



Statement of Ms. Anna Paternosto
The CBRNe Society
26th Session of the Conference of the States Parties
The Hague, The Netherlands

Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, OPCW and CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to speak on behalf of the CBRNe Society on the occasion of the 26th Session of the Conference of the State Parties. Unfortunately, the current pandemic is still limiting our in-person participation, however, it remains an honor to deliver my statement to such a distinguished audience.

We would like to congratulate the OPCW and the CWC States Parties who deserve credit for their steady and ongoing progress in safely eliminating declared chemical weapons stockpiles. Our Foundation, the CBRNe Society based in the Netherlands, in line with the CWC and OPCW mission, is committed to enhancing international cooperation to achieve a world free of chemical weapons and the threat of their use.

In today's ever changing security landscape, we have the mandate to collectively keep pace with current threats by continuously focusing on training, capacity building and capability development programs. We need to stay ahead of the evolving threats by fostering collaboration between the scientific, industrial and policy making communities.

In this light, the initiation of the construction of the OPCW's Center for Chemistry and Technology in late September represents a significant contribution to research, analytical and capacity building capabilities in support of Member States. ChemTech Center constitutes a step forward in OPCW's capacity to address emerging chemical weapons threats. While scientific advances in synthetic chemistry and biology provide an invaluable potential for our society, their dual use nature poses a significant challenge. Staying one step ahead of the threat is THE way forward and can only be achieved through strong and durable alliances and partnerships.

To accomplish this, a crucial element is the intensification of joint training activities. The threat of Chemical Weapons knows no borders and no country can deal with the consequences of their use alone. We as CBRNe Society, by offering networking platforms and by providing interagency multinational CBRNe trainings for civil and military responders are aiming to strengthen resilience against CBRN threats at a global level.

The ever-evolving threat landscape requires all of us to work together and strengthen cross-sectorial partnerships. Chemical threats are global and it takes a strong team to achieve success.

We invite the OPCW and the CWC State Parties to join our NCT Conferences, Trainings, and Exhibitions to continue our mission to make this world a safer and more secure place.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I request this statement be included in the final published Conference proceedings.