Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
The Conference of the States Parties to
The Chemical Weapons Convention

By

Dr. Paul F. Walker
Director, Environmental Security and Sustainability
And

Coordinator, CWC Coalition
Green Cross International

The Hague, The Netherlands
December 5, 2013
Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition, let me join both our governmental and civil society colleagues in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Eighteenth Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I would also like to congratulate our distinguished Director-General for his very successful first four-year term and for his reelection for a second term leading the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

This past year, 2013, has been extraordinary for the organization in both positive and negative ways. On the positive side, we all applaud the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the OPCW, a well-deserved honor for everyone who has worked for the past two decades or more to rid the world of chemical weapons. I will very much enjoy joining the Director-General and other OPCW colleagues next week in Oslo to celebrate this special award.

I was also very pleased this week to accept the Right Livelihood Award, otherwise known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, in Stockholm for working to build a world free of chemical weapons. These two prizes together recognize the global importance of our persistent, patient, and collective effort to safely destroy some 72,000 metric tons of chemical weapons.

On the negative side this year, we have witnessed the indiscriminate and cruel murder of over 1,000 Syrian citizens with sarin nerve agent. While this number is a small percentage of the 150,000 or more citizens killed to date in the ongoing war in Syria, this is the first time in 25 years that large amounts of citizens have been hit with chemical attacks. The condemnation of these attacks in Syria by the OPCW, the United Nations, and us all has been very important to strengthening the CWC’s abolition regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The accession of Syria as the 190th State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention has been a historic breakthrough, not simply to stop the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict, but also as a confidence-building measure for universalizing the Convention. With six countries still remaining outside the Convention, Syria’s accession helps to build political momentum to universalize the treaty regime and work towards a full Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East.
Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to underline the importance of civil society involvement in the CWC at both our annual and five-year conferences. As someone who has actively participated in our annual meetings since entry into force in 1997, I am very gratified to see the much expanded participation of non-governmental organizations, academics, industry representatives, and other experts in our deliberations, including this week in The Hague.

The strong and ongoing support of the States Parties, the Technical Secretariat, the Director-General, and others has expanded NGO registration from a dozen or so individuals to over 150 individuals at this year’s Third Five-Year Review Conference. The CWC Coalition will continue to work to involve civil society in productive and supportive discussions and actions, and we look forward to working more proactively with our OPCW colleagues and States Parties to further expand and strengthen our mutual efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

As the OPCW and CWC gain much wider recognition this year with both the Right Livelihood Award and Nobel Peace Prize, and as our dedicated inspectorate and States Parties work to fully implement the destruction of Syria’s declared chemical stockpile in a safe and irreversible manner, we all rededicate ourselves to safely eliminating the remaining stockpiles in the United States, the Russian Federation, Libya, and Iraq, and to building a world truly free of chemical weapons.

And finally, as we approach the centennial in 2015 of the first use of chemical weapons in World War I, we all must remember the many innocent victims of chemical weapons over the past century and continue our work to never allow such indiscriminate and massive killing to be ever repeated again. Thank you.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
The Conference of the States Parties to
The Chemical Weapons Convention

By
Shahriar Khateri
Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support

The Hague, The Netherlands
December 5, 2013
Mr Chairman

Director-General

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

I thank you for this opportunity to speak during this conference as a member of a civil society organization.

On behalf of the survivors of chemical weapons, please allow me to appreciate the great work carried out in recent years by the OPCW Director-General and the Technical Secretariat. Your support of the victims of chemical weapons.

Let me also congratulate the OPCW family for recently winning the Nobel peace prize. The Nobel Peace prize for the OPCW carries an important message. It says that the organization has a humanitarian mandate. It says that its subject is not just chemicals or munitions, but human beings. It says that the organization aims to create a peaceful life for people all over the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The scars of chemical warfare are still quite visible in our world. We have seen this – most recently – through the tragic events in Syria. But Syria is not the only place where the scars of chemical weapons make their bitter mark. Nearby, in my own region, there are still many survivors from conflicts long past. With survivors who still who need our help and support.

