



Republic of Armenia

National Statement

**Delivered by Mr. Arman Hovhannisyan,
Head of the Department of International Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Armenia at the 109th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW
Under Agenda Item 5 – General Debate
The Hague, 8-11 July 2025**

Mr. Chairperson,

Director-General,

Excellencies,

As this is the first time Armenia is taking the floor at the session of the Executive Council, at the outset, I would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Thomas Schieb, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), on assuming the chairmanship of the Executive Council. We would like to express our delegation's full support to the Chairperson in steering the work of the 109th Session of the Executive Council and beyond. We also extend our gratitude to the Director General for the detailed report and thank him and his staff for their tireless efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Chemical Weapons Convention stands as a remarkable achievement and a cornerstone of international efforts to promote disarmament and prevent the spread of dangerous weapons. As a committed State Party, Armenia reaffirms its strong dedication to the Convention's goals and the shared vision of a world free from chemical weapons.

Armenia has always supported the OPCW's mission with a constructive and principled approach, believing firmly that well-functioning treaties and international agreements are essential to maintaining security and stability at every level – global, regional, and national.

In this context, it is noteworthy to recall the hosting of a useful and constructive discussion of the Eastern European Group's (EEG) National authorities' meeting in Yerevan last month which was followed by an awareness raising workshop for the members of the National Authority of Armenia.

Since joining the Convention, Armenia has actively pushed for its universal adoption, seeing it as a vital step toward completely eliminating the threat posed by chemical weapons and related hazardous materials. While the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles was a major milestone for the OPCW and the international community, we must continue working together to prevent their recurrence and make this achievement irreversible. Universal adherence to the Convention remains a top priority.

We live in challenging times, with ongoing conflicts, political instability, and the risk of military escalations worldwide. In this context, Armenia believes it is even more crucial to preserve the impartial and depoliticized nature of international organizations. This is essential for their credibility and effectiveness.

Armenia stands firm in condemning any use or threat of chemical weapons—no matter where, when, or by whom. At the same time, we emphasize the importance of impartial investigations based strictly on the Convention's rules, ensuring that conclusions are evidence-based and fair.

We recognize Syria's efforts toward transparency and cooperation in closing the chemical weapons file and welcome progress on the nine-point Action Plan. We are hopeful that with continued support and verifiable advances, this issue can be resolved, allowing Syria to rebuild trust with the OPCW and the international community. To this end Armenia is ready to discuss the prospects for its possible assistance and means of engagement in the relevant activities of the OPCW on the ground.

Colleagues,

Looking ahead, Armenia is mindful of the rapid advances in artificial intelligence, especially its growing role in military technologies. We stress the urgent need for strong international regulations to ensure artificial intelligence (AI) is used responsibly, with due diligence to human rights and international humanitarian law. The risk that AI could accelerate the creation or misuse of toxic chemicals is real and growing. As a country developing its own

national AI strategy with a focus on ethics and security, Armenia is ready to help promote responsible AI use globally.

We also believe it's important to ensure fair geographic representation within international bodies like the OPCW to strengthen their legitimacy and build trust among all Member States.

Finally, we encourage greater cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry. The establishment of the ChemTech Center is a promising step forward, enhancing the OPCW's research and capacity-building efforts and fostering scientific collaboration with a broad range of partners.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, I want to reaffirm Armenia's readiness to take on a more active and responsible role within the Organization, contributing to these important goals.

I would kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document and be published on the official website and the Catalyst.

Thank you.