



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
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AT THE 29th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(The Hague, 25 - 29 November 2024)**

**Agenda item 18 – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the
field of chemical activities**

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine as well as Armenia and the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries Iceland and Norway, members of the EEA (European Economic Area) align themselves with this statement. Andorra, Monaco and San Marino also associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union would like to highlight and reiterate its commitment to fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities. This is in line with the EU's global role in promoting economic and technological developments.

In the OPCW context, we live up to this commitment through substantial voluntary contributions in support of the International Assistance and Cooperation (ICA) activities since 2004. This includes inter alia laboratory twinnings, a broad range of capacity building and training under the OPCW Africa Programme, as well as the establishment of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (CCT). The EU together with its Member States in their national capacity provided nearly half of the establishment cost of the ChemTech Centre.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 28 April 2004, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1540 (2004), reaffirming that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery are a threat to international peace and security. Implementation of UNSCR 1540 and

the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention are mutually reinforcing. They provide the international legal framework of obligations and provisions for national as well as common efforts to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons. The EU's list of dual use items is not only binding on Member States but also used as reference by a number of third states in applying their national export controls. As a member of the Australia Group, the EU and its Member States, will continue to assist countries to harmonise export controls with a view to facilitating peaceful legitimate trade and promoting economic and technological development. These controls help to ensure that the transfer of materials and sensitive technology does not contribute to the proliferation of WMD, and provide the confidence, trust and assurance necessary to make cooperation involving transfer of potentially sensitive dual-use items possible.

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

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