Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK)

FCO Minister congratulates OPCW on winning Nobel Peace Prize

2013-10-11

Reacting to the news that the

OPCW

has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Minister for Middle East and North Africa Hugh Robertson said:

I congratulate the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (

OPCW

) on winning the Nobel prize.

Since the Organisation began in 1997, enormous progress has been made in achieving near universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (

CWC

) and destroying the majority of chemical weapons stockpiles worldwide. With the inclusion of Syria, there are now 190 parties to the Convention and the Organisation has overseen the destruction of some 60,000 tonnes of chemical weapons to date.

The

OPCW

and the States parties who have signed up to the

CWC

continue to work together to rid the world of the scourge of chemical weapons. We have long pressed for universality of the

CWC

. The recent use of chemical weapons by the regime in Syria only serves to make this priority more urgent.

The

OPCW

has moved quickly to facilitate the destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons stocks. Destruction will be a major challenge in the context of the Syrian conflict and ambitious timelines set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2118.

The UK is providing an initial contribution £2million to support the work of the

OPCW

in Syria and we stand ready to provide further assistance.

Further information

Follow Foreign Office Minister Hugh Robertson on twitter:

@HughRobertsonMP

Follow the Foreign Office on twitter

@foreignoffice

Follow the Foreign Office on

facebook

and

Google+

Media enquiries

For journalists

Email

newsdesk@fco.gov.uk

Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fco-minister-congratulates-opcw-on-winning-nobel-peace-prize