During the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, Saddam’s military dropped chemical bombs in towns which were both Iranian and Iraqi. Now – a quarter of a century later – tens of thousands of human beings suffer a painful, lingering fate. They are disabled. They endure a painful, lingering fate. They struggle to breathe. Their eyes burn. One by one, they lose their enduring struggle.

Some of these heroes – who live their lives one day at a time – are present here among us today. Here in this room. If you have not had a chance to meet with them yet, please take a moment to say hello. Speak with them. Hear their stories.
I would like you to know that victims of chemical weapons in Iran are currently dying in silence. One of the reasons for this tragedy is that they lack access to vital medicines. And this injustice is caused by the unilateral sanctions imposed on our country.

And the bitter irony is this: that the same people who were once victimized by a tyrant dictator’s chemical weapons, are now being victimized by another form of tyranny.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Chemical warfare, as many of you know, has long-term impacts. It takes its toll on the survivors over years, which is why our work should be undertaken with an eye towards long-term planning and support of the survivors.

The Syrian chemical attacks are now receiving less attention in the media, but we know that these new survivors will be living with the consequences of their exposure for decades to come.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that all of us in this room cooperate and work together to provide support for all of these survivors.

As was proposed during the 3rd review conference, the OPCW can take the opportunity of inviting survivors and eye witnesses of chemical warfare as peace messengers to raise awareness against these inhuman weapons.

Now that the OPCW has been chosen as the well-deserved winner of the Nobel peace prize, it is time to spread its important message to the world through peace ambassadors who have suffered the impacts of chemical weapons.

We welcome the OPCW's initiative to have a special section of CW Survivors' Voice on its website. The testimonies and personal accounts of survivors will allow people, and especially the world’s younger generation, to become aware of the cruelty and brutality of chemical weapons. We hope that this medium will be available on the website soon.

We hope that with the support of the Technical Secretariat (TS), the survivors can have a larger role in the future activities of the OPCW and that their voices are reflected more in the OPCW documents, publications and media products.

Ladies and gentlemen,
In parallel to your important responsibility to rid the world of chemical weapons, and to make sure there will be no more CW victims in our world, we need to pay close attention to the survivors of chemical warfare. We must assure them that they are not forgotten! And we must try to mitigate their pain and suffering.

To this end, we hope that more member states make contributions to the voluntary trust fund to support the CW victims in the near future and we also suggest that a part of the Nobel peace prize be allocated to the trust fund for the CW victims.

I thank you Mr Chairman – and I thank you all.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
The Conference of the States Parties to
The Chemical Weapons Convention

By

Sergei Batsanov
Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

The Hague, The Netherlands
December 5, 2013
Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

And, Mr. Director General…

I allowed myself to make this deliberate departure from the protocol rules in order to congratulate, you, Ambassador Usumcu, on your unanimous re-appointment for the second term yesterday.

It gives me a particular pleasure to address the 18th CSP on behalf of Pugwash International. Pugwash, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 for its contribution to diminishing the role of nuclear weapons and ultimately achieving nuclear free world, has been also very active in efforts to ban chemical and biological weapons.

Over the years we have been providing not only a critical interface between negotiators and the scientific community, but, also a platform for informal debate among delegations on difficult issues during negotiations on the CWC and later on – during the building of the OPCW and its activities. At the 60th Pugwash Conference in Istanbul a month ago the issue of chemical weapons elimination received particular attention. There were two main reasons for that: the news about the OPCW being awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize and the remarkable developments in the situation with chemical weapons in Syria.

