

Mr. Chairperson,

Director-General,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Almir Šahović on his election as the Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Conference of States Parties and wish every success in his responsible mission. I also want to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Chairperson of the 28th session of the Conference of the States Parties for his work during his tenure. I wish to extend my country's gratitude to the Director General and staff of the Technical Secretariat for their dedication in exercise of their duties.

The Convention has been and still remains a critical Treaty in the field of chemical disarmament, which prohibits an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. Armenia, as a strong advocate of disarmament and non-proliferation, considers the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) as an recognized and key pillar of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and places great importance on fostering effective collaboration within the framework of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

I wish to reiterate, that Armenia's commitment remains resolute in excluding entirely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons or related hazardous materials. This commitment is underscored by the unwavering implementation of the provisions outlined in the Chemical Weapons Convention. Since its accession to the Convention, Armenia has diligently undertaken substantial legislative reforms, embracing rules and regulations essential for the comprehensive implementation of the Convention. I am particularly pleased to affirm that Armenia's legislation now encompasses all the initial measures necessary for the implementation of the Convention. Armenia is committed to its obligations under the convention and timely submits annual declarations, reports in accordance to relevant articles.

Distinguished delegates,

The preceding year marked a historic milestone, as last possessor state successfully concluded the eradication of declared Chemical Weapons. As we celebrate this achievement, our collective focus must now shift towards preventing and deterring the resurgence of chemical weapons especially in the context of ongoing conflicts and aggressions.

Armenia unequivocally condemns the use of chemical weapons and underlines the key role that OPCW should play in advancing the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Alleged use of chemical weapons should be subject of an impartial, inclusive and comprehensive investigation in strict compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

We should also concentrate on threats stemming from the non-state actors. Possession and use of chemical weapons by terrorist organizations and their proxies anywhere and under any circumstances is a threat to international security and must be the subject to a close attention. Armenia fully implements its international obligations under the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 through its National Action Plan. In cooperation with international partners Armenia through workshops, trainings, tabletop and field exercises continues to build its capacities to ensure strong border control and prevent smuggling of hazardous materials.

I would also like to stress the importance capacity-building programs organized by the Technical Secretariat. Armenian professionals are one of the many stakeholders, that benefit from these programs. It is worth mentioning, that major part of the participants from Armenia in this programs are women. Armenia also welcomes recent decisions addressing geographic representation, tenure policy, and gender balance within the Secretariat's staff.

Distinguished delegates,

Vigilance is of paramount importance, and we must unite our efforts to enhance the capacity of States Parties in addressing negative implications and challenges stemming from scientific and technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, additive manufacturing, and biotechnology. The establishment of the ChemTech Centre stands as a timely and pivotal initiative. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Director-General for his leadership and efforts in realizing this endeavor.

The task ahead involves ensuring that the OPCW remains adaptable and relevant in the face of evolving realities and needs that State Parties might have. Although peaceful applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the chemical industry hold the promise of safer operations by predicting hazardous reactions, monitoring equipment, and identifying potential risks, thereby protecting both workers and communities, the broader political imperative lies in ensuring that these innovations serve humanity responsibly. In this regards we welcome the first Global conference on “The role of artificial intelligence in

advancing the implementation of the CWC” organized by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Technical Secretariat held in Rabat, from 22 to 24 October 2024.

Distinguished delegates,

By joining the Chemical Weapons Convention, we have collectively pledged to prevent their use— ever again. Acknowledging the unprecedented military-political tensions currently gripping the world, it is evident that such dynamics have inevitable impacts on the OPCW. However, Armenia firmly believes that the disagreements arising from the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention can be overcome through dialogue and cooperative endeavors, with a shared commitment to maintaining the OPCW's technical mandate.

In conclusion, I would like to stress Armenia’s unwavering support to the Organization in its efforts and wish all of us productive and constructive work throughout this session.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session and post it on the OPCW external server Catalyst.

I thank you.