

TÜRKİYE
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DIŞLI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF TÜRKİYE TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
(The Hague, 28 November – 2 December 2022)

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

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of States Parties. I would like to thank Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference and Ambassador Ziad Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia, 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.

Türkiye takes this opportunity to stress once again her steadfast support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Ukraine. Türkiye considers the military offensive by the Russian Federation against Ukraine a grave violation of international law. Our efforts for a negotiated end to the conflict will continue.

As we marked the 25th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) this year, Türkiye’s commitment remains unwavering.

Türkiye 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 Fifth Review Conference, to be held in May 2023, will be critical in reaching a common understanding to address the challenges facing the Convention and to keep the Organisation fit for purpose. In this respect, we appreciate the efforts of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, in order to have a consensual outcome.

The OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology is a project we support. It will be a key asset in further strengthening the capacity of the Organisation to perform its core tasks in verification, inspection, and capacity building. With this understanding, Türkiye provided financial contribution to the project. We look forward to its launching next year.

The OPCW and the Convention remain crucial pillars of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. This is exactly why the Organisation should be provided with the necessary resources to continue its effective implementation of the tasks under the Convention. On the other hand, the Organisation should spare no effort to make savings wherever possible.

The high number of departures in the Inspectorate Division in 2023 is a cause of concern. In order to minimize the impact to the Organisation's capacity, Türkiye supports a new decision on re-hiring of inspectors as an interim measure.

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 2021, suspending the rights and privileges of the Syrian regime under the Convention, 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.

On many occasions, Türkiye has underlined the importance of accountability and prevention of impunity of the perpetrators of chemical weapons use. In this context, Türkiye once again expresses her support for the work of the OPCW and its Syria missions in addressing the gaps in the Syrian chemical weapons declaration as well as establishing the facts on the allegations of chemical weapons use and the perpetrators.

After more than nine years since its accession to the Convention, it is unacceptable that the Syrian regime has not made a complete declaration yet. The regime must declare the full extent of its chemical weapons programme without any further delay, extend its full cooperation and put an end to its obstruction to the work of the OPCW Syria missions in contravention of the Chemical Weapons Convention, UN Security Council resolution 2118 and relevant decisions of the OPCW policy-making organs.

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

Thank you.