

Ms Chairperson,

1. Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to express my delegation's sincere congratulations to you on your election as the Chairperson of the 19. Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organization as well as to the members of the bureau. I am confident that under your able leadership this Conference meeting will be a successful session. You can be confident of our cooperation and support.

2. The Czech Republic is fully aligned with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

3. Time bound destruction of chemical weapons remains a key objective of the Convention. However, the destruction of the weapons of the past must be accompanied by the prevention of new chemical weapons that might be invented in the future. That is why we believe that we should devote the utmost attention to the effectiveness of the treaty's verification mechanisms, in particular the provisions on industry verification, national implementation and challenge inspections that are vital and indispensable for pursuing the non-proliferation goals of the Convention.

4. In order to create and keep the verification mechanisms as efficient as possible and to implement the CWC in an effective manner, we need the best possibly educated and prepared experts and inspectors. The Czech Republic has always been and continues to be a staunch supporter of the OPCW and we are trying to do our best to these ends.

5. Since 1997 the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Secretariat of the OPCW has been regularly organizing training courses. We continue to provide both basic and maintenance training to OPCW inspectors and also specialised training to qualified OPCW experts.

6. The last round of maintenance training and basic training course for a group of new inspectors was held in November this year. Since we are in possession of highly secured facilities, these training courses enable training with chemical warfare agents which is very important for the future work of inspectors. Parallel to the inspector's course there was another one held for training of qualified experts with participation of experts from 10 member states.

7. This year's advanced training course on civil defence against chemical weapons took place last May with the participation of representatives from 16 member states of the Organization. In 2015 the Czech Republic intends to organize this course as a "Train the Trainer" course with the goal to prepare trainers who would be able to exercise and provide similar training for personnel in their countries or regions.

8. Each state should try to enhance its capacities to fulfil obligations under the Convention and to contribute to our common objective. We believe that through organizing the training courses in the Czech Republic we help advance the full implementation of the Convention and relieve the world of chemical weapons.

Thank you for your attention