



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Third Review Conference
8 – 19 April 2013

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THE NETHERLANDS

**STATEMENT BY H.E. JAN LUCAS VAN HOORN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE OPCW
AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on the successful outcome of this conference. I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to the Ambassador of Iraq, in his role as chair of Committee of the Whole, the Director-General, Ambassador Baghli of Algeria, and Ambassadors Allan Wagner Tizón of Peru and Peter Goosen of South Africa, for their efforts.

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the Irish statement on behalf of the European Union. We also strongly support the statement made by the United States.

The Netherlands urged States Parties to make a strong statement on Syria. We strongly supported the words of the Secretary-General when he addressed this conference. Therefore, this delegation is very distressed that the conference was unable to mention the Secretary-General's statement in our political declaration. In addition, we are disappointed that the final document does not emphasise the responsibility of Syrian authorities to assure the international community of the security of its chemical weapons stockpile.

We regret that we were unable to state that the use of chemical weapons is, under any circumstances, contrary to international law. Finally, we are deeply disappointed that this Review Conference could not agree to include the possibility of discussing incapacitating chemical agents in our final document. We hope we can continue this discussion during the next session of the Executive Council.

Nevertheless, the Netherlands is very glad that we could achieve consensus.

Finally, I would like to thank my delegation for their support.

I would ask that this statement be issued as an official document of the conference.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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