



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AMBASSADE VAN DE REPUBLIEK DER FILIPIJNEN
The Hague, The Netherlands

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The Permanent Representation of the Republic of the Philippines to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the Secretariat for the Policy-Making Organs of the OPCW and has the honor to submit the Philippine National Statement for the 27th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention which will be held from 27 November to 01 December 2023.

The Embassy has the further honor to request that the document be issued as an official-series document of the Session and be published in the OPCW public website.

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of the Philippines to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat for the Policy-Making Organs of the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration.



The Hague, 23 November 2023

Secretariat for the Policy Making Organs
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
The Hague, the Netherlands
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**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF H.E. JOSE EDUARDO MALAYA III,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
AT THE 28TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

27 November – 1 December 2023

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Philippines has a special delegation for the 28th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are joined by ranking members of our House of Representatives Committee on Public Order this week to learn the best practices from the OPCW and the States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

My Delegation wishes to join other States Parties in congratulating Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar of Pakistan on his election as Chairperson of CSP28. We are confident of His Excellency's leadership in steering this Session to a successful conclusion. The Philippines as Coordinator of the Asia Group sincerely thanks all its States Members for their conscious efforts to generate consensus and a united Group nomination for the officers of CSP28.

The Philippines would also like to express its appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Technical Secretariat, headed by His Excellency Director-General Fernando Arias, in ensuring the proper monitoring and implementation of the mandate and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Director-General and the Technical Secretariat can count on the Philippines' continued support.

Mr. Chairperson,

2023 is a milestone year for the Convention and the Organization.

First, the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles has been completed this year. We welcome this achievement on global disarmament and commend the United States for completing the destruction before the target timeline of September this year.

Second, this year, the construction of the OPCW Center for Chemistry and Technology was completed. The Center fully enables the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat to fulfill its mandate and further strengthen the Organization's capability against new and emerging chemical weapons threats, and support capacity-building of OPCW Member States.

Third, it was also in 2023 that the Organization had its Fifth Review Conference. It gave the opportunity for States Parties to take stock of the work done by OPCW in the last five years and make recommendations for the future work under the Convention. While the Philippines regrets that we were not able to adopt an outcome document, we recognize the constructive efforts of all delegation and the desire to achieve a consensual outcome. The Philippines, in addition to its role as Asia Group Coordinator, stands ready to work with the rest of the delegations and the Technical Secretariat in achieving positive results and tangible outcomes on actionable items identified in the draft outcome document of the Review Conference.

Mr. Chairperson,

Following the completion of destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles, the prevention of its re-emergence and addressing the threat of chemical weapons use remain

as priorities of the Organization. Humanity remains in a state of danger from too many destructive and disruptive weapons in existence.

Total elimination of chemical weapons entails universal adherence to the Convention. In this regard, the Philippines appreciates the Technical Secretariat's efforts to achieve universality of the Convention, and welcomes South Sudan's expression of interest to accede to the Convention. We call on the other remaining non-parties to the Convention to accede to it.

The Philippines also welcomes the acceptance of Syria to convene the 25th round of consultations between the full members of the Declaration and Assessment Team (DAT) and the Syrian National Authority, as reported by the Director General during the 104th Session of the Executive Council. The Philippines firmly believes on the power of dialogue and diplomacy, and calls on the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic to continue to work together in a constructive manner and without further delay to complete the latter's declarations, close its outstanding issues satisfactorily and with due regard to relevant CSP decisions and provisions of the Convention, and finally close its dossier.

Mr. Chairperson,

While there is merit in a zero-nominal growth approach in the budget of the OPCW and other multilateral fora, the Philippines understands the challenges brought about by rising inflation over the years that has rendered the activities of the Organization increasingly at risk vis-à-vis the real costs of running the Organization.

The Philippines has remained a conscientious Member State that has always tried to pay its fees on time. I call on States Parties that have arrears in the payment of their fees to settle their obligations as soon as possible. It is in the best interest of all States Parties that the Organization is fully-funded to allow it to accomplish its mandated activities, especially in capacity building.

Capacity building must remain a key element in the work of the OPCW, and its effectiveness and efficiency should be further enhanced. Beyond disarmament, the Convention also aims to promote the safe and peaceful use of chemicals for the growth and development of its Members' economies. The OPCW should therefore be at the forefront of research and discourse in science and technology, as these impact the possible development of chemical weapons.

The Philippines is also keen in having a Philippine laboratory accredited as an OPCW Laboratory. We are committed to pursue initiatives that can assist our country in strengthening the capabilities of its chemical laboratories and encourages the provision of trainings that will upgrade the skills of our experts in chemical analysis, synthesis, and reporting.

The Philippines also welcomes the efforts of the Working Group on Geographical Representation to recommend concrete measures in achieving a wider and more diverse pool of professionals in the Technical Secretariat, for a more equitable geographical representation across the Organization.

The continuation of consultations on the Organization's tenure policy is also an important step towards ensuring that the specialized knowledge and skills are not lost and that the OPCW is able to function as efficiently and effectively as it should. The Philippines is supportive of giving the Technical Secretariat some level of flexibility in retaining personnel to ensure a smooth, efficient and effective discharge of the OPCW's functions and activities.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OPCW is on the threshold of a new era of disarmament. The Philippines believes that today, as never before, the OPCW is faced with challenges from increasingly complex global geopolitical realities.

States and industries are now drawn closer together, where multilateral approaches to international peace and security continually strengthen national endeavors and vice versa. Today, the rapid pace of technology makes it possible for instability in one part of the world to affect even those countries that are farthest from the source of chemical weapons threats.

The Philippines thus reiterates its commitment to working for the achievement of the object and purpose of the Convention, and its strong support for measures which aim to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of its provisions, essential to the enhancement of international peace and security.

We call on all States Parties to continue the work of the OPCW in a spirit of cooperative endeavor and remain firm in their commitment to prohibit the proliferation of chemical weapons in all its forms.

I request that this statement be made an official document of the Twenty-Eight Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted in the OPCW website.