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**TÜRKİYE**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DIŞLI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE TO THE  
OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference and H.E. Ambassador Ziad Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for their performance in fulfilling their respective roles.

I would also like to thank Director-General Fernando Arias for his leadership of the OPCW Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate of the Organisation and managing to organise the statutory meetings despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Türkiye takes this opportunity to stress once again its steadfast support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Ukraine. Türkiye considers the military offensive by the Russian Federation against Ukraine a grave violation of international law. Our efforts for a negotiated end to the conflict will continue.

As we marked the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) this year, 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 Fifth Review Conference, to be held in May 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, we appreciate the efforts of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, in order to have a consensual outcome.



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. With this understanding, Türkiye provided financial contribution to the project. We look forward to its launching next year.

The OPCW and the Convention remain crucial pillars of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. This is exactly why the Organisation should be provided with the necessary resources to continue its effective implementation of the tasks under the Convention. On the other hand, the Organisation should spare no effort to make savings wherever possible.

The high number of departures in the Inspectorate Division in 2023 is a cause of concern. In order to minimise the impact to the Organisation's capacity, Türkiye supports a new decision on re-hiring of inspectors as an interim measure.

Any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable. There should be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons. The decision adopted at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties in April 2021, suspending the rights and privileges of the Syrian regime under the Convention, is important in upholding the global ban on the use of chemical weapons. The regime must fulfil its obligations under the Convention without any further delay.

On many occasions, Türkiye has underlined the importance of accountability and prevention of impunity of the perpetrators of chemical weapons use. In this context, Türkiye once again expresses its support for the work of the OPCW and its Syria missions in addressing the gaps in the Syrian chemical weapons declaration as well as establishing the facts on the allegations of chemical weapons use and the perpetrators.

After more than nine years since its accession to the Convention, it is unacceptable that the Syrian regime has not made a complete declaration yet. The regime must declare the full extent of its chemical weapons programme without any further delay, extend its full cooperation and put an end to its obstruction to the work of the OPCW Syria missions in contravention of the Convention, United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 and relevant decisions of the OPCW policy-making organs.

I kindly request that this statement be issued as an official document of this session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted on the OPCW external server and the public website.

Thank you.

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