



## **STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND (CANZ) AT THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

### **AGENDA ITEM 21: ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)**

Thank you, Chair. I have the honour of addressing the Council today on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are committed to supporting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to achieve a world free of chemical weapons, including through the legitimate trade in scheduled chemicals, which promotes the peaceful uses of chemistry globally.

As permanent Chair of the Australia Group, Australia – together with Canada and New Zealand and other Australia Group participants - is supporting the CWC and strengthening global disarmament efforts through the harmonisation of national export controls on sensitive and dual-use items.

As the Australia Group prepares to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Sydney this month, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand will continue to work with other Australia Group participants to prevent the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons and enable legitimate trade in dual-use items for peaceful uses. The Australia Group's publicly available Common Control Lists and Guidelines have become the international standard for best practice in export controls.

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand also work to prevent the illegal trade in chemical weapons through our participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which helps provide states with the practical means of cooperating to prevent illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Over 110 states have endorsed the PSI Statement of Interdiction Principles, thereby further strengthening the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

This year, as President of the G7, Canada is leveraging its tenure as Chair of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP) to drive international cooperation across the WMD threat reduction spectrum. Together with all 31 GP members, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand will continue to counter persistent WMD threats, including chemical weapons and WMD-related disinformation, and promote concrete security improvements around the world through effective programming. Australia and New Zealand are also committed to supporting Pacific countries through capacity building, including on effective customs controls, and look forward to further workshops and initiatives.

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand look forward to continued collaboration with the OPCW and States Parties to ensure all countries continue to benefit from the peaceful uses of chemistry for generations to come.

Thank you, Chair.