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سفـارة الجزائر بـلاهـاي

Algeria

Statement by the Algerian Delegation to the 109th session of the Executive Council of the OPCW - Item 10, Emerging technologies The Hague, 10 July 2025

Mr. Chairperson,

The Algerian delegation follows with interest the discussions held withing the OPCW on the topic of emerging technologies and their place and impact on the endeavor of our organization.

We commend the Director-General for engaging discussions on this topic including within the Scientific Advisory through the temporary working group and encouraging research projects with the objective to play a key role in defining a clear path for exploring the potential of this technology and optimising its supporting role, while addressing its associated challenges within the framework of CWC. We look forward to the results of these discussions and initiatives.

In addition, we note the initiatives launched at national level or in collaboration with the OPCW including the recent capacity building workshop held in China aiming to reinforce the role of AI in safety and security management. Algeria reaffirms its commitment to contributing actively to these discussions and initiatives.

Our ultimate goal is to launch an in-depth work to explore how these new technologies including AI may offer opportunities to ease the work of OPCW in the implementation of the CWC, especially in some aspects such as the verification regime, the enhancement of safety and security, the management systems of chemical industry, or the analysis of documents related to ACW to mention few.

On the other hand we are aware it may hold the risks of facilitating the development, deployment, and use of chemical weapons by terrorist groups or non-state actors. It is necessary to consider how we can avoid or mitigate their risks and ensure at the same time, the responsible use of these technologies based on ethics and guarantee they will benefit all countries, especially those from the global south.

Maximising the safe use of AI needs to be addressed through a holistic approach and require the involvement of several stakeholders such as experts, industry representatives and researchers considering their role in different fields such as science, research, industrial and agriculture development and health.

We recall the proposal of the Algerian delegation to address the opportunities related to AI under ICA and article XI, which covers aspects related to international cooperation, economic and technological development while the AI risks may be considered under the working group on terrorism.

Thank you for your attention