



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
Seventeenth Induction Workshop for Diplomatic Personnel Involved in the Work of the OPCW

Closing remarks by Deputy Director-General H.E. Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao

The Hague, the Netherlands

29 September 2017

REMARKS AS DELIVERED

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to attend the seventeenth edition of the diplomatic induction workshop.

It has been a pleasure to welcome all of you here at the OPCW Headquarters, some for the first time, to participate in a series of briefings and presentations by Technical Secretariat staff.

We have aimed to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the mechanics of its implementing body. We hope that you have found these briefings useful.

Twenty years since the entry-into-force of the Convention, the OPCW has recorded remarkable gains and has brought our vision of a world free of chemical weapons closer to reality.

In fact, only a few days ago, I witnessed the completion of the Russian Federation's chemical demilitarisation programme at the closure of the chemical weapons destruction facility in Kizner.

This is indeed a remarkable milestone and a major contribution to our mission towards eliminating all of the remaining declared chemical weapons stockpiles, which is now well within our reach.

Yet, our mission is multifaceted and our work runs across all main pillars of the Convention and beyond.

The truth is, whether this work is related to chemical demilitarization, prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons, missions in Syria, Libya work in the field of international cooperation and assistance, education and outreach – our success will ultimately depend on the support and cooperation of Member States and their sustained investment into the noble goals enshrined in the Convention.

To this end, it is our aim to maintain a highly collaborative relationship with you, our key stakeholders, and further facilitate strengthening and promoting consultation, cooperation and consensus, the joint values and

principles that are key to our success.

This is in line with the OPCW motto: Working together for a world free of chemical weapons. On our part, the Secretariat will continue to tailor and adjust its working methods and programmes to meet new, emerging realities and challenges, and to maintain its effectiveness including in the post-destruction phase.

Despite the challenges ahead, I am confident that the Convention, and its holistic regime, will prevail to provide a timeless barrier against chemical weapons and act as a point of reference for future WMD-disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.

Let me conclude by reiterating that, the Secretariat is always at your service, should you require any assistance in your work relating to the OPCW. I wish you all every success in your endeavours and look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

To those of you who will be visiting our Laboratory and Equipment store in Rijswijk – I wish you an enjoyable tour.

Thank you for your participation.
