



STATEMENT BY MR NURLAN ALIYEV
COUNSELLOR AND CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
(THE HAGUE, NOVEMBER 25-29, 2024)
AGENDA ITEM 8 – GENERAL DEBATE

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

First of all, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to H.E. Mr. Almir Šahović, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on his election as Chairperson of this session of the Conference. At the same time, we express our appreciation for the commendable efforts of the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Azerbaijan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the goals and principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

We also wish to express our gratitude to Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat for their steadfast dedication and tireless efforts in promoting the objectives of the CWC.

Mr. Chairperson,

Azerbaijan's well-established petrochemical industry enables us to actively contribute to international collaboration in the peaceful application of chemical technology. We recognize the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as a vital platform for fostering such cooperation and support expanding the Technical Secretariat's role in capacity building.

Azerbaijan has consistently engaged with the OPCW, hosting cooperative events in the past. On January 18, 2024, our government made a voluntary contribution of €20,000 to the OPCW Trust Fund for Training. This funding, directed entirely toward enhancing training initiatives at the ChemTech Centre, supported activities such as scientific research and capacity building. With this, Azerbaijan's total contributions to the Trust Fund amount to €30,000.

By continuing to invest in the ChemTech Centre, Azerbaijan underscores its dedication to promoting global peace and security. We remain firmly committed to advancing the goals of complete chemical disarmament under the CWC and actively support efforts toward the Convention's universalization.

While significant progress has been achieved in implementing the CWC, Azerbaijan acknowledges the ongoing task of ensuring the complete and irreversible elimination of chemical weapons. We also recognize the need for the OPCW to stay equipped to address rapid advancements in chemical science and technology.

Moreover, Azerbaijan highlights the importance of adhering to international law in implementing the Convention. By fully restoring sovereignty over its territories from foreign occupation Azerbaijan has not only upheld international law but also strengthened border control, thereby reducing the risk of illicit trafficking in components of weapons of mass destruction—an effort aligned with the Convention's objectives.

Mr. Chairperson,

Global challenges require integrated solutions. The objectives of the CWC and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as highlighted during the successful completion of the 29th session of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, share common ground in environmental protection, sustainability, and international cooperation.

Efforts to safely destroy chemical weapons under the CWC prevent environmental harm, aligning with COP29's goals to combat climate change. Furthermore, addressing risks such as climate-induced damage to hazardous materials storage requires collaboration across frameworks.

In conclusion, Azerbaijan proudly emphasizes the success of COP29 in Baku, reaffirming our commitment to safeguarding humanity and the environment. By strengthening synergies between the CWC and UNFCCC, we can create a safer, more sustainable future.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the OPCW's external server and public website.

Thank you.
