

KENYA

STATEMENT BY H.E MARGARET W. N. SHAVA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE OPCW
DURING THE TWENTY EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(THE HAGUE, 27TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER, 2023)

Chairperson,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1. My delegation warmly congratulates H.E. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on his election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of States Parties. We have full confidence that under your able leadership, we shall have a successful conference.
2. My delegation extends appreciation to the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of State Parties, H.E. Mr. Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa for successfully chairing the last session and steering preparations for this session.
3. Kenya aligns with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group by H.E. Francis Kotia, Permanent Representative of Republic of Ghana, and that of the NAM plus China, by H.E. Gaya Mammadov, Head of Delegation of Republic of Azerbaijan.
4. My delegation appreciates the Director-General, H.E. Mr. Fernando ARIAS, for his statement and his team at the Technical Secretariat for their

diligence in execution of their mandate. Kenya notes the various reports, to this session, on implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention).

5. Kenya reaffirms her commitment to the Convention, which aims for a world free of chemical weapons and promotes the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. The full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all its provisions is crucial for achieving these objectives.
6. In addition, universal adherence to the Convention is fundamentally important to eliminating chemical weapons, preventing rearmament, and strengthening international norms. We therefore call for sustained efforts to encourage the four remaining non- States Parties to ratify or accede to the Convention.
7. Kenya's active participation in the OPCW Programme for Africa has strengthened our capabilities for implementation of the Convention. In the past year, we have participated in events in the areas of protection and response against chemical weapons attack, chemical laboratory analysis, chemical safety and security. We look forward to making further progress, including under the Programme on “Assessing and enhancing the capacity of analytical laboratories from African and GRULAC Member States to achieving OPCW designation” and welcome the support of the United Kingdom in this regard.
8. National implementing legislation anchors the successful implementation of the Convention. Article 2(6) of Kenya’s Constitution, diverse pieces of legislation and administrative measures enable national implementation of the Convention. To further enhance national implementation, Kenya is undertaking national legislative procedures to enact two comprehensive legislations relating to the Convention.

9. We appreciate the organisation's effort to execute training programmes on the Convention's chemicals transfer regime that are region specific, needs-informed and needs-responsive. Kenya is pleased to have contributed to these efforts by hosting, in October 2023, the Peer-to Peer training for African Customs Training Institutions in partnership with the OPCW, World Customs Organisation and with the financial support of the Government of Canada.
10. Kenya and India will soon commence activities under the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme. The Kenya National Authority is eager to gain knowledge from the extensive experience and expertise of the Indian National Authority. The collaboration will help bridge the Convention implementation gaps in Kenya and foster long-term cooperation between the two National Authorities.
11. The CHEMEX Africa Exercise, hosted in Algiers, Algeria, showcased South-South cooperation and cross-regional partnerships for chemical attack preparedness. Kenya is proud of the six OPCW-trained Kenyan instructors who applied their skills and competencies during the exercise. We await the dissemination of the lessons learnt from the exercise.
12. The International Cooperation and Assistance Division is demonstrating excellent support for States Parties' effective implementation of the Convention. We urge its strengthening through increased human and financial resources in order to scale up its programmes and activities.
13. The organization's support to states parties to strengthen chemical counter terrorism measures, including under the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) is a positive step in enhancing chemical safety and security. The recently held Table-Top Exercise, led by the Chairperson OEWG-T, H.E. Vusimuzi Madonsela of South Africa, provided valuable knowledge and best practices for prevention,

response, and investigation in chemical terror attacks. We look forward to the dissemination of lessons learnt therefrom.

14. This session of the Conference will adopt a decision aimed at enhancing staff social security through OPCW's membership to the United Nations Joint Pension Fund (UNJPF). It is intrinsically important that the concerns of the current staff, including the retroactive application of membership to UNJPF are addressed satisfactorily.

15. Kenya supports adoption and implementation of strategies for achieving gender balance in the technical secretariat as well as fostering women's full, meaningful and effective participation in the implementation of the Convention. We applaud the ongoing efforts under the Women in Chemistry program and encourage gender mainstreaming in all activities of the organisation.

16. Mr. Chairperson, as I conclude, we emphasise the importance of striving for consensus-based methods of work. This will not only reaffirm our collective commitment to the Convention's high ideals and values but also support the execution of the OPCW's technical mandate.

We request that this statement be published on the public website of the OPCW and on catalyst as an official document of this session.

I thank you.