



**OPCW**

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**MALAYSIA**

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

Madam Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

I join other distinguished delegates in welcoming you back, Madam Chairperson to the Ninetieth Session of the Executive Council (“the Council”) and look forward to a fruitful and conclusive session, under your able leadership.

I would also like to express the full confidence and support of the Malaysian delegation to His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias, the Director-General, and thank the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) for their tireless work and commitment.

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 States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Many things have happened at the OPCW in recent time. The introduction of the attribution role in addition to other roles carried out by the OPCW is indeed a new and significant development that will change the landscape of how this Organisation operates in the years to come. Malaysia deems that any changes made within this context should only be for the better and do not cause any detrimental effect on this esteemed Organisation and member states. Against this backdrop, my delegation would like to reaffirm our position that the newly-established mechanism, which is now called the **Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)**, should conduct its work in a fair, independent and impartial manner, within the provisions stipulated by the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

During the Eighty-Ninth Session of the Council, we shared with this Council on the defence phase of the trial process of the case involving the use of VX Nerve Agent at KLIA 2 in February 2017, which was supposed to take place in November 2018.

The defence’s presentation of both the accused was however deferred to this year, at the request of one of the defendant’s lawyer.



During the hearing which was resumed yesterday, 11 March 2019, the prosecutors have dropped charges not amounting to acquittal against the accused Indonesian citizen and the accused was released on the same day.

The trial of the other accused from Vietnam will be postponed to a later date, in light of the latest development.

In demonstrating Malaysia's commitment to transparency and cooperation, Dr Raja Subramaniam, a Malaysian chemist who identified the VX nerve agent used in the incident will be delivering a technical presentation with regards to this case, at the Third Meeting of the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board's (SAB) Temporary Working Group (TWG) on Investigative Science and Technology, to be held at the OPCW and the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) in The Hague, from 2 to 4 April 2019. His participation and insights into laboratory work connected to the investigations of the incident will be shared with the members of the SAB and TWG with high confidential and will not be reproduced in the SAB meeting report.

Malaysia will continue to provide updates on this matter to the Council Meeting, subject to limitations imposed by the legal process of Malaysia, including the risk of sub-judice.

Malaysia is honoured to be chosen to host the 'Workshop on the Role of Legislation in Addressing Threats Arising from Non-State Actors' that will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 11 April 2019. This event is expected to be officiated by the Honourable Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. Asia is the second region that will be hosting such event, after the first one was held in Abuja, Nigeria, representing the African region. As the threat of chemical weapons by non-state actors is becoming rampant, the workshop is essential to strengthen national and regional defence, through applicable legislations.

I further take this opportunity to share that Professor Mohd Jamil Maah, an academic from Malaysia, has recently been appointed to become a member of the OPCW's Education and Outreach Advisory Board (ABEO).

His presence in the Board is hoped to bring new fresh ideas and contribute to this Organisation's effort in reaching out to as many people as possible in educating them about chemical weapons' peaceful usages and its potential threats.

The Exercise on Assistant and Protection for First Responders from Asian States Parties which has been carried out in Malaysia for five consecutive years will continue with its sixth edition in September this year. The programme has proven to be helpful in preparing our first responders as well as the region to handle and manage the peril of chemical attacks or incidents in their countries. We hope that many more programmes of the same nature can be offered to Malaysia both as host and participants so that we could learn and share and consequently integrate our response models regionally.

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

Thank you.