The selection of the OPCW for the Nobel Peace Prize was particularly welcomed by my organization, because we see OPCW as an exemplary international disarmament agency with an excellent record of success achieved during just a bit more than 15 years after its establishment. The unprecedented rapid growth of its membership, now standing at 190 states reflects not only the almost universal commitment to chemical disarmament, but the serious trust that countries around the world have in the OPCW, in its even-handed non-discriminatory approach to the implementation of the CWC and are therefore ready to entrust to the organization an important part of their interests in the sensitive area of international security, disarmament and verification. It’s true that in many respects the OPCW design
and modus operandi were pre-determined by the Chemical Weapons Convention, which itself is an exemplary comprehensive, verifiable and non-discriminatory treaty, but the CWC was a project and vision. OPCW became the main cooperative channel for putting that vision into practice and it succeeded in proving that it works. It positioned itself as mature and balanced organization, which is competent both politically and technically to deal with the most difficult issues.

Many comments in mass media suggest that the OPCW received the Nobel Prize because shortly before that it had been given by the international community an important assignment to be the led agency in the process of chemical disarmament in Syria, a country which is being torn apart by the civil war and which was the scene of horrendous crimes of CW use. But that is incorrect. The prize was awarded for the same reasons which predetermined the conclusion of the international community in early September that the OPCW was the best candidate to cope with this challenging and responsible task. Pugwash, which was involved in some of the track 2 diplomacy leading up to the US-Russian ministerial in Geneva is aware that other options and scenarios had been on the table, is very pleased that at the end the choice was made in favor of the OPCW.

And, the first results also prove it was a correct decision. Within very short time OPCW has not only succeeded in verifying most of declared stockpiles and approving a very demanding CW destruction plan, but also completed the dismantlement of production and filling facilities in Syria, already considerably diminishing the risk of new instances of CW use there. We welcome progress towards finding the best way to deal with the destruction of CW stockpiles themselves. While noting with satisfaction the US initiatives in this respect Pugwash hopes that other states, in a position to do so, would offer their respective assets, technological, financial and other, as it may be appropriate, before long. And that together we all would be able to prove one very important conclusion: that effective and reliable disarmament regimes, such as OPCW, can also play an important role of preventing the aggravation of conflicts and facilitation their resolution by political and diplomatic means.

Mr. Chairman, not surprisingly, the Syria events and new responsibilities are consuming now a good portion of attention and efforts of the OPCW. It’s also noteworthy that that at the current CSP Member
States were in a position to resolve very expeditiously the ordinary business, so that the Conference may well finish one day earlier. This is a good sign of an organization which is dealing with something really important. But we also hope that other tasks of the OPCW and issues it is dealing with are not forgotten and we encourage the OPCW, its member states and the Secretariat to continue their work on them.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
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The Chemical Weapons Convention

By

Daryl Kimball
Executive Director
Arms Control Association

The Hague, The Netherlands
December 5, 2013
SYRIA CHEMICAL WEAPONS ELIMINATION PLAN AND THE NEXT STEPS TOWARD A WMD FREE MIDDLE EAST

The large-scale use of chemical weapons against rebel-controlled areas outside Damascus on Aug. 21 required a strong international response to help ensure that further such attacks are not launched ever again in Syria or elsewhere.

In the weeks and months since, there has been a strong and clear message that the further use of chemical weapons will not be tolerated.

The UN chemical weapons inspection team found evidence of extensive use of the nerve agent sarin, determined the type of rockets used in the attacks, and calculated the direction from which the rockets were fired. These findings and others all point to use by the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

In the wake of these horrible attacks, which killed more than 1,000 men, women, and children, U.S. and Russian leaders, as well as a wide array of CWC states parties, have worked together to establish international control of and to eliminate Syria’s chemical arsenal. And the Syrian government has recognized that the human and security costs of these weapons far outweigh any perceived military or political value they may have once had.

Under the agreement negotiated Sept. 14 by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the UN and the OPCW have put into motion an expeditious plan for accounting, inspection, control, and elimination of Syria’s deadly arsenal under the auspices of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). By mid-2014, the entire stockpile, including chemical agents, production facilities, and delivery systems, is to be safely eliminated or, if necessary, removed from the country.

