

STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DİŞLİ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
TÜRKİYE TO THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL
(The Hague, 5-8 July 2022)

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Ziad Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia on assuming this important responsibility and express Türkiye's support to his efforts in leading the Council to successful outcomes.

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 regrets that another session of the Executive Council is taking place under the circumstances of an ongoing war. Considering the military operation launched by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation against Ukraine a grave violation of international law, Türkiye finds it unacceptable and rejects it. Our efforts for a negotiated end to the conflict and to mitigate the human suffering will continue.

As we marked the 25th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention on 29 April 2022, Türkiye's commitment remains unwavering. Türkiye supports 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 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. In this respect, I appreciate the efforts of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, and encourage all States Parties to work together with an open mind in order have a consensual outcome.

The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology is a project we support. Türkiye welcomes that the project remains on track. It will be a key asset in further strengthening the capacity of the Organisation to perform its core tasks.

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

In this context, Türkiye reiterates her support for the work of the OPCW and its Syria missions in establishing the facts on the allegations of chemical weapons use and 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.

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