

KENYA

STATEMENT BY H.E MARGARET W. N. SHAVA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE OPCW DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (THE HAGUE, 14TH TO 17TH MARCH, 2023)

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

1. My delegation welcomes back H.E. Mr. Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the Chairperson of this Session of the Executive Council. We have full confidence that the deliberations of this Session will be successful, under your able leadership.
2. Kenya aligns with the Statements of the African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention delivered by H.E. Mr. 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. Rahman Mustafayev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
3. My delegation appreciates the Director-General, H.E. Mr. Fernando ARIAS, for his statement and reports, and also appreciates his team at the Technical Secretariat for their diligence in the execution of their mandate.
4. Kenya notes the various reports on the status of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention) submitted to this session of the Council. The Convention unifies all its States Parties in the obligation to realize its noble objective of prohibiting and completely eliminating the acquisition, use, production and transfer of chemical weapons; and advancing the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. Kenya believes that the full, effective and non-

discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention is key to achieving this objective, contributing to international peace and security, economic and technological development of States Parties, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We encourage the Organisation to continue strengthening the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including Articles VII, X and XI.

5. We laud the efforts of States Parties and the Technical Secretariat in advancing the Organisation's contribution to the global counter-terrorism efforts as enumerated in the Director General's Note EC-102/DG.12 dated 16th February, 2023. We appreciate the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Terrorism under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Vusimuzi Madonsela, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa. During the pre-session meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, we were briefed on the Scientific Advisory Board's assessment of the opportunity that non-state actors may exploit in the context of the rapidly advancing field of science and technology. This highlights the need for the OPCW to be vigilant in reviewing and monitoring the rapidly changing landscape and accordingly support the development of national-level capacities for risk assessment, threat management and response preparedness. We look forward to the inauguration and operationalization of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre), which we believe will strengthen the Organisation's role in this regard.
6. We value the extensive and inclusive consultations undertaken by the Technical Secretariat in the development of the Sixth Phase of the Africa Programme. We welcome the clear articulation of the activities, the short and long-term outputs under each objective, as well as of each stakeholder's role towards achieving the outlined objectives. We also welcome the inclusion of activities targeting women and the youth in order to empower them to meaningfully contribute to the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. The role of the Small and Medium sized Enterprises in advancing chemical safety and security is key to the realisation of the objectives of the Convention and we would hope to see more engagement in this area, during the implementation of the Sixth Phase of the programme. We are convinced that the Sixth Phase of the Programme, will be successful if all stakeholders play their role and the

identified risks are mitigated, including those risks related to human and financial resources.

7. Kenya, as in the past, will actively engage and participate in the implementation of the Africa programme. Kenya will also continue participating in the Programme on “Assessing and enhancing the capacity of analytical laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States to achieving OPCW designation”, in order to strengthen the capacities required to pass the official OPCW proficiency tests and subsequently join the Organisation’s network of designated laboratories.
8. Mr. Chairperson, as I conclude, allow me to appreciate the work of H.E. Mr. Lauri Kuusing, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Estonia and the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, his Bureau and the Technical Secretariat. We underscore the importance of consensus in supporting the OPCW to execute its mandate, including in the adoption of the outcome document of the Conference. 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.