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UKRAINE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR OLEXANDER HORIN
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OF UKRAINE TO THE OPCW
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to join previous speakers in extending congratulations upon your assumption of Chairmanship of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. I would like to assure you that the delegation of Ukraine will support all your efforts to ensure successful and meaningful outcome of our work during the two following weeks.

It is also a great pleasure for us to extend our greetings of welcome to the OPCW Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and express gratitude to him and the Technical Secretariat staff for their continuous efforts in ensuring progress in implementation of the Convention and rising awareness about its important role in global multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation.

I would like to state that Ukraine fully associates itself with the European Union statement.

After more than 15 years since entry into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention is widely recognised as the first multilateral instrument, banning an entire class of weapons of mass destruction under a strict and efficient international control and compliance mechanism. The Convention has made a major contribution to strengthen international peace and security, by setting up the new standards for global disarmament and non-proliferation, and by providing assistance and protection against chemical weapons. International cooperation in the peaceful use of chemistry, being also an important pillar of the Convention, was designed to be a powerful incentive for effective universality and comprehensive compliance with the Convention's provisions at the national level.

Due to the effective implementation of the Convention in the past years there is now broad international consensus that the use of chemical weapons cannot be tolerated, whatever the circumstances. The unconditional compliance with the Convention remains in the priority list of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation policy of Ukraine. From this perspective we assess the results, achieved in the Convention implementation in the past, and its priorities for the future.



Being the most accepted international legal instrument in the area of disarmament and nonproliferation the Convention with its 188 Member States is unique political phenomenon and a showcase of synergy of political will and common sense. OPCW Member States already represent about 98% of the global population and landmass, as well as 98% of the worldwide chemical industry.

Notwithstanding the fact that some chemical weapons possessor State Parties missed the target to eliminate weapons by the defined date of 29 April 2012, we welcome their commitment to a viable and verifiable schedule of destruction.

Ukraine welcomes the decision of the last Conference of the State Parties on the final extended deadline for complete destruction of the remaining stockpiles. We have full confidence that possessor States will do their best to fulfill their commitments within the shortest time possible.

We expect that in Libya conversion and chemical weapons destruction procedures will be carried out in accordance within approved time frames.

The joint endeavour of China and Japan to destroy the abandoned chemical weapons is a good example of bilateral cooperation to get rid of dangerous remnants of the Second World War. We have no doubt that both countries will continue to undertake necessary steps to meet their obligations and established time frames.

Universality of the Convention has long-term implications for its credibility, and is indispensable to ensure the irreversible character of chemical disarmament in global dimension. Ukraine highly appreciates the efforts undertaken by the OPCW in this sphere.

Regrettably despite enormous and consistent efforts undertaken by the OPCW, regional organisations, several State Parties in their bilateral contacts with the States which remain outside the Convention, this ambitious target has not been achieved so far. Ukraine expects that some other States, which are known as being engaged in internal procedures, aimed at ensuring their membership in the OPCW, will follow suit sooner rather than later.

Recent events in the Syrian Arab Republic set us thinking again about the urgent necessity to bind all international actors with the Convention obligations. Like many other State Parties Ukraine is particularly concerned by the fact that several countries in the Middle East display reluctance to join the Convention. There is no doubt that OPCW and its members should continue concerted efforts to pave the way for eventual adherence of all countries from the Middle East to the Convention. In the meantime we urge all States to strictly adhere to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and to exclude any possibility of use of chemical weapons.

The importance of the universality of the Convention becomes even more crucial now in today's complex international environment, with a growing threat of a "chemical terrorism" and with the global fight against terrorism still in progress. We believe that a valuable effort in averting possible chemical terrorist acts would be the establishment on the regional and national levels of effective prevention mechanisms based on closer cooperation between the interested States. It is also important for the Member States to expect international assistance in setting up such mechanisms.

Unconditional compliance with the Convention is a political priority for Ukraine in the field of arms control and nonproliferation.

The Convention sets out the basic obligation of each State Party to put into force adequate national legal instruments that are necessary to implement its duties. Ukraine has adopted appropriate legislation, which provides the legal framework for Convention implementation. The Government of Ukraine strictly controls all export-import operations and transfers of scheduled chemicals.

Proper realisation of the Convention is guaranteed by the action plan on implementation of Ukraine's commitments under the Convention for the period of 2012 to 2021.

The action plan co-ordinates concerted actions of all governmental bodies and agencies involved in the process of the Convention implementation. It also manages the timely preparation of national declarations, escort of the OPCW inspection teams, export control procedures, establishment and functioning of the State Analytical Lab, personnel training, international cooperation in the field of the Convention, as well as ensures confidentiality of information.

Ukraine is among those States which have a significant potential for cooperation in the framework of Articles X and XI of the Convention, taking into account its human and technical resources, and high scientific and technological capacities.

The Secretariat of the National Authority of Ukraine maintains permanent coordination of activities related to implementation of the Convention. As the result of growing co-operation between the National Authority of Ukraine and the OPCW Technical Secretariat, Ukraine hosted several OPCW training courses on providing first medical assistance in case of emergencies and on analytical skills development for scientists. These workshops proved to be very fruitful and useful in the context of tasks and challenges, which should be addressed in terms of fostering the Convention regime. Ukraine is ready to continue its collaboration with the OPCW in this direction.

Ensuring the implementation of Article X remains one of the most important tasks for the OPCW and its Members. We support the development of a concept of the implementation of Article X and expect positive results of this work. Ukraine has made substantial offers of assistance and is continuing to develop a relevant agreement with the OPCW. We hope that the ongoing dialogue with the Secretariat will enable us to come to an agreement in the near future.

The verification regime of the OPCW is the tool not only for multilateral control over the destruction of chemical weapons, but also a crucial element for chemical non-proliferation. Ukraine, while receiving inspections of its chemical industry facilities, supports current OPCW activities aimed at maintenance of a strict chemical non-reappearance regime. At the same time we support current efforts to improve inspections methodology, which will enable a focus on the inspection of the facilities posing greater risks.

A comprehensive and timely implementation of the Convention is the only way to success in achieving Convention aims. We note with satisfaction the progress that has been made in this respect by the States Parties and the OPCW Secretariat during the review process. Nevertheless various problems in the implementation process should not escape our attention.

One of them is the timely submission of annual declarations on past activities. We note with concern that not all Member States follow the deadline for submission of declarations as stipulated by the Convention. This hampers the effectiveness of the verification regime and causes lack of balance in the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties.

A somewhat slow pace progress in resolving the outstanding issues, particularly those related to industry verification, affects to a certain extent effective and substantial implementation of the Convention. We hope that the Review Conference will give a fresh signal to the Executive Council to continue efforts in order to bring those issues to their earliest possible resolution.

We do also believe that due regard should be paid to the issues of providing the Secretariat with the information on national measures for the Convention implementation, including update on national chemical weapons protection programmes, and enactment of the relevant legislative acts.

Mr Chairman,

At this Review Conference we have to address the complicated issues that demand our attention. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to fully co-operate with the OPCW Secretariat and the delegations of other States Parties to ensure a fruitful and comprehensive outcome of this Conference.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of this session of the Conference.

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