



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. VESELA MRĐEN KORAC  
HEAD OF THE CROATIAN DELEGATION  
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,

I would like to address this esteemed Conference on behalf of the Croatian delegation. The Republic of Croatia has been honoured to actively participate in the creation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the work of the OPCW since its first days and as a member of the Executive Council now—in times of a thorough review of the achievements of the past sixteen years in order to find the best guidelines and policies in responding to future challenges.

I would like to express strong support to the Chair of the Conference, representative of our Eastern European Group. We are convinced that Chair's deep knowledge and experience would justify our choice and our trust.

The Croatian delegation aligns itself with the statement of the European External Action Service given on behalf of the European Union and with this national statement would like to emphasise the concern that Croatia shares in regards to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In spite of numerous and self evident obstacles hindering the United Nation investigation, Croatia firmly believes that it is of the utmost importance to continue with the strong engagement of all involved parties in order to send a clear message of zero tolerance towards any attempt of use of chemical weapons in any circumstances or by any side in the conflict.

We fully support the readiness of the Technical Secretariat to offer its resources and expertise to the investigation of the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria.

This urgent situation additionally recalls us on maximising our efforts in achieving the full universality of the Convention. We shall continue to use our bilateral, regional and multilateral contacts to encourage States not Party to respect and to adhere to the Convention as soon as possible.

Croatia supports a more open approach in improving interaction with chemical industry, the scientific community and civil society organisations. Therefore, Croatia participates in the OPCW Associate Programme, offering an industrial training to the participants from



developing countries. In this way we help national implementation of the Convention in partnering Member States, their technological and economic development and above all peaceful use of chemistry and practical understanding of the Convention.

Croatia is aware of the need to adjust to the dynamic technological development and welcomes the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board saying that education and outreach should be strengthened in the national implementation of the Convention through concerted partnership efforts by all stakeholders, because education and outreach in science and technology are a critical element in preventing re-emergence of chemical weapons and the misuse of toxic chemicals.

Furthermore, in the framework of chemical safety and security, Croatia recognises the benefits of being engaged in the exchange of best practices and experiences in regards to the border control and law enforcement measures, preventing illicit trafficking of toxic chemicals. Besides organising and participating in the meetings such as in the area of customs expertise, Croatia is interested to continue with its active role and support in developing preventive measures against the misuse of toxic chemicals.

Mr Chairperson, Croatia will host the Regional Meeting of the National Authorities of the Eastern European Group in May this year, immediately after this Review Conference, aiming at coordinating the efforts of our region in order to find common interests and possibilities of creating synergy and complementarity in ensuring our utmost contribution to the long term implementation of the conclusions of this Conference.

Finally, please allow me to reiterate in this occasion that Croatia stays firmly committed to our common goal of the world free of chemical weapons.

I would like to request that this document is issued as an official document of the Third Review Conference. Thank you.

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