Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition (CWCC): Founding Document, agreed by consensus by the participants at the meeting to establish the CWCC, 2-3 December 2009 in The Hague, The Netherlands

Mission Statement

The Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition (CWCC) is an independent, international body whose mission is to support the aims of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to supplement the efforts of the member states of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), with focused civil society action aimed at achieving full membership of the CWC, the safe and timely elimination of all chemical weapons, preventing the misuse of chemicals for hostile purposes, and promoting their peaceful use.

CWCC activities

1. Involve and engage a greater number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academia, experts, chemical industries, chemical associations, and professional organizations, and other interested stakeholders, especially from developing countries and non-States Parties (to the CWC) representing all regions of the world. This will allow NGOs to play a greater role and exert greater impact in advancing chemical weapons-related issues locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally with a view to facilitating CWC implementation and accession by the remaining non-States Parties.

Main activities:

a. Attract up to 100 NGOs and other non-governmental actors to join the CWCC by the end of its first year. At least 50% of these NGOs will be from the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Middle East;

b. Members will contribute to achieving the mission and objectives of the CWCC by participating in one or more core areas of activity:

   i. attending annual CWCC meetings and/or meetings of the Advisory Committee;
   ii. providing input to build a CWCC information database for advocacy purposes;
   iii. organizing a CWCC activity in relation to OPCW events at the regional, national or international level;
   iv. publishing media commentaries, blogs, and/or participating in TV/radio programs on CWC-related issues; and
   v. writing letters to executive and parliamentary authorities on implementation of the CWC and appropriate OPCW senior management.

2. Develop a common strategy and mobilize efforts to achieve full membership of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and monitor and promote full compliance with the CWC, including the safe and timely elimination of chemical weapons, comprehensive national implementation, and peaceful uses of chemicals.
Main activities:

a. Within two months of the founding meeting for the CWCC, finalize a coalition work plan;
b. Regular reports will be prepared and distributed to members and donors monitoring the implementation of activities against the work plan;
c. Drawing upon publicly available OPCW information, compile and produce an annual CWCC report card on the status of CWC implementation by States Parties (e.g., establishing a National Authority, adoption of enabling legislation, chemical weapons destruction) for issuance in connection with the Conference of the States Parties (CSP);
d. Organize public CWCC meetings in connection with key regional-level OPCW events in Africa, the Americas, East Asia, and the Middle East to focus attention on the importance of achieving universality of the CWC and ensuring comprehensive implementation through adoption of legislation and active National Authorities;
e. Promote the safe, sound, and timely destruction of chemical weapons in the four declared remaining possessor states (Iraq, Libya, Russian Federation, and the United States) as well as abandoned chemical weapons;
f. Promote the safe and environmentally sound use of chemicals for peaceful purposes.

3. Promote the effectiveness of the inspection and verification regime by the OPCW and identify weaknesses and challenges related to, for example, the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles, the destruction or conversion of former production facilities, and for improved transparency of other chemical production facilities (OCPFs).

Main activities:

a. Produce an independent CWCC analysis of the existing inspection and verification regime for industry with specific recommendations for strengthening its non-proliferation effect, particularly in regard to anticipating advances in science and technology. The analysis would be presented to the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board and policymaking bodies, and submitted for publication in prominent international journals;
b. Through interventions with key OPCW delegations, build a caucus of support to include the analysis and its recommendations in the agenda of the CSP; and

c. Organize open forums on the sidelines of the annual CSP to present and discuss the analysis with delegates.

4. Education, outreach and capacity-building at the local, national, regional, and international levels in accordance with the mission statement.

Main activities:

a. Conduct advocacy efforts aimed at strengthening political commitment for the CWC in various countries and regions;
b. Facilitate dialogue among all CWC stakeholders;
c. Provide research and expert policy advice to the OPCW, CWC States Parties, National Authorities, industry and CWC non-States Parties; and
d. Build constituencies at the national and transnational levels through public outreach and education.

5. Promote synergies among non-governmental organizations in advocacy for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) demilitarization, disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses, through cooperation and interaction among stakeholders in the nuclear, chemical and biological regimes.

Main activities:

a. Identify key messages for CWCC members to use in promoting WMD demilitarization, disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses in the nuclear, biological, and chemical spheres, stressing the need for multilateral approaches, non-discrimination, and verification as first principles;

b. Anticipate and plan outreach activities in the run-up to the review conferences for each of the above-mentioned including workshops, open forums, publication of think pieces and blogs, and targeted meetings with key delegations; and

c. Collaborate with NGOs in other issue areas to create multilateral solutions in overlapping fields.

6. Advocate for improved transparency in the implementation of the CWC, including civil society access to OPCW documentation and activities (e.g., conferences and events).

