

A WORLD FREE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND BEYOND

NEW CHALLENGES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

ROME, 20-21 MARCH 2014

Università degli Studi Roma Tre

Dipartimento di giurisprudenza

via ostiense 159

The year 2013 marked not only the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), but, most importantly, a turning point in the activities of the OPCW. The challenges posed by the dismantlement of the Syrian chemical arsenal as well as the decision by the Nobel Committee to award this year's Peace Prize to the OPCW attracted the attention of a wider audience on the CWC. The CWC represents a model for all the recent disarmament agreements, as it is aimed at eliminating an entire category of weapons by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of them, and by imposing their destruction.

Taking an interdisciplinary perspective and gathering experts from various fields, this meeting will explore the new challenges to three key elements of the CWC complex architecture: the comprehensive character of the prohibitions; its verifiable disarmament regime; finally, the non-proliferation dimension. Given the dual-use nature of chemistry and chemical technology, it is crucial to focus not only on the destruction efforts but also on the present and future role of the CWC in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

Organiser: Dr. Mirko Sossai, Assistant Professor of international law

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Participation is subject to registration.

For information and to apply for participation, please send an e-mail to :
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20 March

Sala del Consiglio
del Rettorato

14.30 Introduction

Welcome Paolo Benvenuti (Dean, Department of Law)

Introduction Mirko Sossai

14.45 Session 1. The Scope of the CWC's Prohibitions

Chair: Natalino Ronzitti (LUISS/IAI)

Neil Davison (ICRC), *The use of chemicals as weapons for law enforcement: implications for international law*

Sarah Cleveland (Columbia Law School), *The use of chemicals as a criminal offence: the constitutional/international law interaction in light of the Bond v. US case*

Thilo Marauhn (Giessen University), *The use of chemicals as a crime under international law: implications for the ICC*

Questions and debate

16.30 - 16.45 Coffee Break

16.45 Session 2. Destruction Challenges: Syria

Chair: Eric Myjer (University of Utrecht, tbc)

Valeria Santori (OPCW), *The mandate and the activities of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission*

Jean Pascal Zanders (The Trench; Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs), *The challenges of the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons at sea*

Questions and debate

21 March

Sala del Consiglio
del Rettorato

9.00 Session 3. Destruction Challenges: Syria

Chair: Gabriella Venturini (University of Milan)

Nico Frandi (European External Action Service), *The impact of Syrian disarmament on the creation of a WMD free zone in the Middle East*

Mirko Sossai (University of Rome 3), *The destruction of the chemical weapons in Syria: a challenge for international law?*

Questions and debate

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 Session 4. Non-proliferation

Chair: Paolo Benvenuti (Univ. of Rome 3)

Ralf Trapp (Former Secretary of the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board), *The convergence between chemistry and biology as a challenge to the CWC*

Alexander Kelle (OPCW), *Dual-use chemicals and the CWC non-transfer provisions*

12.30 Conclusions

Natalino Ronzitti (LUISS/IAI)