

## Statement by Iceland

30th Session of the Conference of the States Parties

The Hague, 24-28 November 2025

Ms. Adalheidur Inga Thorsteinsdottir

Permanent Representative of Iceland to the OPCW

Chairperson,

Director-General,

Distinguished delegates,

First, I wish to congratulate Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador on his election as the Chairperson of the 30th Conference of States Parties. Iceland similarly pays tribute to the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Let me also use this opportunity to express gratitude to Director-General Fernando Arias for exemplary leadership throughout his tenure and warmly congratulate Ambassador Sabrina Dallafor Matter on her appointment as the next Director-General. We welcome the fact that this highly qualified candidate will be the first woman to lead the Organisation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Iceland reaffirms its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and underlines the importance of its full and effective implementation. Those who violate the Convention must be held to account.

As Russia's unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continues into its fourth year, we reiterate our condemnation of Russian use of riot control agents as a method of warfare, explicitly prohibited by the Convention. We are also seriously concerned by credible reports of Russia's use of the choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian soldiers.

The presence of the riot control agent CS in samples from the battlefield in Ukraine has now been confirmed in three OPCW Technical Assistance Visit reports. Russia has failed to provide any plausible explanation in relation to these verified findings, as required under Article IX of the Convention, and has instead engaged in a campaign of disinformation. We call for the timely attribution of responsibility for this breach of the Convention. Iceland once again condemns Russia's war of aggression in the strongest terms, and we reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

We express concern over allegations of chemical weapons use in Sudan, and we note the request of the State of Palestine that the Technical Secretariat investigate alleged violations of the Convention by Israel.

On Syria, the importance of the full and verified elimination of the remnants of the Assad regime's chemical weapons programme cannot be overstated. Iceland welcomes the commitment of the Syrian transitional authorities to cooperate fully with the Organisation, as well as the deployments to Syria by the Technical Secretariat and the establishment of the Office of Special Missions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Iceland commends the Technical Secretariat for its efforts to keep pace with emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and to assess their implications for the implementation of the Convention.

Iceland welcomes the meaningful steps taken by the Director-General and the Secretariat to promote gender equality and equitable geographic representation within the Organisation. We continue to encourage efforts to ensure that the Organisation reflects the diversity of its Member States, thus making it stronger.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of the 30th Session of the Conference of States Parties and post it on the OPCW public website and Catalyst.