

**Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Ramatoulaye BA FAYE,
Permanent Representative of Senegal to the OPCW,
under Agenda Item 19 on the OPCW Africa Programme
Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
to the Chemical Weapons Convention
The Hague, 24–27 November 2025**

Mr. Chairperson,

Senegal fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the Coordinator of the African Group, Her Excellency Ambassador Madelaine Ondoua of the Republic of Cameroon. Allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation expresses its deep appreciation to the Director-General for his report on the implementation of the Africa Programme, as well as for the continued efforts of the Technical Secretariat to strengthen African capacities in the spirit of Articles X and XI of the Convention.

Senegal welcomes the progress achieved during the sixth phase of the Africa Programme (2023–2025), whose implementation has broadened the scope of cooperation with States Parties across the continent. More than fifty capacity-building activities have benefited around forty African States, reflecting the vitality of a programme that has become a structuring component of the OPCW's work in the field.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the consolidation of achievements in key areas:

- national implementation of the Convention, through the adoption by several States of legislation covering all initial measures;
- strengthened controls over cross-border transfers of chemicals;
- enhanced capacities for assistance and protection against chemical incidents;
- the growing culture of chemical safety and security;
- and the strengthening of African analytical laboratories with a view to OPCW designation.

Senegal particularly welcomes several structuring initiatives undertaken during this phase, including:

- the CHEMEX Africa exercise in Algiers, co-organized with the Government of Algeria and funded by Canada, which enabled thirty-three African States to test their joint response capacities to chemical emergencies;
- the deployment of the Online Self-Assessment Tool (OSAT) for the benefit of SADC Member States, facilitating the development of national and regional protection plans;
- as well as the continued twinning of laboratories between African and European institutions.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country notes with interest the development of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, which now constitutes a central pillar for strengthening African expertise in peaceful chemistry, safety, and hands-on training. We appreciate the regular access granted to African experts and the full use of the Centre in support of the continent.

My delegation also wishes to commend the revitalized cooperation between the OPCW and the African Union Commission. We believe that this institutional partnership is crucial to promoting the universal domestication of the Convention, preventing chemical terrorism, and advancing the peaceful uses of chemistry in Africa.

My delegation further underscores the importance, for the next phase of the Africa Programme, of adopting a more structured approach to monitoring and evaluating impact. Senegal welcomes the inclusive consultations conducted in 2025, which made it possible to update performance indicators, refine programmatic activities, and integrate emerging technologies into capacity-building offerings. We believe that a results-oriented approach—supported by targeted evaluation mechanisms and by the integration of the Africa Programme into the work plan of the ICA Division—will strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of the seventh phase. Senegal will fully support this effort.

Mr. Chairperson,

Senegal reiterates its steadfast commitment to strengthening cooperation between the OPCW and the African continent. It welcomes the active participation of African States Parties in the Programme's Steering Committee and calls for the continued mobilization of both regular and extrabudgetary funding to ensure the sustainability of its achievements.

My country remains convinced that the Africa Programme constitutes an exemplary instrument of cooperation, combining security, development, and knowledge transfer in full accordance with the spirit of the Convention. Senegal will continue to contribute actively, including through experience-sharing and advocacy for stronger integration of Africa into the OPCW's global priorities.

I request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I thank you for your kind attention.