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MALAYSIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR NADZIRAH BINTI OSMAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to express Malaysia's support to the leadership of His Excellency Ziad M. D. Al Atiyah, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, as Chairperson of the Executive Council for the term 2022–2024. I would also like to thank the Director-General and the Vice-Chairpersons for their reports. My delegation further wishes to express appreciation for the hard work of the Technical Secretariat for the preparations ahead of this session.

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

For Malaysia, the OPCW's mandate is clear: to rid the world of chemical weapons, be it in the form of existing stockpiles, old, abandoned, or new chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon, anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances is reprehensible and contrary to the Convention, United Nations resolutions, and international legal norms and must be condemned. Malaysia calls upon the OPCW and all States Parties to continue to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention to fulfil the said mandate.

Malaysia takes great interest in the plans laid out by States Parties for the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles and abandoned chemical weapons. We are encouraged to see States Parties working together and with the OPCW to realise this important obligation provided in the Convention. We hope that the momentum of cooperation continues, if not improved, to expedite the process.

In the same vein, we hope that this momentum of cooperation reverberates to the OPCW's work in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The twenty-fifth round of consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and the Syrian authorities is long outstanding and urgently needed to address the reported discrepancies in the declaration. Malaysia remains hopeful that the impending high-level meeting between the Director-General of the OPCW and the Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic may be able to accelerate meaningful and effective cooperation in this regard.



Malaysia is not a stranger to the verification process itself. Like many States Parties, while not being a possessor State and having never used chemical weapons, Malaysia fully supported the implementation of Article VI of the Convention since joining this Organisation more than 20 years ago. This year, another round of industry inspection was conducted in Malaysia from 26 to 29 June 2022 to ensure full compliance with the Convention.

While we strive to ensure that Malaysia, as State Party to the Convention, remains free of chemical weapons, Malaysia is fully cognisant that the threat of chemical weapons is present in the region, particularly from non-State actors. We view efforts to counter chemical terrorism as important to address the threat of chemical weapons. Malaysia had discussions with States Parties under various platforms to improve national implementation and explore opportunities for improvement in chemical security management. To address the issue of chemical terrorism holistically, we will continue to support the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Terrorism, under the able leadership of the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the OPCW.

Malaysia further works closely with the OPCW and other States Parties to either improve or complement the implementation of the Convention at the national and regional levels. Most recently, Malaysia hosted an advanced course in chemical emergency response: assistance and protection for first responders in Asia from 26 to 29 September 2022, and will host the general training course on the Convention for the personnel of National Authorities and relevant stakeholders in Kuala Lumpur from 11 to 14 October 2022. Malaysia looks forward to working with our partner, Australia, in organising the subregional forum on national implementation of the Convention for the Pacific Island States in Brisbane, Australia from 17 to 20 October 2022.

We are pleased with the development of the soon-to-be-completed OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) to enhance the OPCW Laboratory's capabilities, to improve inspectors' routine and non-routine readiness and training, to strengthen international cooperation and assistance, and to expand knowledge management and scientific collaboration.

Last but not least, Malaysia commends the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the OPCW for his excellent work as Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, and the Working Group's useful deliberations thus far. Malaysia will continue participating in the discourse ahead of the Review Conference in May 2023.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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