

Ten Years of Chemical Weapons Use in Syria: A Look Back and A Look Ahead

Tuesday, February 22, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EST (Washington, DC time)
Zoom Webinar



H.E. Fernando Arias is the 4th Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and has held this role since being appointed by the members of the OPCW in December 2017. Prior to serving as Director General, Arias was the Ambassador of Spain to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Permanent Representative of Spain to the OPCW from 2014 to 2018. He also served as the Vice-President of the OPCW's Executive Council in 2017 and 2018. Ambassador Arias has been a career diplomat since 1979 and has extensive multilateral experience with issues regarding weapons of mass destruction as well as bilateral experience in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, North America and South America. Additionally, he was the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations from 2012 to 2013.



Joby Warrick joined The Washington Post's National staff in 1996. He has served with the Post's investigative and national security teams, and currently writes about the Middle East, terrorism, and weapons proliferation. He is the author of three nonfiction books, including his 2021 book "Red Line: The Unraveling of Syria and America's Race to Destroy the Most Dangerous Arsenal in the World." His second book, "Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS," which was awarded a 2016 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction.



Ahmet Üzümcü is a career diplomat with vast experience in multilateral diplomacy and disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Prior to his appointment as Director-General of the OPCW in December 2009, he was Turkey's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, where he chaired the Conference on Disarmament in March 2008. Ambassador Üzümcü completed his second term as Director-General of the OPCW in July 2018.



Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu assumed her position as Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on 1 May 2017. Prior to taking on this post, Ms. Nakamitsu served as Assistant Administrator of the Crisis Response Unit at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2014. She has many years of experience within and outside the United Nations system, most recently as Special Adviser Ad Interim on Follow-up to the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants between 2016 and 2017.