

AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT BY DR GREGORY FRENCH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE 103RD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Agenda Subitem 11(e) – Implementation of the tenure policy

Chair,

As previous co-facilitator with Panama on governance issues, Australia supports advancing discussions on the OPCW's tenure policy, and welcomes the Netherlands' proposal to initiate a facilitation process on this issue.

We support a more flexible tenure policy, having due regard to geographical and gender diversity.

Greater flexibility should help the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate and ensure the OPCW is fit-for-purpose.

We need to ensure the organisation retains the capability, skills and expertise needed to support its important work.

I ask that this statement be made an official document of the 103rd session of the Executive Council, and for it to be published on the OPCW external server and the public website.

Thank you, Chair.