

**PHILIPPINES: Statement by H.E. Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the OPCW,
at the 30th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the
Chemical Weapons Convention under Agenda Item No. 8 – General Debate
24-28 November 2025**

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

My Delegation wishes to join other States Parties in congratulating Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador on his election as Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are confident of His Excellency's leadership in steering this Session to a successful conclusion.

My Delegation also lauds the dedication and hard work of the Technical Secretariat, headed by Director-General Fernando Arias, and reiterates our confidence in their expertise and professionalism. The Technical Secretariat can count on the Philippines' continued support.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year, the Philippines further affirmed its commitment to the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention as it strengthened and increased its engagements with the Organisation, and supported activities and priorities of the Technical Secretariat.

First, on 15 April, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. signed into law Republic Act No. 12174 also known as the Chemical Weapons Prohibition Act. This comprehensive national implementing legislation fulfills the country's obligation under Article VII of the Convention and elevated the Philippines from the previously 'partially compliant' category to 'fully compliant'. Its enactment marks the culmination of decades of effort, and the beginning of a more empowered, coordinated approach to implementing the Convention in our country.

The Philippines will be sending a representative to the Regional Conference on Advancing CWC Implementing Legislation in Asia, in Sri Lanka this December and will deliver a presentation on its experience in developing and adopting a CWC national implementing legislation to Asian States Parties that have yet to adopt a comprehensive legislation.

Second, the Philippines recognizes the critical role of the Scientific Advisory Board in monitoring and assessing rapid developments in science and technology and their impact on the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Organisation. The Philippines is thus proud that a Filipino, Dr. Imee Su Martinez, SAB Chair, is at the forefront of this worthy endeavor.

In this respect, last April, the Philippines made a modest contribution to the OPCW SAB Trust Fund to further affirm our support for the work of the Board.

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Third, on 2-6 June in Manila, the Philippines co-hosted with the OPCW a basic training course for Asian Member States' First Responders on Response to Incidents involving Chemical Warfare Agents and Toxic Industrial Chemicals, attended by some 30 participants from within the country and across the Asian region. The regional training not only imparted technical knowledge, but also strengthened regional capabilities and collective readiness in the face of chemical threats — whether from warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals.

The Philippines continues to benefit from OPCW capacity-building programmes, including the annual Associate Program in which the Philippines has consistently participated in the past years. Around 40 Filipinos from various Philippine government agencies, the academe and the chemical industry also participated in various OPCW capacity-building activities for the past two years alone. The expertise that the OPCW has generously shared with the Philippines supports the government's efforts in ensuring that not only can the Philippines take prompt action and provide effective assistance during an actual instance of a chemical terrorist attack, but also build valuable capability to deter such acts.

Further, we reiterate our country's keenness to have an OPCW-designated laboratory, and would welcome assistance from States Parties with designated laboratories to pursue partnerships under the OPCW's Laboratory Twinning Initiative.

Mr. Chairperson,

My Delegation also welcomes the renewed cooperation and engagements between the Syrian government and the Technical Secretariat, and both parties' commitment and efforts to close once and for all Syria's chemical weapons dossier. This renewed cooperation presents a historic opportunity not only for the Technical Secretariat but for all Member States to collectively support this worthy endeavor of ridding Syria of chemical weapons and prevent its re-emergence thereby securing not only Syria but the whole region and the future generation.

The Philippines thus co-sponsored during the 110th Session of the Executive Council the adopted decision 'Expedited On-Site Destruction of Any Remnants of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic'; and supports the call of the Director General and other States Parties to assist Syria and the Technical Secretariat in their mandated activities pertaining to the Syrian chemical weapons dossier.

Mr. Chairperson,

My Delegation warmly welcomes the recommendation by consensus of the Executive Council for the appointment of the Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter as the next Director General of the OPCW. We convey our best wishes to Ambassador Matter, and look forward to working closely with her after her appointment by the CSP and her assumption of duty in 2026.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the face of increased threats to humanity from too many destructive and disruptive weapons in existence, the work of the Organisation remains as relevant as ever.

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The Philippines has full faith in the letter and spirit of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its implementation, and it is also our responsibility as States Parties to the Convention to end the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons; and to prevent their re-emergence; and, in so doing, make the world a safer place for us and the future generation.

I request that this statement be made an official document of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted in the OPCW website.