

TÜRKİYE: STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SELÇUK ÜNAL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 22 – ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

(The Hague, 25-29 November 2024)

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,

Türkiye has always supported the attendance and participation of NGOs whose activities and interests are demonstrably relevant to the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention in accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the CSP.

We commend Costa Rica and Germany for informal consultations that brought States Parties together to find ways to clarify the guidelines for the mutual benefit of States Parties, the Secretariat and civil society, and to clear the issues regarding the accreditation process. We hope a consensus could be reached in the coming period. We will continue to support it and participate in this process. On this occasion, we would like to reiterate our position on the evaluation process of NGOs.

Firstly, a fair and objective process will ensure access of credible and competent NGOs to the CSPs, and set a standard for the rest.

Secondly, the Secretariat must ensure that sufficient information is collected from the applicant NGOs for the consideration of the States Parties at the very beginning. And thus, the Technical Secretariat should be able to respond to States Parties' questions.

Last, but not least, I would also like to underline that the rules we were told that have been established by the General Committee do not apply. There should be clear decisions, discussed properly by all. Therefore, we strongly stress that objection of one State Party should be sufficient to suspend the accreditation of an NGO. Otherwise, we believe complications will continue to arise due to the current practice.

Thank you.