

Joint Statement on the ongoing humanitarian crisis and the grave violations of international law unfolding in occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as Lebanon

Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, and Yemen.

As we enter the second year of the Israeli occupation's genocidal aggression and the indiscriminate, inhumane bombardment of Gaza Strip as well as Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, we are gravely concerned by the reports that the Israeli occupation's forces have used various weapons, including weapons that has toxic properties, in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. Israel's illegal use of white phosphorus in its attacks of aggression against civilians and densely populated areas in Gaza and Lebanon seriously risk causing intentional long-term health hazard. In this context, we are also extremely alarmed by the impunity of Israeli actions, the hostility and violence of Israeli authorities towards international organizations, which we believe could lead to the use of other prohibited chemicals, in its ongoing ground invasion of the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, there are serious concerns that the Israeli occupying forces and settler militias are using tear gas, in their military aggression and terrorist attacks against Palestinian civilians and civilian areas in clear violation of the CWC convention. As such, we are gravely concerned that the Israeli occupation's conduct, as a signatory, is defeating the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We welcome and support the request of the state of Palestine that was submitted to the technical Secretariat to monitor and investigate the possible use and threat of use of chemical weapons by the Israeli occupation. The Israeli occupation's actions are clearly prohibited under international law and require vigilance by international organizations, including the OPCW. The use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone under any circumstance is wholly unacceptable. Accordingly, we request the technical secretariat to take on its duty and monitor the situation in Palestine, including any threats or actual use by Israel of toxic chemicals. We request that the OPCW investigate any possible use of chemical weapons in Israel's ongoing aggressions. Furthermore, the Technical Secretariat should remain prepared to take appropriate measures in accordance with the Convention if deemed necessary, and to undertake a prompt and effective response to investigate and react to such incidents in the future.