

AMBAXXATA  
TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA



EMBASSY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

THE HAGUE

Statement by the Republic of Malta

Delivered by Ambassador H.E Marlene Bonnici

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the OPCW

91<sup>st</sup> Session of the OPCW Executive Council (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019)

Mr Chairperson,

Malta fully aligns itself with the EU Statement.

Malta would like to thank Ambassador Jana Reinisova for her leadership as Chairperson of the OPCW Executive Council during her tenure. We would also like to congratulate and warmly welcome the new Chairperson Ambassador Andrea Perugini and assure him of our full support during his chairmanship of the Executive Council.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) continues to play a pivotal role in global security and stability and in the overall non-proliferation architecture. Recent international developments have highlighted the critical importance of the obligations we all have to uphold the CWC and the non-use norm of these deadly weapons. The responsibility we all bear to counter any sense of impunity for the use of chemical weapons is ever more present and weighs on all Members of this Council and beyond. The OPCW plays a central role in ensuring that the CWC remains the leading instrument to address current and future challenges. In this vein, Malta expresses its full support and confidence in Director-General Fernando Arias along with the Technical Secretariat to carry out this important work and take the organisation forward.

May I also take this opportunity to reiterate our full backing to the Organisation's steadfast commitment to its implementation agenda based on the mandate set by the State Parties. In this regard, we support the work of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) as well as the Fact Finding Mission and Declaration Asset Team.

Malta is also following closely the discussions on workforce management and the work of the co-facilitators. We firmly believe that it is in our best interests to ensure that the OPCW is well equipped to face current and future challenges by having the necessary expertise, knowledge management structures and capacity to undertake its work. We stand ready to engage constructively so we can strike the right balance on a number of issues which are on the table including gender balance and geographical distribution, in the latter case among regions and within regional blocks with the objective of having as many State Parties represented as possible.

Finally, we also commend the efforts made to empower civil society to further consolidate the application of the Convention. Their involvement is also key in ensuring inclusivity at all levels of implementation.

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

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.