With the verified disablement of Syria’s declared mixing and filling equipment and production facilities that has already been completed, the risk of further CW use against Syria’s people has been severely reduced as the potential for rapid weaponization has been eliminated.
But serious security, technical, and financial challenges that lie ahead, including the removal of the bulk agents and precursors from Syria on a tight schedule.

As OPCW states parties implement the removal and elimination phase of the plan, it is vital to keep in mind that once the material is removed from Syria, the major weapons related security risk will have been addressed.

Beyond that point and as the United States, the OPCW, and commercial entities use hydrolysis and incineration to eliminate the bulk and precursor chemicals, it is essential that the process is conducted properly rather than quickly.

We would strongly advise that before the operation in undertaken that a much more thorough public information effort is undertaken to describe the operation in order to avoid misperceptions about public health, environmental, and security risks.

Toward a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East

Syria’s decision to join to the CWC and to eliminate its CW stockpile is an important step to reduce the dangers of the Syrian civil war and toward a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East.

The Syrian plan should also spur Egypt, Israel, and other Chemical Weapons Convention holdouts to join the treaty and take other, overdue steps needed to move the Middle East closer to becoming a zone free of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

For decades, governments have talked about the importance and value of a zone free of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons in the Middle East. Such zones reinforce the NPT by prohibiting states from developing or using nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and undertakes not to allow any such weapons whatsoever within its territory.

The issue of the "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East" was first included in
the agenda of the General Assembly, in 1974, at the request of Iran, later joined by Egypt.

The 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference adopted the Middle East resolution, which calls for the establishment of zone free of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons as well as their delivery systems. The resolution was a linchpin of the decision to extend the NPT indefinitely.

The Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference reiterated the importance of NWFZs, reaffirmed the resolution on the Middle East, and recalled that all states in the Middle East except Israel are party to the NPT.

At the 2010 review conference, the NPT parties for the first time endorsed concrete and substantive practical steps regarding a WMD-Free Zone:

- convening of a conference in 2012 by the UN secretary-general and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the states of the region, on the establishment of a Middle East zone to be attended by all states of the region;
- appointing a facilitator and a host government with a mandate to support implementation and assist in the convening of the 2012 conference; and
- reporting from the facilitator to the 2015 NPT Review Conference and its preparatory committee meetings.

The path ahead will be difficult, but agreement on these basic steps is an overdue step forward.

Once and if the first MEWMDFZ conference is convened, the next challenge will be to encourage serious consideration of practical steps that would move closer toward the establishment of such a zone and, at the same time, increase the security of the key states and the region as a whole.
States should consider interim steps that each of the states in the region could take prior to the 2015 NPT Review Conference to move closer to the goal of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East.

Such steps might include:

- A pledge by states that have not yet done so to actively consider signature and/or ratification of the CWC by all states in the region. With Syria’s accession to the CWC, now is the time for Israel and Egypt to take the remaining steps necessary to become states parties to the treaty. Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy recently proposed that all states in the region joint the main WMD prohibition treaties. Egypt should show leadership by moving to joining the CWC;
- A pledge by states that have not yet done so to actively consider signature and/or ratification of the BWC by all states in the region;
- A pledge not to produce fissile material at any unsafeguarded nuclear facility pending the conclusion of verifiable FMCT negotiations;
- A pledge by all NPT states parties in the region to accede to the Additional Protocol;
- A pledge by all states in the region not party to the NPT to take concrete steps to place additional facilities under facility-specific IAEA safeguards. Agreement to discuss multilateral nuclear fuel supply arrangement with major supplier states, such as Russia, in order to reduce the potential demand for the development of indigenous nuclear fuel production in the region;
- A pledge by all states in the region that have not done so to sign and ratify the CTBT by 2015; and
- Reporting by all states on the status of their ballistic missile systems and cruise missile systems and a pledge to provide timely notification of any missile test launches.

