Statement by Ambassador Mary Margaret Muchada,
Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the Benelux 
Countries, the European Union and the Organization for 
the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the Third Review 
Conference 
The Hague, 9 - 19 April, 2013

Mr. Chairman
The Director General of the OPCW
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

As I take the floor for the first time, allow me to pay tribute to 
you Ambassador Krzysztof Paturej. My delegation commends 
the way you are conducting the business of this Conference. 
First and foremost, I wish to assure you of the importance my 
delegation attaches to this Review Conference.

We are encouraged that the world has given this conference 
the attention it deserves. Seeing the United Nations Secretary 
General and many dignitaries at the official opening spoke 
volumes about this commitment.

Zimbabwe associates itself fully with the statement delivered 
on behalf of NAM and the CWC States Parties and China by 
the Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran. We 
further commit ourselves to the position pronounced on behalf 
of the Africa Group of States Parties by H.E. Sirajuddin Hamid 
Yousif, Permanent Representative of the Sudan. In the same 
vein, we join the entire Conference in applauding the 
preparatory work carried out by the Open-ended Working 
Group under the able stewardship of H.E Ambassador 
Nassima Baghli of Algeria.
Zimbabwe recently held a meeting of all OPCW alumni and took stock of what outcome we would like from this conference. It was encouraging to see how far we have come.

It is our firm belief that national security will be guaranteed when the national authorities have the required capacities to monitor developments within their borders. We therefore would like to see the Programme for Africa strengthened and more resources accorded to a strong technical cooperation programme that would help some of us to develop strong national capacities. For instance, at national level it is critical to have rapid result teams that can be relied on in case of chemical threats. Similar attention should be given to developing the requisite regional and sub-regional capacities.

Further, National Authorities need to be strong in monitoring developments within their borders. This calls for advances in national monitoring and verification capacities. National legislation and laboratories should be strengthened to play their part. We call on the OPCW to aid us in view of the rapid developments in biochemistry. To this end, we support the setting up of the research centre by the OPCW to support members.

The OPCW is and has to remain in the driving seat in coordinating all matters related to the eradication of chemical weapons.

We hope the outcome document will address the concerns that have been tabled by many delegations that seek to see the OPCW emerge stronger and more focused to meeting the needs of its members.

I request that this document be part of the official documents of this Conference.