



IRELAND

Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ann Derwin,

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OPCW

At the One Hundredth and Tenth Session of the Executive Council

7-10 October 2025

Chairperson, Director-General, Distinguished delegates,

Ireland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

I will add the following in my national capacity.

I would like to begin by thanking H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council for their leadership in guiding the preparatory work for this session.

Chairperson,

I would like to reaffirm Ireland's steadfast support for the Technical Secretariat, which continues to operate effectively in spite of multiple and wide ranging challenges. We remain fully confident in the Technical Secretariat's capabilities and expertise and we would especially like to acknowledge the role of the Office of Special Missions.

Ireland welcomes the Syrian transitional authorities' renewed cooperation with the OPCW and commends the efforts of the Organisation to build a relationship with those authorities based on mutual trust and transparency. Ireland acknowledges the progress made and encourages the Syrian transitional authorities to take the necessary steps to eliminate the risk of proliferation.

Ireland notes with concern the fragile and challenging environment in which the Technical Secretariat operates in Syria. Ireland reiterates its call on the international community and all neighbouring countries to respect Syria's territorial integrity and refrain from actions that could undermine the OPCW's work. It is critical that all chemical stockpiles and sites are preserved, and that the Technical Secretariat can fulfil its verification tasks without external obstacles.

Ireland calls on all States Parties to support the Organisation in the effective implementation of its mandate, including with regards to the Syria mission. It is therefore imperative that the Organisation has sufficient and sustainable resources in its regular budget. Ireland also encourages those who are in a position to do so to consider providing voluntary contributions.

Chairperson,

Ireland remains deeply concerned by the systematic use of riot control agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine. This concern is grounded in the findings of three Technical Assistance Visits to Ukraine, as well as reports of the use of the choking agent chloropicrin. These findings and reports provide convincing evidence that Russia has violated Article 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Ireland strongly condemns the use of such chemical weapons and calls on the Secretariat to undertake the necessary measures to attribute this serious treaty violation.

Chairperson,

In the face of increased threats to the principles and obligations set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention, the work of the Organisation remains as relevant as ever. We reiterate that all credible allegations of the use of chemical weapons need to be thoroughly investigated, whether they occur in Ukraine, the State of Palestine, Sudan or elsewhere. We must also not lose sight of the threats and opportunities arising from emerging technologies such as AI for the work of the Organisation.

Chairperson,

Incorporating a gender perspective in the Technical Secretariat's work remains a priority for Ireland and we encourage gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the Organisation's work. We welcome the attention that has been given to this issue

and encourage the Organisation to continue strengthening its initiatives in this regard. It is imperative that women's participation and inclusion be prioritised, as well as the participation and inclusion of all people from underrepresented regions and backgrounds.

Chairperson,

To conclude, Ireland would like to express its full support for the work of the Technical Secretariat, under the leadership of Director General Arias. As States Parties, it is our obligation to see to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, irrespective of the circumstances.

Thank you.