



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION  
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

**INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

OPENING VIDEO ADDRESS BY

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THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

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Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to open this International meeting on chemical safety and security. I warmly would congratulate all those who have worked so hard to make this important event possible.

Poland has consistently supported the Chemical Weapons Convention since its inception. It sponsors an annual resolution at the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the Convention. That resolution represents a clear affirmation of the importance that the international community attaches to the aims and objectives of the Convention. Hosting this event is yet another manifestation of the Government of Poland's strong commitment to the goals of the CWC.

I would, therefore, especially thank the Government of Poland as well as the City of Tarnow for organising this meeting. I should also thank the EU for their generous contribution to us to help sponsor the event.

Why is this meeting important for all of us? It is important because of the increasing expectations of our States Parties that the OPCW should devote greater attention to the subject of chemical safety and security. This was the message from a major international conference we hosted last year. The Conference of States Parties has also decided that safety and security will constitute an important programme area for the Organisation. Events such as this one go a long way towards fulfilling the

expectations of our States Parties. They help promote the imperative of creating a global safety and security culture through awareness raising and the exchange of ideas, expertise and best practises.

Your discussions this week will focus on several aspects of Chemical Safety and Security. At OPCW we are consistently working with the chemical industry and various Chemical Industry Associations looking at ways where we could support enhanced global cooperation. We also continue to explore avenues to offer assistance in enhancing national measures in areas including safety and security and the transportation of chemicals.

Strengthening the role of the OPCW in matters of safety and security is indeed part of our broader mandate to prevent the reemergence of chemical weapons. At the heart of our work lies the responsibility of the Organisation to offer security to our States Parties against the chemical threat no matter what shape it takes with the passage of time.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all participating States. I am impressed by the fact that so many of you are willing to contribute to this endeavour. Such cooperative exercises strengthen the Convention and our ability to deliver ever better service to our stakeholders, the States Parties.

The Secretariat warmly welcomes the establishment of the International Centre on chemical safety and security in Tarnow.

Within the means, resources and capabilities available to us, the Secretariat will consider supporting the Center's activities.

The OPCW is an important component of the global security architecture. It is a model of multilateral cooperation for promoting peace and security. The Organisation has considerable potential for bringing further security benefits to its Members. I wish to conclude by saying that we are determined to work ever more closely and cooperatively to utilise these opportunities and to strengthen our role as a key Organisation in the service of the global community.

Thank you.