



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**FRANCE**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE  
OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8**

Mr Chairperson,

During the seminar commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of entry into force of the Convention, one thing was clear: the serious threat of use of chemical weapons, in particular by non-State actors, is a major source of concern for many delegations, including our own.

It is in our best interest to work together on this issue, as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the only forum appropriate for dealing with the issue of chemical terrorism. That is why France remains determined to support the OPCW Technical Secretariat's work in this area. Accordingly, since 2021 France has made EUR 530,000 worth of voluntary contributions for international cooperation projects within the framework of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa. These capacity-building projects are aimed at responding to the threat from non-State actors. They are part of our continuing commitment, with African States partners, in the fight against terrorism and in the interest of international security.

We should like to thank H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela, the Permanent Representative of South Africa, for all he has invested as Chairperson of the open-ended working group on chemical terrorism. France stands ready to actively take part in the discussions, including within the framework of the Fifth Review Conference and the preparatory process for it. Finally, we are ready to work with all interested delegations on this subject in a committed and constructive manner.

I would ask that this statement be considered as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and that it be posted on Catalyst as well as the OPCW official website.

Thank you.

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