Thank you.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
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By

Amelia Broodryk

Africa’s Development and the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction Project

Institute for Security Studies

The Hague, The Netherlands

December 5, 2013
Good afternoon. My name is Amelia Broodryk and I am a senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). ISS is a pan-African policy research NGO headquartered in Pretoria, South Africa with offices in Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Dakar. We seek to mainstream human security perspectives into public policy processes and add critical balance by providing empirical research and contextual analysis to governmental policy makers.

Since 2007, with funding from Norway and the UK, our aim has been to galvanise Africa’s role in international efforts to strengthen weapons of mass destruction disarmament and non-proliferation in the context of Africa’s developmental imperatives – this includes chemical weapons.

On behalf of the ISS, I would like to congratulate the OPCW on winning this year’s Nobel Peace Prize. This award is a strong acknowledgement of the dedication of the OPCW in realising the goal of a world free of chemical weapons. I would also like to congratulate Director-General Üzümcü on his reappointment and renew our commitment to supporting him in his future activities.

In June this year, Somalia became the 189th State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), bringing the number of African States not party to the CWC down to three namely Angola, Egypt and South Sudan. With the subsequent accession of Syria in October this year, we urge the remaining three African states to follow suit and accede to the CWC without delay. The Africa non-parties’ accession will reinforce the African Union’s (AU) call for a Chemical Weapons-Free Zone in Africa – which is underscored by the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and the OPCW.

Engagement between African States Parties and the OPCW has been driven by the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Programme has expanded over the years, enabling Africans to participate in training courses and workshops both on and off the continent on relevant topics. This includes regional meetings of National Authorities, as well as training workshops for customs officials and analytical chemists. The Programme also provides employment to African interns, offers support to attend CWC conferences and supplies functional
equipment. As such, the OPCW’s programmes yield direct economic benefits to a continent struggling to meet its developmental goals.

From ISS’ experience, engagement in Africa must include both the developmental benefits as well as the security dimensions of CWC membership. Technical assistance, cooperation, and the transfer of technology are probably most relevant to a continent that struggles with health care challenges, unemployment and a lack of resources.

The OPCW’s successful work in Africa and the near-universalisation of the CWC in Africa is a testament to the continent’s commitment to ensuring that the misuse of dangerous chemicals never occurs in Africa or anywhere else in the world. However, while it remains important to promote accession of the remaining three African States, effective implementation of the CWC in the existing African States Parties continues to be an ongoing challenge. In particular, the low number of African States Parties that currently have implementing legislation covering all key areas of the CWC is of major concern. Given the resource constraints faced by most African countries, it may be useful for African States Parties to consider an integrated approach to the regulation of dual use items. A practical model of the latter is South Africa’s Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act and its inter-departmental structure, the South African Non-Proliferation Council for Weapons of Mass Destruction, which administers the Act and controls the transfer of dual-use technology, materials and goods. Through our partnership with the OPCW and other NGOs, the ISS can offer support to African states in identifying their specific needs and developing appropriate legislative frameworks.

The complementary nature of the OPCW and African civil society’s activities in promoting international peace and security through disarmament and non-proliferation, should enable us to embark on mutually reinforcing actions in, for example, promoting awareness and universality of the CWC in Africa and for the enactment of domestic laws. It our hope that through our cooperation with the OPCW and African States Parties, that together we can achieve the continent’s universalisation and implementation goals.

Thank you.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
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By

Scott Spence
Delivered by Richard Guthrie

VERTIC

The Hague, The Netherlands

December 5, 2013
Mr Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of VERTIC, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the OPCW for receiving this year’s Nobel Peace Prize. The Prize is well-deserved recognition of the important work of the Organisation and its staff, and we wish you much success in the challenging years ahead.

