



Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

State of Israel

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Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Nadav Eshcar

General Debate

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Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director General,

At the outset, please allow us to congratulate H.E Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador, on assuming the position of Chairperson. Our delegation assures you of our full cooperation. This is also an opportunity to thank Director General Arias for his leadership of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and to wish him – as this will be his last CSP before his tenure concludes - much success in his future endeavors. We would also like to congratulate Amb. Sabrina Dallafior Matter for her nomination and wish her every success.

Chair,

Israel actively participated in the negotiations and signed the CWC in 1993. Israel shares the values, norms and goals that the Convention represents and promotes. It is also important to note that Israel is party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, adheres to export control regimes, including the Australia Group, and traditionally – this year included - supports the United Nations General Assembly CWC First Committee resolution.

Since its establishment, the Chemical Weapons Convention has achieved a great deal in promoting values and creating verifiable norms to ensure the security and wellbeing of the international community as a whole. The OPCW has always been pivotal in promoting awareness, transparency, education and capacity building in various forms and areas. With the challenges of our time, and the diverse risks and opportunities around us, its work remains vital. As a signatory to the CWC, Israel values and supports the work of the organization.

Chair,

History has taught us that prohibition, compliance and verification are all essential in order to safeguard the norm against the use of chemical weapons. As recent events in the world prove, protecting the erosion of this norm is as important as ever. Clearly, certain rogue actors – member states as well as non-state entities - have blatantly put this vital norm in jeopardy, and the international community must step up to this challenge with no delay. Past uses of chemical weapons underscore the importance of supporting the critical work of the OPCW and its mechanisms.

Unfortunately, the Middle East, as a region entangled in a systematic culture of non-compliance and instability, leaves its inhabitants exposed to the risk of such use by malicious actors.

Chair,

On October 7th, 2023, Israel suffered one of the most brutal terrorist attacks in the history of mankind. On this day, the terrorist organization Hamas, massacred 1,200 people, among them babies, children, women and the elderly, and kidnapped hundreds more into its terror tunnels in Gaza. Hamas' terrorists infiltrated into Israel seeking to inflict as much pain and death as possible and with an aim to use any weapon at their disposal. In that regard, we should note that evidence found on bodies of Hamas terrorists, contained detailed instructions on creating chemical weapons. Some ready-to-use bottles of poison were found as well.

The October 7th massacre was not a random attack, but rather a calculated and meticulously planned, act of war by Hamas, a terrorist group which is armed, financed and backed by the Islamic Republic of Iran – a country which is a member of this forum yet seeks to spread chaos in the Middle East by using proxies:

Iran arms and trains Hezbollah, a terrorist group that unprovokedly launched a war against Israel from Lebanon on October 8th, 2023. It trains and supports the Houthis in Yemen that continuously launched missiles and UAVs at vessels in the Indian Ocean, as well as against Israel. It instructs and arms the Shi'ite Militias in Iraq that had conducted attacks against Israel and other countries in the region, and it had launched three all-out direct ballistic missile attacks against Israel in less than 14 months. Colleagues, this is a regime that launched more than 550 ballistic missiles at Israeli cities last June - specifically targeting hospitals, schools and mosques – in an attempt to maintain hold of its military nuclear program.

In this vein, Israel conducted operation “Rising Lion” in June 2025 in order to neutralize the existential and imminent threat posed by the Iranian regime’s military nuclear program, as well as the threat posed by its ballistic missiles program and other military activities against Israel.

Chair, colleagues, let us be clear: an Iran with nuclear weapons is a threat to Israel and to the world. Israel will continue to do whatever is necessary to stop Iran from pursuing its military nuclear program, and so should the international community.

Chair,

Over the past two decades, Iran has been secretly developing a chemical weapons program based on weaponized pharmaceutical agents (PBAs). Beyond its R&D program, it appears that Iran has been abusing gaps in the CWC and produced fentanyl-based munitions and other types of weaponized PBAs. These substances have been incorporated in grenades and mortars which can be used for multiple purposes.

Furthermore, we have grounds to believe that the munitions secretly developed by Iran have been transferred to proxies in the region for use against Israel, as well as others. According to intelligence, based on reports and pictures, these munitions may have already been in use in Iraq and Syria. Furthermore, we have started to see indications of the development of chemical agents for military use by Hezbollah in Lebanon and by the Houthis in Yemen, two of Iran's most prominent terror proxies.

This connects to previous reports that Iranian Military industries provided tear-gas grenades to pro-Iran militias in Iraq. Documented evidence includes images of unconscious Iraqi demonstrators who were exposed to an un-identified neutralizing substance, most probably an anesthetic.

Everyone should be aware of the rising chemical threat coming from Iran, a country that cynically continues to call for state responsibility in the CW arena, all while secretly developing a program that violates its obligations under the CWC, as was made evident during the special EC meeting in July.

The CWC is yet another convention that is an empty promise for Iran – a country that consistently signs treaties only to deliberately violate them while disregarding international obligations and humanity.

Chair,

As we mark the 21-year anniversary for UNSC resolution 1540, we must all admit that the relevance of this framework, aimed at combating the flow of WMDs to NSAs, is more crucial than ever. It is our global and shared responsibility to make sure WMDs will not be transferred to terrorists.

Unfortunately, we have seen an intensification in the malign interaction between certain states and NSAs, and especially terrorist organizations. In this context, the OPCW IIT report on the incident in Marea, published in February 2024, serves as a mortifying reminder of the risk of diversion of chemical weapons falling into the hands of blood-thirsty organizations.

Chair,

Following the recent changes in Syria, Israel supports the OPCW and the international community's efforts to dismantle sites, stockpiles and equipment associated with the Assad regime's chemical weapons program.

In this regard, we recall the OPCW's recent reports regarding samples which revealed indications of chemical warfare nerve agents in Syria, and call on the authorities in Syria to

allow a full definition of the scope of these weapons-related activities. These tasks are vital to prevent such lethal materials from falling into the hands of unauthorized actors such as terrorist groups.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson,

In light of continues accusations, I would like to stress that the State of Israel is committed to complying with international law.

In the face of continued violations of the CWC, by various actors and the culture of non-compliance in the Middle East, we call upon the international community to stand united to ensure accountability and prevent the further erosion of the absolute norm against the use of chemical weapons. Today, we are all facing an evolving, multifaceted threat to our collective security. An unwavering message must be sent to those violating and those who consider violating the Convention. The time to act is now as the way in which we act now will determine our common future.

Before concluding, we would like to address the nature of the participation of the Palestinian delegation in the CSP. Israel wishes to note, for the record, that like many other states, it does not consider that the Palestinian entity satisfies the criteria for statehood and does not recognize it as such. The nature of Palestinian participation in the CSP does not reflect any change, and is without prejudice to the legal status of the Palestinian entity under international law.

We would like to request that this statement be designated as an official document of this Conference and be posted on both Catalyst and the public website.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.