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**PHILIPPINES: Statement by H.E. Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the OPCW, at the  
109th Session of the Executive Council under Agenda Item No. 5: General Debate  
8-11 July 2025**

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation welcomes H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. We assure you of our full support as you chair the EC session this week and as you perform your tasks as EC Chair for the rest of your term.

I also wish to convey my Delegation's full support for the work of the OPCW Technical Secretariat under the leadership of Director-General Fernando Arias and express appreciation for their dedication in performing their mandate under the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Philippines attaches great importance to the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the role of the OPCW and its Member States in fulfilling the Convention's mandate to end the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons; and to prevent their re-emergence; and, in so doing, make the world safe from the threat of chemical weapons.

In this respect, we are pleased to inform this Session that on 15 April this year, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. signed into law Republic Act No. 12174 also known as the Chemical Weapons Prohibition Act. This comprehensive national legislation fulfils the Philippines' international obligation as a State Party to the Convention. Its enactment marks the culmination of decades of effort, and the beginning of a more empowered, coordinated approach to implementing the Convention in our country.

Further, to demonstrate the Philippine growing desire to deepen its engagements with the OPCW by proactively engaging and supporting its programs and activities especially in international cooperation and assistance, the Philippines co-hosted with the OPCW a basic training course for Asian Member States' First Responders on Response to Incidents involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals held in Manila from 2 to 6 June this year.

The regional training not only imparted technical knowledge, but also strengthened regional capabilities and collective readiness in the face of chemical threats—whether from warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals.

We would like to thank the Technical Secretariat for partnering with us in this worthy endeavour and assures them of our steadfast support.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Philippines gives importance to the role of science and technology in the effective implementation of disarmament treaties including the Chemical Weapons Convention. We recognize the critical role of the Scientific Advisory Board in monitoring and assessing rapid developments in science and technology and their impact on the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Organisation.

To further affirm our support for the work of SAB, the Philippines made a voluntary contribution to the OPCW SAB Trust Fund which was officially turned over at the sidelines of its 39th Session on 1-4 April. We are also pleased to have hosted a welcome reception for the SAB Members and the SAB Secretariat at the Philippine Embassy during their week-long session.

We also commend the continuous efforts of the Technical Secretariat and its subsidiary bodies like the SAB to achieve gender balance within the Organisation. We acknowledge that for the first time in SAB's history both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are women, with Prof. Imee Su Martinez from the Philippines as Chair and Prof. Elisa Souza Orth from Brazil as Vice-Chair. We are also glad to know that the Chairpersons of both current temporary working groups of SAB, the TWG on Chemical Forensics and on Artificial Intelligence, are women.

Mr. Chairperson,

My Delegation welcomes the renewed cooperation and engagements between the Syrian government and the Technical Secretariat, and both parties' commitment and efforts to close once and for all Syria's chemical weapons dossier. This renewed cooperation presents a historic opportunity not only for the Technical Secretariat but for all Member States to collectively support this worthy endeavour of ridding Syria of chemical weapons and prevent its re-emergence thereby securing not only Syria but the whole region and the future generation.

I request that this statement be made an official document of the 109th Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW website.