



## **Closing Remarks by the OPCW Deputy Director-General at the Twentieth Induction Workshop for Diplomatic Personnel Involved in the Work of the OPCW**

**As delivered on 17 September 2020, The Hague, Netherlands**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,

I would like to thank you all for your participation in this annual Induction Workshop for new delegates and representatives to the OPCW. We appreciate the enthusiasm and the flexibility that you have displayed in joining this event.

Even though the Secretariat did not have the opportunity to engage with you in person this year, we have nevertheless endeavoured to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the OPCW. The workshop presenters gave insights into the OPCW's priorities and the key challenges ahead. We also arranged this Workshop to introduce you to senior staff members responsible for the delivery of the OPCW's programmes. Through this interaction, it should be clear that this Organisation is guided by and reliant upon robust cooperation and close consultation. It is these elements that have long been the hallmarks of the OPCW's operations as well as the foundations of its success as an international disarmament body.

The basis for this collaborative culture is a well-informed membership that is actively involved in the critical issues and concerns of the Organisation. It is now more important than ever before that the Member States continue their engagement with the work of the OPCW. As the Director-General underlined in his opening remarks, the disarmament world is going through difficult and trying times. Therefore, it is crucial that we persist in and strengthen our efforts to uphold the Chemical Weapons Convention.

As it has been demonstrated throughout our history, the OPCW is adaptable, agile, and efficient, which are qualities that will need to be preserved. The Secretariat is here to provide you with the assistance that you may require and I reiterate that we stand ready to maintain a constructive dialogue with you.

I hope you found today's presentations valuable and I look forward to working with you as we fulfil our collective goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you for your attention.

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