

**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:
Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention

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Chairperson, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Civil Society Colleagues,

Mr. Chairman, first, we would like to thank you for the opportunity given to civil society organizations to participate in this important meeting and at the same time congratulate you on your election as President of this Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-27) to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chairman, the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention is of paramount importance in achieving a total and verifiable ban on chemical weapons. It also strengthens the international norm prohibiting the use of chemical weapons, contributes to making the Convention a genuine confidence-building measure, and prevents the proliferation of chemical weapons and the access of non-State actors to such weapons.

As the destruction of all declared stockpiles of chemical weapons draws to a close, chemical terrorism poses a serious threat. Universal adherence to the Convention is therefore essential to combat the re-emergence of these weapons and prevent non-State actors from gaining access to them.

The main challenges to the universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention include a mix of political, security, strategic and systemic factors that influence states' decisions not to ratify or accede to the Treaty. This is why initiatives to promote the universalisation of the Treaty (CWC)

¹ Please note: the following statement reflects 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.

require a nuanced and balanced approach which takes into account the wide range of challenges faced by States and which pays particular attention to national and regional contexts.

Mr. Chairman, as a member organization of the CWC Coalition, we must continue in the same logic, to encourage the States Parties to the Convention to strengthen their common position in favor of the Chemical Weapons Convention and make the promotion of the universalization of this treaty one of its priority axes with the aim of making it both a binding legal instrument. It is also a universal disarmament treaty that aims at the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under strict international control, thus being an important pillar for regional and global security.

Amid rising geopolitical tensions, escalating nuclear rhetoric and a crumbling arms control architecture, the CWC remains a unique multilateral instrument that, since its entry into force, has provided a stable institutional, legal and political framework for chemical disarmament and non-proliferation.

Despite these considerable efforts, it is important to strengthen collaboration between the States Parties to the Convention, civil society through the CWC Coalition and the OPCW by developing specific joint projects aimed at further promoting through information, awareness-raising, education and advocacy in favour of the Chemical Weapons Convention with the aim of achieving universalization. The current context is marked by security challenges where disarmament is becoming an imperative to create a safe and secure environment.

At the outset, we would like to state today that the risk of WMD use remains high. These weapons are increasingly in the arms trends that can be used in the event of conflict. It is clearly demonstrated that deterrence is a false guarantee of security that keeps the world in balance of terror. Disarmament is an emergency and is becoming a necessity for our security. In this case, unity with trust is competent to ensure peace while disunity with mistrust can lead to appalling instability.

We thank you and wish our conference every success.

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