

STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CONSUELO FEMENIA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN TO THE OPCW
AT THE 103rd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 11 - 14 July 2023)

Agenda item 7 (a): Reports by the Director-General on destruction-related issues

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

The European Union welcomes the completion of the destruction by the United States of its remaining chemical weapons stockpile on 7 July 2023. The destruction process was completed before the scheduled timeline set for September this year in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The EU also commends the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the OPCW, and its on-site team verifying the destruction for their professional work in this context.

The completion of the destruction work marks an important milestone in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 25 years after its entry into force. The Convention is a key element of the international non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

The European Union will continue its strong political and financial support to its implementation with focus on the prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons and the fight against impunity for their use. On 26 June 2023, the EU Foreign Ministers approved a new voluntary financial contribution of EUR 5.3 million in support of the OPCW activities in 2023-26.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 103rd Session of the Executive Council and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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