Main activities:

a. Promote proactive outreach to NGOs, think tanks, academics, and industry associations to attend the annual CSP and track the number of these organizations and individuals in attendance;

b. Promote inclusive public activities – presentations, open forums, civil society statements – at the annual CSP and review conferences and track progress;

c. Promote publication of reports of the Executive Council, CSP, and State Parties on the OPCW website in order to facilitate public access and inclusion; and

d. Track progress in public access to information and data.

**CWCC Functions and Structure**

1. **CWCC functions**

The CWCC will comprise a global network of NGOs which are committed to its mission. The CWCC members will endeavour to:

- Support implementation of the CWCC’s goals and objectives in their respective countries and regions;
- Serve as points of contact for the CWCC in their countries and regions;
- Work with the government, media, and public in their countries and regions;
- Host events for the CWCC in their countries and regions;
- Speak at CWCC and OPCW events;
- Regularly communicate with other CWCC members through monthly conference calls and yearly face-to-face meetings of the Advisory Committee;
• Organize regional meetings to include government representatives, media, and key embassies;
• Publish articles and editorials and contribute to the CWCC website and email newsletter;
• Organize yearly events at the OPCW, United Nations General Assembly Special Sessions, and elsewhere, including the organization of an NGO Forum linked to the annual CSP and meeting of National Authorities; and
• Identify and recruit new CWCC members.

2. Coordination Hub

Global Green USA, the US affiliate of Green Cross International in Washington DC, will serve as the CWCC’s initial Coordination Hub and work closely with the Advisory Committee, CWCC members, and the OPCW Point of Contact (OPCW POC), and liaise informally with the OPCW Director-General.

Dr. Paul F. Walker of Global Green USA will initially coordinate the CWCC (the Coordinator), and Marina Voronova-Abrams of Global Green USA will assist the Coordinator.

The Coordination Hub will:

• Identify relevant groups in coordination with existing CWCC members that could help to promote the goals of the CWCC in their regions and countries and invite them to join;
• Assist new CWCC members to develop and distribute informational materials;
• Communicate regularly with CWCC members, updating them on developments through regular calls, meetings, newsletters and reports;
• Encourage cooperation and collaboration among the NGOs in the CWCC, playing on each group’s strength and geographic location;
• Develop and maintain a CWCC website;
• Receive and disseminate CWCC members’ publications;
• Work closely with the Advisory Committee and OPCW POC;
• Coordinate with the Advisory Committee to develop global strategy and guidance for the CWCC and facilitate interactive dialogue among all CWCC members;
• Help to organize events at the OPCW and elsewhere, including an annual public forum prior to each CSP bringing together CWC stakeholders;
• Coordinate the submission of CWCC members’ views to the OPCW Executive Council and Director-General;
• Work with NGOs on United Nations Resolution 1540 multilateralism issues;
• Commission and/or draft annual reports, research papers and presentations for CWCC members, interested parties, and the public;
• Liaise with embassies, governments and parliaments globally in support of the norm against chemical weapons; and
• Fundraise for all necessary activities, with the support of CWCC members, and leverage resources.

The contact details for the initial CWCC Coordination Hub are:
3. Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee will be formed of up to 10 NGOs and experts on CWC issues, with due regard to regional representation, to:

- Provide timely advice and direction for the CWCC and the Coordination Hub;
- Establish measurable goals, objectives, and implementation steps of the CWCC, the final documents of which will be shared with and incorporate input from other CWCC members prior to further distribution;
- Provide expert presentations at the OPCW and elsewhere;
- Draft key articles, papers, and editorials;
- Represent the CWCC and advocate for its goals;
- Develop good governance guidelines for the CWCC, including its coordination;
- Determine CWCC membership criteria;
- Identify and network with other NGOs to join the CWCC; and
- Work with the Coordinator to fundraise for the CWCC, provide fundraising advice to the Coordinator, advise on the use of funds raised in the name of the CWCC, and review audited accounts.

4. Information and Communication Support Office(s)

The CWCC will consider establishing further support or regional offices, funding permitting, to assist with, inter alia:

- Event organization;
- Developing and maintaining websites linked to the CWCC website;
- Production and distribution of regular newsletters and reports to CWCC members, the Advisory Committee, and the OPCW POC;
- Other forms of communication among CWCC members;
- Reports on OPCW CSPs, Executive Council meetings, and other relevant events;
- Helping new CWCC members develop informational materials;
- Maintaining and expanding CWCC mailing and email lists;
- Researching and drafting relevant articles; and

5. OPCW Point of Contact
The CWCC will coordinate its efforts closely with the OPCW POC, Mr Michael Luhan, Head of the Media and Public Affairs Branch;

The OPCW POC may provide advice on the development of the CWCC and achieving synergies among partners, guidance and information on the latest developments at the OPCW, and ideas for how best to exploit outreach opportunities;

The OPCW POC may also access funding from the Technical Secretariat’s NGO Trust Fund to support the participation of CWCC members in OPCW-related events; and

There will be a link created to the CWCC website from the OPCW website.