

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FATMA CEREN YAZGAN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
TO THE OPCW AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Agenda item 8 – General debate

Mr. Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

We congratulate and welcome H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador, my good friend and seasoned diplomat, as the Chairperson of this Conference and assure him of our full support. We also congratulate H.E. Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter for her appointment as the next Director-General, the first female to hold this position. We also thank the members of the Technical Secretariat for their hard work.

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye remains strongly committed to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and continues to support the OPCW activities.

Marking the 100th anniversary of the Geneva Protocol, we must uphold the global norm against the use of chemical weapons and strive for the universalization of the Convention, as a strong pillar of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. We welcome the

participation of South Sudan in this Conference and encourage others to follow suit.

Impunity for violation of the Convention is equal to undermining the Convention itself. I would like to commemorate all victims of chemical warfare. The memory of 2013 Ghouta attacks—the largest chemical weapon attack in the modern age, still haunts us.

Full and impartial implementation of the Convention as well as ensuring the effectiveness of the Organization and preserving the existing system are responsibilities of all States Parties regardless of where states stand on the power scale. Threats from actors outside the CWC towards international law and peace should also be addressed within this framework.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the new Syrian government's ongoing cooperation with the Secretariat and its commitment to ensure the verified destruction of any remnants of the Assad-era chemical weapons and related material which Syrians have been victims of. Given the urgency, we are pleased that the Executive Council passed a decision in October for the expedited on-site destruction. We thank the Qatari delegation for their efforts in that regard.

Syria at this stage lacks the capacity as well as the means and capability to carry out the task alone. Türkiye is ready to contribute to the training of Syrian experts and capacity-building efforts and will continue to actively engage in facilitating the work on the ground.

We also welcome Syria's establishment of a new National Authority and its appointment of a Permanent Representative to the OPCW. Additionally, we believe it is time to restore Syria's rights and privileges and call on the States Parties to favorably consider this issue.

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye played a key role in Gaza peace deal and will continue to support efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. We call on the Secretariat to continue to monitor the situation in occupied Palestine where Israel is allegedly using chemical agents that are against the norms and principles of the CWC.

In this context, we support Palestine's request from the Secretariat for a technical assistance visit. We also take note of Palestine's view that this cannot wait until bridging the capacity gap.

Mr. Chair,

Definitely not the least, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, and a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, where young lives can be spared.

Türkiye will continue to actively support the work of the Organisation, including with its OPCW designated laboratory and we are glad to contribute to the Scientific Advisory Board with a member from Türkiye. We also support the draft decision on Biennium Programme and Budget for 2026-2027. We hope the OPCW will be fully funded to deliver its core mandate.