



**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR OLIVIER J.P. NDUHUNGIREHE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO THE OPCW AT  
THE 105<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Good morning/afternoon!

1. First of all, I wish to welcome back Ambassador Lucian Fătu of Romania, as Chair of the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW. I re-reiterate Rwanda's unwavering support to you, Excellency, during this session of which I have the utmost confidence that you will steer us towards a successful conclusion.
2. I wish to also express Rwanda's appreciation to H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias and all the staff of the Technical Secretariat for the tireless and commendable work you continue to do in the effort of strengthening the Organization, as well as ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention. We welcome your statement and assure you of our full support.
3. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Amb Francis Kotia of Ghana, on behalf of the African Group, and I will now make few remarks in my national capacity.
4. Rwanda commends the progress registered under the Sixth Phase of the Africa Programme and notes with appreciation that programs of international cooperation and capacity building continue to advance at an encouraging pace, as demonstrated by the important events on chemical emergency preparedness organized last year in Morocco and Algeria, with the support of the Technical Secretariat. We express our appreciation to the States Parties that continue to make voluntary contributions to the Africa Programme and we call for the same support to the funding of the Programme under the OPCW regular budget, as it is the only way to ensure its sustainability and predictability.
5. In this regard, Rwanda looks forward to the full utilization of the ChemCenter in the strengthening of capacity building programs for States Parties through scaling up international cooperation and assistance programs, as well as fostering scientific and academic partnership aimed at driving innovation in the peaceful use of chemistry.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

6. Rwanda remains committed to the principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention and therefore commends the work of the Technical Secretariat in addressing the outstanding issues related to the Syrian dossier. We welcome the recent developments on this front, mainly the holding of the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> rounds of consultations between the National Authority of Syria and the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT). We encourage greater efforts and cooperation from all the parties involved to ensure the resolution of outstanding issues.
7. As the security landscape of the world continues to deteriorate, the threats and challenges to the implementation of the Convention increase as well, especially in dealing with the use or threat of use of Chemical Weapons by non-state actors, including terrorist groups. Their increased capacity to acquire toxic chemicals and leverage emerging technologies raises serious concerns and highlights the necessity of maintaining a high level of coordination between international organisations, States Parties and other stakeholders to deal with these threats.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

8. Rwanda notes the efforts by the Director-General aimed at achieving gender balance and equitable geographical representation at all levels of the Organisation. We look forward to the implementation of the Action Plan on Geographical Representation as decided by CSP-28. We also believe that there is a need to create a conducive environment that will facilitate the task of achieving equitable geographic representation in the workforce of the Organization.
9. We therefore call upon the Technical Secretariat to focus on Junior Professional Officer Programmes and internships, which will enable candidates from developing States Parties, to increase their knowledge of the work of the organisation and increase their competitiveness in pursuing professional positions in the Organization.
10. Allow me to conclude, Mr Chairperson, by re-affirming Rwanda's belief in the importance of consensus-based decision-making to address matters relevant to the Convention, thus preserving the technical nature of the Organisation. Above all, we should all in this room be mindful that we stand with the OPCW and stand with a chemical-free world.
11. I would like to kindly request that this statement be published on the public website of the OPCW and the catalyst as an official document of this session.

I thank you.