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SINGAPORE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. ONG ENG CHUAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SINGAPORE TO THE OPCW AT THE
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Madam Chairperson
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, let me join the other speakers in extending my congratulations to you, Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać, on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I am confident that the Conference will be a success under your able leadership. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Dr Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali, for his outstanding work during the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Recent Developments- Destruction of Chemical Weapons Stockpiles

Singapore welcomes the progress made by the Joint Mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations in overseeing the destruction of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons stockpiles. We are heartened by the fact that more than 98% of the Syrian Arab Republic's declared stockpile has been destroyed.

The Joint Mission demonstrates the resolve of the international community, and sends a clear message that the use of chemical weapons will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The international norm against the use of chemical weapons, which constitutes a violation of international law and a threat to international peace and security, is long-standing and universal.

Singapore is also pleased to note that more than 85% of the declared global stockpiles of chemical weapons have been verifiably destroyed. While this is laudable, much work remains to be done. Singapore remains committed in our support of international efforts in achieving the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons worldwide.

Universality of the Convention

The Chemical Weapons Convention is one of the most successful multilateral agreements in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, with 190 States Parties, representing some 98% of the global population. Nevertheless, we should continue to strive for universal



membership. Singapore thus reiterates our call for the remaining States which have yet to accede to the Convention to do so without further delay.

Commitment to Global Non-Proliferation Efforts

As we approach the post-destruction phase of the Convention, the focus of the security landscape has shifted in recent years from demilitarisation to non-proliferation. As a small island nation that is highly dependent on trade, Singapore shares the concerns of the international community on the procurement and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which includes chemical weapons.

Singapore has put in place a comprehensive set of legislation to implement safeguards against the illicit transfers of items and technology associated with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We also proactively review our legislation and processes to ensure they remain relevant and in line with international best practices.

National Implementation Measures

Singapore is also committed to playing its part in supporting the national implementation measures of Member States through the hosting of workshops and training courses. I am pleased to report that in October of this year, Singapore hosted the “Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities of States Parties in Asia on Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime of the CWC”, with the support of the OPCW. More than 25 customs authorities in the Asian region participated in this “train-the-trainer” course, which focused on strengthening the transfers regime of the Convention and related issues.

Industry Outreach

The Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, previously mentioned that 2014 would be a year of awareness-raising on the Chemical Weapons Convention. Indeed, outreach and engagement of the industry is one of the most important aspects of Singapore’s implementation of the Convention. The Singapore National Authority regularly engages industry via trade associations to educate companies on the requirements under our national legislation and the Convention. Our National Authority also contributed to the discussion on effective outreach to industry at the “Seminar on the CWC and Chemical Safety and Security Management” held in Beijing in May this year.

Article VI Declarations

Industry declarations, including transfer declarations, are an important aspect of verification activities. The accurate and timely submissions of annual declarations are paramount to the effectiveness of the verification and implementation regime. In this regard, Singapore encourages States Parties to continue submitting their annual declarations in a timely manner.

International Cooperation

Even as we must remain vigilant in preventing prohibited activities, Singapore firmly believes in promoting the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes in partnership with the chemical industry, in achieving the goals of the Convention. We were glad to host the OPCW Associate Programme for a second time in September. Two Associates were attached

to MSD International GmbH, a pharmaceutical plant in Singapore, for exposure to practices in our chemical industry.

Singapore's Pledge of Assistance under Article X

Singapore remains committed to the Assistance and Protection programmes under Article X of the Convention. Singapore has pledged to provide technical assistance through the volunteering of our verification and analytical facilities and the hosting of training courses, such as the "Emergency Response to Chemical Incident" course conducted by the Singapore Civil Defence Force. Singapore has hosted three runs of the course and looks forward to hosting the next run in 2015.

Conclusion

We have made good progress towards universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and are close to the complete elimination of one entire category of weapons of mass destruction. However, we must not rest on our laurels. The challenges ahead will require us to continue to adapt to a rapidly changing environment. States Parties to the Convention must remain forward-looking and agile to maintain the Convention's continued relevance in this ever-changing world.

Singapore is confident that with the full support of all Member States and the tireless efforts of the Technical Secretariat, we will rise to the challenge and achieve our collective goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Mr Chairman, in closing, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the conference. Thank you.

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