



**STATE OF PALESTINE  
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF  
PALESTINE TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES JUSTIFICATION  
OF THE VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN: BIENNIAL  
PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE OPCW FOR 2024-2025**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation wishes to explain our vote (abstention) on the draft decision on the Biennial Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2024-2025, and to stress that the adoption by the Conference of decisions concerning financial matters of the OPCW, including the adoption of the Programme and Budget, is vital for the Organisation to be able to implement its programmes and achieve the objectives set for it in the Convention. At the same time, we wish to stress the need to take all decisions concerning the Programme and Budget by consensus, rather than by voting.

The State of Palestine and other States have pointed out that the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022-2023 was presented for adoption as part of an omnibus decision containing distinct items that could have been discussed separately.

The State of Palestine affirms that omnibus decisions on the budget prevent States from expressing their views on separate issues and elements that have been added to the budget without consensus. It is our view, therefore, that the decision to adopt the Organisation's Programme and Budget should be based on a common ground, consensually agreed upon among all States Parties to the Convention.

- *I ask that this statement be circulated as an official document and be posted on the public and external website of the OPCW.*