



IRELAND

Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ann Derwin,

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OPCW

At the One Hundredth and Ninth Session of the Executive Council

8-11 July 2025

Chairperson, Director-General, Distinguished delegates,

Ireland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

I will add the following in my national capacity.

I would like to begin by thanking H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador for his successful chairmanship of the Executive Council the past year and warmly congratulate, H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany for assuming this role, for which he has Ireland's full support.

Chairperson,

The change in the Syrian Arab Republic and renewed cooperation with the OPCW presents a critical opportunity to rid the world of chemical weapons. The reason for the lack of true cooperation from the Assad regime is now blatantly clear. For over a decade, the regime tried to hide its active chemical weapons programme by providing unreliable declarations and making accusations against others in this very room. Every obstruction and emerging issue on their file acted as indicators of the truth that we now know.

A new chapter in Syria's relationship with the Organisation is now before us and we commend the interim authorities for the commitment they have shown to advance the OPCW's mandate in Syria. Ireland underlines the importance of all chemical stockpiles and sites of relevance being preserved and protected, as well as ensuring the Technical Secretariat's access for verification purposes. An historic opportunity lies before the Organisation and while many challenges remain, Ireland has full confidence in the capabilities and expertise of the TS to navigate the emerging work with success. To this end, we welcome the

establishment of an Office of Special Missions and call on all States Parties to support the Organisation unconditionally at this critical juncture.

Chairperson,

Ireland is deeply concerned by the prevalent use of riot control agents on the battlefield in Ukraine as highlighted in the third report of a Technical Assistance Visit to Ukraine. The growing number of medical cases reported by Ukraine demonstrates the tangible harms resulting from Russia's disregard for the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The results of the three Technical Assistance Visits were not issued in a vacuum. Reports of Russia employing chemical weapons in Ukraine have only persisted and mounted over time, despite repeated calls for clarification from State Parties. Sadly, rather than address the evidence, Russia has chosen a path of propaganda and intensified obfuscation. The results of the TAV, however, cannot be denied nor ignored. We condemn any instance of chemical weapons use and urge the Secretariat to make a timely attribution of this serious treaty violation.

Chairperson,

The significance of the OPCW's work has never been clearer in the face of increased threats to the norm against the use of chemical weapons. It is vital that a close eye be maintained on conflict zones and that credible allegations be fully investigated no matter where they occur, whether that be in the State of Palestine, Sudan, or elsewhere. We also once again welcome the Director General's commitment to monitoring the situation in Gaza and to remaining vigilant of any developments in the Middle East regarding the use of chemical weapons.

Chairperson,

Incorporating a gender lens in the Technical Secretariat's work remains a priority for Ireland and we encourage gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the Organisation's work. We welcome the attention that has been paid to this issue and request to keep apprised of advancements to gender equality in the Organisation.

Chairperson,

To conclude, Ireland would like to express its full support for the work of the Technical Secretariat, under the effective leadership of Director General Arias. As States Parties, it is our obligation to seeing the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and for it to be posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.