

State of Palestine

**Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine to the
International Organizations based in The Hague**



STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AMMAR HIJAZI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE TO THE OPCW, AT THE 109th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

The Hague, 8-11 July 2025)

Chairperson,

Excellences and Distinguished delegates

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Uganda, in her capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, States Parties to the CWC.

Chairperson,

Allow me to start by reiterating The State of Palestine's principled commitment to the achievement of general and complete disarmament of all chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction as well as the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

We wish to draw urgent attention once again to the grave developments unfolding in occupied Palestine, particularly in the context of the ongoing genocidal aggression conducted by the Israel, the occupying power. In addition to Gaza, where Israel illegally used white phosphorous against civilians as we have reported earlier, this aggression is spreading across the occupied West Bank, and has been marked by the use of Riot Control Agents as a method of warfare, which in turn deem them Chemical weapons. As we have warned in our previous communications and interventions, Israeli occupation forces use riot control agents as a method of warfare, often deployed in the course of their armed invasions and attacks on densely populated civilian areas and refugee camps. The use of RCA's in the course of Israeli military aggression, including inside homes, schools, and medical facilities causes widespread harm and is in violation of international law, including IHL, and the Chemical Weapons Convention and other related treaties.

That is why, Palestine renews its urgent call on the Council and Technical Secretariat, in line with the request submitted in November 2023, to fulfill their mandate and to enact measures under the Convention, as necessary, to monitor and investigate incidents where clear violations of the Convention such as those we have just outlined, have taken place.

A technical assistance visit is urgently required. Palestine submitted its request for the visit nearly two years ago, in line with Article VIII, paragraph 38(e) of the Chemical Weapons Convention. While we appreciate the launch of technical training by the Secretariat, this must not get in the way of taking urgently needed action that cannot and must not wait for bridging the capacity gap that may exist at the national level.

Chairperson,

The international community, especially institutions entrusted with the application of international law, cannot afford to allow impunity to prevail under any context. This is not an intellectual exercise – it is a fundamental necessity for international peace and security and protecting humanity. Ensuring compliance with international legal frameworks is not a luxury.

- *We request that this statement be adopted as an official document of this conference and published on the Organization's public website and Catalyst platform.*

Thank you, Chairperson