

**STATEMENT BY MS. ROSE SUMBEIYWO, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I, OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW), AT THE TWENTY
SECOND (22ND) SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
(CSP) TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)
28TH, NOVEMBER 2017**

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

1. Prior to making my remarks **Mr. Chairperson**, I would like to congratulate all the newly elected officials to this and the previous sessions of the Conference.

2. The Kenyan Delegation is fully aligned with the Statements of the African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which was delivered by the Groups' Acting Coordinator, **H.E. Vusi Bruce KOLOANE** of South Africa, as well as that of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties and China, which was delivered by the Group's Coordinator, **H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami MADAH** of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. **Mr. Chairperson**, allow me to express our gratitude to the Director-General for his report and to his team for their continued briefings and updates on the work being done towards the elimination of Chemical Weapons and the threat posed by them.

4. In addition, the Kenyan delegation notes and appreciates the Director General's central role in the establishment of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention – the Africa programme – which has provided the strategic direction to the Secretariat's engagement with African State Parties in regards to the implementation of the Convention. The effective and efficient execution of this Programme is vital for Kenya, as well as for other African State Parties.

5. At this juncture, **Mr. Chairperson**, allow me to highlight two (2) critical objectives of the African Programme that Kenya considers central to the effective implementation of the Convention;
 1. That of ensuring that a greater number of State Parties have comprehensive national Convention implementation legislation and,

2. That of fostering national and regional capacity to respond to chemical attacks.

6. On the need to ensure a greater number of African State Parties have national Convention implementation legislation, I wish to state that, Kenya is yet to instate the Convention though we hope to continue to systematically and broadly engage the OPCW on this issue. In particular, we look forward to engaging the Secretariat through the mechanism that will help in the sensitisation of especially critical decision makers, with the view of simplifying and fast tracking the process of domestication.

7. **Mr. Chairperson**, the Kenyan delegation would also like to commend and continue to encourage the Technical Secretariat to maintain its engagements with the continental body, the African Union and also with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in its implementation of the Africa Programme. The RECs form critical Peace and Security Infrastructures of the African Union, which can and will continue to provide appropriate economies of scale in the implementation of the African Programme. As noted earlier in our Group Statement, the African Programme will serve to highlight the complementary nature of the OPCW and the African Union's activities of promoting international peace and security through disarmament and non-proliferation.

8. **Mr. Chairperson**, on the appointment of the Director General, we similarly join others in acknowledging and welcoming the consensus around His Excellency Amb. Fernando ARIAS of the Kingdom of Spain as the next Director General of our esteemed Organisation. Consensus has been a vital component in this regard and remains the bedrock of the decision-making processes in general at the OPCW. We have seen these tenets come to fruition during the selection of the new Director General and we anticipate that consensus will remain an essential component of OPCW decision making processes.

The distinguished **Amb. Arias** is, without a doubt, a worthy successor to our current Director General, **Amb. Ahmet ÜZÜMCÜ**, who has bestowed the Organization with an indelible imprint. Among his many accolades is the OPCW's Nobel Prize for Peace in 2013. We, therefore, pledge our support for Amb. Arias' nomination to be considered favourably at this Session of the Conference of State Parties.

9. In conclusion **Mr. Chairperson**, I would like to reiterate our appreciation to all the State Parties, the Director General and the Technical Secretariat for continuing with efforts geared towards making our collective objective of a world free of chemical weapons a reality. Similarly, we would like to thank those partner State Parties that have made and continue to make voluntary contributions towards these endeavours. We believe that these efforts will continue to inform the Organisation's future priorities in regards to cooperation and assistance, capacity building and promotion of the role of eco-chemistry for sustainable development.

10. **I thank you for your attention** and I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Session and a copy be placed on the OPCW Extranet.