

**Statement**  
**by Volodymyr Belashov, Head of Delegation,**  
**Director, Arms Control and Military & Technical Cooperation Directorate of**  
**the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,**  
**at the Second Special Session of the Conference of the State Parties to Review**  
**the**  
**Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention**  
(7-18 April, The Hague)

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to join previous speakers in extending congratulations upon your assumption of Chairmanship of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I would like to assure you that the delegation of Ukraine will support all your efforts to ensure successful and meaningful outcome of our work during two following weeks.

Let me also greet sincerely the OPCW's Director-General Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter who performs his important duties with diligence and creativity.

I would like to state that Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement delivered by Slovenia on behalf of the EU.

**Mr. Chairman,**

After more than 10 years since the entry into force the Chemical Weapons Convention is widely recognized as the first multilateral instrument, banning entire class of weapons of mass destruction under strict and efficient international control and compliance mechanism. Convention has made a major contribution to strengthen international peace and security, by setting up of the new standards for global disarmament and non-proliferation, by providing for assistance and protection against chemical weapons. International cooperation in the peaceful use of chemistry, being also an important pillar of the CWC, was designed to be powerful incentive for effective universality and comprehensive compliance with Convention's provisions at the national level.

Due to the effective implementation of the CWC in the past years there is now broad international consensus that the use of chemical weapons cannot be tolerated, whatever the circumstances. This is an enormous step forward taking into consideration that only twenty years ago one authoritarian regime has massively used chemical warfare against its own civilian population and did not hesitate to use these weapons in military conflict with its neighbour. We avail this opportunity to express our solidarity with and compassion to all victims of the chemical weapons as well as to support the steps made to commemorate their sufferings and broken lives. From this humanitarian perspective we assess the results, achieved in the CWC implementation in the past , and its priorities for the future.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Chemical Weapons Convention is first of all a disarmament treaty, its fundamental purpose being “to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons”. Achievement of this goal implies foremost destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles accumulated by two major possessor state parties during the “Cold war” era and of their chemical weapons production facilities. The figures associated with the demilitarization agenda are impressive and widely referred to. From this perspective Ukraine commends the efforts undertaken so far by two major possessor state parties and expects that they will spare no effort to complete their destruction programs by 29 April 2012 – final extended deadline, stipulated in the Convention. We welcome that both in the Russian Federation and in the USA new destruction facilities will start operating in this and forthcoming years. In the conduct of the destruction process it is very important to exclude eventuality of its negative impact on the environment and population. This requirement is especially relevant, if CW destruction facility is located in the area, adjacent to the neighboring country.

Our special acknowledgement should be directed to Albania, which happens to be the first possessor state party, which eliminated its entire stockpile of chemical weapons. One State Party and India are also making formidable progress in the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles and need relatively small effort to complete their elimination programs. We expect that both countries will meet the destruction time-frames, established for them, thereby contributing to the success story of the CWC.

We expect that in Libya conversion and CW destruction procedures will be carried out in accordance with approved time-frames.

Joint endeavour of China and Japan to destroy the abandoned CW is a good example of bilateral cooperation to get rid of dangerous remnants of the Second World War. We have no doubt that both countries will continue to undertake necessary steps to meet their obligations and established time-frames.

**Mr. Chairman**

Universality of the CWC has long-term implications for its credibility and is indispensable to ensure irreversible character of chemical disarmament and non-proliferation in global dimension. Ukraine highly appreciates the results achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan for universality, which was adopted in 2003. I am therefore pleased to salute 28 new states parties which have joined the CWC since the First Review Conference. Ukraine expects that other countries, which already indicated their political support to the CWC, will adhere to the Convention sooner rather than later.

Like many other State Parties Ukraine is particularly concerned by the fact that several countries in the Middle East display reluctance to join the CWC. There is no doubt that OPCW and its members should continue concerted efforts to pave the way for eventual adherence of all countries from the Middle East to the CWC.

Ukraine maintains on the high level bilateral relations with the countries from the Middle East, including non State Parties to the CWC, exercises balanced impartial approach to the parties involved in the main conflict in this region, and supports its peaceful resolution.

From this perspective Ukraine reiterates its offer to contribute to the promotion of the CWC universality in the Middle East. For this purpose Ukraine will be ready to host and carry out jointly with the OPCW an International conference with the participation of relevant countries, as well as other countries from the Middle East and Northern Africa. We expect that such a conference might encourage the concerned countries to seriously reconsider their present position with regard to the CWC.

