

**STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE**  
**BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DİŞLİ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF**  
**TÜRKİYE TO THE OPCW AT THE 99<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE**  
**COUNCIL**

(The Hague, 8-11 March 2022)

Mrs. Chairperson,  
Mr. Director-General,

Türkiye aligns herself with the EU statement submitted under general debate. I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to thank Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco for his able and constructive leadership of the Council during his tenure and thank Vice-Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany for her guidance in preparation of the 99<sup>th</sup> session of the Council.

I would also like to thank the Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his leadership of the OPCW Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate of the Organization.

Türkiye considers the military operation launched by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is a grave violation of international law. Hence, Türkiye finds it unacceptable and rejects it. Our support for the political unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine will continue.

As the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention is approaching, Türkiye's commitment remains unwavering.

Türkiye highly appreciates the active role played by the OPCW in all fields under its purview, including the destruction of chemical weapons, preventing their re-emergence as well as promoting international cooperation for the development of chemical industry.

The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology is a project we support. It will be a key asset in further strengthening the capacity of the Organisation to perform its core tasks in verification, inspection, and capacity building.

The Fifth Review Conference, to be held in 2023, will be critical in reaching a common understanding to address the challenges facing the Convention and to keep the Organisation fit for purpose.

On many occasions, Türkiye has underlined the importance of accountability and fighting against impunity of the perpetrators of chemical weapons use.

Türkiye reiterates its support for the Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons.

In this context, Türkiye fully supports and appreciates the work of the OPCW and its Syria missions in establishing the facts on the allegations of chemical weapons use and the perpetrators.

Türkiye notes the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), establishing the use of chemical weapons in Marea, on 1st September 2015 and in Kafr-Zeita on 1 October 2016, and condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons. We await the further investigation of those chemical weapons attacks by the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), for the identification of the perpetrators.

Failure of the Syrian regime in fulfilling its obligations under international law is a cause of concern. The regime must declare the full extent of its chemical weapons programme without any further delay and extend its full cooperation to the OPCW, in accordance with the Convention, OPCW decisions and UN Security Council resolutions.

I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document and be posted on Catalyst and the public website.