

KENYA

STATEMENT BY H.E MARGARET W. N. SHAVA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE OPCW
DURING THE TWENTY SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(THE HAGUE, 28TH NOVEMBER – 2ND DECEMBER, 2022)

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I would like to extend my delegation's warm congratulations to H.E. Mr. Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela, Ambassador and Permanent representative of the Republic of South Africa on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference States Parties. My delegation has confidence in your leadership and wish you success in steering the work of our conference.
2. Similarly, I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation to the Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of State Parties, H.E. Mr. Bard Ivar Svendsen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Norway for his efforts in the preparations for this Session.
3. Kenya aligns itself with the Statements of the African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention delivered by H.E. Francis Danti Kotia, Ambassador and Permanent representative of the Republic of Ghana, and that of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the Convention and China, which was delivered by H.E. Mr. Gaya Mammadov, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
4. Mr. Chairperson, allow me to express my delegation's gratitude to the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando ARIAS, for his statement and

reports, and to his team at the Technical Secretariat for their diligence in execution of their mandate under the Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention).

5. Kenya reaffirms her 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 2021.
6. Kenya believes that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention is key to the success of the Convention in contributing to international peace and security, as well as economic and technological development of States Parties, including sustainable development goals. Consequently, we encourage the Organisation to continue strengthening the implementation of all its provisions, including Articles VII, X and XI. In this regard, my delegation calls for sustained global cooperation in promotion of international cooperation in 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.
7. The OPCW Programme for Africa has been on a trajectory of continuous improvement since its establishment in 2007. The fifth phase of the Africa Programme, which ends in December 2022 has been a great success. We laud the Director General and his team in the Technical Secretariat, for ensuring that execution of the various activities and projects set out under the fifth phase continued unabated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was achieved by reorienting the programmes to a virtual format and later on hybrid format as the case warranted. The exponential increase in the yearly average number of

African participants in capacity building programmes during the fifth phase of the programme, is testament to the fruitfulness of these efforts.

8. Kenya has been an active participant in the various programmes and activities organised by the OPCW. The skills and competencies acquired are having positive impact at the national level. Beyond national level impact, we have been able to share acquired knowledge and skills through participating in the OPCW Instructor Exchange Programme and expert sessions to brainstorm on how to develop the guidelines to support governments and industry in strengthening chemical safety and security measures during hazardous chemical transportation by road. We look forward to more achievements under the sixth phase of the programme which will be launched in 2023. Kenya will be looking forward to making further progress under the Programme on “Assessing and enhancing the capacity of analytical laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States to achieving OPCW designation”, to ensure its intended objective is realized, which is to build the capacities required to pass the official OPCW proficiency tests and subsequently join the Organisation’s network of designated laboratories.
9. Universal adherence to the Convention is key to the complete elimination of all chemical weapons, the prevention of chemical weapons rearmament and strengthening the international norm against the use of chemical weapons. As we mark 25 years since entry into force of the Convention, there should be a revitalization of efforts to encourage the four remaining non- States Parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention. Kenya welcomes the Decision of this session of the Conference to extend observer status to one of the members of the East African community, the Republic of South Sudan. We look forward to more non-States Parties participating, albeit in observer capacity, and call for sustained efforts towards encouraging their early accession to the Convention.
10. Enacting implementing legislation is an anchor for successful national implementation of the Convention. Article 2(6) of the Constitution of Kenya, diverse pieces of legislation and administrative measures facilitate national implementation of the Convention and enable management of scheduled

chemicals. However, this is inadequate for robust national implementation. We continue to make strides towards adopting legislation that is consolidated and will comprehensively address the matters of the Convention. Kenya appreciates the support extended by the Technical Secretariat towards improving the success of this efforts, most recently during the National legislative review forum held in October, 2022.

11. My delegation joins the calls of other delegations for the Organisation to strengthen engagement with other key stakeholders who would contribute to the realisation of the objectives and purpose of the Convention. We welcome the recently launched initiative targeting the youth who are the next generation of professionals in the fields of science and chemistry. Further, additional efforts should be deployed to empower and support the chemical industry particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to play their non-proliferation and chemical management role. This would enhance national implementation of the Convention.
12. Additionally, more work needs to be done to enhance the inclusion and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of the work the Organisation and in national implementation of the Convention. In this regard we applaud the efforts made by the Organisation under the women in chemistry programme and in enhancing gender parity in the staff establishment of the Organisation. We encourage the adoption of strategies that will empower more women to contribute to the peaceful uses of chemistry, actions for better outcomes in chemical safety and security including preparedness for and responses to chemical incidents.
13. 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 Thank you.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Session and published on the OPCW website.