



STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
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COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF HUNGARY
TO THE OPCW
AT THE 106th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 9 – 12 July 2024)

Agenda item 18 - AoB (Artificial Intelligence)

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

The Candidate Countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine as well as Armenia and the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the EEA (European Economic Area) align themselves with this statement. Andorra, Monaco and San Marino also associate themselves with this statement.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) could potentially pose a major challenge to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the post-destruction era. Given the expeditious progress in AI, it is of paramount importance that the Secretariat deepens its understanding of this technology. The European Union welcomes the timely initiative by the Director-General in reaching out to available expertise to map out the ramifications of the AI and the associated risks and opportunities to the object and purpose of the Convention. We take note of the Director-General's note (S/2289/2024) on AI and OPCW Secretariat meeting with external experts, and its initial considerations. The EU believes this should be an inclusive process with active participation of all States Parties and input from external experts and civil society. The EU welcomes contributions from States Parties, including the conference on AI and weapons of mass destruction held with the participation of Director-General Arias on 28 June 2024 in Berlin.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union underlines the importance of the Secretariat monitoring the developments of the AI and potential risks posed, as well as identifying possible opportunities to apply AI technologies to the work of the OPCW. We stand ready to support further efforts to inform future policy discussions and decisions through the Secretariat and the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). In this context, I am pleased to inform that the EU will co-finance a new AI Research Challenge as part of the EU's voluntary financial contribution in support of the

OPCW activities. We also stand ready to share relevant knowledge and information, e.g. on the European Union comprehensive AI legislation, the “AI Act”.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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