



## IRELAND

Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ann Derwin,

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OPCW

Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use under Agenda Item 9(d)

At the Twenty Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

25 November – 29 November 2024

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU. I deliver this intervention in my national capacity.

More than ten years have passed since Syria became a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, yet we are still awaiting an accurate and full declaration of their chemical weapons stockpile. It remains incredibly concerning that we still cannot fully confirm that Syria's chemical weapons programme is definitively a thing of the past. Syria has consistently sought to deflect responsibility to its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention by accusing the Technical Secretariat of politicisation. However, it is Syria who continues to show a lack of interest in meaningful and sound cooperation. It is long past time for Syria to back up words with action.

We all have reason to be seized of this issue, considering Syria's documented use of chemical weapons in the past. The consequences of such abhorrent acts touch upon our shared humanity and cannot be more relevant for us as States Parties gathered here today.

Our resolve in bringing the Syrian chemical weapons file to a close once and for all will not diminish, especially in the face of blatant deflection. We commend the Technical Secretariat's work and commitment to carrying out their mandate in such a professional and impartial manner despite all the obstacles.

I thank you Chair.