Universality

Mr Chairman, VERTIC welcomes Syria’s accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention as well as its co-operation thus far with the UN Security Council and OPCW further to decisions requiring the complete, verifiable destruction of the country’s chemical weapons stockpile. With Syria’s accession, there are now only six States remaining outside of the Convention. We call on Israel and Myanmar, as signatory States, to continue to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the Convention, and to send instruments of ratification to the UN Secretary General without further delay. We also call on Angola, Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan to join the Convention and support its objective of excluding completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, for the sake of all mankind.

In April this year, VERTIC had the honour to co-organise joint workshops in Angola with the OPCW and the British Embassy in Luanda, with the participation of the Implementation Support Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention. These workshops had the objective of advancing Angola’s accession to both the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions and received the full support of Angola’s Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr Georges Chikoti. We were also pleased to hear statements of support during the workshops from the ambassadors of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

We look forward to Angola’s accession to both Conventions, and remain willing to engage in further cooperation with the OPCW and BWC Implementation Support Unit to organise future workshops for those States which have yet to join the BWC or CWC.

Accountability

Mr Chairman, apart from Syria’s accession to and compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, the United Nations has undertaken investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons in that country. The report of the first investigation of alleged use in the Ghouta area of Damascus is complete and concluded that “… chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the
parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, also against civilians, including children, on a relatively large scale”.

The UN Secretary General has underlined that chemical weapons use is a violation of international law and a war crime that must be punished. Now that use has been confirmed, holding the perpetrators individually accountable at the International Criminal Court (ICC) is one measure the UN Security Council could take to ensure that the rule of law is upheld internationally. Though Syria is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, the ICC can exercise jurisdiction over the situation if there is a referral by the Security Council. We strongly believe that the Security Council should consider doing so.

National implementation

Mr Chairman, now that Syria has joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Government is obligated, under Article VII, paragraph 1, to prohibit natural and legal persons from undertaking activities in its territory that are also prohibited to States Parties. These prohibitions must also extend to Syrian nationals no matter where they may have committed unlawful acts involving chemical weapons. Comprehensive legislation would allow Syria to prosecute perpetrators in its national courts in a post-conflict situation where they have the capacity to process such cases. This is important because it is the policy of the International Criminal Court to only prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes in its statute.

Regrettably, the report of the Third Review Conference highlights that only 91 out of 190 States Parties have comprehensive legislation to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention. VERTIC calls on Syria and the other States Parties that have yet to fulfil their Article VII obligations to take immediate steps to do so. States could also consider working simultaneously on their BWC implementing legislation and fulfil the obligations of two related treaties to maximize national capacities and resources. VERTIC has provided support to a number of States to draft such legislation to date. We hereby offer our assistance to any State Party considering drafting legislation, in co-ordination with the OPCW and the BWC Implementation Support Unit, to help them carry out these difficult but necessary and worthy commitments.

Thank you Mr Chairman.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
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By

Dr. Michael Crowley
Bradford Non-Lethal Weapons Project
University of Bradford

The Hague, The Netherlands
December 5, 2013
Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for the opportunity to address this plenary session. My remarks relate to a recent study under the *Biochem 2030 Project* of Bath University, which examined the OPCWs’ mechanisms for reviewing science and technology developments, and analysed their application to incapacitating chemical agents (ICAs).

The CWC through its General Purpose Criterion ensures that all existing toxic chemicals and also all those yet to be discovered or developed are included within its scope. Consequently, as toxic chemicals, all potential candidate ICAs including pharmaceutical chemicals, bio-regulators and toxins, would be covered by the Convention. The use in armed conflict of toxic chemicals promoted as ICAs is clearly prohibited under the CWC. Whilst riot control agents can be legitimately used in law enforcement, there are differing interpretations as to whether, and in what circumstances, other toxic chemicals (including those promoted as ICAs) could be employed for such purposes.

