CWC Coalition 4th General Meeting
OPCW HQ (Ieper Room), The Hague, Netherlands
10:00 – 12:30, Wednesday, 28 November 2012

Minutes

Participating:
Sharon Dolev, Israeli Disarmament Movement (Israel); Shahriar Khateri, Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support (Iran); Ferruccio Trifiró, Accademia delle Scienze Bologna (Italy); Margaret Muturi, Kenyatta University (Kenya); Yasemin Balci, Angela Woodward, Scott Spence, VERTIC (UK); Noel Stott, Amelia Broodyk, Institute for Security Studies (South Africa); Ghassan Shahin, Syrian Environmental Protection Society (Syria); Ajey Lele, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (India), Rajiv Nahan, Institute for Strategic Studies (India); Mateah Aqeel, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (Pakistan); Alexander Gorbovskiy, Green Cross Russia (Russia), Obdulio Fanti, Brazilian Chemical Industry Association (Brazil); Ralf Trapp, Independent Disarmament Consultant (Germany); Prashant Yajnik, Indian Chemical Council (India); Onur Güven, Asser Institute (Netherlands); Kheder Mohammed, Mayors for Peace (Iraq); Fulgida Barattoni, International Peace Bureau (Italy); Gulstán Othman, Halabja Human Rights Office (Iraq); John Hart, SIPRI (Sweden); Richard Guthrie, CBW Events (UK); Walter Krutzsch, Harvard Sussex Program (UK/Germany).

Observers/presenters: Michael Luhan, Krzysztof Paturej, et al., OPCW

Co-Chairs: Paul Walker, Global Green International (Switzerland/USA) & Nathalie Gysi, Green Cross Switzerland (Switzerland)

Minutes: Adamo Antoniadis, Green Cross Switzerland (Switzerland)

Welcome & Introductions: Paul Walker (Global Green USA)
Paul Walker welcomed participants and opened the meeting. He thanked all for coming to The Hague, on behalf of the CWC Coalition, to attend the 17th CWC Conference of States Parties (CSP), and also thanked everyone for attending the CWC Coalition reception the prior evening in the delegation lounge of the OPCW. The reception was hosted by Ambassador Anniken Ramberg Krutnes of Norway, Ambassador Eberhard Schanz of Germany, and Ambassador Ruthie Chepkoech Rono of Kenya. Walker thanked all three ambassadors and delegations for their kind and generous support. All participants then briefly introduced themselves and their organizations in an around-the-table discussion.

Fundraising
Paul Walker announced that the Norwegian MFA will support the CWC Coalition with around EUR 200,000 over the next two years. The funding is for five events in 2012-
2014 (including the current Conference of States Parties) and is foreseen primarily for management, organizing, and travel expenses for participants from ODA countries. Green Cross Switzerland has agreed to complement the Norwegian funding with some USD 50,000 yearly, primarily for management, website, and travel. Also the UK Embassy in Washington has supported this meeting with GBP 20,000 (for coordination work primarily) and Global Green will apply for support of coming events again. OPCW has also supported the travel of many of the present participants and has announced its support for travel for the meeting during the Review Conference in April 2013 with at least EUR 22,000. These funds can also be spent on travel for non-ODA participants.

As most of the funding mentioned above was only secured a few days before the 17th CSP, the CWC Coalition could not invite as many participants as planned. Now that funding is secured for the next four meetings, the preparations and invitations for the meeting during the Review Conference can start immediately and we should achieve significant attendance of civil society for the 3rd Five-Year Review Conference in April 2013.

Several participants stressed the fact that it is important to share the Norwegian proposal so that everyone is aware what the proposal entails. The goals and activities foreseen are attached to these minutes.

**CWCC Website & address database**

After several problems with the maintenance and updating of the coalition website and address database, both Global Green USA and Green Cross Switzerland have invested considerable efforts (both time and funds) to migrate the website from IB Consultancy to Global Green USA, to update and restructure it, and to build a solid database of all individuals, organizations, and groups that have participated at one or more of the coalition’s meetings or are interested in receiving information. All coalition members are asked to look at the website ([www.cwccoalition.org](http://www.cwccoalition.org)) and make sure the information and links on their respective organizations are correct. We also invite everyone to send any recommendations regarding website as well as documents, links, videos, news, etc. that could be published to Global Green and/or Green Cross Switzerland who are responsible for the website. The suggestion of Richard Guthrie to revise the Coalition website in order to make it more understandable for “outsiders,” i.e. less informed stakeholders, will also be taken into consideration.

**OPCW Discussion on Civil Society and 3rd RevCon of Thursday 29 November 2012**

Given the opportunity for representatives of civil society to participate at this official OPCW preparatory meeting for the Review Conference in April, 2013, the 4th general meeting of the CWC Coalition concentrated on the preparation and coordination of this very important event of the following day. Michael Luhan gave a comprehensive introduction on the proposed content and form of the Open Discussion which will be chaired by Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria, the chair of the OPCW’s Open Ended Working Group (OEWG). (The OEWG is the planning group for the upcoming Review Conference, and Paul Walker has
already met with Amb. Baghli and Amb. Mary Whelan from Ireland, Vice Chair of the OEWG, to discuss the role of civil society and the CWC Coalition.) The members then discussed the most important issues that would have to be presented at the Thursday OEWG dialogue: implementation and universality, with special focus on Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia; the process for NGO involvement and logistics; incapacitants, chemical safety and security, and chembio convergence issues; demilitarization, including stockpile, non-stockpile, old and abandoned, and sea-dumped chemical weapons; inspection and verification; and victims of chemical warfare. It was also discussed who should speak on which topic on Thursday, and a final decision would be made later that day after talking with each potential speaker. A core group of the Coalition met again in the afternoon to finalize a more specific proposed list of speakers and topics for Ambassador Baghli who would chair the Open Discussion.

The CWCC meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM.