

AMBAXXATA  
TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA



EMBASSY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

THE HAGUE

**Statement of the Republic of Malta**  
**Delivered by H.E Marlene Bonnici, Permanent Representative of Malta to the**  
**OPCW**  
**at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW**  
**(The Hague, 10-13 March 2020)**

Mr Chair,  
Mr Director General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malta fully aligns itself with the EU statement delivered by the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia on behalf of the EU. I would now like to add a few comments in my national capacity.

My delegation would like to thank, you Mr Chair, for your leadership and continued efforts to build consensus. I want to assure you of my delegation's full support in your work.

Malta would also like to commend the OPCW Director General, Ambassador Fernando Arias for his comprehensive report to the Executive Council. My delegation will continue to lend its full support and confidence in the Director-General, along with the Technical Secretariat, to carry out this important work.

I also want to join colleagues in extending Malta's appreciation for the work undertaken by our co-facilitators, Ambassador Vasquez Gomez and Ambassador Puja for their commitment towards addressing organisational governance. Your determination, dear colleagues, has paved the way for State Parties to focus on ensuring OPCW remains in a position to do whatever needs to be done to fully meet our objectives.

Mr Chair,

As a strong proponent of multilateralism, Malta believes that the ever-changing challenges on the international scene require a unified response. It is in this spirit that the OPCW and the CWC has come into being, with its mandate playing an essential part in ensuring a world free of Chemical Weapons. To this end, my delegation will continue to offer its full support to the mandate of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) and the Declaration Asset Team (DAT) and their work. We remain encouraged that their role will be key in assisting the Syrian Arab Republic in resolving any open issues in this regard.

Equally, Malta looks forward to the issuing of the IIT's report which is a first step towards identifying and holding the perpetrators accountable. This is vital in order to ensure that a culture of impunity is not harnessed by the international community.

Mr Chair,

Malta, like the rest of the EU, also commends the recent technical changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention. This reform demonstrates the OPCW's responsiveness to changing international scenarios and the Organisation's intentions of remaining relevant in the face of emerging threats. On a related note, we also consider the Draft Decision on the **Aerosolised use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes** as providing another area of engagement for the Organisation.

Finally, Malta would also like to commend the OPCW's sustained action towards gender equality. This has indeed yielded results. Malta will continue to support these efforts, with importance also to be given to increased geographical balance and addressing under-representation or even non-representation of the individual State Parties within the Organisation.

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