



## **Symposium on Women in Chemistry**

Closing remarks by the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ms Odette Melono

The Hague, Netherlands, 24 June 2019

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to express my appreciation to all participants of this fourth edition of the Symposium on Women in Chemistry.

The wide-ranging discussions that took place today have demonstrated the unique value of this forum.

Your experiences have again highlighted the vital contribution of women to the chemical sciences. Your views strengthen our vision on how to ensure a fair and balanced playing field for women scientists.

I thank all the speakers for their engaging and informative presentations. I am sure these spurred a fruitful exchange of ideas, which may now help pave a way forward.

Many, interesting, and practical topics were debated among the participants. It is my hope that the experiences shared here lead to practical solutions for greater gender inclusiveness.

Promoting gender equality in chemistry, as well as science in general, can only have a positive impact on our societies, and no less important, the full implementation of the CWC.

I assure you that the OPCW remains committed to supporting and promoting gender equality.

We will continue to provide a platform to raise awareness and stimulate international action. We will also continue to offer capacity-building courses for women chemists and chemical engineers as we promote the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes.

In conclusion the OPCW is pleased to count on your continued commitment, your strength of purpose, and inexhaustible energy in promoting this important cause.

Thank you very much.

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