

Agenda item 5 – General Debate

MALAYSIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DATO' NADZIRAH OSMAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

14 - 17 MARCH 2023

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement submitted by the NAM States Parties to the Council and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Malaysia join others in expressing appreciation to you Mr Chairperson, and to the Technical Secretariat for the hard work and careful preparations ahead of this Session. We note that the One Hundredth and Second Session of the OPCW Executive Council convened today on the heels of important developments taking place in this august Organisation. Our aim is to continue engaging the Council in a constructive dialogue to ensure that the OPCW can fulfill its mandate towards the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

2023 is set to be a promising year for the implementation of the Convention. 30 years since the Convention is open for signature, we will see the OPCW landmark project – the ChemTech Centre - inaugurated in May 2023. Following shortly in the same month, the Fifth Review Conference of the CWC will hopefully help strengthen the role of this important Organisation. We are also encouraged to hear that the planned completion date of September 2023 for destruction of all declared Chemical Weapons stockpiles remains on track.

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For Malaysia, the OPCW's mandate is clear – to rid the world of chemical weapons, be it in the form of existing stockpiles, old, abandoned, or new chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon, anywhere by anyone under any circumstances is reprehensible and contrary to the Convention, the United Nations resolutions, international legal norms and must be condemned.

Mr Chairperson,

We note the developments pertaining to the Syrian dossier and its verification-related activities. We urge continued and effective engagement between the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic and hope that all issues will be resolved through dialogue and cooperation.

Malaysia works closely with the OPCW and other States Parties to either improve or complement the implementation of the Convention at the national and regional levels. This was done through conducting national and regional training programmes, as well as participating in mentoring and partnership programme with States Parties. We are pleased with our current partnership with Australia which include submission of a joint paper identifying best practices in national verification inspections for the consideration of the Fifth Review Conference. We encourage States Parties to participate in mentoring/ partnership programme to accelerate and strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

Malaysia further supports the efforts of the Technical Secretariat towards equitable geographical distribution and gender balance in all aspects of its work. We recognise that this is something that both the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties need to work on constructively.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.