



**State of Palestine  
Permanent Mission to the International  
Organizations based in The Hague**

**STATE OF PALESTINE: STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR  
AMMAR HIJAZI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE  
TO THE OPCW, AT THE 29th SESSION OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CWC  
(The Hague, 25-29 November 2024)**

Allow me at the outset to congratulate Ambassador Almir Sahovic, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the OPCW, on his election as Chairman of the twenty-ninth session of our conference.

Let me also extend our sincere thanks to the Chairman of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of States Parties, Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for his skilled management of the 28th Session of the CSP.

I also want to express our appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his efforts and for the report he presented to this session.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Miriam Blaak Sow, of the Republic of Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, States Parties to the CWC.

The State of Palestine reaffirms its principled commitment to achieving general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international oversight, encompassing the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction through the required non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention which is essential to advancing both regional and global peace and security.

Chairperson,

The potential application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the realm of chemical weapons introduces a novel and significant risk that raises pressing ethical, legal, and security concerns, as AI could potentially enhance the development, deployment, and operational effectiveness of chemical weapons. It is thus important to extend the scope of the Convention to include dealing with AI-based chemical weapon technologies and delivery systems. That is why we also endorse the establishment of OPCW guidelines aimed at preventing the misuse of AI in the development of chemical weapons.

We commend the efforts of the Director-General and support continued efforts to expand the OPCW's engagement on this critical issue.

Chairperson,

One year has passed since Israel, an illegal occupying power, initiated an ongoing campaign of unmatched brutality against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with full impunity. This offensive has caused widespread and unprecedented destruction of infrastructure and essential facilities at a scale and speed not seen in modern history. Israel's unlawful use of weapons and chemical agents against the civilian population in Gaza is rampant and well documented. Over 90% of Gaza's population is forcibly displaced and starved; and tens of thousands of civilians have been slaughtered, 70% of whom are women and children. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel's illegal occupation forces have waged a relentless, record-breaking, and destructive military assault campaign where riot control agents are regularly and unlawfully deployed against civilians and civilian objects during military raids. This is clearly a violation of Article I (5) of the CWC and requires immediate attention.

The war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated by Israel include the documented and recurrent unlawful use of white phosphorus as a chemical agent in densely populated areas of Gaza and various locations in Lebanon as well as riot control agents during military assaults of densely populated areas in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. These crimes have been streaming live on screens worldwide for 14 months. Only those living off the grid would have missed them.

Such harmful and unlawful use of white phosphorus and riot control agents, executed with impunity, constitutes a repeated violation that requires immediate attention and action.

That is why in November 2023, the State of Palestine submitted a formal request to the OPCW, urging the organization to closely monitor the situation in Palestine, including any threats or actual use of toxic chemicals by Israeli forces. Palestine renews its urgent call on the Technical Secretariat to fulfill its mandate to enact measures under the Convention as necessary by investigating and addressing incidents where clear violations of the Convention, like the ones I have just outlined, have taken place.

While we acknowledge that white phosphorus and riot control agents are not inherently prohibited as weapons, States Parties share a moral and legal duty to confront and prevent their illegal deployment as a chemical agent against civilians. This is especially urgent given the destructive long term effects of these agents on agricultural lands, public health, and soil quality—destruction that should not be minimized or ignored, especially when the weapon is unlawfully intended for such purposes, as seen in Palestine and Lebanon. This is deliberate misuse that breaches of the Convention, including Articles I & II of the CWC, and we must reject any such cynical attempts at misusing technicalities or exploitation of loopholes to justify actions effectively prohibited by law.

Predictably, the illegal occupying power will deny these facts, present distortions and even outright lies, and cry wolf. So allow me to preempt the charade and recommend that the illegal occupier extend an unambiguous and unrestricted invitation to the Technical Secretariat so that it could verify the veracity of the facts we have presented.

Lack of accountability allows the normalization of the most horrific and unimaginable crimes, including genocide, as witnessed in Palestine and Lebanon. Allowing Israel's unlawful use of white phosphorus and riot control agents risks legitimizing further crimes and violations—a burden we cannot and should not accept.

Palestine will not relent in its pursuit of those who deployed and ordered the deployment of chemical weapons against the Palestinian people. Palestine will carry out its duties in this regard and we hope that all states parties will do the same without any exception.

• *We request that this statement be adopted as an official document of this conference and published on the Organization's public website and Catalyst platform.*

Thank you Chairperson