

TURKEY
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DIŞLI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Turkey aligns herself with the EU Statement, made by H.E. Ambassador Marjolijn Van Deelen, Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-proliferation. I would also like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of States Parties. I would like to thank Ambassador Jose Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico, Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference and Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for their performance in fulfilling their respective roles.

I would also like to thank the Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his leadership of the OPCW Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate of the Organization and managing to organize the statutory meetings despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turkey fully supports the reappointment of Ambassador Arias for a second term, as recommended by the Executive Council.

This Conference will consider the first biennial programme and budget of the Organisation. It is essential that the OPCW be provided the necessary resources to continue its effective implementation of the tasks under the Convention.

Turkey highly appreciates the active role played by the OPCW in all fields under its purview, including the destruction of chemical weapons, preventing their re-emergence as well as promoting international cooperation for the development of chemical industry.

The transformation of the OPCW laboratory into a Centre for Chemistry and Technology will be a qualitative leap forward in the Organisation's capacity to perform its core tasks in verification, inspection, and capacity building. The ChemTech Centre will be an asset for the OPCW and its members. With this understanding, Turkey provided financial contribution to the project. We look forward to its timely and smooth completion.

Any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable. There should be no impunity for the use of chemical weapons. The decision adopted at the 25th session of the Conference in April, suspending the rights and privileges of the Syrian regime under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), is important in upholding the global ban on the use of chemical weapons. The regime must fulfil its obligations under the Convention without any further delay.

The further diminishing cooperation of the Syrian regime with the OPCW, and obstruction of the Syria-related work of the Organisation since the adoption of the CSP-25 decision is a cause of concern. The Syrian regime must extend its full cooperation to the OPCW, in accordance with the OPCW decisions and UN Security Council resolutions.

Turkey appreciates the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), in addressing the gaps and inconsistencies in the initial chemical weapons declaration of the Syrian regime, investigating the allegations of chemical weapons use, and identifying the perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks. The work of these OPCW teams is crucial in upholding the integrity of the Convention, as well as for the efforts to ensure that there is no impunity for the use of chemical weapons. In this respect, Turkey also reiterates its support to the International Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons (PAI).

I kindly request that this statement be issued as an official document of this session of the Conference and be placed on Catalyst and the public website.

Thank you.