



**ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

Closing Remarks

by

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Seminar

**On the OPCW'S Contribution in the Sphere of Security and Non-Proliferation,
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Introduction

1. It gives me great pleasure to make my first official statement as Deputy Director-General of the OPCW at the conclusion of this important seminar on the Organisation's contribution to Security and Non-Proliferation. This event has attracted an impressive number of distinguished participants from a wide range of backgrounds, and I am optimistic that the conclusions will make an important contribution to the enhancement of the role of the OPCW in ensuring the non-proliferation of chemical weapons.
2. Let me start by thanking the European Union for providing the funds that have made the seminar possible. This is one more example of the very strong support that the OPCW is enjoying from the European Union and we are looking forward to continued constructive cooperation in furthering the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention. May I also take this opportunity to thank the Public Security Innovation Centre for their generous hosting of last night's reception.
3. It is very encouraging to note that the seminar has enjoyed a high level of attendance, with representation not only from the Member States but also from other international agencies, chemical industry, non-governmental organisations and research institutions. We have also been fortunate to have the benefit of the contribution of individuals with considerable experience in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for the dedication you have demonstrated to the work of this Organisation.
4. The OPCW has achieved a great deal during its fourteen years of existence and has assumed prominence as a key international organisation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The success to

date does not, however, mean we can afford to be complacent. As was highlighted by the Director General in his opening statement, the context within which the OPCW operates has evolved greatly in the past fourteen years, and the OPCW is facing a significant transition in the years to come. A large number of issues need to be resolved in that process. This seminar has addressed many of the critical areas in this transition process and I would like to commend all the participants for their excellent contributions. I would now like to touch upon some of the key findings of the last two days.

Key Findings of the Seminar

National Implementation

5. The effective national implementation of the CWC is a fundamental condition strengthening the non-proliferation of chemical weapons. Steady progress has been made with regard to the adoption of national implementation legislation and the functioning of implementation systems. Significant work, however, remains to be done to ensure that all States Parties have all appropriate measures in place and that the implementing legislation and regulations are effectively enforced. Future efforts in implementation support should be focused on broadening and deepening national implementation of the CWC. One way to facilitate this is to invigorate cooperation in implementation assistance between Member States. This work could also benefit from the constructive input of non-governmental organisations.

Developments in Science and Technology

6. The changing nature of chemical industry and advances in science and technology provide new challenges for the OPCW and the implementation of the verification regime of the Convention. Consequently, steps could be needed to adapt the verification and national implementation measures to match these developments.
7. One element of this change which has received a good deal of attention is the convergence of chemistry and biology and related technologies, leading to a new

scientific and industrial landscape. This is relevant to the Convention as it may impact on the ability of the CWC to achieve its goals, the scope of its prohibition, and the way it should be implemented in the future with regard to verification as well as national implementation. This is a subject on which the Secretariat will continue to facilitate discussion, including taking note of experiences and information from the work of the BTWC.

Misuse of toxic chemicals

8. The OPCW can play an important role as a forum to enhance cooperation between stakeholders on prevention of, and preparedness against, misuse of toxic chemicals. One way to realise this role could be for the OPCW, together with relevant partners, and interested governments, to coordinate their technical assistance programmes for Member States in developing legislative and administrative measures against the misuse of toxic chemicals.

Chemical Plant Security

9. The effective security of chemical plants and transportation of chemicals is an essential element in preventing access by terrorist and other non-state actors to toxic chemicals. There are a number of organisations, as well as national governments and industry, already engaged in such issues, including the WHO, IAEA, UNICRI, and ICAO; and the need for coordination, at both national and international level, was highlighted in discussions this week. In partnership with such players, OPCW is committed to playing its role in supporting exchanges on best practices, training and promoting security at relevant facilities and in transportation of CBRN materials.

Future steps

10. This seminar has been just a starting point in addressing issue areas that will be critical in the transition process the OPCW is now facing. Next steps must be taken with the broadest possible participation of all its stakeholders and be conducted in

the OPCW spirit of multilateralism, transparency and accountability. This could, for example, involve more detailed study of concrete issues by small project groups, specialised workshops on themes that are important for the Convention and that require broad involvement of multiple stakeholders including from chemical industry. A structured process of this nature, feeding back to the centre, would complement the regular work of the OPCW and serve as a platform for raising and discussing issues in an open way, and would help National Authorities and national agencies better understand who their partners in national implementation are, and what the effective approaches are for ensuring non-proliferation of chemical weapons.

- 11.** I would like to pay special tribute to the international organisations which have made valuable contributions to this Seminar, including from IAEA on nuclear security, WHO on health regulations, ICAO on air transportation of dangerous goods, United Nations CTITF and 1540 Committee and INTERPOL on prevention of terrorism; also CTBTO, UNODC, IMO, EUROPOL, OSCE. In addition, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to VERTIC, GLOBAL GREEN, SIPRI and CEFIC, as well as, of course, my own colleagues here in the Secretariat, in particular, Krzysztof Patujej and Irakli Beridze. The continued dialogue with these international partners will ensure that the OPCW can make best use of the experience and ongoing work of others that has relevance for our own efforts to implement the Convention and prevent proliferation and terrorism.
- 12.** Based on the papers that were presented during the seminar and the discussions they generated, edited proceedings will be published to ensure the widest possible access by all stakeholders to the proposals put forward. I would also like to draw your attention to the rolling exhibition which has been on display outside this room during the seminar. The exhibition will be available to be displayed at the national and international events devoted to security, non-proliferation and efforts against terrorism.

13. I would like to conclude by thanking you all again and invite you to engage in the process that is now starting. Only by the widest possible participation and contributions from all stakeholders can we meet the challenges that lie ahead and ensure the continued relevance of the OPCW.