

AMBAXXATA
TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA



EMBASSY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

THE HAGUE

Statement by the Republic of Malta

Delivered by H.E Marlene Bonnici

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the OPCW

90th Session of the OPCW Executive Council 12th – 15th March 2019

Madame Chairperson,

Malta is fully aligned with the EU Statement delivered by the Ambassador of Romania.

Malta would like to congratulate Ambassador Jana Reinisova for her leadership as Chairperson of the OPCW Executive Council during her tenure. Malta would also like to thank the OPCW DG for his comprehensive report to the this Council. I also would like to thank the various Vice Chairpersons for their updates. In this regard, we particularly welcome the good work on implementation and the efforts towards achieving full universality of the Convention.

It is abundantly clear that the Chemical Weapons Convention continues to play a pivotal role in global security and stability and in the overall non-proliferation architecture. Recent and current international developments have highlighted the obligations we all have to uphold the global norm against the use of chemical weapons and to counter any sense of impunity. The OPCW plays a central role in ensuring that the CWC remains the leading effective instrument to address current and future challenges. Full adherence to the Convention remains our top priority.

We commend the work carried out by the FFM and would like to express our grave concern at the findings expressed in its report S/1731/2019 of 1 March 2019. The work carried out by the FFM in Syria is indeed essential. We also recognise the importance of the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT).

Malta welcomes the update given by the Secretary General on a number of decisions taken by this organ and the CSP as a whole.

Malta has also listened carefully to the concerns voiced by the Director General with regard to tenure policy. We are sensitive to the challenges and clearly technical capacity is critical to the good work of this organisation. My delegation is willing to engage constructively in this debate which we believe needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner beyond the mere length of tenure. In this regard The discussion is also an opportunity to underline the importance towards equal gender representation within the Organisation and would also like to join the statements by other delegations that have called for the addressing the under-representation or even absence of certain State Parties in the Technical Secretariat.

Finally, Malta would like to reiterate its full support for the work of the Technical Secretariat and remains confident in the competence, integrity and impartiality of the OPCW's technical experts.

I kindly request that this statement is issued as an official document and placed on the OPCW public website.

I thank you Madam Chairperson.