

KENYA DELEGATION
STATEMENT BY AMB. JUDITH SIJENY, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW) AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE OPCW – TUESDAY 5TH JULY, 2022

Madam Chairperson, Mr. Director General, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Prior to making my remarks – on behalf of the Kenyan Delegation – I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you, H.E. Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the Chair of the Executive Council. We are confident in your competent leadership to expertly steer the sessions of the Council to a successful conclusion.
2. Further, I extend my delegation's appreciation to H.E. Dr. Eniola Olaitan Ajayi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the commendable work that she did during her tenure as the Chair of the Council.
3. The Kenya Delegation aligns itself with the Statements of the African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as that of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement to the Convention and China, that were delivered by the respective Coordinators, H.E. Vusimuzi Madonsela, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa and H.E. Fikrat Akhundov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
4. Chairperson, allow me to express our gratitude to the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias, for his statement and to his exceptional team at the Technical Secretariat for their continued briefings and updates on the work being done towards the elimination of Chemical Weapons - and the threat posed by them.

Chairperson,

5. Kenya remains vehemently committed to the comprehensive implementation of the Chemical Weapon Convention and its objectives, in order to prohibit the misuse of all toxic chemicals, regardless of their type or origin. To this end, Kenya believes in the equal implementation of the four pillars of the Convention.
6. Kenya recognises and appreciates the work being done by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, particularly on the push to ensure a greater number of African State Parties have national implementation legislation for the Convention. Kenya is making progressing on domestication of the Convention and we look forward to working closely with the Secretariat through mechanisms that will help in the sensitisation of critical decision makers, with the view of simplifying and fast tracking the process of domestication.

7. The OPCW Programme for Africa is a success story on implementation of ICA programmes. We are making progress in building a critical mass of skilled professionals that will continue supporting the realization of the objectives of the Convention now and into the future. In this regard Kenya looks forward to hosting the Course on Medical Aspects against Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals from 3rd to 7th October, 2022 and the Education Training for Youth on the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry in the year 2023.
8. As we move forward to the 6th phase of the OPCW Programme for Africa, we need to build on the success of the past phases and also learn from the challenges. We need to continuously seek opportunities for ensuring that the programmes and projects are responsive to the needs of the region. We welcome the effort made by the Secretariat to consult with the National Authorities and States Parties of the African Group of States Parties with a view to identifying the priorities for the 6th Phase. We further welcome that there will be more attention to developing preventive, protective and response measures against chemical terrorism. Kenya as a member of the Steering Committee for the Africa Programme and active participant in ICA activities commits to continue engaging in future consultations on the Programme.
9. Chairperson, the Kenyan delegation would like to commend and continue to encourage the Technical Secretariat to maintain its engagements with the continental body, the African Union and also with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in its quest for comprehensive implementation of the Convention. The RECs form critical Peace and Security Infrastructures of the African Union, which can and will continue to provide appropriate economies of scale in the implementation of the Convention.
10. Chairperson, Kenya welcomes the consultative approach taken by the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation for the Fifth Review Conference, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia. The engagement with regional groups offers a unique opportunity to appreciate regional priorities as well perspectives on the issues that will feature on the agenda of the Review Conference. We look forward to this spirit of open, transparent and inclusive consultations being upheld throughout the work of the Open-Ended Working Group as it is a prerequisite for a successful review conference.
11. Finally, Chairperson, I would like to reiterate our appreciation to all the State Parties, the Director General and the Technical Secretariat for continuing with their efforts that are geared towards making our collective objective of a world free of chemical weapons a reality. We believe that these efforts will continue to inform the Organisation's future priorities in regards to cooperation and assistance, capacity building and the promotion of the role of chemistry for sustainable development.
12. Thank you for your attention and I would like to request that this statement be published on the public website and external server as an official document of this session.