

## **Agenda Item 5 – General Debate**

### **STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROSELI ABDUL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE 106<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**9 JULY 2024**

Mr. Chairperson,

Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

2. On behalf of my delegation, I warmly congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the OPCW, on his appointment as Chairperson of the 106<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council. We also thank the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their preparation and reports for this meeting.

3. My delegation aligns with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the NAM States Parties and China. Additionally, I would like to offer a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

4. Malaysia's stance on the objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention is clear. We fully and strongly support the elimination of all forms of chemical weapons from the world, including existing stockpiles as well as old and abandoned weapons.

5. My delegation has taken note of the reports by the Director-General and the Secretariat as well as the national papers by the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the elimination and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. We call for constructive engagement between the relevant parties in resolving outstanding issues.

Mr Chairperson,

6. Concerning the ongoing devastating war in Gaza, Malaysia is gravely concerned by, among others, the reports that the Israeli regime has purportedly used internationally prohibited weapons, including chemical weapons. In this regard, we welcome the statement by the Director-General to monitor the situation in Gaza

and any allegations of chemical weapons use. We also echo the request by the State of Palestine for the continued monitoring and investigation of this serious matter thoroughly.

7. On the issue of abandoned chemical weapons, the Convention mandates their destruction. My delegation has taken note of the documents and presentations concerning the overall progress and activities related to this matter. We call for continued efforts leading to the complete destruction of all abandoned chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

8. For our part, Malaysia continues to fulfill its obligations under the Convention. These include receiving on-site inspections by OPCW inspection teams and actively participating in capacity-building programmes. These programmes, organised by the OPCW, are instrumental in improving the competency of the personnel involved in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention.

9. As a strong supporter of international cooperation and assistance programmes, Malaysia is pleased to announce its partnership with Sri Lanka for the OPCW National Authority Mentorship/Partnership Programme 2024. This collaboration follows Malaysia's successful partnership with Australia in 2022.

10. Additionally, Malaysia will organise the OPCW Regional Course on Emergency Response for First Responders in Asia in August 2024. This is the twelfth iteration of the said regional course that Malaysia has been organising annually since 2013.

11. Malaysia has also submitted an expression of interest in participating in the OPCW Laboratory Twinning Initiative with Australia. As a State Party with a large chemical industry in the Southeast Asia region, obtaining OPCW-designated laboratory status will greatly enhance our ability to fully implement the Convention.

12. Furthermore, Malaysia has submitted two nominations to the Scientific Advisory Board, and the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach for the term 2025-2027, respectively. These nominations are in line with Malaysia's commitment to contribute further to the work of the OPCW.

13. On countering chemical terrorism, we view tabletop exercises as useful for fostering synergy among line agencies through a whole-of-government approach. Given the cross-border nature of chemical terrorism, we see merit in expanding these exercises regionally and internationally.

14. Concerning Artificial Intelligence, as in the case of emerging technologies, it will have a mix of positive and negative impacts. Therefore, it is essential to conduct a thorough analysis to understand its potential implications for the OPCW's work and overall mission.

Mr. Chairperson,

15. I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Executive Council session and published on the OPCW website and external server.

Thank you.