



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Third Review Conference

8 – 19 April 2013

RC-3/NAT.69

8 April 2013

ARABIC and ENGLISH only

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FARIS MOHAMMED AL-MAZROUI
ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER FOR SECURITY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Excellency the Chairperson of the Conference,
Excellency the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,
Excellencies heads of attending delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, I have the pleasure to congratulate you, Excellency, on your election as Chairperson of the Third Review Conference. I am fully confident that your experience in OPCW work and affairs will enable you to accomplish your mandate in the best manner, and I wish you success in your task.

We also congratulate the elected Vice-Chairpersons, and the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

I shall not fail to extend my profuse thanks to H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, the Director-General, for his efforts to activate the role of the OPCW at various levels.

We also thank H.E. Ambassador Nassima Baghli, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the OPCW and Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of the review conference, as well as members of the working group for their efforts in preparing for the Conference.

As we gather today at the Third Review Conference, we should not fail to commend the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention, especially since the Second Review Conference. Indeed, the Convention is credited with contributing to stronger international peace and security, thanks to its binding provisions and articles which have been transposed into national legislations that have facilitated a constructive cooperation between all States Parties and the OPCW, for a world free of chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The Chemical Weapons Convention has made steady, confident steps towards universality, with five additional States having joined it since the Second Review Conference, thus bringing the number of States Parties thereto to 188. In this respect, we commend the efforts made by the Director-General of the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat to encourage States to join the Convention.



We take this opportunity to invite States which are yet to accede to, or ratify, the Convention to promptly do so, with a view to entrenching international peace and security.

The OPCW has been remarkably successful in monitoring the implementation by States Parties of their national obligations under the Convention, and the destruction of their declared chemical weapons stockpiles. Three quarters of declared stockpiles have been destroyed to date. This demonstrates to all of us the credibility and effectiveness of the Convention, through the success of the verification regime being implemented, and also provides us with assurances concerning disarmament and legitimate chemical activities.

While we recall that the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties had successfully adopted a decision on a number of transparency and confidence-building measures to be taken by the Technical Secretariat and the concerned possessor States Parties in case of failure to meet fully the final deadline of 29 April 2012, we should commend our flexible approach in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, resulting in its effective implementation by all States Parties.

In this respect, we call for importance to be given to strengthening international cooperation and knowledge-sharing in the chemical field for peaceful purposes not prohibited under the Convention, as a key pre-requisite for achieving the objectives of the Convention.

Terrorism and the use of chemical weapons in terrorist acts remain a source of concern to us all. We commend efforts made by the OPCW Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, which is considered to be one of the best practices among States Parties, and an OPCW contribution to international efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We call upon all States to continue their efforts to prevent chemicals from falling into the hands of terrorists. However, even as we act for the disposal and destruction of chemical weapons, we are faced with those who are threatening to use such weapons, or even actually attempting to do so. We are all aware of media reports on the use of chemical weapons against individuals in Syria.

The Government of my country supports efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish an international mission to investigate the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We call for an active role to be played by our Organisation in this respect; thus giving effect to the Supplementary Arrangement to the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW, which provides that the United Nations and the OPCW shall cooperate in case of an investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons in a State not Party to the Convention or in territory not controlled by a State Party thereto, and that the mission shall be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. This gives our Organisation its role in safeguarding international peace.

As mentioned by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his statement before us today, this investigation must be conducted without delay or conditions, and we all need to cooperate in lending it our full support with a view to reinforcing international peace and security.

We also wish to note the importance of efforts to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, in pursuance to the decisions of the

2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We regret the announcement that the Conference scheduled for 2012 could not be held as expected. We call upon the OPCW and all States Parties to intensify their efforts and push for holding this Conference as early as possible in 2013.

Allow me, on behalf of this delegation, to confirm that the United Arab Emirates, believing that weapons of mass destruction do pose a threat to international peace and security, is fully committed to the provisions of the Convention, to their implementation, and to establishing a constructive cooperation with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and the States Parties with a view to enhancing international cooperation and achieving the objectives of the Convention.

My country's Government has promulgated the National Act for the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Chemical Weapons and established a national implementation mechanism, namely the National Committee of Goods and Materials Subject to Import and Export Controls, tasked with implementing the National Act. It has issued internal regulations for the control of chemicals and has been submitting annual declarations in all transparency using the OPCW approved electronic tool.

The State has trained specialised national personnel and participated in OPCW training courses, thus contributing to further constructive cooperation in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

In conclusion, we wish that our deliberations during this Conference contribute to further progress in the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We look forward to a successful outcome of the Review Conference.

I wish that this statement be adopted as one of the official documents of the Conference.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

- - - 0 - - -