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TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA



EMBASSY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

THE HAGUE

**Statement of the Republic of Malta
Delivered by Ambassador H.E. Marlene Bonnici
At The 24th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the CWC
(The Hague, 25-28 November 2019)**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malta fully aligns with the EU statement delivered by **Ambassador H.E. Mika-Markus Leinonen, EU Liaison Officer to The Hague** on behalf of the EU. I would now like to add a few comments in my national capacity.

My delegation would like to extend Our congratulations to Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of States Parties. Sir, you have our full support and we are confident that your professionalism and experience will help us to reach a successful conclusion of the 24th Session.

Malta would also like to thank the Ambassador Yun Young Lee of the Republic of Korea for his efforts as the Chair of the 23rd Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP) and wish him all the best in his endeavours. We also thank the Chairperson of the Executive Council, Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, for his outstanding performance in guiding the preparatory work for this Conference.

Equally, I would like to extend our support to Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias for his unwavering commitment to the objectives of the organization and also for engaging with all stakeholders, to both promote and inform of the invaluable work of the Organisation in striving to meet the objectives set out by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). In this regard, Malta considers the role of the Technical Secretariat (TS) to be essential and my delegation will continue to offer its full support.

Mr Chairperson,

Malta reiterates that the global security architecture requires a consolidated effort by all parties in fulfilling the aims of the Convention. This also necessitates the provision of resources, both financial and technical, in addressing the demands that come with the

mandate being set out for the OPCW. To this end, Malta supports the proposed programme and budget for 2020 as well as the innovations being proposed, not least the biannual budget structure. In our view this approach will lead to improved planning and implementation and we encourage State Parties to support its adoption at this Conference.

Mr Chairperson,

Any breach of the Convention is of concern to us all, with the repercussions having an equal universal effect. In this vein, Malta supports the work of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM), the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) while also welcoming the establishment of the Investigation and Identification team (IIT) and the work they do. We look forward to the first report of the IIT.

Mr Chairperson,

It is of paramount importance that the CWC is able to react to new and emerging substances and compounds. I refer to this Session's consideration of updating the Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the CWC. This proposed change is indeed a positive step and Malta looks forward to the adoption of this update by the Conference.

I also want to take this opportunity to reiterate my delegation's support for the work undertaken by the co-facilitators Ambassadors Puja of Indonesia and Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by conveying Malta's appreciation of the efforts being made by Director-General Arias in striving towards ensuring equal gender representation within OPCW. On a related note, we continue to underscore the need for increased geographical balance and addressing under-representation or even non-representation of the individual State Parties within the Organisation.

I would kindly ask you, Mr Chairperson, to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW External Server and public website.