

AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT BY H.E. DR GREGORY FRENCH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 18

Chair,

Australia is committed to continuing to work with States Parties to implement Article XI of the Convention. Multilateral export controls such as the Australia Group (AG) support global security and are a cornerstone of the rules that underpin the international system, including UNSCR 1540. We will continue to work together with other Australia Group participants, and the UNSC 1540 Committee, to strengthen the Convention and enable and sustain peaceful legitimate trade.

Supporting our Pacific family remains a key priority. That is why in 2022, we co-hosted a Pacific Sub-Regional Forum for CWC Implementing Legislation, alongside Malaysia and the OPCW, and look forward to building on this work. We recently supported the OPCW's Regional Customs Conference in Vanuatu, and we thank Malaysia, the Philippines and other partners for their support.

We also work closely with partners such as New Zealand and Malaysia to promote CWC implementation and increase scientific capability in our region, including through our OPCW Partnership Programme and laboratory twinning programme. And still in our region, we commend China for hosting, and China and the EU for co-funding, the recent UNSCR 1540 regional workshop in Beijing. The workshop, which included many Pacific participants, aimed at supporting prevention of proliferation of WMD, including chemical weapons, to and by non-State actors.

Chair, we are working with United Nations bodies on global and regional WMD non-proliferation capacity, and we commend delegations across all regions who are contributing to this, as described by several delegations today. Australia looks forward to continuing to work with States Parties and the OPCW to support capacity building and international cooperation to promote the object and purpose of the CWC.

Thank you, Chair.