

## 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 TWENTY FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (THE HAGUE, 25 – 29 NOVEMBER 2019)

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Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Prior to making my remarks – on behalf of the Kenyan Delegation – I would like to take the opportunity to extend warm compliments and commendations to H.E. Mr. Krassimir KOSTOV, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria, as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference States Parties. My delegation is confident in your competent leadership to expertly steer this session of the Conference to a successful conclusion.
2. I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation to the Chairperson of the Twenty Third Session of the Conference of State Parties, H.E. Mr. Yun-Young Lee of the Republic of Korea for all his dedicated efforts and deft guidance during that Session. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.
3. The Kenyan Delegation is fully aligned with the Statements of the African States Parties, 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. Mr. Kamal Bashir Ahmed of The Sudan and H.E. Mr. Jafar HUSEYNZADA of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
4. **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.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

5. The values and virtues that inspired Kenya to sign up to Convention are true to it today, as they were when the country ratified the Treaty, twenty-two years ago. Kenya's position is and remains against the use of chemical weapons by any State, persons or organisations, under any circumstances or justifications, as well as the pursuit of the goal of a world free of chemical weapons. This dovetails with Kenya's recognition and acceptance of the importance of upholding the credibility and integrity of the CWC as the most effective and comprehensive multilateral agreement that bans an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
6. Likewise, Kenya remains aware 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 States Parties, including sustainable development goals. Consequently, we attach great importance to the comprehensive implementation of Articles VII, X and XI.
7. It is for this reason that my delegation continues to view this Conference as the appropriate forum for sustained global cooperation in reducing chemical threats, promotion of international cooperation in peaceful uses of chemistry, the enhancement of chemical security and safety, as well as being the right platform for drawing much needed attention and support for national capacities in the prevention, preparedness and response against misuse of toxic chemicals.
8. In this regard, my delegation commends the Director General and the Secretariat of the OPCW for planning and facilitating the Hospital Preparedness for Chemical Incident workshop – also known as HOSPREP 2019 – for East African State Parties that was held in Mombasa, Kenya from November 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.



9. The primary objective of the successful HOSPREP 2019 workshop was to enhance the emergency management capabilities of the respective State Parties in the East African region by boosting the resilience of the medical facilities in the event of a chemical terrorism incident. This was primarily by focussing on the general principles of emergency planning, patient reception, and decontamination treatment protocols.
10. Indeed, it is this outcome and appropriateness of HOSPREP 2019 that reinforces Kenya's continued advocacy of the mutually beneficial engagements between the OPCW and the African Union, particularly through its various Regional Economic Communities. It is worth highlighting that these Regional Economic Communities are critical Peace and Security Infrastructures of the African Union and will continue to provide appropriate economies of scale in the implementation of the Treaty in our Continent.
11. In the same vein, my delegation wishes to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of the representatives from ~~Bangladesh~~, Malaysia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America for the success of HOSPREP 2019.
12. **Mr. Chairperson**, allow me to conclude by referencing the concept of consensus, which is a vital ingredient in the workings of our Organisation and which establishes the unique character of the OPCW as a technical organization. In this regard, I wish to urge all States Parties and all stakeholders to collaborate within the relevant provisions of the Convention in order to seek methods of work that strive for consensus, that comply with international law, that ensure the primacy of the United Nations system and that remain aligned with the standards set out by the Convention.

This will be a fitting tribute to victims of chemical weapons' attacks, and will reaffirm our collective commitment to the ideals and values of the Convention and to a world free of chemical weapons.

**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.