

**The 110th Session of the Executive Council of
the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
General Debate**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Seok-in Hong
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW**

7 October, 2025, The Hague

Mr. Chair,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Thomas Schieb for his leadership as a Chair of the Executive Council. You can count on my delegation's full support throughout this session. I also express my gratitude to Director-General Fernando Arias and the Secretariat staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the progress made this year on the Syrian dossier. We appreciate the constructive cooperation between Syria and the TS, and we also value Qatar's role as a communication channel representing Syria Arab Republic at the OPCW. We sincerely hope that all these efforts will lead to clarifying the full extent and scope of Syria's former chemical weapons program, achieving the verified elimination of all chemical weapons in Syria, and enabling appropriate attribution for past uses in accordance with the Convention and relevant decisions.

We welcome the establishment of the Office of Special Mission (OSM) in June 2025, which will serve as an important mechanism to advance the implementation of the Convention. It is therefore essential that the OSM team be able to carry out its mandate in a safe and secure environment, free from any security threats. The Korean government reaffirms its strong support for the OPCW's activities on the Syrian file, and will continue to contribute to its work going forward.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has now been ongoing more than three and a half years, and the Republic of Korea is deeply concerned by allegations of chemical weapons use in the ongoing war in Ukraine. We note that three Technical Assistance

Visit (TAV) reports have confirmed the presence of riot control agents (RCAs) as a method of warfare on the battlefield in Ukraine. We view these findings with grave concern and underline the need for attribution of confirmed cases through appropriate OPCW mechanisms.

Regarding the Joint Statement issued on July 4 by the Netherlands and Germany concerning the use of chemical weapons in the war in Ukraine, we believe that this matter is directly related to the compliance of the CWC, and should be promptly addressed by the TS. We encourage all concerned States Parties to extend their cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Turning to the Program and Budget for 2026-2027, we sincerely appreciate the efforts of the co-facilitators and the TS to work toward consensus and accommodate the views of States Parties. We are pleased that the Syria Special Fund has been incorporated into the regular budget, which will help ensure sustainable and predictable support for related activities. The Republic of Korea is ready to approve the latest budget proposal.

On International Cooperation Assistance (ICA), we commend the OPCW's efforts to promote chemical safety and security through various ICA programs, and the Korean government is also committed to contributing these efforts. Since 2012, we have been hosting annual Seoul Workshop to advance chemical safety and security in Asia, and this year's workshop will take place later this month from 28 to 30 October.

In September, under the OPCW Associate Program, we welcomed officials from developing countries to Korea, providing them with hands-on experience at our industrial facilities. In addition, my government has made a voluntary contribution to the Biotoxin Fellowship for African scientists which will be organized by the ChemTech Centre later this year.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the appointment of the next Director-General, we thank all eleven candidates for their active participation in this lengthy process. We also thank you, Mr. Chair, for your efforts in ensuring efficient and smooth DG appointment process. We sincerely hope that this Executive Council session will be able to adopt, by consensus,

a recommendation for a single candidate for Director-General, enabling the Conference of States Parties (CSP) to approve it later this year.

Last but not least, the Korean government reiterates the significance of universality of the Convention. We can be assured all chemical arsenals have been declared and destroyed only when the States outside the Convention accede to the CWC and take on its responsibility accordingly. We urge the four remaining States not Party, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), to join the Convention as early as possible without preconditions. We encourage the TS to continue to engage with States not Party to the Convention to be prepared for potential new membership in the future.

Thank you. /END/