

*Embassy  
Of the People's Democratic  
Republic of Algeria  
The Hague*



سفارة  
الجمهورية الجزائرية  
الديمقراطية الشعبية  
بلاهاي

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Salima Abdelhak  
Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of  
Algeria to the OPCW**

**106<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council of the Organization for the  
Prohibition of Chemical Weapons  
9 – 12 July 2024**

**Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

I would like to reiterate my congratulation to H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the OPCW, for the chairmanship of our EC session. We are confident he will steer our deliberations to successful outcomes. He can count on my support as a vice Chair and on the support of my delegation.

I wish also to extend my gratitude to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his reports and his comprehensive statement and commend his commitment as well as the TS staff dedication in advancing and optimizing the implementation of CWC.

The Algerian delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Mirjam Blaak Sow, Permanent representative of Uganda to the OPCW, on behalf of the Member States of the NAM that are States Parties to the Convention and China, and with the statement of H.E. Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia, the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the OPCW, on behalf of the Africa Group.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Since the last EC, nothing has changed regarding the threats related to the reemergence of chemical weapons and their potential use by non-state actors. On the contrary, the persistence of conflicts nowadays reinforces our concerns and forecasts during the 5<sup>th</sup> review conference, making the directives we agreed upon increasingly relevant and essential for the international peace and security.

The universality of the CWC, compliance to its provisions, cooperation within it, and capacity building for its full implementation remain the core actions of our organization in advancing chemical disarmament and ensuring readiness to respond to any chemical attack or risk in this conjuncture.

We commend the TS for its efforts towards achieving universality, especially the progress made with South Sudan since Chemex Africa 2023 in Algiers. We encourage the same initiatives to be undertaken with other States outside of the CWC to ensure all States are bound by and accountable to the CWC.

This imperative is dictated especially by the ongoing tragedy in Palestine where aggression against civilians in flagrant breach of international law are perpetrated in defiance of International Community. It must absolutely be ended in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The risk of the use of Chemical weapons by a State non-party to CWC remaining reel, we recall Palestine's request for OPCW assistance in investigating this matter. We are confident in the TS efforts in monitoring the situation in Gaza

and in keeping contact with the different parties to ensure there will be no use of chemical weapons in Palestine.

**Mr Chairperson,**

The risk of chemical terrorism particularly through the potential use of chemical weapons by non-state actors, especially in zones of tension where they might be involved is aggravated by the rapid progress in science and technology, including artificial intelligence, which carries substantial potential to shape the development, deployment, and use of chemical weapons across various domains.

We commend the DG's initiative in launching discussions on artificial intelligence with experts, on the potential impacts of AI on the implementation of the CWC and its evolving challenges. Even though, AI is a subject that still holds many undiscovered aspects, the early stage discussion have the merit of confirming the forward-thinking nature of our organization, which has contributed to its success. Algeria will undoubtedly contribute to advance the discussion on this important matter within our Organization.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

As an advocate for international peace and security, Algeria supports the CWC as well as the other frameworks and mechanisms that constitute the architecture of international disarmament.

Last June, Algiers hosted the UN disarmament fellows under the UN disarmament fellowship programme of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). This has marked the first time in the programme's history that UNODA visited an African country, recognizing Algeria's active role in disarmament efforts.

During this visit, Algeria's efforts in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) were highlighted, alongside discussions on Algeria's broader role in advancing disarmament, particularly within Africa. Chemex Africa 2023 was presented as a successful OPCW Pan-African cooperation project and a notable achievement under the OPCW's Africa Programme.

I would also like to highlight the achievement this year of the Algerian National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the Gendarmerie Nationale (NICC/GN) in obtaining OPCW designated laboratory status following its successful participation in OPCW Proficiency tests. This accomplishment is significant not only for Algeria but also for the OPCW and the African region.

Actually, this designation contributes to the objective set forth by the OPCW 5th Review Conference of establishing at least one designated laboratory on each continent as Africa has nox one designated laboratory, the NICC/GN.

We express our gratitude to the Technical Secretariat and all our partners for their invaluable support in this endeavor. We acknowledge the role of the Government of Germany in the twinning project between NICC and WIS, which has been a successful tripartite cooperation project.

Committed to excellence, the NICC/GN remains dedicated to supporting the work of OPCW and stands ready to share its experience gained through this process.

Finally, I would like to kindly request our statement be circulated as an official document of this session and be published on the OPCW's external and public website.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**