Analysis of open source information from the mid-1990s onwards indicates that a number of States have conducted research relating to ICAs at some stage during this period, and there has been one large scale deployment of such agents by the Russian Federation in a counter-terrorist operation in 2002.

The potential risks that the rapidly evolving life and chemical sciences will be employed in development of ICAs and associated means of delivery have been explored by a range of respected scientific organisations including the U.K. Royal Society, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Switzerland's Spiez Laboratory, and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry; and the findings of such bodies have been brought to the attention of the OPCW.

In its report to the Third Review Conference, the Scientific Advisory Board concluded that “technical discussion on ... potential use of toxic chemicals for law enforcement purposes has been exhaustive.” The SAB stated that ICAs should not be considered as “non-lethal” as “for all chemicals toxicity is a matter of dosage”. It recommended that “the Secretariat start preparations for verification activities, relevant to incapacitating chemicals, that could be required in an investigation of alleged use.” The SAB findings were highlighted by the Director General who committed the Secretariat to “pursue
efforts to enhance its chemical analysis capabilities” and to “work with designated laboratories on this issue”.

Whilst the SAB, Technical Secretariat and the Director General have provided timely objective expert analysis of science and technology developments relevant to ICAs, the States Parties through the policy making organs have been unwilling or unable to effectively review such information and adequately discuss application of the Convention in this area. Consequently, they have collectively failed to agree appropriate policy and practice for the Organisation to meet the challenges raised by ICAs.

Although the Third Review Conference failed to establish a mechanism to facilitate discussion amongst States Parties regarding ICAs, there appears to be widespread and growing recognition that the Organisation needs to address this issue; with supportive statements made during or following the Review Conference by Germany, Ireland, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, the U.K., the U.S., the E.U., and most recently by Australia at this CSP.

Given the ongoing concerns regarding ICAs, we recommend that CWC States Parties, individually and collectively, should:

(a) Affirm that current national practice is to restrict use of toxic chemicals for law enforcement to riot control agents, and reaffirm the existing prohibition on the use of toxic properties of all chemicals in armed conflict;
(b) Introduce national moratoria on development, stockpiling, transfer and use of ICAs and related means of delivery intended for law enforcement purposes; and
(c) Present proposals for a mechanism within the OPCW to discuss the employment of ICAs in law enforcement.

Given the important commitments made by the Director General at the Review Conference, the Secretariat should now work to:

(a) Develop appropriate verification mechanisms applicable to ICAs and their means of delivery, and
(b) Monitor developments in relevant science and technology.

There is now an opportunity for the OPCW to take a precautionary and preventative approach, and address development and use of ICAs and related means of delivery. If the OPCW does not do so in the near future there is a danger that advances in relevant scientific disciplines will be utilised in State development programmes leading to proliferation and misuse of such weapons.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
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By
Mateah Aqeel
South Asian Strategic Stability Institute

The Hague, The Netherlands
December 5, 2013
Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

The decision by the Nobel Peace Committee to bestow this year’s Peace Prize on the OPCW is a great honor for the Organization and all State Parties, we take this opportunity and congratulate OPCW on its achievements and felicitate the ambassador Ahmet Uzamcu, the Director General. We strongly believe that under the able leadership of Director General, OPCW would continue to make every effort to achieve the ultimate objective of total elimination of Chemical Weapons for making the world a better and safer place.

Distinguished delegates

The South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) is an independent think tank dedicated to promoting peace and stability in South Asia. The South Asian Strategic Stability Institute takes a multi-disciplinary approach focused on strategic stability, aimed at bringing together the various streams of thought from the social and natural sciences, the policy makers and academia.

SASSI aim’s to make a leading contribution to regional and international academic and policy-orientated research discourses about South Asian security. SASSI remit goes beyond nuclear stability to include the wider issues of chemical and biological weapons, conventional force balance, civil-military relations, social and political stability, religious extremism and the security issues. In addition, the institute hopes to increase its research on issues such as energy politics and the South and South West.

