

The 67th Meeting of Executive Council
Statement by H.E. Ambassador Seok-in Hong
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW

1 July 2025, The Hague

Mr. Chair,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank the Chairperson Ambassador Thomas Schieb and Director-General Fernando Arias for convening the 67th Meeting of Executive Council.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the recent ceasefire between Israel and Iran, and hopes that all sides will faithfully implement the agreement, leading to a swift de-escalation of tensions in the region.

At the same time, the Republic of Korea expresses deep concern over recent developments in the Middle East, including reports of attacks targeting a chemical-related facility. We emphasize that the safety and security of chemical facilities must be ensured in line with the CWC. In this regard, diplomatic engagement and the restoration of dialogue are essential for preventing further recurrence and securing a durable resolution.

We also reiterate that the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons can never be justified under any circumstances. The use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone cannot be accepted.

The Republic of Korea underscores the importance of the Convention's universality. The global norm against chemical weapons is strongest when all States are part of the regime. We therefore continue to urge the four remaining States not Party to join the Convention as early as possible without any preconditions, and to fully align their actions with the principles it embodies.

Thank you. /The END/