



OPCW

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Chemical Weapons Convention - a multilateral framework

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19 September 2019

Chemical Weapons

World War I

90,000 fatalities and
1.3 million casualties
due to chemical
weapons

Over 100,000 tones of
chemical weapons
used

Chlorine gas
Phosgene
Mustard gas

British troops blinded by tear gas at the Battle of Estaires, April 1918



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Chemical Weapons



Tokyo subway **sarin** gas attack
Japan, 1995



Use of nerve agent **VX** in
international airport
Malaysia, 2017



Nerve agent **novichok** attack in
Salisbury
UK, 2018



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Chemical Weapons



Duma, Eastern Ghouta, in Damascus, Syria. © Bassam Khabieh © Reuters

Civilian casualties due to sarin attacks in Syria, 2013 -



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The background of the slide features a collection of blue-bound OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) publications and a graphic of a globe with a green leaf. The globe graphic is positioned in the upper right quadrant. Several books are scattered around it, including one titled 'OPCW: The Legal Texts'. A large, semi-transparent gold circle is overlaid on the left side of the slide, containing the number '193' and the text 'NATIONS COMMITTED TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION'.

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**NATIONS COMMITTED
TO THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION**

29 April 1997

**Chemical Weapons Convention
ENTERED INTO FORCE**

Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- Technical assistance to States Parties
- Support the Conference of the States Parties (CSP), Executive Council (EC) and subsidiary organs

Annual budget : ~ EUR 69m (2019), 462 staff members

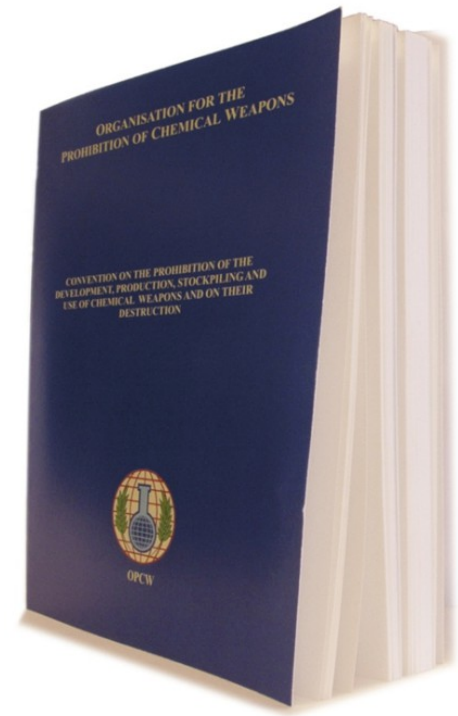


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1997-**20**17
YEARS

Chemical Weapons Convention: key features

1. Equal rights & obligations
2. An entire category of weapons of mass destruction
3. Definition – all toxic chemicals and their precursors
4. Non-self-executing treaty – requires implementing national legislation
5. Balanced approach – objectives of the Convention vis-à-vis rights of States Parties
6. Cooperative methods of compliance management - verification regime
7. Assistance & protection against chemical weapon





DESTRUCTION

and confirming the complete destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

and coordinating peaceful uses of chemistry



VÉRIFICATION

and ensuring that toxic chemicals are only used for peaceful purposes



ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION

and supporting national protection programmes

State Party obligations (Article 7)

1. To establish / designate a National Authority
2. To enact penal law with prohibitions and penalties
3. To ensure extraterritorial application
4. To cooperate with other States Parties and afford appropriate legal assistance
5. To inform the OPCW of measures taken to implement CWC



*Regional Meeting of CWC National Authorities of States Parties in Asia
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 25 June
2019*



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Implementing national legislation

Why is it necessary?

1. The Convention is not self-executing
2. Political commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation
3. Business and industry/economic development
4. Emerging threats/chemical terrorism
5. Regulatory frameworks for production, transfer and use of toxic chemicals



“Initial measures”

A set of criteria agreed on by States Parties in 2013, to be used by OPCW to monitor the status of implementing legislation.

1. Definitions
2. National Authority
3. Prohibitions and penalties
4. Extraterritorial application
5. Control regime and reporting on transfers
6. Basis for implementing regulations



Status of national implementing legislation

- Out of 56 States Parties in Asia -

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Covering only some of the initial measures

Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Bhutan, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Nepal, **Samoa**, State of Palestine and **Timor-Leste**

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Yet to have legislation in place

Afghanistan, Lebanon, **the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands**, the Syrian Arab Republic, **Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**



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Common challenges

- **Political commitment and awareness** among high-level officials, including parliamentarians
- **Awareness of the relevance of and need for CWC implementing legislation** in light of national context and priorities (e.g. States with limited trade in chemicals, and no chemical industry)
- Engaging decision-makers on national implementing legislation
- Enforcing the legislation with law enforcement entities
- Engaging the public to disseminate information
- Fulfilling multiple obligations with regard to other international agreements



What parliamentarians could do

Commitment, highlighting the relevance of the Convention

- ✓ Management of toxic chemicals and wastes – it is also an environmental concern
- ✓ Chemical terrorism and non-State actors – can any country be spared of threats?

Adoption of legislation

- ✓ Inclusion of “initial measures” in the implementing legislation
- ✓ Put in place necessary regulations

Oversight

- ✓ Allocation of sufficient resources to the National Authority, national laboratories, customs administration and border management authorities



Parliaments and CWC implementation

“In our complex world, people of goodwill everywhere must play their part individually and through their representative bodies in civil society. In this scheme, parliamentarians occupy an extremely important position.”

***Former OPCW Director-
General, March 2018***



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منظمة حظر الأسلحة الكيميائية

禁止化学武器组织

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Organisation pour l'Interdiction des Armes Chimiques

Организация по запрещению химического оружия

Organización para la Prohibición de las Armas Químicas