However, the primary thrust of the work carried out by the institute revolves around the nuclear questions and debates relating to non-proliferation and disarmament, particularly as to finding ways and means to enhance capacity building within and outside the region on promoting a paradigm of strategic stability in south Asia.

Basic objective of the being a civil society organization we aims that Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition (CWCC)’s is a platform to inform the civil society about the Chemical Weapons Convention with a common objective of the OPCW. Informing the people of in focused areas related to CWC, which would directly support the Convention’s objectives and will help in CWC implementation.
SASSI University aims to:

1. Sensitize and inform people, different organizations and NGO’s about “facilitating CWC implementation”.
2. People through NGOs have easy access to information about CWC and Promote the effectiveness about OPCW actions and regime.
3. Ensure meaningful participation in the planning, programming, and implementation of chemical weapons related policies.
4. Compelling government bodies to reinforce its international commitments regarding OPCW.

Excellences ladies and gentlemen

For the mentioned objectives, we are planning International Chemical Review due to be published to highlight the success, the challenges and the emerging context for the CWC and its effectiveness as a stabilizer of international peace. ICWR aims to support the Convention’s objectives and will help in CWC implementation and universality.

Our academic programs include multiple courses and independent training modules and certificate courses in arms control and disarmament. These will include Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) course which aims to inform, advocate and educate the participants on the CWC implantation and related issues and will lead to mainstreaming the benefits of CWC.

In addition SASSI University has regular publications as SASSI Research Reports, Research Papers, Policy Briefs, Technical Briefs and Non Proliferation.

I thank you for your patience.
Statement

To the Eighteenth Session of
The Conference of the States Parties to
The Chemical Weapons Convention

By
Rana Athar Javed
Director General,
Pakistan House

The Hague, The Netherlands
December 5, 2013
Mr Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Pakistan House, let me first congratulate Ambassador Ahmet Uzmuc on his reappointment for a second term of office as OPCW Director General. Honouring OPCW with Noble Prize clearly reflects the quality of judgement on the part of state parties, and hence a plan to implement comprehensive strategy of removing and destroying chemical weapons (especially from Syria) and elsewhere in the world. The process is long and challenging, but not impossible. Importantly, Pakistan House firmly believe that together with civil society, the OPCW can contribute toward multilateral diplomacy that is, launching a multipronged approach to engage states which are still outside the CWC and collaborate with rest of the CWC signatories.

Ladies and Gentlemen, OPCW’s achievements and success in just sixteen years demonstrates the need to maintain the momentum because significance of current CWC discourse will guarantee the verification and accountability process. This is exactly the argument which Pakistan House supports and seeks to achieve through working-partnership with other members of civil society organizations.

As an independent, non-partisan and non-political organization Pakistan House has been contributing to on-going discourse on implementing a modern security strategy. The importance of a viable national security policy hinges at the objectivity of addressing the dangers of militant groups in the conflict zone where the chemical weapons are being used. A strict monitoring system of such groups therefore should be the top priority of responsible organizations.

Let me take this opportunity and reaffirm that the platform of Pakistan House is available to further the noble cause of OPCW/CWC and we look forward to participate in the on-going research projects and help initiating new one.
On the aspect of dual-use-application, Pakistan House believes that whereas, it is crucial to monitor and assess the use and transport of chemicals, such a process must not infringe on the use of knowledge in the field of chemistry and related areas of research. Balancing the act of accountability with development and pursuit of advance knowledge will be challenging, but for the sake of well-informed and trained next generations, the only option is that “state-parties-civil society” should play the role of a catalyst to make appropriate judgements! The right to learn advance knowledge should not be hindered in all fields including Chemistry.

Let me conclude by saying that nothing more positive than sustaining the success. I believe OPCW and CWC are on the way to that sustainability.

I thank you for your attention, Ladies and Gentlemen!