

## KENYA

STATEMENT BY H.E MARGARET W. N. SHAVA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE OPCW  
DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
(THE HAGUE, 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023)

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

1. My delegation welcomes His Excellency Ambassador Lucian Fătu, the Permanent Representative of Romania to the OPCW, as Chair of the One Hundred and Third Session of the Executive Council. We are confident that you will skilfully steer the deliberations of this session to successful conclusion.
2. Kenya aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group by His Excellency Francis Kotia, the Permanent Representative of Ghana, and the statement of the NAM plus China, submitted by His Excellency Rahman Mustafayev, the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan.
3. My delegation appreciates the Director-General, His Excellency Fernando ARIAS, for his statement and reports. We also appreciate the valuable role that the staff of the Technical Secretariat continue to play in supporting States Parties implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention).
4. We join other delegations in congratulating the United States of America for completing the destruction of all its declared stockpiles. This marks another milestone for the Organisation in the achievement of the object and purpose of the Convention.
5. Kenya reaffirms her commitment to the obligations under the Convention and underscores that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of

all its provisions is key to achieving the twin objectives of total elimination of chemical weapons and advancing the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes.

6. To advance implementation of the Convention, Kenya has been taking legal, policy and administrative measures at the national level. Our active participation in various OPCW International Cooperation and Assistance programmes is a reflection of the commitment to make further advancements. Consequently, we are recording commendable progress in areas such as cross border control, countering chemical terrorism, responding to chemical incidents, and upgrading laboratory competencies. In addition, we have consolidated diverse pieces of legislation relating to the Convention into two comprehensive pieces which are awaiting completion of national legislative procedures.
7. In September, 2023, Kenya will host the Peer-to Peer training for African Customs Training Institutions in partnership with the OPCW and with the support of the Government of Canada. We look forward to hosting the trainees and instructors in our magical country.
8. Later this year, Kenya and India will commence a joint venture under the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme for National Authorities of States Parties to the Convention. The Kenya National Authority looks forward to learning from the expertise and extensive experience of the Indian National Authority. We are positive that this will contribute to bridging CWC implementation gaps in Kenya and underpin long-term collaboration between our National Authorities.
9. We are proud to have OPCW-trained Kenyan instructors on emergency response to chemical incidents, bring to bear their acquired skills and competencies during the upcoming CHEMEX Africa Exercise to be hosted by the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, later this year. The CHEMEX Africa Exercise is a demonstration of how South-South cooperation and collaborative cross-regional partnerships can be deployed to

strengthen preparedness for chemical attacks. We look forward to dissemination of the lessons learnt from the exercise.

10. Evidently, the International Cooperation and Assistance Division continues to do an exemplary job in supporting States Parties effective implementation of the Convention. We urge for its strengthening by availing the needed human and financial resources in order to scale up its programmes and activities.

11. We support the establishment of a working group to develop a strategy for improving geographical representation in the staff establishment of the organisation. We also support the call for sharpening of strategies to achieve gender balance in the organisation and foster women's full, meaningful and effective participation in the implementation of the Convention.

12. Mr. Chairperson, as I conclude, we welcome the willingness of delegations to continue engaging on the issues canvassed during the Fifth Review Conference. We look forward to constructive engagement in the ensuing processes.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and published on the OPCW website.

**I thank you.**