MALAYSIA: STATEMENT BY MR. MOHD ISHRIN BIN MOHD ISHAK, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE  $110^{\text{TH}}$  SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

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

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the NAM States Parties and China. In our national capacity, we wish to highlight the following points.

Mr. Chair,

Malaysia reiterates its steadfast support for the Chemical Weapons Convention and the efforts of the Technical Secretariat.

Against this backdrop, Malaysia notes, among others, the Director-General's opening statement, including his remarks on developments regarding the Syrian Arab Republic. We recognise the cooperation of the new Syrian authorities and the role of the State of Qatar as interlocutor, and stress the importance of addressing outstanding issues comprehensively to resolve the Syrian chemical weapons file in line with the Convention.

On the Programme and Budget for 2026 - 2027, Malaysia appreciates the efforts of the Co-Facilitators, Mexico and Poland, as well as the Secretariat, and the constructive consultations undertaken. We trust that the outcome will provide the Organisation with adequate resources under a balanced and disciplined budgetary approach.

On the appointment of the new Director-General, Malaysia notes with appreciation the high calibre of all eleven candidates, each bringing valuable experience and strengths. Malaysia has participated in the consultations and the ongoing straw poll process, and remains committed to working constructively with Council Members towards achieving consensus on a single candidate for recommendation to the Conference at its Thirtieth Session in November 2025.

Regarding abandoned chemical weapons in China, Malaysia notes the progress achieved thus far and encourages both parties, with the Secretariat's support, to continue their cooperation towards full completion of this task in accordance with the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

Malaysia notes the growing relevance of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, to the OPCW's work. Such tools offer opportunities but also pose challenges to the Convention's objectives. Malaysia supports continued discussions within the OPCW framework to ensure that technological advances are consistent with the object and purpose of the Convention.

Building on our broader efforts to enhance international cooperation and assistance, Malaysia, through its National Authority and the Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA), in collaboration with the OPCW, hosted the first Integrated Advanced Course and Exercise on Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents for the Asian Region in August this year. With 25 participants from 19 States Parties, the training combined scenario-based activities and field exercises to strengthen operational readiness.

Turning to matters relating to universality and national implementation, Malaysia attaches great importance to universality and takes note of the annual report on the implementation of the Action Plan. We believe that sustained engagement offers the best prospect for eventual adherence. Equally, for States Parties, full implementation of Article VII obligations remains essential, particularly through national legislation and initial measures. Malaysia stands ready, within its means, to share experience and provide assistance, and welcomes the Secretariat's continued capacity-building support.

Mr. Chair,

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

Thank you.