

Twenty-Seventh Session of the
Conference of the States Parties (CSP-27) to the
Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
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Statement on
Concept of Dual-use Chemicals

Statement by
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**Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Delegates, CWC Coalition Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my honour to submit the following statement about Dual-use Chemicals on behalf of Srivaranam Organisation for the Environmental Education (SOEE), an Indian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), which addresses the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN Agenda 2030 and mainly aims at contributing to the safety and security of toxic chemicals in the dual-use context, via dissemination of proficiency to chemistry practitioners.

Any chemical that has legitimate peaceful uses but which may also be used to make chemical weapons is a dual-use chemical. In this context, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is highly appreciable in encouraging all the stakeholders to refer "The Hague Ethical Guidelines" for responsible practice of chemistry.

Toxic chemicals are used around the world for many legitimate and peaceful applications, but they may also be used for purposes that are prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). States Parties to the CWC must ensure that these chemicals are only used for purposes that are not prohibited by the Convention.

The CWC defines Schedule 1 chemicals are a type of chemical weapons, whereas, Schedules 2 and 3 chemicals are considered as toxic and precursor chemicals to Schedule 1 chemicals. Most Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals, based on their chemical properties, can be termed as dual-use chemicals.

In addition, Schedules 2 and 3 chemicals are capable and important building blocks for production of Schedule 1 chemicals. For instance, a Schedule 2 chemical, Thiodiglycol, is both an ingredient in pen ink, as well as a precursor to mustard agent, hence this chemical can be termed as a dual-use chemical. Similarly, there are several other dual-use chemicals which play a key role in purposes that are not prohibited by the Convention, which include peaceful and legitimate uses, such as industry, agriculture, research, medicine, or pharmaceuticals.

Recommendations and Action Items to the CWC Implementors:

Respected Chairperson,

Chemical weapons may re-emerge in a number of ways, with dual-use chemicals posing a high risk of contributing to their production. Therefore, stringent verification procedures are recommended to prevent their deliberate or inadvertent diversion.

It is recommended to categorise dual-use chemicals within scheduled chemicals and subject them to verification by the OPCW, in particular, with regard to their end use. And, these dual-use chemicals should be consistently recorded for their quantities. This recommendation involves the submission of annual declarations by the States Parties as they have varying commercial significance and are susceptible to being used in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

In addition, conferences, workshops and various outreach programs on the Concept of Dual-use Chemicals should be initiated to stakeholders of the Convention. Furthermore, we request you to suggest that States Parties should create and implement their own national policies to ensure the safety and security of such vulnerable chemicals.