

ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS



Director-General

OPCW

Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR The Hague
The Netherlands

Telephone: + 31 (0)70 416 37 02/64

Fax: + 31 (0)70 416 37 92

E-mail: ahmet.uzumcu@opcw.org

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Excellency,

I wish to convey to you my sincere congratulations at the time of concluding a successful Chairmanship of the G-8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (GP). Under your able guidance during the current year, the Partnership has made important progress towards refocusing its work and has become an inclusive process reaching out to relevant stakeholders. The enhanced dialogue with international organisations and the establishment of various sub working-groups to help GP partners focus their efforts on specific areas of interest demonstrate the results achieved this year.

The possibility offered to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to participate as an observer in the meetings of the GP represented an important occasion for the Secretariat to present the GP Members with its activities aimed at promoting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and its contribution to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and to the global efforts against terrorism, as well as to galvanize support from individual GP Members on specific initiatives and projects. We are grateful for this support and we look forward to continuing the attendance of the Technical Secretariat as an observer, with the same modalities as in 2012, to the meetings of the GP next year under the incoming Chairmanship of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

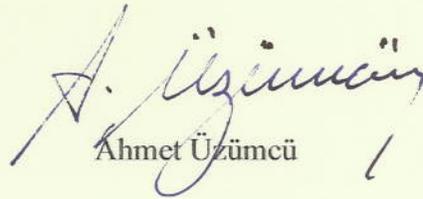
H.E. Ms Bonnie Jenkins
Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs
Department of State of the United States of America
Washington

With reference to the process towards establishing of a Chemical Security Sub Working-Group (CSWG), this represents recognition of the importance of preventing the misuse of chemical weapons, e.g. through awareness raising and the exchange of ideas, expertise and good practises. As you are aware, there are increasing expectations on the part of many CWC States Parties that the OPCW should devote greater attention to the subject of chemical safety and chemical security. This was the message from a major international conference we hosted last year. The Conference of States Parties has also decided that chemical safety and chemical security will constitute an important programme area for the Organisation.

In this connection, and while operating within its well defined mandate, the Technical Secretariat would be ready to participate in the meetings of the CSWG as an observer, with a view to keeping abreast of the discussions, sharing information about its relevant activities and of submitting to the attention of the CSWG, as appropriate, specific projects that it plans to organise. The Technical Secretariat would also consider possible requests by the CSWG to provide expertise to specific projects.

Finally, I wish you every success with your commitment as Chairperson of the Sub-Working Group on Centre of Excellence over the next year and I look forward to our continued cooperation and dialogue.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Ahmet Üzümcü