

STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. ULF MELGAARD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE OPCW
AT THE 109th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 8-11 July 2025)

Agenda item 14: The OPCW Africa Programme

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The European Union would like to reiterate its commitment to fostering international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities. In the OPCW context, in a spirit of partnership, the EU has provided substantial voluntary contributions in support of the International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA) activities under the OPCW Africa Programme. This includes inter alia laboratory twinnings and a broad range of capacity building and training activities.

On 30 June 2025, the European Union participated in the 11th Steering Committee meetings of the OPCW Africa Programme in observer capacity. The Committee reviewed developments in the delivery of numerous programmatic activities of the sixth phase of the Africa Programme since November 2024. The EU welcomes the progress made in focus areas, such as CWC national implementation, enhancing protection and response capabilities against chemical emergencies as well as strengthening laboratory competences. Many of these activities were supported through voluntary contributions from the European Union and its Member States, such as the Laboratory Equipment Maintenance Course in Wroclaw, Poland in December 2024.

The extensive activities organised under the OPCW Africa Programme benefit from partnerships with international organisations and other partners as well as specialised national institutions. In this context, we encourage the continued collaboration, coordination and knowledge-sharing between the OPCW Africa Programme and the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence for maximising synergies. The EU CBRN initiative is the EU's largest civilian security programme, involving 63 countries in fostering regional and international cooperation and sharing best practices in addressing CBRN threats.

Concluding, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the sound management of the Africa Programme and keeping it adjusted to the evolving needs of the African region.

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