

Madam Chairperson, Director General Uzümcü, Excellencies, delegates and ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to represent the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, IUPAC, here at the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force in 1997. There are currently 190 Member States, who are working together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons. The OPCW Member States share the collective goal of eliminating existing stockpiles of chemical weapons and preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare.

The mission of IUPAC is to advance the worldwide aspects of the chemical sciences and to contribute to the application of chemistry in the service of humankind as a scientific, international, non-governmental and objective body. IUPAC is recognized as the world authority on chemical nomenclature, terminology, standardized methods for measurement, atomic weights, and many other critically evaluated data. IUPAC is an organization of national and regional

chemical societies, academies of science and similar Organizations that represent the chemists of the member countries. The scientific and governance work of IUPAC is done almost entirely by hundreds of volunteer scientists. IUPAC projects and conferences focus on all areas of chemistry, and in particular in areas such as health, safety, security and environment; green chemistry; education; agricultural chemistry; medicinal and pharmaceutical chemistry; and energy, among many others.

In recent years, IUPAC has been privileged to work with the OPCW, both in contributing technical expertise to the Review Conferences of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and in developing educational resources on the multiple uses of chemicals.

For example, the 2013 IUPAC Technical Report, published in the journal *Pure and Applied Chemistry* and titled, “Impact of scientific developments on the Chemical Weapons Convention,” was released in advance of the Third Review Conference of the CWC held in April 2013. This document represents the final report of discussions and conclusions arising from the OPCW workshop on Developments in Science and Technology Relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in

Spiez, Switzerland in February 2012. IUPAC produced similar technical reports in advance of the two first Review Conferences held in 2003 and 2008.

The OPCW has achieved a great deal towards its core mandate, the elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons. As this process continues there can be a greater focus on ensuring that chemical weapons are never again developed to threaten humanity. To achieve this goal it will be necessary to ensure that scientists and engineers have a clear understanding of risks and of the requirements of the CWC, which are designed to ensure that chemistry in the future is used only for peaceful purposes.

Increasing awareness of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the scientific community, facilitating the integration of issues related to the Convention into chemistry teaching, and promoting professional conduct of chemists and chemical engineers are all issues of common concern to IUPAC and the OPCW. This important area of endeavor is one on which we have been working for some time. In 2004, the President of IUPAC and the Director-General of the OPCW agreed on a proposal for a joint project on chemistry education, outreach, and the professional conduct of chemists. Following the 2004 agreement a joint IUPAC/OPCW international workshop was held in Oxford, UK on 9-12 July 2005 with 27 participants from 18 countries. One of the key outcomes of this workshop

was the identification of the need for peer-reviewed educational materials for chemists and engineers in training. Resulting from this early work was a joint project of IUPAC and the OPCW on Updating, Piloting, and Disseminating Educational Material for Raising Awareness of the Multiple Uses of Chemicals, an effort that serves to address the need identified by the 2005 Oxford OPCW-IUPAC workshop.

An initial set of web-based materials to be used by educators and students has been created. The approach taken is to start with the beneficial uses of chemicals, give examples of the misuse and abuse of chemicals, and then provide basic information about the Chemical Weapons Convention, ending with the need for and examples of existing codes of conduct. By addressing these key factors and drawing the attention of students to the potential misuses of chemicals, as well as to the international community's premier mechanism for dealing with the misuse of chemicals, we can create a more aware and better informed chemical community for the future. The final report on this project was issued in the last few weeks.

The concept of a code of conduct is once again being explored, and IUPAC would be pleased to assist with this effort as it has in the past.

In October 2013, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2013 to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons. The CWC and the extensive work of the OPCW have defined the use of chemical weapons as a taboo under international law. IUPAC is proud to have contributed to the OPCW's efforts in the past and we look forward to further collaboration in the future.

Most recently, the Director General, in consultation with States Parties and other stakeholders, decided that in order to create a lasting legacy of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize award to the OPCW, the Organization in partnership with the City of The Hague, has established an Annual "OPCW- THE HAGUE AWARDS". The purpose of the award is to honor and recognize individuals and/or non-profit, non-governmental organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to achieving a world free of chemical weapons by supporting one or more of the core objectives of the Organization. The inaugural awardees, Dr. Robert Mathews and the Finnish Institute for the Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, VERIFIN, clearly embody the selection criteria for this new and prestigious award, and IUPAC is proud to have been invited to play an integral part in this important initiative

As President of IUPAC and as a chemist, I would like to convey the heartfelt congratulations of IUPAC to our OPCW colleagues for the 2013 Nobel Prize for Peace. We look forward to new and continuing collaborations with the OPCW and its member institutions and to continuing contributions from the world of chemistry that assist the OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention in achieving its goals. It is an honor to represent IUPAC at the Conference of States Parties, and I wish you every success in your deliberations over the next few days.

Thank you to Director General Ambassador Uzümcü and the Technical Secretariat, and all of you, the States Parties to the Convention, for your kind and generous invitation to speak here today.