



**OPCW**

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**STATEMENT BY THE NETHERLANDS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,  
MR MAARTEN W. J. LAK, TO THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS  
9 NOVEMBER 2007**

**Tenth Anniversary Activities**

The Netherlands perspective on follow-up

Mr Chairman, Director General, distinguished delegates.

1. I take the floor to share some thoughts about a follow-up to the successful activities by which we have celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW this year.
2. As the Note by the Director General on the Tenth Anniversary, distributed last week, has made clear, *the way we have organised synergy* between States Parties, the Technical Secretariat and stakeholders for this celebration was the key to its success. This has been noted beyond our Organisation. And it also contributes to a positive outreach that our Convention merits.
3. That impact beyond the core of the OPCW, in the wider international world, in my view, is essential. Essential, for the OPCW to remain a successful example of multilateralism that works.
4. It is the *stake-holders approach* that has become the basic pattern of our work for the celebration. Practically speaking that meant an association of voluntary contributions, both in ideas, personnel and financial resources. The Technical Secretariat, the States Parties as well as academic research circles and NGO's, but above all industry, have jointly brought to life the programme for the Tenth Anniversary. The OPCW would not have been able to celebrate the way we did, without the wider group of stakeholders taking an active and very much appreciated role.
5. This *modus operandi* should and can continue to guide us. How to exploit the results obtained this year in the various debates, national and international conducted in the Tenth Anniversary framework? We are beginning to think about that. As the Netherlands we are proud to have brought into this circle TNO, Clingendael, but also industry and protection specialists. They all stand ready to continue their renewed



association with the OPCW. My own Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mayor of The Hague, Mr Wim Deetman and their respective staffs, have been crucial supporters for many activities.

6. Now it is upon us to exploit an investment we have all made together. By activities for the Tenth Anniversary celebration. We need to pursue the avenues that have been opened up. Just think of the High Level Meeting on 27 September at New York, the symposia at Berlin, Rome, Brussels, and Columbia Law School and elsewhere; the academic forum and the industry forum, both held in The Hague very recently. Results of these two fora may also help the preparatory work underway for the Second Review Conference, as may also the commemorative book on the *Creation of the OPCW*, edited by Ian Kenyon, and launched on 9 May when HM Queen Beatrix paid our Organisation a visit to inaugurate the Memorial to all Victims of Chemical Warfare.
7. With all that in mind, we can organise our work on the OPCW's future more systematically and purposefully. Some pieces of that jigsaw puzzle are already on the table.
8. Both the industry and the research community have proposed to share and to dialogue on issues essential to future relevance of our Convention. I hope we will take them up on their offer. Can we for example have dedicated seminars with partners from industry and research annually? Can we also, within our structure of consultations and reports to the Conference, organise our deliberations on a continuous basis with the Technical Secretariat in support, to make the OPCW fit for the future?
9. Of course, as Host Country to the OPCW, the Netherlands stand ready to support as our tradition commands, such activities to the best of our abilities.

Thank you for your attention.

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