



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Opening Remarks by Director-General OPCW, Ahmet Üzümcü

**“Training Course for National Authorities of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention
on Training Escorts for Inspections”**

Doha Regional Centre for CBRN Training

Doha, Qatar

23 October 2016

REMARKS AS DELIVERED

H.E. Major General Staff Nasser Mohammed Al-Ali, Chairman, Qatar National Committee for Prohibition of Weapons,

H.E. Brigadier Hassan Saleh Al Nesf, Deputy Chairman of the Committee,

Distinguished Members of the National Committee,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

It gives me great pleasure to address you today at the opening of this Training Course for Representatives of National Authorities on training escorts for inspections.

I thank the Government of the State of Qatar and the Qatar National Committee for Prohibition of Weapons for hosting this event, and for the excellent arrangements, and the warmth and hospitality extended to the OPCW. His Excellency Chairman General Nasser Mohammed Al-Ali and His Excellency Deputy Chairman Brigadier Hassan Saleh Al-Nesf deserve a special note of appreciation for their valuable support and pivotal role in organizing this training course.

Qatar's efforts to assist other States Parties and the OPCW in facilitating the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention are commendable, and testify to your country's firm commitment to the treaty. The global reach and composition of this course further demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and consultation which is prevalent among our States Parties. I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of the participants from Qatar as well as those who have travelled from afar to take part in this event.

The Doha Regional Centre for CBRN Training is widely recognized as a Center of Excellence in efforts to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and is making a significant contribution to this work at the regional and global levels. I fondly recall my visit at the inauguration of the Centre four years ago. Since then, the Doha Centre has become an indispensable partner for the OPCW as exemplified by the close collaboration and regular training programmes on various aspects of the Convention's implementation.

Distinguished Guests,

The effective implementation of the Convention is vital to our mission to achieve a world free of chemical weapons. It requires steadfast commitment, and consistent efforts, by all of our 192 States Parties to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the Convention at the national level.

As you are aware, the scope of OPCW inspection activities has seen a gradual increase since the Entry-into-Force of the Convention nearly two decades ago. Today, 83 States Parties have declared sites representing more than 40% of the membership of the OPCW. This is a noteworthy figure which goes hand in hand with the inspection activities foreseen by a stringent and comprehensive verification regime.

The Verification Annex of the CWC outlines the aims, objectives and principles which underpin the conduct of different types of inspections under the regime. It also provides details of the procedures that the OPCW teams follow during such inspections. As National Authorities have a key role in facilitating inspections by the OPCW teams, a good understanding of these procedures and the requirements of the Verification Annex is a fundamental prerequisite for National Authorities to be able to extend suitable assistance to the OPCW teams.

We have, therefore, designed this course to enable National Authority personnel to better understand the role of escorts in supporting OPCW inspections. The training provides detailed insights on inspection procedures by the OPCW as well as on the rights and obligations of States Parties in this regard. In the course programme for the coming three days, we have sought to offer a sound balance between theory and practice, between presentations and hands-on training through a mock industrial inspection exercise. The purpose of the mock inspection is to offer participants an opportunity to experience, first hand, the manner in which the Technical Secretariat goes about planning an inspection, how it determines the objectives for the inspection mandate and what, in its view, should be the expected outcomes of the inspection. During the exercise, participants will have an opportunity to role-play some specific tasks with the view to improving their understanding as well as enhancing their capacity to perform these tasks during an actual inspection.

The training course is also intended to serve as a platform for participants to exchange views and experiences on various organizational aspects related to inspections. I am confident that, through this training course, participants will gain a sound understanding of the systematic and collaborative approach which marks OPCW inspection activities. It is also my sincere hope that all participants would take an active part in discussions and share their experiences to enrich the course.

In wishing you a successful training programme, I hope that you will find it a rewarding

experience.

Thank you.