

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF AFRICAN STATES
PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION,
DELIVERED BY H.E. MRS IRENE FLORENCE MKWAWA-KASYANJU,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)**

**AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

(THE HAGUE, 26-28 JUNE 2018)

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. On behalf of the African Group, I would like to welcome you back, Mr. Chairperson, to the chair of this Fourth Special Session Conference of States Parties. We are confident that you will be able to steer our deliberations to a successful conclusion.
2. I also take this opportunity to recognize and commend the efforts and the important work done by H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director General of the OPCW, during his mandate, and the work done by the Technical Secretariat, for giving us continuous updated reports and briefings, and its tireless efforts in promoting the role of the Organization in the international disarmament endeavor.
3. I would like also to assure the OPCW's next Director General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias, that the African Group has full confidence in his abilities and competence to meet successfully the challenges facing our Organization and carry out skillfully its future functions under the Convention.
4. The African Group values the merits of the OPCW being a technical Organization and encourages all Member States and stakeholders to work closely together to preserving this nature. Thus, we urge all the States Parties and all the stakeholders to work together, in the spirit of our traditional practice of consensus, to avoid politicization, that would undermine the integrity of the Convention for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons, and the unity of Our Organization.
5. The African Group has noted regrettably and with deep concern, the increasing number of cases involving the use of chemical weapons, registered during the

recent years. This context gives added urgency to the actions to be taken by our Organization.

6. Thus, in this context, African States Parties remain strongly committed to the fundamental principles enshrined in the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as the noble objectives pursued by the OPCW.
7. We stress the importance of upholding the credibility and maintaining the integrity of the Convention, as the most effective and comprehensive multilateral treaty that bans an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
8. In the particular context of multiple recent violations of the principles and the obligations enshrined in the Convention, and regarding the threat of chemical terrorism, the African Group wishes to reiterate its principled position expressed in our previous Statements on the unequivocal condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstances, as no cause could justify it.
9. The African Group fully supports the continuation of efforts to develop concrete measures to ensure a world free of chemical weapons, in conformity with the Convention and the OPCW's mandate. The African States Parties stress, in this regard, its irrevocable and principled commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
10. Regarding the question of the attribution mechanism, the African Group, which is strongly committed to multilateralism, wishes to reiterate that any response to the use of chemical and other weapons prohibited under international law, ought to be based on incontrovertible evidence gathered by a competent, impartial, independent and credible entity and comply strictly with international law, including the primacy of the United Nations Security Council, and in line with the standards set out by the Chemical Weapons Convention.
11. In conclusion, the African Group wishes to renew its full support to the Technical Secretariat and expresses its confidence in the work carried out under its auspices, in accordance with the highest standards of the Convention. In addition, the Group takes this opportunity to warmly welcome the recent accession of the State of Palestine to the CWC and call upon other non Member States to join the Convention in order to ensure its universality.
12. The object and purpose of the Convention will only be fully realized once universality is achieved.

I thank you and would like to request that this Statement be circulated as an official document of this Special Session of the CSP.
