

*Check against delivery*



**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA DELIVERED BY  
MS. ROHIE BITTAYE DARBOE, PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, THE GAMBIA  
AT THE  
30<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**THE HAGUE, KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS  
24 – 28 NOVEMBER 2025**

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Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be part of this meeting, the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of State Parties of the OPCW, and I bring warm fraternal greetings to you from the Government and People of the Republic of The Gambia.

The Gambia joins other States Parties in expressing gratitude to the Chairperson of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his remarkable efforts, commitment and leadership as Chairperson.

My delegation welcomes Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador as the Chairperson of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties and assures

him of our support in guiding the deliberations of the plenary towards a successful conclusion.

The Gambia fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) by the Coordinator of the Group Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela of the Republic of South Africa.

The Gambia also fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the CWC and China by the Delegation of the Republic of Uganda to the OPCW, in its Capacity as the Chairperson.

My Delegation took note of the Opening Statement delivered by the Director General, His Excellency Fernando Arias, and recognised his commitment and that of the entire Technical Secretariat in steering the activities of our organisation, as well as their dedication to the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We recognise his commitment to disarmament during his tenure.

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

The Gambia attaches great importance to international peace and security, and is committed to continuing to associate itself with the principles of the Convention, an important tool in the protection of civilians during and after conflicts involving use of chemicals weapons, recognizing that the OPCW Secretariat's works towards consolidating respect for human life, human dignity, and human rights to promote peace, security, and stability in our respective countries and the world at large. In this spirit, we remain fully committed to the effective implementation of the Convention and its domestication. My delegation continues to actively support the objectives of the CWC, thus contributing to global efforts to ensure a world that is safe and free from chemical weapons and their precursors. Amid the increasing threat to global peace and security, we encourage all States Parties to renew their commitment to the promotion of peaceful uses of Chemistry to avoid the reemergence and proliferation of Chemical Weapons. Considering the increasingly complex challenges related to Emerging Technologies and the devastating risks they pose, our collective commitment as State Parties is crucial in empowering the Technical Secretariat to utilize these technologies to execute its mandate and achieve its objectives.

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

The Gambia complies with the provisions of the Convention and is ready to work closely with other countries in the region to share experiences and best practices to effectively implement the Convention. The Gambia understands the importance of putting institutional arrangements in place, having the relevant institutions working together to enhance our national mechanisms, including sectoral collaboration, and legislative approaches; to promote transparency in the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, we acknowledge the strides made under the Africa Program. My delegation appreciates the support provided to the Africa Program through voluntary contributions, acknowledges the progress made under the program and looks forward to the launch of the 7<sup>th</sup> Phase. The Gambia calls for continuous support for the implementation of such an important program by fully funding it under the regular budget of the OPCW.

My delegation is pleased to inform this conference that we continue to enhance national coordination, improving stakeholder awareness and understanding of the Convention to ensure full implementation. The Gambia has benefited from numerous training programs aimed at enhancing national capacity in chemical safety and security. These programs have covered a wide range of areas, including analytical skills and methods for chemical and contaminated site analysis development using modern equipment, assistance and protection measures.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, The Gambia acknowledges the efforts made in achieving equitable Geographical Representation and Gender Balance, and the Tenure Policy and notes that there is still room for improvement. My delegation is convinced that the Conference would uphold the recommendation of the Executive Council to appoint Her Excellency Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter of Switzerland as the next Director General of the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be published on the public website of the OPCW and the catalyst as an official document of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Thank you for your kind attention.