MALAYSIA: STATEMENT BY H.E. DATO' ROSELI ABDUL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE 108TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

Mr Chairperson, Director-General Ambassador Arias, Distinguished delegates,

My delegation aligns with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the NAM States Parties and China. In addition, I wish to share a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Malaysia has taken note of the various developments since the last CSP including the broader geopolitical trends that could influence the implementation of the Convention. Amidst the evolving landscape, Malaysia remains steadfast in its unwavering commitment to the CWC and fully supports the Organisation's efforts in addressing new and emerging issues.

In this regard, Malaysia is pleased to continue its contribution to capacity-building initiatives. As detailed in the Note by the Secretariat (document S/2371/2025) dated 18 February 2025, Malaysia, in collaboration with the OPCW Secretariat, will be organising an integrated advanced course and exercise related to assistance and protection under Article X of the Convention for Asian States Parties this year. We believe that such initiatives play an important role in enhancing regional preparedness and response capabilities, ensuring that States Parties are better equipped for responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.

Turning to some of the agenda items of this session, Malaysia notes the continued progress made towards the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons in China. We acknowledge the efforts of all parties involved and join others in looking forward to the full and timely completion of this process.

Concerning matters related to the Syrian Arab Republic, Malaysia welcomes the positive outcome of the Director-General's visit to Damascus and his meetings with the transitional government leadership. We are pleased to note the appointment of a designated focal point for chemical weapons matters, which paves the way for renewed technical engagement and field assessments. Malaysia views these developments as positive steps that create new momentum toward the comprehensive resolution of the Syrian chemical weapons dossier.

On the intersection of artificial intelligence and the OPCW's work, we have read the Note by the Secretariat (document S/2360/2025) on the path forward following the Global Conference on AI held in Rabat, Morocco. We note the various activities undertaken, including the establishment of a new Scientific Advisory Board Temporary Working Group on AI, while continuing to deepen our understanding of AI's implications for the Convention. We look forward to further discussions on this issue, guided by the relevant provisions of the Convention, including Article XI.

In closing, Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to the objectives of the Convention and the work of the OPCW. We will continue to work constructively with all States Parties in upholding the Convention's principles, ensuring a world free of chemical weapons, and reinforcing international peace and security.

I kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Executive Council session and published on the OPCW website and external server.

Thank you.