



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

109th Session  
8 – 11 July 2025

EC-109/NAT.2  
4 June 2025  
ARABIC and ENGLISH only

**MAURITANIA**

**REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF A DOCUMENT  
AT THE 109TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the OPCW has requested that Note Verbale No. REC 233/2025/1446, addressed to the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OPCW, dated 4 June 2025, be circulated as an official document of the 109th Session of the Executive Council.

Annex: Note Verbale No. REC 233/2025/1446 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the OPCW, Dated 4 June 2025



**Annex**

**NOTE VERBALE NO. REC 233/2025/1446 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA TO THE OPCW  
DATED 4 JUNE 2025**

*Translation from Arabic*

[Emblem]

**The Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

Honour – Fraternity - Justice

**Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in Brussels**

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Brussels, 8 Dhul Hijjah 1446 (corresponding to 4 June 2025)

No. REC 233/2025/1446

**Note Verbale**

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW and to the Chairperson of the OPCW Executive Council. It has the honour to request the Executive Council to consider, at its 109<sup>th</sup> Session, the reports and assessments issued by third States Parties on the use of chemical weapons in the ongoing conflict in the Republic of Sudan, in order to help clarify the situation, pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 4 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania recalls that Article I, paragraph 1 stipulates that each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to acquire or use chemical weapons or engage in any military preparations to use these weapons. Also, paragraph 2 of the same article states that each State Party undertakes to destroy chemical weapons it owns or possesses, or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania expresses its grave concern over reports indicating the use of chemical weapons in the Republic of Sudan and recalls the concerns voiced by several States Parties in that regard during the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council. It also notes that the United States of America announced on 24 April 2025 that it had concluded that chemical weapons had been used in 2024.

The possession or use of chemical weapons in Sudan poses a serious threat to regional security and undermines the existing ban on such weapons in Africa. Moreover, the resulting humanitarian and security risks are extremely serious, particularly in the context of the ongoing conflict, where the presence of these weapons poses a catastrophic threat, including the risk of such weapons falling into the hands of other parties, such as terrorist groups. The humanitarian threat is further aggravated by the fact that none of the actors on the ground is qualified to handle such incidents amid a worsening humanitarian crisis. The risks for the entire region are grave and serious.

*Translation from Arabic*

Accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania requests answers to the following questions:

1. Have chemical weapons been used or deployed in the ongoing conflict in Sudan?
2. With reference to Press Release No. 50/25 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan on 29 May 2025, regarding the formation of a national committee, what rules and procedures will be adopted to ensure that the national committee's investigation into the allegations of chemical weapons use is fair, objective, transparent and expeditious? Considering the statement of the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its press release that it "does not believe" the allegations, how will the National Committee ensure that the investigation remains impartial and objective? What is the timeline for the investigation? Will the committee provide updates or progress reports? Have independent investigators been engaged or contracted, or have any other measures been taken to ensure independent verification of the findings?
3. Does the Republic of Sudan possess chemical weapons or is it aware of the presence of chemical weapons on its territory?

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania would be grateful if the Technical Secretariat would circulate a copy of this Note Verbale to all States Parties and post it on the OPCW Website and on Catalyst, as an official document addressed to the Executive Council at its 109<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the OPCW avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW and to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration and respect.

*[Seal of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in Brussels]*

N.B.: This Note replaces Note Verbale No. 233/2025/1446