



JOINT STATEMENT BY MIKTA COUNTRIES ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AGENDA ITEM 8: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of MIKTA Countries: Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Türkiye, and Australia.

MIKTA countries reiterate their strong commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and we commend Director-General Arias, the Technical Secretariat, and States Parties for their invaluable support to the OPCW's mission.

Building on Korea's thematic priorities as Chair of MIKTA in 2025, MIKTA countries remain committed to supporting efforts on Peacebuilding, Youth Engagement, and the Accelerated Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This statement focuses on our second joint priority for this year: Youth Engagement.

MIKTA countries recognise the role of youth as key partners to building a better future and key agents for positive change. The Korean Chair's efforts in this area are commendable. The "2025 MIKTA Youth Dialogue", which was successfully organized in Seoul last July, provided a useful platform enabling exchanges and the creation of strong bonds among young people. We underscore the importance of inclusivity and the constructive participation of relevant stakeholders – including youth – in advancing our shared goal of achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

In this context, we commend the work of the OPCW's Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO), which plays an important role in educating and engaging young people on CWC-related issues around the world. MIKTA countries support the ABEO's recent recommendation to prioritise youth engagement at the OPCW, which reflects the important contributions of youth in ensuring the future implementation of the CWC.

We also applaud the OPCW's ongoing efforts to support the participation of youth in its activities and promote careers in science, non-proliferation, and chemistry, including through the OPCW's recent Meeting and Workshop for Young Scientists, as well as its career fairs and internship programmes.

Youth are not just the beneficiaries of multilateralism – they are its future stewards. A prosperous multilateral system depends on their engagement, ideas, and leadership – to ensure a system that delivers for all. It is vital that we support the next generation of scientists, diplomats, and practitioners to enable the OPCW to continue its crucial mission. MIKTA countries stand ready to work with States Parties and the OPCW to ensure that the CWC and the norm against chemical weapons are upheld for generations to come.

Encouraged by our shared commitment to democracy, upholding international law, and promoting multilateralism and international cooperation, we will serve as a positive force in addressing these shared global challenges.

Thank you.