



OPCW

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HUNGARY

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GYULA SÜMEGHY
REPRESENTATIVE OF HUNGARY
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates and guests,

Allow me to begin by stating that Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement made by Mr Jacek Bylica, principal adviser and special envoy for non-proliferation and disarmament of the European External Action Service on behalf of the European Union.

I warmly welcome our chairman Ambassador Krzysztof Patulej who, I am certain, will lead us to a successful conclusion of this review conference. Mr Chairman, let me assure you of the fullest support of my delegation. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Ambassador Baghli of Algeria for her excellent work as chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group in preparation of this Conference.

The Third Review Conference comes at a crucial time for the OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention regime. This Review Conference is an opportunity not only to take stock of what happened in the past, but also to contemplate the future. A great deal of work has been done in the past five years to rid the world of the menace of chemical weapons, and the work is still continuing today. We welcome the efforts made and the renewed commitment by the possessor States to destroy their stockpiles, and we urge them to fulfil their obligations in the earliest time possible.

The threat of use of chemical weapons has become pressing in recent weeks. The alarming news from Syria on the possible use of chemical warfare agents and the uncertainty of the integrity of the stockpiles of chemical weapons, are a serious threat for all humanity.

Therefore, we call upon the conflicting parties to abstain from the deployment of chemical weapons and to ensure the safety of those stockpiles. We welcome and strongly support the UN-led mission to Syria to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons. The case of Syria also highlights the importance of the universality of the Convention. We should keep the political pressure on the eight States not Party to take the necessary steps to join our ranks without delay.

We are living in a rapidly changing environment, with its ever changing security threats. What was effective ten or five years ago, might not be good enough today. In this context,



full attention should be paid to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and to the potential threat of non-State actors acquiring such arms. True, the Convention is primarily a disarmament treaty. However, as it has been identified within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, the Convention has a clear potential to meet the current and future security challenges through the verification regime, as well as through its Articles X and XI.

Full national implementation, a strong verification regime including up-to-date lists of chemicals, a balanced and focused site-selection methodology, the closer involvement of industry, the promotion of responsible, safe and secure chemistry, and enhancing contacts with civil society and academia, are all important improvements that we must make. Hungary sincerely hopes that this Conference will be able to provide the necessary guidance for our future work and by doing so, preserve the status of the Convention and the OPCW as relevant instruments in the field of disarmament and international security.

Representing Hungary, I am proud to reaffirm that since the Hungarian ratification of the Convention, we have actively and consistently taken part in the work of the Organisation and its policy-making organs, and that we have achieved the full national implementation of the Convention. However, we will not sit back and watch the world pass by. We are in the phase of finalising an agreement with the OPCW on privileges and immunities.

Furthermore, we are looking into upgrading our contribution for Article X purposes. The Hungarian offer to the OPCW covers a number of fields from special laboratory capacities to expert personnel and medical facilities. In this regard we seek and welcome States Parties from our region to combine our resources to achieve the maximum possible contribution.

In conclusion, let me underline Hungary's full commitment and support for the Chemical Weapons Convention and for the OPCW, a commitment that has also been expressed through our endeavour to substantially contribute to and foster the operation of the Organisation.

As Hungary is now ending its two-year term as a member of the Executive Council, on a personal note, I would like to thank you Mr Director-General, and the staff of the Technical Secretariat, for your support and pleasant cooperation throughout these two years.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and guests, I wish all of us an efficient, effective and successful Conference. I would also like to request this statement to be circulated as an official document of the conference.

Thank you for your attention.

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