



Statement by the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare

30 November 2022, The Hague, Netherlands

The Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare brings us together to pay tribute to all of those who have suffered or died as a result of chemical weapons warfare.

This solemn event, which has been observed since its establishment by the Conference in 2005, offers us an opportunity to remember the victims and to reaffirm our unwavering solidarity against chemical weapons.

The importance of marking this event has been re-affirmed on multiple occasions, including by the Conference in 2015, following the Centennial Commemoration of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons at Ieper, Belgium.

This year, we commemorate this Day in a time of global tension and increased fears surrounding the threat of use of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons.

All 193 States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention have voluntarily and solemnly committed, never under any circumstances, to develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, transfer or use chemical weapons.

By doing so, they have committed to uphold the global norm against chemical weapons in the interest of international peace and security.

Concrete progress has been made in the last 25 years towards the ambitious goals set by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Next year, we will have accomplished a significant milestone with the final destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles.

Yet, we cannot afford to be complacent. Our ultimate goal, aimed at completely eradicating the possibility that chemical weapons might again be used, will undoubtedly remain an open-ended agenda.

While we take this moment to remember all victims, let us recommit to the object and purpose of the Convention and to the OPCW's vision of a world free from these abhorrent weapons.