

Algeria:

Statement of H.E. Ambassador Salima Abdelhak, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the OPCW at the 29th Conference of States Parties to the CWC- Emerging technologies

The Hague, 25- 29 November 2024

Mr. Chairperson,

It is with great interest that I take the floor on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, a technology that inspires both immense hope and significant apprehension. As one of the brand new innovation of our time, Artificial Intelligence is becoming an unavoidable reality. We have no choice but to embrace it and make it a strategic ally in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

We commend the Director-General for his timely initiative to engage scientific experts in discussions on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and its evolving challenges. His forward-thinking approach strengthens our organization's commitment to remaining fit for purpose.

We also appreciate the discussions held on this critical topic, whether through national initiatives or in collaboration with the OPCW. We look forward to gaining further insights and contributing to the enhancement of these discussions under the new agenda item in the Executive Council sessions.

We also welcome the establishment of a temporary working group under the Scientific Advisory Board focused on Artificial Intelligence with the objective to play a key role in defining a clear path for harnessing the potential of this technology while addressing its associated challenges within the framework of CWC. Algeria reaffirms its commitment to contributing actively to the relevant discussions through the various mechanisms of the organization.

We do believe AI can assist in specific aspects of CWC and we should explore its merit in optimising verification regime, enhancing safety and security management systems of chemical industry, or analysing documents related to ACW to mention few. On the other hand we are aware it may hold the risks of facilitating the development, deployment, and use of chemical weapons by non state actors and we need to consider how we can avoid that.

We therefore recommend to distribute the examination of AI on different items. While it is relevant to deal with the opportunities related to AI under ICA and article XI which covers aspects related to international cooperation, economic and technological development, the AI challenges may be considered under the working group on terrorism.

Thank you for your attention