



الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية  
*République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire*

*Ambassade d'Algérie à La Haye*

سفارة الجزائر بلاهاي

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Salima Abdelhak  
Permanent Representative of the People's  
Democratic Republic of Algeria to the OPCW**

**104<sup>th</sup> Executive Council of OPCW**

**10-13 September 2023**

**Mr Chairperson,**

At the outset, I would like to welcome H.E. Ambassador Lucian Fătu, the Permanent Representative of Romania, as Chair of the One Hundred and Fourth Session of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). We are confident that he will steer the work of the session to a successful conclusion and he can rely on the support of my delegation in his endeavour.

I wish also to express my thanks to the Director-General of the Organisation, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report, and his unfailing efforts in carrying out with his Secretariat his duties to assist State parties with the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I cannot omit to convey my appreciation to the staff of the Secretariat for their dedication and efficiency in organising the sessions of the OPCW policy-making organs.

The Algerian delegation aligns itself with the statement of H.E. Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the OPCW, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are members to the OPCW and China, and with that of H.E. Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia , the Permanent Representative of Ghana to OPCW, on behalf of the Africa Group.

**Mr chairperson,**

In last July the Organisation has successfully completed the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles. This major event represents an important milestone and a source of motivation to confront the new challenges and threats that have been identified by the 5<sup>th</sup> Rev Conf such as Universality, the peaceful use of chemistry for the purposes of development, the reemergence of chemical weapons and their use by non-states, to mention few.

The universality of CWC remains a priority and we are encouraged by the meeting between the Director General and the MFA of South Sudan held in Algiers, Algeria in the margins of Chemex Africa 2023, the Communique of which is very optimistic in what regard progress made towards the accession to the CWC. We recommend the DG and the Secretariat to continue engaging with States not yet party to the Convention, urging their involvement in the collective efforts towards international peace and security.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We are convening after a comprehensive review conference that, while it did not yield any concrete outcomes, has nonetheless provided a fresh perspective on our organization and set strategic guidelines that we cannot disregard, as we were the ones to outline them.

The Review Conference rightfully emphasized the relevance of ICA and dialogue to cope with the new challenges and to foster trust among State Parties. It also highlighted the key elements of successful international assistance, including within the three pillars ICA VII, X and XI of the CWC, and determined the

associated tools, including Chem-tech. The Review Conference also examined the actors involved in ICA and their role in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), as well as the financial, human, and technological resources required to support ICA.

On this basis, Algeria recommends:

- To provide additional efforts to overcome the challenges encountered on Article XI related to economic and technological development especially for developing countries. This could be reached through inter alia, encouraging exchange of scientific and technical information, of chemicals and equipment for purposes not prohibited by the Convention and the promotion of scientific research and projects of development in the field of peaceful chemistry.
- To Strengthen South-South cooperation through Africa program but also through the establishment of Centers of excellence including in North Africa and Sahel sub-region which has to cope with chemical terrorism.
- To encourage and assist African laboratories to join OPCW designated lab network
- OPCW to play a crucial role in enhancing capabilities of State Parties to combat chemical terrorism by utilizing existing tools and developing new ones as necessary and by strengthen cooperation with UN bodies and institutions and specialized Organizations in areas related to its scope, such as disarmament, international security, border control and chemical industry including African Union, its regional bodies, and thematic organs such as Afripol and the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT).
- To support the proposed second biannual budget for 2024-2025. In the light of new economic developments that have impacted the budget of the organisation, we believe that is important to provide to the secretariat the appropriate support to make sure that the OPCW continue to play a vital role in maintaining global peace and security and delivering affective activities to that end.
- To constructively interact within the framework of the open ended groups on tenure policy and geographical representation with a view to present recommendations in favour of preserving institutional memory and improve the geographical representation within the Technical secretariat.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

I would like to avail this opportunity to say few words on "Chemex Africa 2023" a significant event organized this year, under Africa Program, in close collaboration between the Government of Algeria and OPCW, with the funding of Canada.

Algeria was honored to host such a successful event in Algiers from September 23 to October 04 2023 and spared no effort in deploying all the necessary resources to ensure its success and elevate it to the highest level, to live up to the trust we were granted.

Indeed, the VIP Day of Chemex Africa 2023 was conducted under the patronage of the President of the Republic, H.E.M Abdelmadjid Tebboune, with the presence of the Algerian Prime Minister, the Chief of staff of the National Army and the members of the Government in order to raise awareness among the highest officials and decision makers about the threat of chemical terrorism and the importance of the protection against any chemical incidents. A Live Simulation of Coordinated Response to Terrorist Attack Involving Toxic Chemicals was successfully performed by Trainees at that occasion.

I seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias and to the Deputy Director General, Ambassador Odette Melono for their presence at the (VIP) day alongside with senior officials from African organizations and accredited Ambassadors in Algeria. Your presence was a strong message regarding your ongoing efforts to support the Convention's implementation in the African Continent and underscores your commitment to addressing the new challenges and threats of OPCW.

I would like also to extend our thanks to the Technical Secretariat especially to Chemex Africa 2023 team members, for their dedication and their exemplary collaboration in the preparation of this event since July 2022 with the Algerian National Authority which also deserves our recognition and applause .

My sincere thanks go also to the Government of Canada for their generous funding and to all States parties and to the European Union who have contributed in the success of this event by providing supervisors and observers to monitor the exercise.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

As for the multi-component exercise itself, it holds particular significance as it was designed to strengthen the capacity-building of our African countries in terms of protection against chemical incidents and has underscored our commitment to addressing the new challenge and threat posed by chemical terrorism. Moreover, it reflects the evolving approach of the OPCW, following the completion of the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles consisting in redirecting its efforts toward advancing national implementation, strengthening capacities building and fostering international cooperation.

Indeed, this event brought together first responders from 32 CWC African states parties, during two weeks of intensive theoretical and practical learnings conducted by African Instructors under the supervision of international partners. Chemex Africa was without any doubt a good illustration of a successful South-South cooperation as well as a global cooperation within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Last but not least, Chemex Africa has served as an excellent tool of outreach as it involved several stakeholders including policy makers during the VIP Day, companies and industrial communities through the exhibition held in its margins and also universities, specialized institutes and students through the organization of forums of discussion and workshops.

To conclude, **Mr. Chairperson, Mr Director general,**

We do believe that Chemex Africa 2023 was an excellent and a comprehensive pan-African exercise. To pave the way to many others to come, we recommend a fellow up on the basis of the lessons learned.