the Convention has been unwavering since the first day we became a State Party in 2002. As Thailand is neither a possessor nor a producer state of chemical weapons, our implementation activities with regard to the Convention mainly concern the activities of our chemical industry and peaceful use of chemicals. Thus, we have always been rendering our full cooperation to routine verification visits by OPCW officials. At the same, we feel that it is essential to implement the verification provisions of the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of the State Parties, and intruding into the chemical activities of the State Party concerned for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

Last but not least, as a developing country that is committed to peaceful and responsible use of chemicals for the purpose of development and for the advancement of science and technology, the Kingdom of Thailand places a strong emphasis on international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for legitimate purposes. Various actors must be involved, both from the public and the private sectors: governments, producers, consumers, researchers and representatives of the civil society, to name but a few. The OPCW can and must play a role to facilitate and coordinate this international cooperation. The present Conference provides indeed an excellent opportunity for the States Parties to take a closer look at this largely untapped potential that the CWC represents.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by reaffirming the Kingdom of Thailand's fullest cooperation to you and the States Parties with a view to ensuring the success of this Third Review Conference.

Thank you.

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