

Agenda item 6 - General Debate

MALAYSIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROSELI ABDUL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE 105TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

5 - 8 MARCH 2024

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. As this is the first time I am speaking at the OPCW since my recent arrival in The Hague, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, Mr. Chairperson for your kind welcome to me and other new permanent representatives to the OPCW. I would also like to reaffirm Malaysia full support to your able leadership chairing the 105th session of the EC. We also convey our appreciation to the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias and the OPCW Technical Secretariat for the extensive preparation conducted ahead of this session.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ugandan delegation on behalf of the NAM Member States which are States Parties to the CWC and China.
3. Today, we convene with a shared commitment to advancing the cause of global peace and security through the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. Malaysia reaffirms its unwavering support for the principles enshrined in the CWC. We believe firmly in the necessity of collective action to prevent the proliferation and use of chemical weapons, which pose a grave threat to humanity.
4. We welcome the latest reports submitted by the DG regarding the Syrian dossier and its verification-related activities. We urge the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian side to maintain effective engagement, with a view to resolving any outstanding issues through constructive dialogue and cooperation.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. As everyone in this meeting is aware, in 2023, a major milestone was achieved in the disarmament of chemical weapons. All declared chemical weapons stockpiles were eliminated. However, it is important to continue our collective efforts to achieve a world free from chemical weapons. These efforts include strengthening the verification regime and expanding capacity building and international cooperation. On the other hand, States Parties should continue promoting peaceful and safe applications in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this Convention.

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6. Moreover, Malaysia is collaborating closely with the OPCW and other States Parties to strengthen and complement the implementation of the Convention's provisions.
7. Malaysia is also actively involved in facilitating training programmes for States Parties under Article X of the CWC. Additionally, Malaysia and Australia have worked together to contribute to the expansion of the OPCW laboratory network through the OPCW Laboratory Twinning Initiative.
8. Malaysia also supports the efforts of the OPCW in ensuring equitable geographical distribution and gender balance in all aspects of its work.
9. As we look to the future, Malaysia underscores the need for continued vigilance and cooperation to address emerging new challenges as alluded by the DG this morning, particularly on the dangerous use of the AI in the fast production of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

10. In conclusion, Malaysia once again reiterates its firm commitment to the objectives and principles of the CWC and we stand ready to work closely with fellow States Parties and the OPCW in ensuring the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention to advance our common goal of a world free from chemical weapons.
11. I kindly request that this statement be considered to be circulated as an official document of this EC Session and be published on the OPCW website and external server.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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