

## **MALAYSIA**

### **STATEMENT BY DR. MOHD NORHISYAM MOHD YUSOF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE ONE-HUNDREDTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**5-7 JULY 2022**

Mr Chairperson  
Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation is pleased to welcome Your Excellency Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia to the Chair. We trust, under Your Excellency's able chairmanship, this upcoming session will reach its desired outcome and objective. Your Excellency have our full confidence and support.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Her Excellency Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of Nigeria for her able stewardship as Acting Chairperson of the last session of the Executive Council.

We thank the Director-General for his informative opening statement and reports, the Vice-Chairpersons for the reports of activities conducted under their respective cluster of issues, and the Technical Secretariat for the hard work in making sure the preparations for this session are well in place.

Mr Chairperson,

While we have continued to engage the Council as a keen observer in recent years, Malaysia is pleased to return as a member of the Executive Council for the term 2022-2024. We hope that we will be able to support the work of the Council and provide useful contribution.

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the OPCW, on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") and China.

25 years since the entry into force of the Convention, Malaysia remains a firm believer that the Convention is an important contributor to global peace and security, with an almost universal participation and unparalleled success in eliminating declared chemical weapons stockpiles. Having said that, we are fully cognisant that more needed to be done.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our support to the work of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Fifth Review of the Convention. Malaysia is committed to actively participate in the Working Group deliberation in which Malaysia hopes that States Parties will uphold and respect the Convention in its totality and committed in ensuring full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention to ensure a successful outcome.

My delegation wishes to reaffirm that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon, anywhere by anyone under any circumstances is reprehensible and contrary to the Convention, the United Nations resolutions, international legal norms and must be condemned.

We urge all possessor States to strictly comply with the Convention and take all necessary measures to ensure total destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons, and abandoned chemical weapons as specified by the provisions of the Convention.

We note the progress reports on the elimination of the Syrian chemical programme provided by the Director-General of the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic. Malaysia call on all involved parties to continue constructive dialogue on the matter. We view that the timely convening of the 25<sup>th</sup> round of consultation between the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and the Syrian authorities as well as the High Level Meeting between the OPCW and Syria will be helpful in this regard.

Mr Chairperson,

Malaysia has benefitted from the technical cooperation and capacity-building programme facilitated by the Technical Secretariat. We aim to continue to pay it forward by supporting the work of the Secretariat. The upcoming one being the General Training Course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for the Personnel of National Authorities and relevant Stakeholder, to be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 11 to 14 October 2022. We invite Asian States Parties to participate in the course.

As we believe in continuous improvement, we are pleased to have had the opportunity to participate in the OPCW Partnership programme with Australia. Our National Authority visited Australia in March 2022 and had productive discussion on issues affecting the effective implementation of the Convention. We look forward to returning Australia's hospitality in the coming month.

Last but not least, Malaysia is following closely the development of the OPCW's Chemistry and Technology Centre ("ChemTech Centre") with great interest. We look forward to the completion of the Centre by the end of this year.

I thank you, Mr Chair.