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**KENYA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE LENAYAPA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to extend my delegation's warm congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Norway, on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I assure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation and look forward to fruitful deliberations under your able leadership.

I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation to the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the State Parties, H.E. Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo, Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States, for his steadfast efforts during the last session of the conference and in the preparations for this session. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

Kenya aligns itself with the statement of the Group of African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") delivered by H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela, Permanent representative of the Republic of South Africa, and that of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Convention and China, which was delivered by H.E. Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Allow me to express my delegation's gratitude to Director-General Fernando Arias for his statement and reports, and to his diligent team at the Technical Secretariat for their continued work towards the elimination of chemical weapons and the threat posed by them. We look forward to joining States Parties in approving the reappointment of H.E. Mr Fernando Arias as the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for a second term, as recommended by the Ninety-Eighth Session of the Executive Council.



Our delegation reaffirms Kenya's longstanding position against the use of chemical weapons by any State, persons, or organisations, under any circumstances or justifications, as well as the pursuit of the goal of a world free of chemical weapons. The Convention unifies all its States Parties in this noble objective. Kenya therefore underscores the importance of upholding the credibility and integrity of the Convention as the most effective and comprehensive multilateral agreement that bans the use of chemical weapons and prohibits all development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, or transfer of such weapons. In this regard Kenya notes the various reports on implementation of the Convention in 2020.

Kenya remains aware that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention contributes to international peace and security, as well as economic and technological development of States Parties, including sustainable development goals. Consequently, we attach great importance to the comprehensive implementation of Articles VII, X, and XI.

It is for this reason that my delegation calls for sustained global cooperation in the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry, reducing chemical threats including chemical terrorism, the enhancement of chemical security and safety, as well as support for national capacities in the prevention, preparedness, and response against misuse of toxic chemicals.

We regret that implementation of international cooperation and assistance (ICA) programmatic activities has been hampered by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. We nevertheless wish to commend the Director-General and the Secretariat of the OPCW for adapting the ICA programmatic activities to be executed in an online format. We appreciate that this enabled a larger number of participants to take part in the activities. We, however, recognise that there are limitations of virtual training and capacity building and therefore look forward to the resumption of regular ICA activities as soon as the public health situation allows.

In the past year, Kenyan nationals were able to participate in at least 15 events organised under the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Convention. At the national level, Kenya was also able to undertake emergency response training and knowledge transfer programmes with various stakeholders in Kenya.

Kenya welcomes, with satisfaction, our selection to continue participating in the ongoing OPCW project on enhancing laboratories capabilities to participate in the Convention's chemical analysis competency tests as well as the OPCW organised proficiency tests. My delegation wishes to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the OPCW in support of this endeavour.

Mr Chairperson, as I conclude, allow me to underscore the importance of consensus in supporting the OPCW to execute its mandate, which is technical in nature. My delegation urges all States Parties and all stakeholders to collaborate and adopt methods of work that strive for consensus. This will not only strengthen the OPCW but also reaffirm our collective commitment to the high ideals and values of the Convention.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the OPCW website.

I thank you.