

AMBAXXATA
TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA



EMBASSY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

THE HAGUE

[read out verbatim]

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Malta extends its gratitude to H.E. Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Herzegovina for his excellent contribution in guiding State Parties as the Chair of the 29th Conference and has the pleasure to join other delegations to warmly welcome H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador as the Chairperson of the 30th Conference of States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

Malta's engagement within the OPCW is guided by the Chemical Weapons Convention. Despite several threats which continue to undermine our collective efforts in establishing a world free from chemical weapons, Malta is encouraged by certain positive signs being conveyed by the Syrian transitional authorities which could possibly reflect a renewed commitment to engage constructively within the OPCW.

On several occasions, we have taken note of the urgency expressed by the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat to effectively address the significant operational challenges for verification and destruction activities in Syria. In this regard, we have taken note of the letter sent by the Director General on 6 November 2025, wherein a Needs and Gaps Assessment was presented.

We note with satisfaction that this assessment echoes and aligns with the non-paper which Malta circulated on the margins of the 109th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW. On this occasion I also had the opportunity to deliver a national statement under agenda item 6 (c) to highlight the main objectives of Malta's non-paper. In essence Malta's proposal addresses the gaps which have been identified by envisaging capacity building in developing a Syrian Explosive Ordnance Disposal Capacity through in-kind contributions. Malta reiterates that EOD clearance operations are the Main Effort of whole operation – and this implies that the OPCW TS would only be able to safely carry out their inspections as long as these sites earmarked for inspection are EOD cleared beforehand.

Malta acknowledges that while not all state parties have the capacity to offer the same level of contributions, in light of the urgency which the Director General and the Technical Secretariat have reiterated on numerous occasions, it is crucial to create an enabling environment through which state parties with different capacities will be enabled to provide valuable contributions. We sincerely believe that should initiatives to coordinate such efforts be implemented, several State Parties will be willing to provide in-kind contributions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Going forward, as already outlined in the statement delivered on behalf of the EU several threats and challenges continue to undermine our collective efforts. Despite the challenges that lie ahead, Malta is confident that through the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter as the next Director-General, state parties have endorsed the nomination of a candidate which encapsulates the necessary leadership skills, professionalism and attributes to lead the organisation forward. Malta is also pleased to note that for the very first time the OPCW is going to be led by a woman.

I would like to take this occasion to congratulate Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter on her success and to assure you of Malta's full support towards the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Thank you