

## **Launching Event on the Report on Needs and Best Practices on Chemical Safety and Security**

**Opening Remarks by Amb. Hamid Ali Rao, Deputy Director-General of the OPCW**

**The Hague**

**30 November 2016**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you at the launch of the “Report on needs assessment and compilation of tools, guidance and best practices on Chemical Safety and Security Management”.

Chemical safety and security management has been an important part of our activities to promote peaceful uses of chemistry and to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

The report launched today originates from a decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties regarding a framework for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention.

As part of that framework, States Parties and the Secretariat have conducted needs assessments focusing on tools and guidance that could be helpful in promoting chemical safety and security.

In April this year, the Secretariat invited States Parties to provide information on their needs within this domain, as well as their existing best practices, guidance, and tools.

Sixteen States Parties, from all regional groups, responded positively to the invitation and provided information on their respective needs and best practices.

These inputs have been drafted into a technical report which is being launched today, and is expected to be the first in a series of publications by the Secretariat addressing this important topic.

It is also our hope that this initiative will facilitate the development of more effective capacity-building programmes tailored to the needs of Member States, further facilitating sharing and dissemination of best practices among the broader OPCW membership.

From 2009 to 2016, the Technical Secretariat conducted forty-seven capacity building programmes related to chemical safety and security management with support and collaboration from States Parties.

These events have attracted over 1400 participants from more than 130 Member States. Through such programmes, the Secretariat has been working to increase understanding of chemical risks, to provide tools and techniques to help build a stronger safety and security culture, and to facilitate the sharing of best practices in reducing chemical risks.

In order to prevent or reduce risks associated with failures in both chemical safety and security management, which have lasting human, economic and environmental impact, I encourage more Member States to share their needs and best practices, so that we can work together to reduce such impact for the benefit of all.

At this launching event, expert panelists from Germany, Malaysia, Latvia, Kenya, and Peru will share examples of best practices, lessons learned and needs regarding chemical safety and security management

of their respective countries, highlighting the importance of chemical safety and security management to support the pursuit of chemistry for peaceful purposes.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you a fruitful discussion.