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Summer Programme

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World

Keynote Speaker:

Mr Hamid Ali Rao, Deputy Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Lecture

Preventing Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons: Lessons for Non-Proliferation

As destruction of known chemical weapons nears completion, the OPCW will increasingly focus on preventing the re-emergence of such weapons. This is a far more complex and less visible task that goes beyond traditional non-proliferation measures, especially given the challenges posed by the threat of chemical terrorism. A more proactive approach to new monitoring and verification technologies will be vital, based on more active involvement from a broader range of stakeholders from industry, the scientific community and civil society to better inform the work of policy-makers. Ensuring disarmament gains are made permanent will require a much more holistic approach to non-proliferation that does not restrict the many benefits accruing from advances in science and technology.



Biography

Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao has been the Deputy Director General of the OPCW since July 2015. He has brought with him vast multilateral experience from across the UN System in Vienna, Geneva and New York, most notably from his work on disarmament issues. Before joining the OPCW, he was Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (September 2011-April 2015), and Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (December 2007-September 2011).

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