



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF AUSTRALIA, CANADA, AND NEW ZEALAND (CANZ) AT THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**AGENDA SUBITEM 6(G): ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE**

Thank you Chair. I have the honour of taking the floor on this agenda item on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

We've heard lots of denials today and allegations about the decision on Addressing the Threat of Chemical Weapons use taken at the Special Conference of States Parties in 2018. CANZ supported that decision then and supports its implementation since.

Let's be clear: Syria is obliged – and yet continues to fall short – when it comes to cooperating with the Technical Secretariat, fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, and complying with decisions of the OPCW Policy-Making Organs and relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The obligations of States Parties under the Convention are not optional or a matter of courtesy.

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand reaffirm our full support for the invaluable work of the Technical Secretariat and its teams, including the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), and the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM). They have consistently delivered thorough, timely, and high-quality reports, and have carried out their work with the highest levels of professionalism, impartiality, and integrity. We also reiterate our confidence in the IIT's mandate to identify the perpetrators of specific instances of chemical weapons use in Syria as established by the decision in June 2018. This decision was adopted with the support of more than the two thirds of those present and voting required by the Chemical Weapons Convention and Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties.

As we work towards our shared goal of a world free of chemical weapons, the OPCW should continue to investigate chemical weapons attacks, whether in Syria or elsewhere, to ensure that the perpetrators are identified and held accountable for their actions. We reiterate our strong conviction, reflected in the OPCW Ieper Declaration, that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, under any circumstances should be held accountable.

Thank you, Chair.

I kindly ask you to consider this CANZ statement as an official document of the 107th Session of the Executive Council, and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.