Ukraine earnestly follows the developments, which are unfolding on the Korean peninsula and are supposed to lead to its nuclear demilitarization. We are convinced that time is ripe to start negotiating the issue of the DPRK non-adherence to the CWC. This is especially relevant as One State Party is close to the completion of its CW destruction program. We hope that trust and confidence will prevail in this part of the world and DPRK will ultimately join the CWC.

In general against the background of growing global challenges related to the climate change, population growth, spread of poverty and diseases, which are pressing on the international agenda, position of some states to remain outside the regime, established by the CWC, seems unwise, outdated and selfish.

We believe, however, that an active pace towards the universality of the Convention will hopefully be resumed.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Since chemical industry and science play a growing role in modern society, proper implementation of the Convention by its parties on the national level is of critical importance for its viability. We are pleased to note that implementation of basic obligations pursuant to Article VII of the CWC is being actively pursued. The number of State Parties with established National Authorities has reached now 175, but several other indicators concerning the national implementation legislation are still lagging behind. Upon its adoption the legislation should be constantly monitored by respective National Authority, which coordinates joint efforts of the military, police, security service, customs, boarder control, as well as of industrial, scientific and trade communities. In this context we highly appreciate the assistance provided by donors to the countries, which have scarce resources or/and lack of expertise in technical, legal or law enforcement spheres. All these activities strengthen the confidence and trust, necessary to create sound base for mutual cooperation within the CWC framework.

From its part Ukraine has always displayed utmost responsibility in implementation of its obligations under the international treaties. The unconditional compliance with the CWC remains in the priority list of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation policy of Ukraine.

The proper compliance with obligations under the Convention is ensured by the National Program on CWC implementation for the ten-year period till 2008, which will be extended and amended in this year, which coincides with the 10-th anniversary since the CWC ratification by Parliament of Ukraine. The Program coordinates activities of number of ministries and agencies involved in the process of CWC implementation. Ukraine has adopted appropriate legislation, which provides legal framework for the binding CWC implementation, including respective provisions in the country's new Criminal Code. Ukraine strictly controls at the governmental level all export-import operations and transfers of scheduled chemicals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Verification regime of the OPCW is the core element of the multilateral control over destruction of chemical weapons, as well as the tool to deter chemical proliferation. Ukraine, which has received several inspections of its chemical industry facilities, supports current OPCW's activities, aimed at maintenance of strict chemical non-proliferation regime. We, however, are in favour of more equitable and fair methodology in selection of the inspections for the OCPF (organic chemicals production facility), which should focus on the inspections of the facilities posing greater risks and diminish burden of inspection for the countries, which possess relatively small number of the OCPF on its territory. We think that risk assessment should be given high priority while processing annual declaration, submitted by the states parties. We think that in perspective the emphasis of verification will be shifted to uphold non-proliferation regime established by the CWC. But this might happen only upon completion of major CW destruction activities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ensuring the implementation of Article X of the CWC remains one of the most important tasks for the OPCW and its Members. We are pleased that more than two years since the conduct of the major OPCW-EADRCC (Euro - Atlantic Disaster Relief Coordination Center) "Joint Assistance 2005" exercise ( L'viv, Ukraine, 9 -13.10. 2005), much is being done to draw the lessons and conclusions from this event. We hope that this will be beneficial both for the Technical Secretariat and interested State Parties, especially, if the OPCW anticipates to continue the practice of conducting such major exercises. Ukraine is interested to participate in the discussion about such exercises, which may hopefully start after the completion of the Second Review Conference.

In this context let me remind you that last year Ukraine has hosted the OPCW's workshop on issues of cooperation between local emergency management authorities and international organisations, intended primarily for the practitioners from the Ministry of Emergencies. This workshop proved to be very fruitful and useful in the context of tasks and challenges, which should be addressed by national emergency services.

National Authority of Ukraine continues its dialogue with the Technical Secretariat aimed at concluding bilateral agreement on assistance measures elected by member states under Article X of the Convention.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At this Second Review Conference we are addressing issues that demand our close attention. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to co-operate fully with the delegations of other States Parties and the OPCW Secretariat to do its utmost to work for the implementation of the important task of the Organisation aimed at complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Thank you for attention.