

## Agenda Item 8 - General Debate

### MALAYSIA

STATEMENT BY  
H.E. DATO' ROSELI ABDUL,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

25 - 29 NOVEMBER 2024

Mr Chairperson,  
Director-General Ambassador Arias,  
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation aligns with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the NAM States Parties and China. In addition, I wish to share a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

2. Whilst the declared chemical weapons stockpiles of States Parties have been successfully eliminated under the CWC, various challenges persist. These challenges underscore the ongoing need to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention in all its aspects. Moreover, we must unequivocally reaffirm that the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals as weapons – by any actor, anywhere, and under any circumstances – is wholly unacceptable and constitutes a grave violation of international law.

3. In this context, we cannot ignore the brutal conflict in Gaza, which has already spilled over into Lebanon. We strongly condemn the genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity being committed by Israel with apparent impunity. Reports of Israel's use of various weapons, including those with toxic properties, in Gaza and Lebanon underscore the critical need for continued monitoring and investigation on the possible use and threat of use of chemical weapons by Israel, as requested by the State of Palestine, a State Party to the CWC.

Mr. Chair,

4. Malaysia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the CWC and its objectives, including comprehensive implementation of Article VII. In this regard, Malaysia is currently undertaking a review of its domestic legislation, particularly the CWC Act, to ensure that it remains robust, effective, and fully aligned with the Convention's provisions.

5. Malaysia also remains steadfast in its commitment to international cooperation under the Convention. In 2024, Malaysia hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> OPCW Regional Advanced Course on Emergency Response for First Responders in Asia and the Project 98 Regional Kick-off Conference with the European Union CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Centres of Excellence (CoE), enhancing emergency preparedness in Southeast Asia. Malaysia also collaborated with Sri Lanka under the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme and contributed expertise to the "Effective Customs Control over the Trade and Transit of Toxic Chemicals in the Pacific Region" conference in Vanuatu.

Mr. Chair,

6. Malaysia would like to reiterate its calls for the following:

- One - Sustained constructive dialogue between Syria and the Declaration Assessment Team to resolve outstanding issues;
- Two - The timely destruction of all remaining abandoned chemical weapons; and
- Three - The universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

7. Malaysia also underscores the importance of ensuring equitable geographical balance in the OPCW, as it strengthens inclusivity, trust and international cooperation. Equally, Malaysia believes that advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as outlined in UN Security Council resolution 1325, in the work of the OPCW and the implementation of the Convention is vital to fostering gender-sensitive approaches in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

Mr. Chair,

8. Malaysia was pleased to participate in the first global conference of the OPCW on the role of Artificial Intelligence in advancing the implementation of the CWC, co-organised by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Technical Secretariat in Rabat last month. We extend our gratitude to the organisers for their excellent arrangements and to the Kingdom of Morocco for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation. The Conference brought together an eclectic group of experts, including the private sector, broadening understanding of AI's intersection with the Convention. On this note, we thank the Kingdom of Morocco for inviting our national oil and gas company, PETRONAS, to participate in the Conference as a keynote speaker.

9. By leveraging the innovative capabilities of industry leaders and leading experts from private sectors, Malaysia ensures a whole-of-society approach to harnessing AI's potential while addressing its challenges and opportunities within the framework of the Convention. Malaysia looks forward to further discussions with other States Parties and the Technical Secretariat on this issue guided by, among others, the relevant provisions of the Convention, including Article VI and XI.

Mr. Chair,

I kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the CSP and published on the OPCW public website and external server.

Thank you