

*CORTESY TRANSLATION*

**PRESENTATION OF AMBASSADOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
SPAIN TO THE OPCW  
FERNANDO ARIAS**

*The Hague, 13th July 2017*

Mr. President,

All Permanent Representatives of the Member States, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address you in order to present my candidature to the position of Director-General of the OPCW.

Since I have served as Permanent Representative of Spain to the OPCW from March 2014, many of you have known me for some time.

**Spain's** long history has taught us to be a peaceful country, a country of mediation, dialogue and understanding, a great and **very active defender of multilateral diplomacy**. Serving my country I graduated from that school, through many years of experience in administrative management and bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

The two years (2015-2016) that Spain has served on the UN Security Council clearly show our commitment to multilateralism and disarmament.

Spain has been actively involved in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament, chairing the three Security Council Commissions on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

During that period and under our presidency of the Security Council, Spain obtained, on 15 December 2016, the unanimous approval of Resolution 2325 which concluded the Global Review of Resolution 1540 on non-proliferation and counter-terrorism.

Spain's activity in this matter is also reflected in two commemorative events to celebrate the OPCW's 20th anniversary, which will be held in Madrid on September 25th.

Working for an organisation such as the OPCW which has just celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, holds the Nobel Prize and has managed to destroy 95,7% of the chemical weapons declared by the States Parties of the Convention requires a **high moral and professional sense of responsibility**.

The OPCW is near **universal membership**, with 192 Member States up until now. In this immense framework I believe the new Director-General should focus on the following tasks:

In the coming years, the organization will gradually adapt and move from the predominance of destruction of chemical weapons to a new phase in which **preventing**

**its re-emergence** will predominate through the verification of the chemical industry based upon article VI. The 2018 Review Conference will be a key opportunity to this end.

**Sound verification-inspection capacity** should be maintained for work on unfinished destruction, amendments to declarations already made by Member States and new States Parties possibly possessing chemical weapons.

In this new stage, **preparation for non-routine activities**, such as emergency missions (RRAM) and fact-finding, will be preserved and improved.

The necessary capacity to **continue the recovery and destruction of abandoned or old chemical weapons** will also be maintained.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit Haerbaling, a complex where abandoned chemical weapons are destroyed, located in the province of Jilin, northeast China. The admirable economic and human efforts and the fine collaboration of both China and Japan deserve the greatest respect and support.

The Director-General will permanently have to focus on the **implementation of the Convention based upon art. VII**. 150 States Parties have already adopted national legislation, but 42 have not yet done so.

Some States Parties keep needing advice on drafting new legislation that transposes the Convention's provisions into national law. The Technical Secretariat should continue its collaboration in this field since it's considered to be a top priority.

Implementation of the Convention requires adequate technology, in addition to laws. To be able to collect and analyse samples, inspectors and laboratory experts need the **best scientific knowledge and the newest technologies**. The OPCW must **retain the accumulated knowledge** and incorporate the latest scientific and technological elements available.

Rijswijk's laboratory plays a fundamental role. The organization's involvement in **increasing the network of designated laboratories, for example in Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa**, will contribute to facilitating the analyses that are required.

In this and other respects, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is very useful; it's important to strengthen this board.

Many modern biotechnological products contain chemical elements and are difficult to control. Advanced technologies applied to chemistry also complicate inspections. Besides, the Internet provides all kind of information about how to produce or acquire dangerous chemicals.

The higher the quality of the inspections, the less likely that chemicals will be used for illicit purposes.

This is how, **within the mandate provided by the Convention**, the OPCW and the States Parties contribute to **fighting organized crime and terrorism**.

The **control of chemical products** should cover **the entire chemical cycle**, including emissions and waste management, because of their **effects on the environment**.

The OPCW should also **continue to work with other international organisations** in this field. The DG and the Technical Secretariat's team should play a prominent role here. A role I will definitely strengthen, if I become DG.

The fight against terrorism requires the participation of a large number of national and international authorities. The United Nations is the only organisation that can coordinate this task worldwide. It has done so with several resolutions of the Security Council, the 1540 Committee and the "The United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)". The OPCW is collaborating with the latter two.

When I refer to terrorism I recall its **victims** and all those who have suffered an attack with chemical weapons. If I deserve to be elected DG I will do everything I can to help them. Last April 26<sup>th</sup>, when we commemorated the 20th anniversary, I met two people, nationals of a great country that suffered a chemical attack years ago, and who had been cured in Spain. They showed me photos and I was touched by what I saw.

The achievements in terms of **assistance, protection** (Art.X) and **cooperation** (Article XI) will also contribute to the **responsible management of chemicals** in the developing countries. The **4<sup>th</sup> phase of the Programme for Africa** (2017-2019) is a good project which I will definitely support if I get to work for the Organisation.

The **outreach** activities that are being carried out reinforce this and contribute to **maintaining the Organisation's relevance**. The DG and its team must continue delivering lectures and participating in meetings to disseminate the work and objectives of the Organisation. In the coming years, the contribution of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) will be very useful.

To that end, I believe that the Public Affairs Office of the External Relations Division should be strengthened, because Information & Communication Technology (ICT) allows social networks to turn the Organisation into a global player.

Management of the Technical Secretariat and the DG's own activity:

A **Results Based Management budget** is a great planning and control tool that provides a very clear outline of the situation. This will help to **structure the expenditure**, taking into account the **zero nominal growth** to be expected in the coming years.

I am confident that the Enterprise Resource Planning will soon increase the Secretariat's management efficiency and savings. With regard to human resources, I will pay special attention to **maintenance and development of knowledge** and everything related to **gender issues**, if I become Director-General. I will also pay particular attention to the Organisation's **geographical representation** and the **high integrity and capacity** required.

The Organisation is experiencing a stage of readjustments and tensions on issues that are well known to you. Under these circumstances, the DG should not only be **the best manager** but also act as a mediator and arbiter, proposing ideas and providing information and guidance to Member States. While remaining **impartial**, the Director

General will use the margin available to be a facilitator. He is equally interested in the needs of each State, hence with harmony and agreement we will all benefit, including the Organisation. While being a **defender of the integrity of the Convention**, the objective must be to reach **well-negotiated agreements, adopted by consensus**. This is the victory of multilateralism, that is, of all Member States.

I thank you for your attention.