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**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**STATEMENT BY G V KALAMANOV DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND  
TRADE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION FROM  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to welcome you, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Russian delegation, to this very important position. We are confident that measured and balanced decisions will be taken during this session in the interests of strengthening the authority and integrity of the Convention and the efficiency of the work of the Organisation.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force 15 years ago, is without a shadow of a doubt one of the most effective international instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, prohibiting an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

The Russian Federation, as one of the countries which has been involved with the Convention from the start, has always proceeded on the basis that the primary goal for all States Parties is to rid the world of chemical weapons, definitively and irrevocably.

We would like to underline the importance of the decisions of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties in relation to the deadline for completion of the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles remaining in the United States, Russia and Libya. These decisions were the result of a sound compromise, which took the political edge away from the issue, on the one hand, and on the other, allowed for the integrity of the regime of the Convention. The complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in Russia remains, for us, imperative. Despite the difficulties – with which you are familiar – primarily of a financial and economical nature, due to the great quantity of resources needed for these purposes, we are making every effort to accomplish the task we have been set as quickly as possible.

Consequently, the Russian Federation is increasing the rate and volume of the uninterrupted destruction of chemical weapons while strictly observing the safety standards for the population and the environment. Much has been achieved over the last few years: as at 25 November 2012, nearly 28,000 tonnes of chemical agent had been destroyed, 70% of Russia's declared chemical weapons stockpiles. We envisaged the destruction of 3,980 tonnes of chemical weapons in 2012. We plan to destroy another 46 tonnes of chemical agent on top of this figure by the end of the year.



The capacity for destruction of all stockpiles is being increased. Thus launch and fine tuning work with live agent will begin on the next train of the facility at Leonidovka in December. With the commissioning of these capacities for the destruction of munitions with a complex configuration, the full establishment of the industrial zone will be complete.

Launch and fine tuning work on the second process building at the Shchuchye CWDF will begin in December, while work to increase capacities at the Pochep facility is nearing completion. Measures are being taken to introduce the required capacities at the facilities in Maradykovskii and Kizner in 2013.

We attach great importance to the Third Conference to Review the Operation of the Convention, coming up in 2013, of which one of the main tasks is the objective evaluation of the work of the OPCW and the determination of future priorities in its work as the declared stockpiles of chemical weapons are being destroyed.

The verification regime remains a key aspect of ensuring fulfilment of the requirements established by the Convention. We are convinced that the resolution of the matter of optimising and increasing the efficiency of mechanisms of verification of chemical industry, which exclude the possibility of producing more of this type of weapons of mass destruction, is one of the key factors in strengthening the Convention.

Achieving full universality of the Convention is one of the main priorities of the OPCW.

The Russian Federation therefore calls on countries which are still outside the legal framework of the Convention to accede to it without delay, and on States Parties to implement fully the provisions of the Convention, and in particular to introduce their own national legislation in accordance with their obligations under the Convention.

It is important to us that the OPCW, as one of the most effective functioning international structures in the field of disarmament and collective security, perform its work in a spirit of mutual understanding and objectivity, and strictly on a depoliticised basis.

It is imperative that the objective process of rethinking the priorities of the OPCW be done within the framework of the existing mandate, which means that the work of the Technical Secretariat must adapt to the realities of today, and that the Secretariat must optimise its structure in terms of organisation and personnel. It is extremely important that the pioneering role of the Organisation in matters relating to the complete prohibition of chemical weapons is preserved, including in matters of close cooperation between the OPCW and other international mechanisms, in a world of new threats and challenges. At the same time, in the context of the policy of limiting the period of service at the Technical Secretariat, measures must be taken to retain its unique expertise and to ensure that accumulated experience and knowledge are transferred to new personnel.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, I should like to assure you that the Russian delegation looks forward to constructive work during the Seventeenth Session of the Conference and is ready to work closely with you with a view to a successful and productive session.

We request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.