

Statement by Germany at the 106th OPCW Executive Council under agenda item 8 “Scientific Advisory Board”

Germany commends the SAB for its excellent work. I think it is safe to say that this work will be more important than ever given the enormous technical challenges the OPCW is facing now and in the future – especially with regards to the risks and opportunities of new and emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, and their impact on the Organization’s mandate to uphold the global ban of chemical weapons.

The regular briefings by the SAB Chairperson and the comments by the Director-General to the SAB reports are very much appreciated. However, States Parties should be involved more closely in the work of the SAB. For example, they should have the opportunity to comment on and discuss the SAB reports, instead of simply taking note of them. Germany believes the discussion of the reports of the SAB should become a regular agenda item of subsequent meetings of the Executive Council. We consider this to be part and parcel of the functions of the Executive Council as defined in Art. VIII paras 31 and 35 CWC. This should be done without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Director-General as stipulated in Art. VIII para 45 CWC.

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