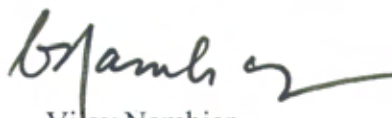


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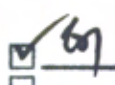
NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ceremony to mark the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of
the Chemical Weapons Convention

1. I am referring to the attached note from Ms. Hoppe inviting you to attend the 10th Anniversary to mark the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, to take place in The Hague on 9 May 2007.
2. Taken into consideration the fact that you recently visited The Hague and that you will just have returned from a trip by then, recognizing however the importance of the event, I would suggest that you consider designating the High Representative of the Office of Disarmament Affairs, if appointed by then, or another Special Representative to represent you at this event and to deliver a message on your behalf.
3. For your approval.


Vijay Nambiar
28 March 2007

cc: Mr. Kim Won-soo
Mr. Yoon Yeocheol

CdC		SG	
For SG's approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noted	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's signature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date	28-03-2007	Date	
Comment (if applicable):			

Note to Mr. Vijay Nambiar

**THE CEREMONY TO MARK THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY INTO
FORCE OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

I wish to refer to the letter from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) of 2 January 2007 addressed to the Secretary-General (Please see attached letter).

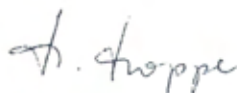
In the letter, the OPCW extended a formal invitation to the Secretary-General to attend the ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention to be held on 9 May 2007 at the OPCW headquarters in The Hague. The ceremony entails unveiling of a permanent memorial to the victims of chemical weapons which will be presided by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and attended by many dignitaries from the host country as well as other countries.

As you are aware, the Chemical Weapons Convention is the first disarmament agreement negotiated within a multilateral framework that provides for the complete elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. Its scope, the obligations assumed by States Parties and the system of verification for its implementation are unprecedented. The Convention was opened for signature on 13 January 1993 and entered into force on 29 April 1997. To date, 181 States have joined the Convention.

The United Nations and the OPCW have enjoyed strengthened cooperation and mutually beneficial relationship ever since the agreement concerning the relationship between the two organizations has been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/283 of 7 September 2001.

In this connection, it is highly recommended that the Secretary-General, as the depositary and promoter of universality and implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, attend the ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on 9 May 2007. The presence of the Secretary-General at the ceremony would send an important signal to the international community that the Convention remains to be an integral part of the non-proliferation regime and that it is the single operating disarmament instrument dedicated to ensure a world free from chemical weapons. Elements for a statement on that occasion will be forwarded to your office in due course.

In addition, I would recommend that the Secretary-General make a statement in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention on 27 April 2007, two days before the actual day of entry into force, 29 April, as it falls on Sunday. Elements for a statement are attached for the approval of the Secretary-General.



Hannelore Hoppe
Officer-in-Charge

Department for Disarmament Affairs
1 March 2007

1 March 2007

DRAFT

**Elements for the statement by the Secretary-General in Commemoration of the
10th Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention
on 29 April 2007**

- Two days from now, the twenty-ninth day of April, is a meaningful day in many ways to people concerned about international peace and security. The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force ten years ago on 29 April 1997 in an effort to rid the world of chemical weapons by the international community. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) established by the Convention to facilitate implementation of its provisions will also be celebrating its 10th anniversary on the very same day. Above all, it is the Remembrance Day for Victims of Chemical Warfare to pay tribute to their memory and ensure their torture will never be forgotten.
- Ever since the Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction has come into effect in April 1997, the Convention has contributed to the steady progress in the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles. The Convention is non-discriminatory and comprehensive in nature, including all aspects of compliance and verification measures. The membership of the Convention increased to 181 States Parties, covering 98 percent of the world's population. On this occasion, I would like to congratulate the OPCW on the achievements made during the past ten years as a result of its tireless work to build a world free of chemical weapons.
- We have come a long way ever since chemical weapons were first used in large scale in April 1915 during World War I. However, we still have a long way ahead of us. Thus far, over 16% of the States Parties' declared chemical weapons stockpile has been eliminated under international verification. Last December, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention approved to extend the final date for the destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles from 29 April 2007 to 29 April 2012. I call upon all possessor States to complete their destruction according to the extended deadlines. A number of key States' non-adherence remains as a grave concern. I once again urge all Governments that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay.
- On the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the establishment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, let us, once again, renew our efforts to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction to build a safer world for all. On the Remembrance Day for victims of chemical weapons, let us honour the victims of chemical warfare and reaffirm our commitments that no life on earth will be lost due to the use of such weapons ever again.

[Drafted by: Soo-Hyun Kim, DDA/WMDB]

ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Director-General

The Hague, 2 January 2007

L/ODG/I19941/07

Dear Secretary-General,

I have great pleasure in writing to you for the first time in your capacity as Secretary General of the United Nations.

In my letter of ²8 November 2006, I took the opportunity to extend my best wishes to you, which I would like to reiterate now, together with my sincere expression of satisfaction on seeing you at the helm of the United Nations.

On this occasion, I would also like to extend a formal invitation to you to attend the ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary since the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. As I indicated to you in my previous letter, Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands will preside over this solemn ceremony, which will take place on 9 May, at our Headquarters in The Hague.

It would be a great honour for us to receive the Secretary General of the United Nations in our midst. The Chemical Weapons Convention is the single operating disarmament and non-proliferation instrument dedicated to the complete elimination of a whole category of weapons of mass destruction. Your encouragement would certainly symbolise the importance of the OPCW's efforts in the field of peace and security. It would also emphasise the validity and unique legitimacy derived from multilateral endeavours.

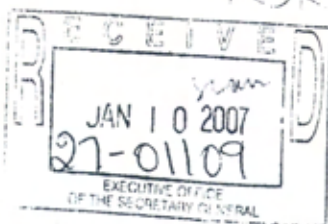
It is my sincere hope that you will find time in your busy schedule to join us on this solemn occasion.

With kindest regards,

Rogelio Pflirer

Rogelio Pflirer

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York



OPCW

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