



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Third Review Conference
8 – 19 April 2013

RC-3/NAT.64
9 April 2013
ENGLISH only

PHILIPPINES

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR LOURDES G. MORALES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE OPCW
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Excellencies,
and distinguished delegates,

1. My delegation wishes to join the other States Parties in congratulating Ambassador Krzysztof Paturej of Poland on his election as Chairperson of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It is my delegation's every wish for the Third Review Conference to proceed smoothly and to have a successful outcome. My delegation will extend to you, Ambassador Paturej, all the support in working for these.

Mr Chairperson,

2. Please allow me to extend my delegation's appreciation to Her Excellency Nassima Baghli, Permanent Representative of Algeria and Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, for her tireless work and valuable stewardship of the Working Group—putting into our hands the Draft Provisional Text that will be the focus of work of this Conference.
3. The Draft Provisional Text has drawn together carefully crafted proposals of States Parties which aim to make the Convention relevant and responsive to the needs of its Member States as they chart the way to the future of the Convention.
4. My delegation would also like to express its appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, headed by its equally dedicated and hard-working Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, in providing full support to the deliberations of the Open-Ended Working Group.
5. The Philippines reiterates its commitment to working for the achievement of the object and purpose of the Convention, and its strong support for measures which aim to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of its provisions, essential to the enhancement of international peace and security.
6. The Philippines associates itself with the statement of His Excellency Mohammad Mahdi Akhondzadeh, Deputy Minister for International Affairs of the Ministry of



Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, given on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

7. This Third Review Conference comes sixteen years after the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, a period over which the Convention has managed to achieve a near universal adherence with its total membership of 188 States Parties.
8. For having set the legal norms towards eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, the Convention has also managed to reach the status of a highly effective multilateral instrument for disarmament.
9. However, despite these achievements, the Convention continues to face substantial challenges, universality remaining one of them, and complete destruction of all categories of chemical weapons stockpiles another.
10. To this date, eight countries are still outside the reach of the Convention preventing it from achieving its goal of universality.
11. On the complete destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles, the Philippines welcomes the efforts made by some possessor States Parties, namely, A State Party, Albania and India, which were able to complete destruction of their declared chemical weapons stockpiles.
12. However, for some possessor States Parties, complete destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles continues to be a work in progress. This remains a challenge for the Convention because the continued existence of chemical weapons stockpiles poses a grave threat to the safety of humanity.
13. Five years after the Second Review Conference, we see the Convention continuing to be relevant, particularly in the light of recent international incidents which show that the threat of the use of chemical weapons is very real and will continue to plague humanity.
14. The Philippines firmly believes that the complexity of new and emerging threats calls for stronger efforts in ensuring that universality of the Convention is achieved. The Philippines as well feels the sense of urgency in achieving complete destruction of all categories of chemical weapons stockpiles.
15. It is imperative for the Third Review Conference to ensure that achieving the goals of universality and complete destruction of all categories of chemical weapons stockpiles remains paramount and central to the future of the Convention.
16. The Philippines supports the efforts of the OPCW towards gaining the membership of States which are as yet not Parties to the Convention. My delegation joins other States Parties in strongly urging these States to become Parties to the Convention for its universality to be achieved. My delegation notes the OPCW's recent active engagement of Myanmar into its activities, which might very well lead to universality from the ASEAN region.

17. The Philippines welcomes the progress report of the Director-General on the status of the destruction activities of remaining chemical weapons stockpiles of some possessor States Parties, an assurance that these are not at a standstill.
18. My delegation would like to see further efforts on improving the Convention's ability to contribute to international peace and security through disarmament, the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons and the enhancement of confidence-building measures among States Parties so that its relevance will not be diminished.
19. Full national implementation is a crucial element in meeting the object and purpose of the Convention. My delegation acknowledges the considerable progress that has been made in national implementation and the contribution of the Technical Secretariat in this effort. We welcome the "tailor-made approach" drawn up to assist States Parties in their domestic implementation efforts, and the development of activities and programmes directed at achieving full national implementation.
20. The Philippines again emphasises the importance of peaceful uses of chemistry and of international cooperation in support of Member States' activities in this area, particularly those which aim to promote developments in science, technology and industry for the peaceful uses of chemistry.
21. My delegation supports the work of the Scientific Advisory Board in providing advice to the Director-General, the policy-making organs and States Parties in the areas of science and technology which are relevant to the Convention.
22. My delegation looks toward a furtherance of activities and programmes which aim to improve assistance and national capacity building in the peaceful uses of chemistry, as well as those which will promote chemical safety and security.
23. The Philippines welcomes the importance being given to harnessing partnerships with relevant regional and international organisations, chemical industry associations, the private sector and civil society, which can do much to improve and spread awareness of the relevance of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

24. Once again, the Philippines wishes to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Third Review Conference, and would like to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring a successful outcome by working constructively with you and other States Parties during the Conference.
25. I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Third Review Conference.

Thank you.