



ALGERIA

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Statement on behalf of H.E Salima Abdelhak, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the OPCW at the 111 session of the OPCW Executive Council

On agenda item 8 - Emerging technologies

The Hague, 10- 13 March 2025

Mr. Chairperson,

Emerging technologies are transforming the scientific and technological environment in which the Chemical Weapons Convention operates. Among these developments, Artificial Intelligence is rapidly gaining prominence and is increasingly influencing multiple sectors, including those relevant to the work of the OPCW.

My delegation is recognisant to the Technical Secretariat for the thorough and commendable work carried out, in the field of emerging technologies and AI. These efforts are invaluable in supporting the objectives of the Convention and advancing international cooperation in this critical area.

In this regard, we welcome the publication of the report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group on Emerging Technologies and appreciate the valuable analyses and recommendations provided by OPCW experts. These findings will serve as essential guidance for States Parties in understanding the implications of these technologies while ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Algerian delegation is of the view that the potential opportunities and advantages of Artificial Intelligence should be considered primarily within the framework of Article XI of the Convention. Indeed, AI can play a constructive role in capacity-building, international cooperation, assistance,

and protection. It may help States Parties strengthen their scientific and technical capacities, improve preparedness, support safe chemical management, and facilitate training and knowledge sharing. In this context, emerging technologies can enhance the peaceful and responsible use of chemistry for the collective benefit of all States Parties.

On the other hand, it is worth considering AI challenges and potential risks within the open-ended group on terrorism as the misuse of these technologies could increase the danger of chemical weapons falling into the hands of terrorist groups or non-state actors, posing serious security threats. Addressing these risks requires careful assessment and targeted measures specifically related to chemical terrorism, ensuring that emerging technologies are not exploited for prohibited purposes.

Mr. Chairperson,

Algeria is committed to the responsible and forward-looking development of Artificial Intelligence. In December 2024, the Government adopted a National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence aimed at accelerating digital transformation, strengthening national expertise and encouraging innovation across key sectors of the economy.

To support the implementation of this strategy, Algeria has established a National Artificial Intelligence Authority tasked with coordinating public policies and guiding the development of AI initiatives at the national level. In parallel, the creation of the National Higher School of Artificial Intelligence reflects the country's commitment to developing highly qualified expertise and advancing research in this rapidly evolving field.

These initiatives are part of a broader effort to promote innovation, strengthen technological sovereignty and ensure that Artificial Intelligence is developed and used in a responsible, ethical and secure manner.

Mr. Chairperson,

Algeria remains convinced that emerging technologies, when responsibly governed and shared through effective international cooperation, can positively contribute to the objectives of the Convention and will continue to engage actively and constructively within the Organisation to fully harness the opportunities offered by Artificial Intelligence under Article XI, while addressing the challenges they may pose to chemical security and the prevention of chemical terrorism.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to continued collaboration to ensure that these technologies serve the shared goals of the Convention safely and responsibly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.