

FOR TRANSLATION

KENYA DELEGATION

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE LENAYAPA, CBS, AMBASSADOR AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW) AT THE
FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO
REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 21ST-30TH, 2018

Mr. Chairperson, His Excellency Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Mr. Director
General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. At the onset, I would like to take the opportunity to extend warm compliments and commendations to the Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador. My delegation is confident in your competent leadership to expertly steer this Review Conference to a successful conclusion.
2. Mr. Chairperson, allow me to express my delegation's gratitude to the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando ARIAS, for his report and to his excellent team at the Technical Secretariat for their continued briefings and updates on the work being done towards the elimination of Chemical Weapons - and the threat posed by them. Equally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, H.E. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Ambassador of Indonesia, for his dedicated efforts on the preparation of the Draft Provisional Text for this Conference.
3. The Kenyan Delegation is fully aligned with the statements of the African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as that of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement to the Convention and China, which were

delivered by the respective Coordinators, H.E. Ambassador Abdelouahab BELLOUKI of the Kingdom of Morocco and H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami MADAH of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Chairperson,

4. The Kenyan delegation welcomes the convening of this Fourth Review Conference as the basis for taking stock of the applications and activities of the Chemical Weapons Convention since the last Review Conference. This is with the view of upholding the Convention in its entirety and achieving the full, effective and balanced implementation of all its provisions by all States Parties.
5. Kenya is also cognizant that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention is a contributory factor to international peace and security, as well as economic and technological development of all States Parties, including sustainable development goals. In this regard, this review process should significantly contribute to the promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry, for the benefit of humankind, without a change in the core focus of the Convention.
6. This is consistent with my delegation's observation at the Third Review Conference, specifically on the importance of the fast-developing chemical industry in emerging economies, the globalised access to chemicals and the related challenges and threats. We, therefore, attach great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Articles VII, X and XI.
7. On this matter, my delegation recognises and appreciates the work being done by the OPCW in the area of International Cooperation and Assistance, particularly with our National Authority. We seek to continue to be a valuable partner to this end. In particular, Kenya appreciates the capacity building exercises conducted in this regard and welcomes future trainings, such as the OPCW Training Course on Medical Aspects of Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons for African State Parties, which was recently held in Nairobi, Kenya.

8. Similarly, I would urge and encourage this Conference to foster and maintain mutually beneficial engagements with the continental body, the African Union and the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in its quest for comprehensive implementation of the Convention. African Regional Economic Communities form critical Peace and Security Infrastructures of the African Union and these can and will continue to provide appropriate economies of scale in the implementation of the Convention. As noted earlier in our Group Statement, tailor-made Assistance and Protection activities will serve to highlight the complementary nature of the OPCW and the African Union's activities of promoting international peace and security through disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. Regarding the issue of tenure policy, my delegation wishes to reiterate that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat be fair and transparent, in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 44, of the Convention. It is equally important that the Technical Secretariat observes an equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, particularly at the professional level. Consequently, Kenya welcomes the emerging discussions on the internship and Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programmes, as a means of enabling candidates from developing regions to more easily access professional positions at the OPCW.

10. Regrettably, there have been cases of alleged and continued use of toxic chemicals, as weapons, particularly in civilian-populated areas, which are a source of deep concern for my delegation. In this context, the Fourth Review Conference should serve as a platform of support for global cooperation in reducing chemical threats. Similarly, we hope that the Conference will also promote international cooperation in peaceful uses of chemistry, enhancement of chemical security and safety, as well as draw attention and support for national capacities in the prevention, preparedness and response against misuse of toxic chemicals.

11. Kenya values the unique character of the OPCW as a technical organization and we are confident that the Fourth Review Conference will reinforce this core tenet of the Organisation and further inspire all Member States and stakeholders to

work closely together to preserve this aspect of the Organisation. Thus, we urge all States Parties and all stakeholders to collaborate within the relevant provisions of the Convention and within the framework of this esteemed Organisation.

12. Likewise, Kenya urges all States Parties and stakeholders – during this Conference – to seek methods of work that strive for consensus, according to its mandate, and to remain aligned with the standards set out by the Convention. This will also ensure the desired success of the Fourth Review Conference.

13. In conclusion **Mr. Chairperson**, and in keeping with the decision adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session in December of 2011, I would like pay tribute to victims of chemical weapons attacks by reaffirming Kenya's commitment to the ideals and values of the Convention and the OPCW, and to a world free of chemical weapons. This is in order to achieve the paramount aim of promoting and safeguarding international peace and the security architecture, as well as the promotion of multilateralism in general.

14. **Thank you for your attention.** I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Session and a copy be placed on the OPCW Extranet.