

STATEMENT
of the High-Level Meeting
on the Tenth Anniversary of the Entry into Force
of the Chemical Weapons Convention

New York, United Nations, 27 September 2007

1. On the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, we wish to remember all victims of chemical weapons and to reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and the object and purpose of the Convention.
2. The Convention and its implementation contribute to enhancing international peace and security. We emphasize that its full, universal, effective and non-discriminatory implementation will contribute further to that purpose by excluding completely, for the sake of all humankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons.
3. The universality of the Convention is fundamental to the achievement of its objective and purpose. We acknowledge progress made on the universality of the Convention, and call upon all States that have not yet done so, to become parties to the Convention without further delay.
4. We stress the obligations of the possessor States Parties to the Convention to destroy their chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and within the deadlines as extended by the Conference of States Parties.
5. We reaffirm the importance of the provisions of the Convention relating to the economic and technological development of States Parties and recall that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to universality, and also reaffirm the undertaking of the States Parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States Parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole. We highlight that full implementation is vital for the object and purpose of the Convention as a whole.
6. We emphasize that States Parties have the right, as provided by the Convention, to request and to receive timely, adequate and efficient assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

7. We reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention constitutes in itself an important contribution to the efforts of the international community in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

8. We appreciate the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objectives and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties, and also note with appreciation the substantial contribution of the Technical Secretariat and the Director General to the continued development and success of the Organization.

9. We welcome all the national and international events conducted throughout 2007 devoted to the Tenth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Convention. They provided a special occasion to renew our commitment to multilateralism and to the object and purpose of the Convention.

10. We also welcome the unveiling in The Hague, on 9 May 2007, of the Permanent Memorial to All Victims of Chemical Weapons as a testimony of the international community's commitment to peace and hope for the future.