



# OPCW

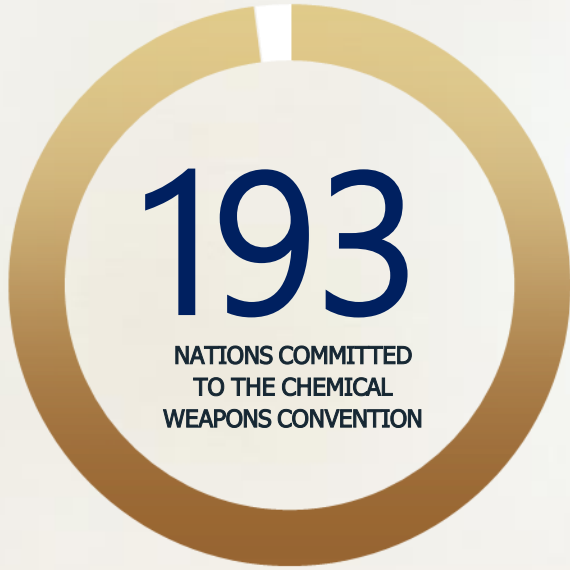
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

## Working towards a world free from chemical weapons

Valerie Snow

Acting Head, Political Affairs and Protocol Branch

12 February 2020



1997

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
ENTERS INTO FORCE





# OPCW Governance



Technical Secretariat (430 staff)

Executive Council (41 Members)

Conference of the States Parties (193)



# Major Chemical Weapons

## Zero Milestone Reached

OVER  
**96%**

OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
DECLARED BY POSSESSOR STATES  
VERIFIABLY DESTROYED





The background image shows a warehouse or storage facility filled with various types of chemical weapons. In the foreground, there are several large, cylindrical gas canisters of different colors (white, green, red, and grey) and sizes. Some have yellow or red bands around them. In the background, there are more canisters and some smaller, more complex munitions or devices. The weapons are stacked on wooden pallets, suggesting they are being stored or transported. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the focus on the weapons themselves.

# What are Chemical Weapons?

- Toxic chemicals and their precursors
- Munitions or devices
- Related equipment

Working together for a  
world free of chemical  
weapons



# INSPECT

destruction and industry facilities

# FACILITATE

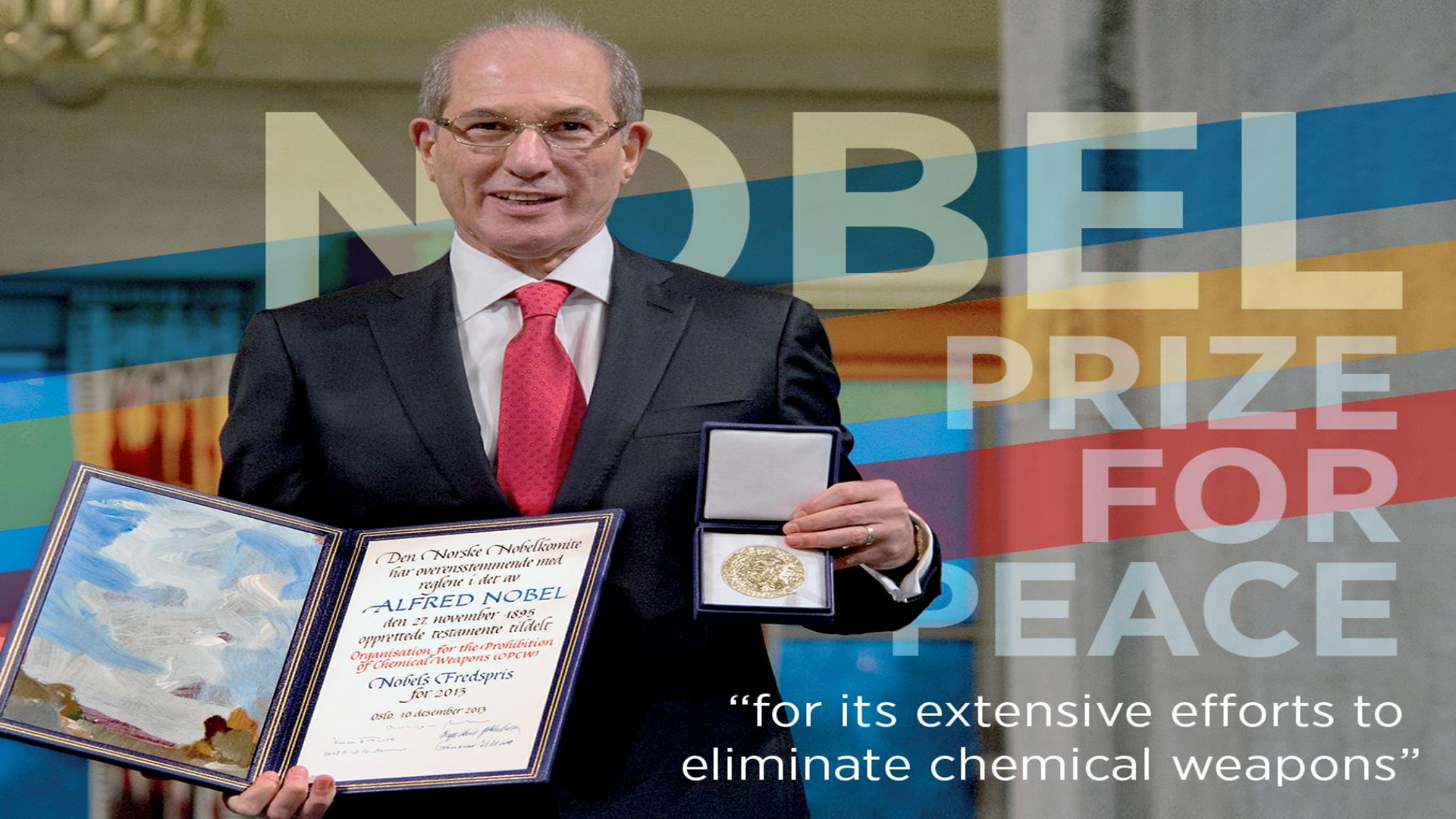
peaceful uses of chemistry

# SUPPORT

implementation of the Convention







# NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE



“for its extensive efforts to  
eliminate chemical weapons”



2013



# SYRIA

joins the Chemical Weapons  
Convention

## Fact-Finding Mission

Ongoing effort to investigate  
systematic use of toxic chemicals  
as weapons in Syria

# 1300

Metric tonnes of chemical  
agent declared by Syria  
verifiably destroyed



**OPCW Technical Assistance visits  
Reports confirmed UK findings**





**DECISION** 27 JUNE 2018

# ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE

**82** OUT OF  
**106**

MEMBER STATES  
**VOTED YES**

Condemning the use of chemical weapons by  
anyone, under any circumstances

To identify the perpetrators of  
the use of chemical weapons

# Update to Annex on Chemicals

Conference of the States Parties approved in November 2019

Four new families of chemicals to be added

Changes come into effect in June 2020





# Preventing Re-emergence

Universality

National legislation

Chemical security

Science and technology



# ChemTech Centre

€33.5 million project

€28.2 pledged by 34 countries, the EU, and individuals

Support verification and capacity building activities





# Important Partners

- **Chemical industry:** (declarations and verification)  
241 industry inspections per year
- **National governments:** implementing legislation
- **Other international organisations:** e.g. WCO, UNSCR 1540 Experts, WHO





# OPCW

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