



MALAYSIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AHMAD NAZRI YUSOF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE
EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to welcome you once again to the Chair and looks forward to another session of constructive discussion under your able stewardship.

My delegation would also like to congratulate the Director-General for his opening remarks and for organising the recent retreat, which set the tone and the momentum for yet another meaningful Executive Council meeting.

On the same note, my delegation is pleased to welcome Myanmar, as the newest State Party of the OPCW, and Angola's deposition of its instrument of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We hope the remaining states will soon follow in the footsteps of Myanmar and Angola in this direction. We believe that Myanmar's membership and that of Angola's will bring about greater strength and recognition to the Organisation towards achieving universality.

The retreat we just had last week saw us deliberating the subject of the Organisation's future role, purpose and capability. How can it stay relevant? How can it effectively and successfully shift from disarmament to prevention of the re-emergence of new threats and new forms of chemical weapons?

My delegation is of the view that the threat of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals will not go away for generations to come. Today, chemical weapons can be produced just about anywhere by anyone without the slightest knowledge of the authorities.

It is therefore imperative for the OPCW and States Parties to enhance capacity, especially in prevention and awareness of the threat. States Parties and their respective National Authorities should pledge stronger commitments and play bigger roles towards achieving this goal.

The nature of the threats and the challenges are becoming more extensive and complex. As such, the commitment and the responsibility of the Organisation should be shared accordingly by all the States Parties.



At the same time, there is a need for an austerity budget. During these times of global economic downturn, my delegation welcomes the Technical Secretariat's pragmatic efforts to find ways to do more with less.

Malaysia is pleased with the achievement of the total removal of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons stockpiles, which was successfully implemented under an unprecedented time frame and uniquely challenging conditions and we hope for its complete destruction soon.

On the other hand, my delegation is concerned with the escalating violence that has resulted in heavy casualties and hardship to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic. We believe a political solution is the only way to end the conflict. We support international efforts, to call all parties, both in and outside the Syrian Arab Republic, to immediately end the conflict, peacefully and conclusively, through dialogue and negotiation.

Malaysia welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2209 (2015) that further reaffirmed the decision underlined in resolution 2118 (2013). Malaysia condemns the use of toxic chemicals including chlorine gas as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic or elsewhere and calls upon all parties to render their full cooperation to the OPCW's Fact-Finding Mission.

We however, do not agree to the use of force as a tool of implementation and exertion against any country including the Syrian Arab Republic, in consistence with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

Our position on the issue of chemical weapons remains intact. Malaysia has a longstanding principled position of opposing the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances and to ensure that, the perpetrators are identified and held accountable.

Malaysia wishes to register our thanks and appreciation for the cooperation and guidance extended by the OPCW in our efforts to implement the Convention.

I am contented to inform you that we have successfully conducted several programmes with the OPCW in Malaysia this year and we have participated in more than 15 programmes overseas.

In this relation, my delegation would like to call on States Parties, especially the developed nations, to promote greater international cooperation through transfer of technology, sharing of material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical fields, and remove discriminatory restrictions that are contrary to the spirit of the Convention.

My delegation hopes that the core objective of the Organisation remains fit for its purpose. As we move ahead and beyond 2025, the focus and challenges will shift from disarmament of chemical weapons to the prevention of its re-emergence.

OPCW must adopt and adapt its role and purpose to warrant it stays relevant, even after all the declared stockpiles have been destroyed completely.

It is paramount that States Parties continue to contribute, cooperate and pledge greater commitment in prevention, creating and cultivating awareness among the public and industry on the reality of chemical weapons and its negative consequences.

Malaysia views the Convention and the OPCW as central and crucial in its role in stemming the threat of chemical weapons vis-a-vis global terrorism.

However, the onus must not rest solely with the OPCW. States Parties ought to take equal responsibility for outreach and education.

Mr Chairperson, I thank you and may I request that this statement be included as an official document of this meeting and be posted on the website.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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