

**Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the  
States Parties (CSP-27) to the Chemical Weapons Convention**

The Hague, The Netherlands  
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NGO Joint Statement:

***Chemical Safety, Security, Cybersecurity and Reducing Chemical Threats***

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

Toxic chemicals are everywhere, and the chemical threat is not only from chemical weapons as traditionally defined, but also from Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TIC) and new chemicals. TICs are created and used by commercial or medical industries that can seriously harm human health if released into the environment. A release could occur from a leak or spill from a large industrial container, a fire, a natural disaster or a terrorist attack.

We must deal with the immediate challenges posed by the growing threat of the re-emergence of chemical weapons, the use of Toxic Industrial Chemicals, and the use of new chemicals as a means of warfare or terror. These threats could be further aggravated by cyber attacks against chemical and critical infrastructure installations. The chemical threats are global in reach and require global responses with the OPCW as a leader. To meet the challenges of growing chemical threats we recommend that the OPCW and relevant stakeholders: 1) move from disarmament towards preventing chemical weapons re-emergence; 2) introduce an integrated system of chemical safety and security as part of the international CBRN security, which includes environmental and health security; 3) increase resilience and introduce cybersecurity in all chemical activities, to prevent misuse of toxic chemicals via Industrial Control Systems.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: the following statement is a reflection of the views and opinions of the authors and the co-signers, and does not necessarily reflect the views of all organizations and individuals within the CWC Coalition.

We support the OPCW transition towards global leadership in reducing chemical threats and enhancing chemical safety and security. This transition requires a whole-society approach, which provides for active collaboration with, and participation of, all relevant stakeholders to engage them in the prohibition of chemical weapons, both at the OPCW and in national activities.

We also support OPCW efforts to support introduction of national legal frameworks for chemical safety and security frameworks. These efforts assist in national implementation of the CWC and other international security and development obligations and commitments. They develop more widely accepted guidance on effective national chemical security regimes and practices. They further chemical safety and security in regions of tension and ongoing conflicts.

Each region poses different chemical security challenges as well as opportunities. Different regions have their own cultural distinctiveness and sensitivities, and this is true even within regions. Many regions do not have the capacity to take on many of the existing chemical safety and security risks and challenges. While developing and conducting program activities, civil society organizations devote special effort and attention to addressing chemical security problems from a regional perspective. The regional approach allows flexibility in the engagement and promotes chemical safety and security to be adjusted to different cultures, different perceptions of security, and the various priorities of nations in the region concerned. Civil society actively supports efforts to enhance chemical safety and security in the regions of Eastern Europe and the Middle East. In these regards, we welcome the recent inauguration of the Regional Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ChemReg) in Amman, developed by Jordan and the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS). We invite the OPCW and other international organizations and civil society organizations to join the ChemReg activities, thus enhancing Middle East security.

Effective safety and security in chemical and environmental activities play a vital role in society and have become the backbone of public and social security, and economic growth. Digitization in chemical areas and industrial activities and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) underpins the complex systems which support everyday societal activities, keep our economies running in key sectors such as health, energy, finance and transport, and, in particular, support the chemical production, transport and use of chemicals. A large number of chemical installations and their economic significance make the chemical industry particularly vulnerable to terrorist attacks, including cyberattacks. As a result of a cyberattack, release of toxic chemicals or stoppage of flow of chemicals (reagents) to other industries would have serious health, social, economic and ecological repercussions. In practice it could form the use of chemical weapons. Therefore, cybersecurity and reliability have become a leading component of any safety and security activities.

We invite OPCW to support the efforts by National Authorities and relevant industries to enhance cybersecurity. We propose the OPCW to develop of roadmap For Raising Cybersecurity Awareness and Responsibility in chemical activities. The roadmap will share most recent knowledge, expertise and practices in terms of procedures, technical solutions and training on cybersecurity and reliability.

In the face of such complex and ever-changing risks, as well as increased security threats, natural disasters, and growing hybrid threats, civil society will seek to promote chemical safety and security locally, nationally and regionally. Civil society representatives will seek more cooperation and increased assistance to mitigate the impact of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. Civil society members express hope that the Fifth Review Conference of the OPCW will develop and provide clear guidance on the OPCW transition towards a global agency to reduce chemical threats and enhance chemical safety and security. We offer our cooperation and assistance, within a whole-society approach, to the OPCW, in the development of relevant draft papers and decisions.

We request that this statement be made part of the official CSP published proceedings.

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**Statement Endorsements** (Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only):

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