

NATIONAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

MRS. REBECCA A.U. IBE

CDA A.I. EMBASSY OF NIGERIA

THE HAGUE

AT THE 111TH SESSION

OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE OPCW

10TH – 13TH MARCH 2026

Mr. Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to be at the 111th Session of the Executive Council. Since I am taking the floor for the first time, I extend warm facilitations to all in the New Year and pledge my delegation's support as we engage for a better and safer tomorrow.

2. The Nigerian delegation acknowledges the resilient and extraordinary work done by the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H. E. Thomas Schieb, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW. Please be rest assured of my delegation's sustained support and cooperation.

3. My delegation commends the Director General, Ambassador Fernando Arias for a comprehensive report and extends appreciation to the Technical Secretariat for its commitment towards ensuring the implementation of the organization's mandate.

4. The Nigerian delegation aligns itself with the statement of the African Group delivered by Ambassador Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroun.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. This Session takes place at a particularly delicate moment for multilateralism. Across the international system, we are witnessing increasing geopolitical fragmentation with grave implications for global peace and security. The erosion of trust, the weakening of multilateralism and the growing preference for national approaches over collective solutions, present serious challenges to the integrity of the global rules-based order. For Nigeria, multilateralism is not an abstract ideal; it is a practical necessity. Our shared security can only be safeguarded if we continue to work together.

6. The continued strength of this Organization depends on Member States' full commitment to the principles of universality, non-discrimination and equal application of the Convention. We must therefore guard against politicization of the technical processes and ensure that the OPCW remains anchored in its mandate. Nigeria therefore calls for renewed dedication to consensus-based decision-making and respect for established procedures, particularly at a time when global institutions are under strain.

7. On Syria, my delegation takes note of the progress made on the dossier, including the decision of the last Conference which reinstated the rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic. We hope that these developments would facilitate the closure of the dossier which has lingered for too long.

Mr. Chairperson,

8. On the need to reposition the OPCW as a leading disarmament institution, we must work to incrementally invest in enhancing the capacity of National Authorities in their implementation effort, especially the developing economies. We call on the Organization to leverage its Mentorship and Partnership programs already instituted to provide States Parties with adequate support in their implementation efforts.

9. My delegation commends the launch of the 7th phase of the OPCW Africa Programme in January 2026. It is our firm belief that the new phase would consolidate previously achieved gains. Furthermore, we continue to express hope for the consideration of the implementation of the Africa Programme under the regular budget to enhance predictable funding.

Mr. Chairman,

10. My delegation commends the relentless efforts undertaken by the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of the Republic of South Africa, which continues to serve as a platform for discussions on how to mitigate threats posed by chemical weapons especially as we witness several centres of armed conflict around the world and the increasing activities of non-state actors.

11. Similarly, my delegation commends the decision reached at the 30th Conference of States Parties, extending the mandate of the OEWG on the current implementation of the rules of procedures governing the election of members of EC until the next CSP. We also welcome the proposal of the Chair of CSP-30, which would guide our work towards achieving constructive consultations and a consensual outcome.

12. In conclusion, as we deliberate over the coming days, we urge all delegations to approach our discussions in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. The strength of this Organization lies in its collective resolve to eliminate chemical weapons permanently and prevent their re-emergence.

My delegation requests that this Statement be circulated as an official document and posted on the External Server as an official document of this Session.

13. I Thank You.