



Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

27th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

Statement by Mr. Gaya Mammadov, Head of Department for Politico-Military Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, under the Agenda item 8: General Debate

The Hague, 29 November 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

- In addition to the statement we have circulated in our capacity as the Chair of the Non-Alignment Movement, we would like to make the following national statement:

- First of all, we congratulate you, Ambassador Madonsela, on your election as the Chairperson of this session of the Conference.

- We would like to reiterate the commitment of Azerbaijan to the purposes and principles of the CWC.

- Azerbaijan has a traditionally strong petrochemical industry, which enables us to get closely involved in international cooperation on peaceful uses of chemical technology.

- Azerbaijan sees a large potential for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in facilitating international cooperation in peaceful uses of chemistry. In this regard, we support expansion of the role of the Technical Secretariat in capacity building.

- Azerbaijan has always been actively engaged in dialogue and cooperation with the organization, and cooperates bilaterally with the Technical Secretariat.

- In the past, we hosted several events of the Organisation aimed at capacity building and cooperation. Currently, we are in contact with the Technical Secretariat for further cooperative activities in this field.

- While we can take stock of impressive achievements that States Parties have attained

over the past decades in implementation of the Convention, we recognise that certain tasks remain so that chemical weapons are eliminated once and for all.

- Azerbaijan supports the universalisation of the Convention and echoes calls in this regard.

- Rapid changes and development in chemical science and technology necessitate equipping the Organisation with proper capabilities so that it is up to date to follow and cope with those changes.

Mr. Chairperson,

- Complying with the norms and principles of international law is a fundamental issue that has a significant impact on implementation of the Convention. By liberating its territories from foreign occupation two years ago, Azerbaijan has not only ensured the respect for norms and principles of international law, but also by restoring control over its borders eliminated the risk of illicit trafficking in components of WMD and thereby contributed to the purposes of the Convention.

- In conclusion, we would like to commend the role of the Technical Secretariat under the able leadership of Ambassador Fernando Arias in implementation of the Convention.

I thank you.