



OPCW

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MALAYSIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AHMAD NAZRI YUSOF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, my delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to you, Madam Chairperson of the Eighty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council. We assert our disposition to contribute positively to the sessions under your leadership. On the same note, my delegation would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, for his outstanding contribution and leadership in steering the past sessions of the Council.

My delegation also wishes to express our heartiest appreciation to the Director-General, His Excellency Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his dedication, contribution and excellent service at the helm of the Organisation over the past eight years. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Malaysia welcomes the State of Palestine upon its accession to the Convention and calls on the remaining States not Party to the Convention to accede to it as soon as possible. Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China States Parties.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Session, Malaysia has kept the Executive Council updated regarding the fatal incident involving the use of a nerve agent that happened over a year ago, in February 2017, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2. Malaysia has also made a commitment to update this Council of any developments regarding the legal proceeding of the case.

For the Council's information, the Malaysian High Court is set to deliver a decision on 16 August 2018 after hearing submissions from both the prosecution and defence at the end of the prosecution's case. The court thereafter will decide whether both the accused enter for defence or the case be dismissed. Both the accused were charged under the 'murder' offence of Section 302 of the Malaysian Penal Code, which is punishable by the mandatory death penalty.



In light of this development, Malaysia stands ready to cooperate with the OPCW in sharing related information once the legal proceeding is concluded. Attributing responsibility to any party or arriving at any conclusion may hamper the smooth running of the case—as it is sub-judice, it is not possible to discuss the matter at this juncture.

It is hoped that, at the next session, the Executive Council can be updated of a significant development, for the benefit and information of all members. While we admit that the challenges of the day create an urgent need for the Organisation to evolve in its conduct, we must not forget the fundamental principle that led to the existence of this Organisation. Therefore, the recently-adopted decision to empower the OPCW with an attribution mandate should be implemented with the aim of strengthening the Convention, and not used as a tool to justify coercive measures against any State Party. As such, the implementation of the attribution mandate needs to be done in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and international law, and not through interpretation. In order to ensure the reputation of this august Organisation remains intact, the OPCW, as a respected technical Organisation, must not be exposed to politicisation in its work.

I look forward to this session being another step towards enhancing cooperation among States Parties.

I thank you for your attention, and request that this statement be included as an official document of this meeting and be posted on the OPCW website.

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