

***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. 8: General Debate***

**Expansion of Representation in the OPCW Executive Council**

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished members, and esteemed colleagues,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Group, which comprises 56 Member States of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Our shared commitment to a world free from the threat of chemical weapons drives our aspiration for inclusive and balanced representation. We believe that the current composition of the Executive Council does not reflect the geographical balance.

Mr. Chair,

When the OPCW was established, the Executive Council was created based on the membership distribution at that time. Since then, the Organisation has grown significantly, now encompassing 193 member states - a testament to the global consensus on the importance of chemical disarmament. The Asia Group, in particular, has seen its membership expanded to 56 member states. I draw the Conference's attention to the fact that the composition of the Executive Council has remained unchanged since its inception:

- **The Asia Group**, with 56 member states, has 9 seats.
- **The African Group** has 52 member states and 9 seats.
- **The Eastern European Group (EEG)** consists of 23 member states has 5 seats.
- **The Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)**, with 33 member states, has 7 seats.
- **The Western European and Other States Group (WEOG)**, with 29 member states, has 10 seats.

Additionally, there is one rotating seat shared between the Asia Group, and GRULAC.

Mr. Chair, the drafters of the Chemical Weapons Convention anticipated scenarios like the one we face today. I would like to draw the kind attention of the esteemed Conference to Article VIII, Paragraph 25 of the CWC which reads as under:

*“After the full implementation of Articles IV and V the Conference may, upon the request of a majority of the members of the Executive Council, review the composition of the Executive Council taking into account developments related to the principles specified in paragraph 23 that are governing its composition.”*

Mr. Chair,

While we need to be mindful of the aforementioned Articles, we believe that it is useful to start preparing for a review of the composition of the Executive Council to reflect the current membership of the Organisation more accurately. Such an adjustment would not only ensure fairer regional representation but also enhances the OPCW's governance structure, fostering inclusivity and equity in its decision-making process.

We look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with all regional groups to support a resolution that aligns with the OPCW's founding principles and goals.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.