



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

AGENDA SUBITEM 26

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

We speak under this agenda item as these comments cover several areas of our agenda. Chair, this is the end of a long week. This week we have achieved a lot, but we can also see the work which remains for us all.

CANZ are clear-eyed about the challenges ahead and we remain committed to upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention. This is particularly important as the international disarmament and non-proliferation system comes under strain and the use of chemical weapons stubbornly persists.

In this context, we want to see the Organisation continue its success as an impactful, efficient and well-functioning disarmament body, responsive to challenges to the CWC, emerging threats and opportunities, and to the needs of its membership. The Organisation requires a strategic, independent, and adaptable Technical Secretariat that can continue to navigate an uncertain future. The collective discussions we have had this year, on leadership, prioritisation, inclusion and cooperation, all contribute to this vision.

This Conference session confirmed the appointment of the next Director General of the organisation at an important time. The robust selection process gives us confidence in the Executive Council's endorsement of Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior. Ambassador Dallafior, you have our full support as you take over stewardship of the organisation. We are confident the Technical Secretariat will continue to perform well under your strategic vision, expert management and diplomatic skill. We thank you, Director General Arias, and Deputy Director Melono, for your strong leadership over these past eight years, and congratulate you on the many successes during your tenure.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand welcome the budget for 2026 and 2027 and thank Mexico and Poland for their guidance in facilitating our common efforts. While we recognise the economic strain that many countries are under, there is still a significant scope of work to be done by the OPCW. The budget we adopted this week is sensible and balanced; it facilitates the Organisation's technical work and its important international capacity

building, while recognising the need to be prudent. We welcome the creation of the Special Fund for Syria, which provides a flexible mechanism to fund this centrally important work.

Chair, we continue to advocate for a Secretariat that has the highest standards of expertise and is as rich in diversity as the 193 States Parties that support it. A broad and inclusive range of voices enriches the work of the OPCW. We welcome efforts to balance gender, geographical representation and differing expertise within the Organisation.

In the area of international cooperation, we welcomed the regional training course on preventing illicit transfers of chemicals for the Pacific, which Australia hosted in September of this year. Next year CHEMEX GRULAC will take place in the Dominican Republic and Canada is proud to support this expansion of a successful model of CHEMEX Africa to a new region. Canada, Australia and New Zealand will continue to support the participation of Pacific countries, Caribbean nations and representatives of smaller states. Many of them join us here today despite their vast distances from The Hague. Their presence demonstrates the significance of the work at hand, their voices broaden and enrich our agenda, and their dedication to upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention makes it stronger.

Chair, we underline the value of the positive diplomatic environment that delegations have fostered here in The Hague. This year the Executive Council has functioned smoothly and has passed important decisions in a spirit of consensus. We hope all incoming members of the Executive Council will commit to continuing this constructive atmosphere.

Chair, we come together this week after a long year that has brought about both challenges and immense change. But with change comes opportunity. Canada, Australia and New Zealand look forward to working with all member states and supporting the Technical Secretariat in the challenges, and in the opportunities, for the years ahead.

Thank you Chair.