



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kevin Kelly**  
**Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical**  
**Weapons**  
**At the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Executive Council**  
**8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to add some remarks in a national capacity. I would like to add our voice to those thanking you Mr. Chair for your leadership and for the open and consultative way in which you have prepared States Parties for this session of the Executive Council.

My delegation would also like express our appreciation to Director General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report to the Executive Council. The report testifies to the breadth and intensity of work undertaken by the Technical Secretariat (TS) to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I would like to put on record our full confidence in the professionalism and capability of the TS to implement the decisions taken and tasks assigned by States Parties.

I would also like to express our appreciation for the tireless and effective efforts of Co-facilitators Ambassadors Puja of Indonesia and Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador and look forward to hearing their report to the Council. My delegation carefully examined the draft proposal brought forward by you, Mr. Chair, in cooperation with the Co-Facilitators. In facilitations to date under the guidance of Ambassadors Puja and Vásquez Gómez, my delegation sensed that momentum was growing and this was evident in the active and constructive engagement by a significant number of States Parties in the consultation process. The topics discussed to date are crucial to the future of this organisation and the Convention which it serves. Just as the Governments which we each serve grapple with knowledge management and skills acquisition and transfer, so too does the OPCW. It is our hope that through sharing experiences gained and lessons learnt in our own Ministries and in other international organisations that the tenure policy can be refined to meet the twin goals of continuing the excellent track record of expertise and impartiality which has been a hallmark of this organisation since its creation, while also ensuring that the TS can be seen to have a workforce of women and men drawn from as wide a group of States Parties as possible.

My delegation would also like to thank Ambassadors Puja and Vásquez Gómez for their service as Co-Facilitators and hope that they will continue in their efforts in what has been a challenging task. The outcomes of these facilitations, as with the other facilitations, will very much depend on what States Parties bring to the table. My delegation will approach these facilitations with an open mind and looks forward to working with all delegations in our shared task. While each delegation will approach the facilitations with differing viewpoints and priorities, we believe it would be counterproductive for the future of this organisation - and a squandered opportunity - if we fail to make progress on the topics we can agree on just because agreement is yet to emerge on others. Indeed, we would argue that making progress on some topics will actually help to foster a positive atmosphere for reaching agreement on the other topics.

In closing Mr. Chair, in addition to the expertise in the Technical Secretariat upon which all States Parties rely, our work is also enriched by the expertise and input at the Conferences of States Parties of experts from academia and from civil society. It would be a matter of deep regret to my delegation if there was any move to limit the contribution that has been, and must continue to be, made by expertise from outside these four walls. I take this opportunity to express the hope that in our preparations for CSP-24 we will devote the time and energy needed to furthering the aims of the Convention and broadening the opportunities for popular participation in the work of the OPCW. We rely on these civil society voices to broaden the understanding of wider society of what we are doing within these walls to create a world free of the scourge of chemical weapons. Ireland will continue in our efforts to champion the valuable role that civil society organisations play in our common endeavour and I remain optimistic that we will reach a consensus on this important subject.

In thanking you, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Council and be published on the OPCW website and extranet.

Thank You