

PHILIPPINES: Statement on Behalf of the Asia Group Delivered by the Coordinator of the Group 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. 23: Appointment of the Director General

The Members of the Asia Group convey warm congratulations to Her Excellency Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter on her appointment as the next Director General of the OPCW. The Asia Group highly values the spirit of consensus and unity, and thus we deeply appreciate the efforts of the Executive Council headed by Ambassador Thomas Schieb that led to a consensual recommendation to the Conference on the appointment of Ambassador Matter.

We commend the other ten equally outstanding and experienced candidates who helped maintain the unity of the States Parties in this esteemed Conference.

The Asia Group also welcomes and is pleased to note that Ambassador Matter will be the first female Director General of the OPCW, which makes it all the more significant as the Organisation continues to advance gender balance and inclusivity in the OPCW.

With Ambassador Matter's expertise in arms control and disarmament and extensive diplomatic experience, the Asia Group is confident that the Organisation's management is in good hands. The Asia Group is ready to closely engage the incoming Director General and, as always, is ready to support Ambassador Matter as she assumes office in July next year.

The Asia Group likewise extends its profound gratitude and warm congratulations to H.E. Director General Fernando Arias for effectively leading the Technical Secretariat and the Organisation towards the successful fulfillment of its mandate for the past seven years.

Thank you Mr. Chair.