



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR
SIBUSISIWE MNGOMEZULU
ON BEHALF OF
THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
AT THE
TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS

THE HAGUE
25TH – 29TH NOVEMBER 2024

Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is with great honour that I take the floor on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III King and Ingwenyama of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Her Majesty the Queen Mother and the Government and people of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

From the inception allow me to acknowledge the Statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China and herein associate our delegation fully.

Chairperson, we express our appreciation to H.E. Suljuk Mustansar Tara for his effective leadership in chairing the 28th Session of the CSP. We also extend our gratitude to H.E. Fernando Arias, the OPCW Director-General, for his thorough report. Furthermore, we commend the OPCW's Technical Secretariat for its dedicated efforts in fulfilling the mandate of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The Kingdom of Eswatini supports expanding international cooperation, assistance programs, and scientific partnerships in peaceful chemical applications, strengthened by the new ChemTech Centre. We anticipate the Centre will enhance the Technical Secretariat's capacity to support State Parties in implementing the Convention effectively.

We welcome the designation of Algeria's National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology as an OPCW Designated Laboratory in Africa and stress the importance of establishing designated laboratories in all regions, urging OPCW to help build State Parties' capacities to achieve this goal.

Eswatini applauds OPCW's commitment to gender equality and encourages further promotion of women's involvement in peaceful chemical applications to advance the Convention's goals.

We also recognize the recent Global Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Advancing CWC Implementation in Morocco, which underscored equitable access to AI, especially for Africa, in bolstering initiatives like the OPCW Africa Programme.

Our delegation emphasizes the universality of the Convention and calls upon all non-State Parties to join this noble endeavor, recognizing that universal adherence is critical to achieving a world free of chemical weapons. We also underline the need to return the organization to a spirit of consensus in its decision-making processes, which has historically strengthened the OPCW's credibility and effectiveness. In conclusion, Eswatini, a chemical-free, low-risk State Party, remains steadfast in its collaboration with OPCW to uphold the CWC's mandate.

It is our delegations wish that this statement be made into an Official Document and be posted to the OPCW website.

I Thank you