

## **Agenda item 6 – General Debate**

### **MALAYSIA**

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

**11-14 JULY 2023**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement submitted by the NAM States Parties and China to the Council and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.
2. First and foremost, allow me congratulate His Excellency Lucian Fătu, Ambassador and the Permanent Representative of Romania to the OPCW, for your appointment as Chairperson of the Executive Council. I trust that you will be able to steer the deliberations of the Council constructively. Your Excellency have the support of our delegation. I also extend our appreciation to Director-General Fernando Arias and the OPCW Technical Secretariat for the reports and preparatory works ahead of this One Hundred and Third Session of the Executive Council.
3. It is not lost to all of us that the convening of this Session is mired with uncertainties, following the inconclusive end of the Fifth Review Conference in May this year. Malaysia recognises that within the current geopolitical context, achieving consensus on any multilateral forum is an uphill task. While we had hoped for a consensus-based outcome document for the Fifth Review Conference, the OPCW can count on our commitment to continue working with the Organisation towards a full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. We should continue to engage across differing views with the ultimate aim to reach consensus, however distant it may be.

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4. Amidst the challenges, Malaysia believes that there remain many opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.
5. We encouraged with the recent announcement by the OPCW and the United States that all declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been successfully destroyed. Malaysia hopes to see the sharing of the practical lessons learned in the destruction process and whether it can be useful for the destruction of old and abandoned chemical weapons.
6. Building on the momentum of our successful partnership with Australia which concluded in March this year, we have submitted our expression of interest to join the OPCW Laboratory Twinning Initiative, with possible participation of relevant laboratories from Australia. Our laboratories have been participating in the annual OPCW Proficiency Test (PT) on a regular basis, with encouraging results. We hope that that the twinning initiative will pave the way for Malaysia's laboratories to join and contribute towards the expansion of the network of OPCW designated laboratories around the world.
7. While we urge all States Parties to comply with the respective obligations under the Convention, Malaysia recognises that it is not just a question of States' willingness to fulfill these obligations but also whether the States have the necessary capabilities to do so. Malaysia believes that gaps in the implementation of the Convention among States Parties can be narrowed through needs-based programmes such as the OPCW's mentorship/partnership programme that we had with Sudan and Australia. We remain open to engaging other States Parties under this programme. The successful Africa programme could also be used as a template for other region or sub-region in need.
8. Malaysia has the honour to deliver a statement on behalf of the members of Association for the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the Fifth Review Conference. The statement is the first ASEAN Statement being delivered at OPCW's conference, signifying the importance of the Organisation and opportunities for collaboration

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including through the Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) Defence Experts (ASEAN CBR Network).

9. Malaysia is of the view that the Convention plays an important role in stemming the threats from global terrorism. We extend our support to the Open-Ended Working Group of Terrorism and look forward to playing a constructive role in the upcoming table-top exercise on chemical terrorism.
10. We also see many opportunities to strengthen the Convention through the promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry. In May this year, Malaysia hosted the Forum on Peaceful Uses of Chemistry in Kuala Lumpur. The forum raises participants' awareness of integrated chemicals management in chemical trade, chemical safety and security, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and policies adopted by Member States to foster international cooperation for the peaceful use of chemistry.
11. Malaysia looks forward to developing expertise and capabilities through enhanced participation in the OPCW's international cooperation and assistance (ICA) programme as well as through the opportunities presented by the newly inaugurated ChemTech Centre.
12. To conclude, I would like to reiterate Malaysia's principled position that 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, and international legal norms. We reaffirm our full support to the OPCW to carry out its mandated work as the implementing body of the Convention in a comprehensive, objective, and impartial manner, in complementarity with the work of the United Nations.
13. I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Executive Council Session and be published on the OPCW website and external server.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.