



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND (CANZ) AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

AGENDA SUBITEM 9(C): IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS ON DESTRUCTION-RELATED ISSUES

Thank you, Chair. I have the honour of addressing the Conference today on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Chair, last year at the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties, we faced a markedly different situation in Syria – one characterised by more than a decade of deliberate and persistent obstruction and obfuscation under the Assad regime. The collapse of that regime in December 2024 has precipitated a monumental shift in Syria’s political and diplomatic landscape, and with it has come a new and positive dynamic within this Organisation.

The 30th Conference of States Parties presents a timely opportunity to reflect on this remarkable transformation. Where there was once brazen contravention of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), we now see a new commitment to transparency and genuine cooperation. Where the prospects of progress and success were once dim, there is now real momentum.

As States Parties, we must build upon this momentum, so that together we may eliminate chemical weapons and their precursors in Syria once and for all. A failure to act decisively will heighten the very real risk of proliferation, with grave consequences for our collective peace, stability and prosperity.

In that context, CANZ values the work undertaken since the last meeting of this Conference in identifying and inspecting remnant chemical weapons in Syria, and for preparations to verify their destruction. We value the high-quality, impartial work of the Technical Secretariat, including in its many deployments to Syria this year despite an extraordinarily challenging operating environment. We welcome also the creation of the Special Fund for Syria in the 2026-2027 Biennium Programme and Budget.

CANZ was pleased to co-sponsor the decision enabling the expedited on-site destruction of remnant chemical weapons in Syria in specific situations, which was adopted by consensus at the last meeting of the Executive Council. The decision represents a meaningful step forward. It contributes to the broader effort to empower Syria and the Technical Secretariat – through the Office for Special Missions and its mandates – to work together to locate, declare, and verifiably and irreversibly destroy any remaining chemical weapons, while also allowing for the collection and preservation of evidence necessary for attribution and eventual accountability for chemical weapons use.

However, there is more work to be done. We call on all States Parties to reaffirm their commitment and strengthen their cooperation to enable the full and irreversible elimination of chemical weapons in Syria. This includes providing sufficient resources to the Technical Secretariat to fulfil its clear mandate in Syria.

Chair, CANZ reiterates its enduring support for the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Chemical weapons are inhumane and threaten all our livelihoods. We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and full compliance with the Convention, including in Syria, to support global peace, stability and prosperity.

Thank you, Chair.