

MALAYSIA: STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA AT THE 109TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. Chairperson,

Director-General Ambassador Arias,

Distinguished delegates,

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador for his exemplary leadership. We warmly welcome you, Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany, as Chair, and assure you of our full support. We also extend our thanks to the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their dedicated work.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the NAM States Parties and China. I would like to highlight several issues in Malaysia's national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

2. Malaysia remains actively engaged in capacity-building efforts in the area of emergency response. From 13 to 19 August 2025, Malaysia will host the 13th hands-on training of the Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise related to Assistance and Protection for Asian State Parties. This joint initiative with the OPCW aims to strengthen regional capabilities under Article X of the Convention.

3. In addition to collaborating with the OPCW, Malaysia advances South-South cooperation through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). Within this framework, we successfully convened the "Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospital (HOSPREP)" course from 18 to 24 June 2025. Launched in 2022 and backed by the National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) and other national stakeholders, the HOSPREP course has become a platform for strengthening regional medical-response capacities to chemical emergencies.

4. Furthermore, in partnership with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), Malaysia is honoured to host the 50th World Chemistry Congress in Kuala Lumpur from 14 to 19 July 2025. This global gathering of scientists will provide a platform for strengthening international scientific cooperation and promoting the peaceful application of chemistry in support of sustainable development, among others.

5. On the Syrian Arab Republic, we have reviewed the Director-General's latest report. My delegation takes note of the establishment of the Office of Special Missions to consolidate the Secretariat's activities in Syria. Outstanding issues need to be conclusively resolved so the Syrian chemical-weapons file can be closed in line with Convention requirements.

6. My delegation is gravely concerned by reports, including from United Nations entities, of the use of white phosphorus and other toxic chemicals by Israeli forces against civilians in Gaza and Lebanon. We echo the State of Palestine's request for the Technical Secretariat to monitor and investigate these allegations and keep the Council regularly informed. Israel, as a signatory to the Convention, must fully comply with its object and purpose.

7. With respect to the abandoned chemical weapons in China, my delegation notes the progress achieved and encourages the parties concerned to make further progress toward the complete and verified destruction of these weapons.

8. On the destruction of old chemical weapons, my delegation thanks the Permanent Representative of Germany and his team for graciously hosting the visit to the GEKA Destruction Facility and Dethlinger Pond site in Munster from 13 to 14 March 2025. The visit offered insights into Germany's ongoing efforts in OCW destruction.

9. On emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, my delegation looks forward to the forthcoming recommendations of the Temporary Working Group on AI as an input to our collective efforts to ensure the technology's peaceful use and to manage its risks. Consistent with Articles VI and XI, we advocate balanced discussions promoting innovation and access, alongside safeguards against proliferation. Malaysia also thanks China and the Technical Secretariat for co-organising the Workshop on AI and Chemical Safety and Security Management held in Shanghai (the Shanghai AI Workshop) from 17 to 20 June 2025, in which Malaysia participated. The workshop examined both the opportunities and the risks that AI presents for chemical safety and security management, as well as for non-proliferation.

10. In closing, Malaysia will continue collaborating constructively with all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat toward the full implementation of the Convention and achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Executive Council session and published on the OPCW website and external server.

Thank you.