

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT
BY
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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
ETHIOPIA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS (OPCW)
AT
THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**24 - 28 NOVEMBER 2025
THE HAGUE**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies Heads of Delegation,
Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues from the Secretariat,

I would like to begin my remarks by extend sincere felicitation of the Delegation of Ethiopia to you H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Permanent Representative of the Republic El- Salvador to the OPCW, on your election as chairperson of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of States Parties. Ethiopia is confident that under your capable leadership the OPCW will make encouraging strides. I also express my delegation's appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson of the Twenty-Ninth Sessions of the Conference of State Parties, H.E. Ambassador Almir Sahovic, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina to OPCW for his dedicated efforts during the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of State Parties.

I congratulate Her Excellency ***Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter*** as recommended by the Executive Council's 110th Session as the incoming Director General of the OPCW to assume her duty in July 2026. Ethiopia is pleased to acknowledge, for the first time, the OPCW- DG will become a female.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia associates itself with the Statements of the African States Parties, as well as that of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement to the Convention and China, which were delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela of the Republic of South Africa and Her Excellency Ambassador Mirjam Blaak Sow of the Republic of Uganda respectively. We thank H.E. the Director- General of OPCW Ambassador Fernando ARIAS, for his comprehensive report and appreciation also goes to the Technical Secretariat for their continued briefings and updates on the work done towards the elimination, prevention from reemergence of Chemical Weapons and the threat they are pausing.

Excellencies,

The principles and virtues that inspired Ethiopia to sign the Convention are true today, as they were when it ratified the Treaty twenty-nine years ago. As a nation that had been

victim of chemical weapons by Fascist in the 1930s, Ethiopia strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by either state or non-state actors. Their use by non-state actors is not a far-off statement. Chemical Weapons attack constitutes a serious violation of international law and a dangerous threat to peace and security in the world.

Ethiopia as a strong promoter of multilateralism and adherent to international law, supports effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention for realization of their objective. We, therefore, consider this Conference as the appropriate forum for sustained global cooperation in reducing threat of chemical weapons. In the meantime, promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry, the enhancement of chemical security and safety are important. The advantages and difficulties presented by recent technologies including the AI need careful management. Ethiopia believes, this Conference pays attention to supports needed for national capacities in the prevention, preparedness, and response against misuse of toxic chemicals.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation welcomes the ongoing symbolic support instituted by the Secretariat to develop capacity of National Authorities for effective implementation of the Convention in the context of the national application frameworks. Ethiopia has implemented major provisions of the Convention and has been submitting its annual national declarations. We would like to emphasize the importance of promoting international cooperation among State Parties. This can be in the form of transfer of appropriate technologies and equipment for peaceful uses in the field of chemistry. We in Ethiopia, highly value efforts of the OPCW to strengthen support in capacity building for Africa. The progress made and the projects put in place in African countries all through the sixth phases of the Program are most welcome. We do not expect less commitment under the seventh phase of ***the Africa Program***. Ensuring sustainability of finance to this Program is crucial. Accordingly, Ethiopia strongly supports funding of future phases of the Program from the regular budget of the OPCW.

We commend the Director General and Secretariat of the OPCW for their support in organizing the regional training program held in Gaborone, Botswana from 7 to 9 October 2025 to enhance national capabilities in chemical weapons prevention, safety, and security. The enhancement of practical knowledge and skills in areas such as chemical

detection, emergency response, and safe handling of hazardous substances have been especially useful.

Ethiopia Recognizes the continuing efforts of promoting gender equity within the OPCW structure and call for enhanced cooperation to promote the role of women and girls in the peaceful use of chemistry. We look forward to the continuation of efforts to ensure gender and geographical balance in the secretariat.

Excellencies, delegates,

It remains essential, objectives of enhancing the security of States parties, as well as international peace without chemical weapons are achieved. For that to happen, we call upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and adhere to its words and spirits.

As I conclude let me emphasize the importance of the concept of consensus, which is critical for smooth conduct of business in our organization. This of course confirms the unique character of the OPCW as a technical organization. Under circumstances that consensus might not be possible; we encourage the Technical Secretariat and all States parties to strictly apply relevant provisions of the rules of procedure established for conduct of voting, election, and other businesses of the organization.

Finally, we would like to request the Secretariat that this statement be recorded as an official document of this Conference.

I thank you for your attention,