



State of Palestine
Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine
to the International Organizations based in The
Hague

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AMMAR HIJAZI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE TO THE OPCW, AT THE 30th
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8 –
GENERAL DEBATE**

The Hague, 24-28 November 2025

Chairperson,

Excellences and Distinguished delegates,

At the outset it gives me much pleasure to extend our congratulations to His Excellency - H.E. Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Ambassador of El Salvador) for YOUR election as the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the CSP and express our confidence in YOUR leadership to steer the work of CSP30 to a successful conclusion. We also extend our appreciation to Ambassador Almir Šahovic, for his leadership and efforts during CSP-29.

We also wish to extend our appreciation for the efforts of the Director-General and the technical secretariat and welcome the recommendation of the Executive Council for the appointment of the incoming Director General.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The State of Palestine reiterates its unwavering commitment to the achievement of general and complete disarmament of all chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction, as well as to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

Chairperson,

We meet today at a precarious moment where volatility and the potential for progress are pulling Palestine and the Middle East in opposite directions. Despite the positive momentum that could potentially transform the ceasefire into a real end to the genocidal war, we must not lose sight of the committed violations that must be addressed. We have repeatedly raised the issue of unlawful

Israeli occupation misuse of white phosphorus, employing its toxic effects against civilians, causing untold immediate and long-term harm to civilians and the environment. This subject lies at the core of the organization mandate and requires its attention, in line with the CWC broader prohibition on "any toxic element" used as a weapon under articles I & II. This is precisely the situation we have before us - a state that employs WP for its toxic effects. Avoiding this important issue would open the door wide to further infractions and misuse of WP and similar weapons.

Israel, the occupying power, also continues to employ Riot Control Agents as a method of warfare, effectively turning them into chemical weapons — a constant transgression that we have warned of in previous communications. This offense is often carried out during armed invasions and attacks on densely populated civilian areas and refugee camps across the occupied West Bank. The use of RCAs, including inside homes, schools, and medical facilities, causes widespread harm and is in violation of international law, including IHL, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and other related treaties.

Palestine renews its urgent call on the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat to fulfill their mandate and to enact measures under the Convention, as necessary, to monitor and investigate incidents where such clear violations of the Convention are committed. Continued delay of appointing a technical assistance visit is incomprehensible, especially that such a visit is consistent with Article VIII, paragraph 38(e), of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In this connection, we reiterate our appreciation for the technical assistance extended by the technical secretariat in the framework of international cooperation. That cooperation, training, and technical assistance provided by the Organization, however significant, do not replace the core functions of the Organization and its obligation to fulfill its mandate. Furthermore, we hope that future reports of the Director General will include contextual and technical evaluation of the situation concerning the State of Palestine, just as it is done in other situations.

Chairperson,

Let me conclude with this thought: We live through a time of shifting givens, norms, and political dynamics. As an organization, the OPCW is entrusted with oversight on some of the most destructive tools of war humankind have devised. Compliance with this and other international legal frameworks is not optional.

We cannot – we must not – give in to selectivity and exceptions.

- **We request that this statement be adopted as an official document of this Conference and published on the Organization's public website and Catalyst platform.**

Thank you Chairperson