



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
28 November – 1 December 2022

C-27/NAT.38
29 November 2022
ENGLISH only

MALAYSIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DATO' NADZIRAH OSMAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation extends our heartiest congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela of South Africa on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We express our full support and cooperation to Mr Chairperson, and our utmost appreciation for the outgoing Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session, H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the Director-General's leadership and the Technical Secretariat's tireless efforts in carrying out the tasks assigned to them over the past year.

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement submitted on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of entry-into-force of the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention"). With near universal adherence, the Convention is one of the pillars of the international disarmament architecture and it has had numerous successes with 99% of declared chemical weapons stockpiles verifiably destroyed. The Convention has also set an example of what is possible when the international community, States Parties, and stakeholders work together. The Noble Peace Prize awarded in 2013 is a testament to this. Nevertheless, it is also clear that there is much to be done and the Convention faces several challenges ahead.

The Fifth Review Conference, which will be held in May next year, will be an opportune time for us to take stock of our past accomplishments and to consider how to strengthen the implementation of the Convention for the next five years. Malaysia will continue to support the work of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference (OEWG-RC), headed by H.E. Ambassador of Estonia, leading up to the Review Conference.

Mr Chairperson, my delegation reaffirms Malaysia's full support for the goals of the Convention – that of the need to eliminate chemical weapons worldwide, 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 under any circumstances is



reprehensible and contrary to the Convention, the United Nations resolutions, international legal norms and must be condemned. That is the objective laid down when the Convention was put into place.

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 cooperating 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.

While we urge States Parties to meet the deadline set for destruction-related activities, Malaysia also recognises the great importance of the verification process by the OPCW to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. As a State Party to the Convention, Malaysia had fully complied with and will continue to fulfil our obligation to submit annual declarations as required by the Convention. We urge all States Parties to do the same.

In terms of inspectable OCPFs (other chemical production facilities), we are the largest in Southeast Asia and the fourteenth largest in the world. Malaysia fully supports the implementation of Article VI of the Convention, and Malaysia have participated in over 40 inspections since 2007.

Emphasising the importance of the OPCW verification process, Malaysia is of the view that the twenty-fifth round of consultation between the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and the Syrian authorities is long outstanding and urgently needed to address the reported discrepancies in the Syrian declaration. Malaysia reiterates that the impending high-level meeting between the Director-General of the OPCW and the Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic is important to assist meaningful and effective cooperation in this regard.

Our chemicals industry is a major contributor to the Malaysian economy. Chemicals and chemicals products are among our top-ten Malaysian exports worldwide, with a monetary worth of some USD 6 billion last year. Considering the economic importance of our chemical industry and of many other States Parties, the implementation of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties, as enshrined in Article XI.

In addition to the verification processes, Malaysia believes in developing a culture of chemical safety and security to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. This requires participation from all stakeholders across the chemical sectors, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the backbone of Malaysia's economy, representing 97.4% of the overall business establishments in 2021. At the national level, Malaysia has started to promote awareness of the OPCW 'Indicative Guidelines for Chemical Safety and Security for SMEs to Foster the Peaceful Uses of Chemistry'. Malaysia remains open to cooperating with other States Parties in promoting the awareness of chemical safety and security management (CSSM) for SMEs.

Mr Chairperson, Malaysia fully supports the work of the OPCW to expedite the implementation of the Convention through the Mentorship/Partnership Programme for National Authorities. The programme was found to be beneficial in providing tailored sharing of knowledge, skills, experience, and best practices among participating countries. We had a successful collaboration with Sudan from 2013 to 2014, and an ongoing collaboration with

Australia since 2021. In March and August this year, Malaysia and Australia exchanged bilateral visits to further strengthen our collaboration. We encourage States Parties to explore this Mentorship/Partnership Programme to accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

Malaysia remains supportive of OPCW's work on international cooperation and assistance, another one of the important pillars of the Convention. We had participated in various OPCW capacity-building programmes, and this year we hosted two training programmes, namely: (i) the 'Advanced course in Chemical Emergency Response: Assistance and protection for first responders in Asia' from 26 to 29 September 2022; and (ii) the 'General Training course on the Chemical Weapons Convention for the personnel of National Authorities and relevant Stakeholders in Kuala Lumpur' from 11 to 14 October 2022. Malaysia also worked with our partner, Australia to organise the subregional forum on national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention for the Pacific Island States in Brisbane, Australia from 17 to 20 October 2022.

As we look ahead to the year 2023, Malaysia looks forward to the prospects that the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) would bring to States Parties, including Malaysia. Malaysia remains committed to working with the OPCW to ensure that the Centre will be fully developed as a Centre to enhance the OPCW's laboratory capabilities; inspectors' routine and non-routine readiness and training; international cooperation and assistance programmes; and knowledge management and scientific collaboration between States Parties and the OPCW.

Last but not least, achieving gender equality is key to effective treaty implementation. It is encouraging to see the implementation of a plan for gender mainstreaming at every level of the OPCW that resulted in gender balance at the senior management level. We see a lot of potential in furthering the gender agenda within the OPCW and the work of the Convention. In this connection, Malaysia is a co-sponsor of the joint statement on gender delivered at the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

We would also like to take this opportunity to address the Canadian delegation and convey our deepest condolences on the recent passing of Ms Sumita Dixit, former Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the OPCW. Our delegation had the opportunity to work with the late Ms Dixit and admires her enduring dedication to the work of the OPCW. May she rest in peace.

Mr Chairperson, I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.